**Photoshop Tips and Tricks
You (Probably) Don't Know**

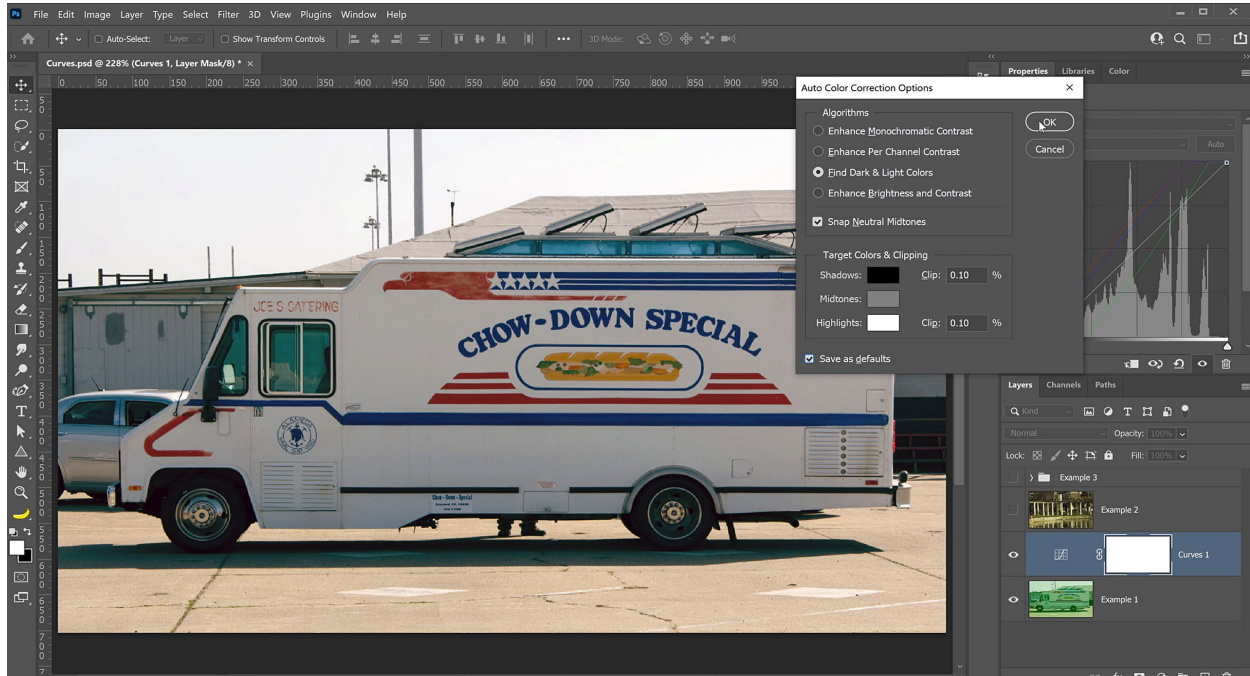*Jesús Ramirez*

Curves Adjustment

Removing a Color Cast

Start by creating a Curves Adjustment Layer. Click on the New Adjustment Layer icon and select Curves.

In the Properties Panel, you will see the Curves properties.

Hold Alt/Option and click on the Auto Button to open the Auto Color Correction Options. The default algorithm is Enhance Brightness and Contrast. But in most cases, the Find Dark & Light Colors algorithm gives you better results.

You can also check "Snap Neutral Midtones" and check the "Save as defaults" box.

Matching Color

Start by creating a Curves Adjustment Layer. Click on the New Adjustment Layer icon and select Curves.

Press Ctrl Alt G (Mac: Command Option G) to make a Clipping Mask.

Before you do anything else, click on the Curve's Layer thumbnail. The Focus, the white outline, need to be on the Layer Thumbnail and not the mask.

In the Properties Panel, you will see the Curves properties.

Hold Alt/Option and click on the Auto Button to open the Auto Color Correction Options.

In the Auto Color Correction Options, select Find Dark & Light Colors, and uncheck "Snap Neutral Midtones."

Next, match the shadows and highlights of the and foreground.

First double-click on the Shadows color swatch, then click on the darkest point of your background to select that color. Pure black will not work.

Double-click on the Highlights swatch and this time select the brightest point in of the background. Pure white will not work.

After you select the shadows and highlights, the foreground element should more closely resemble your background.
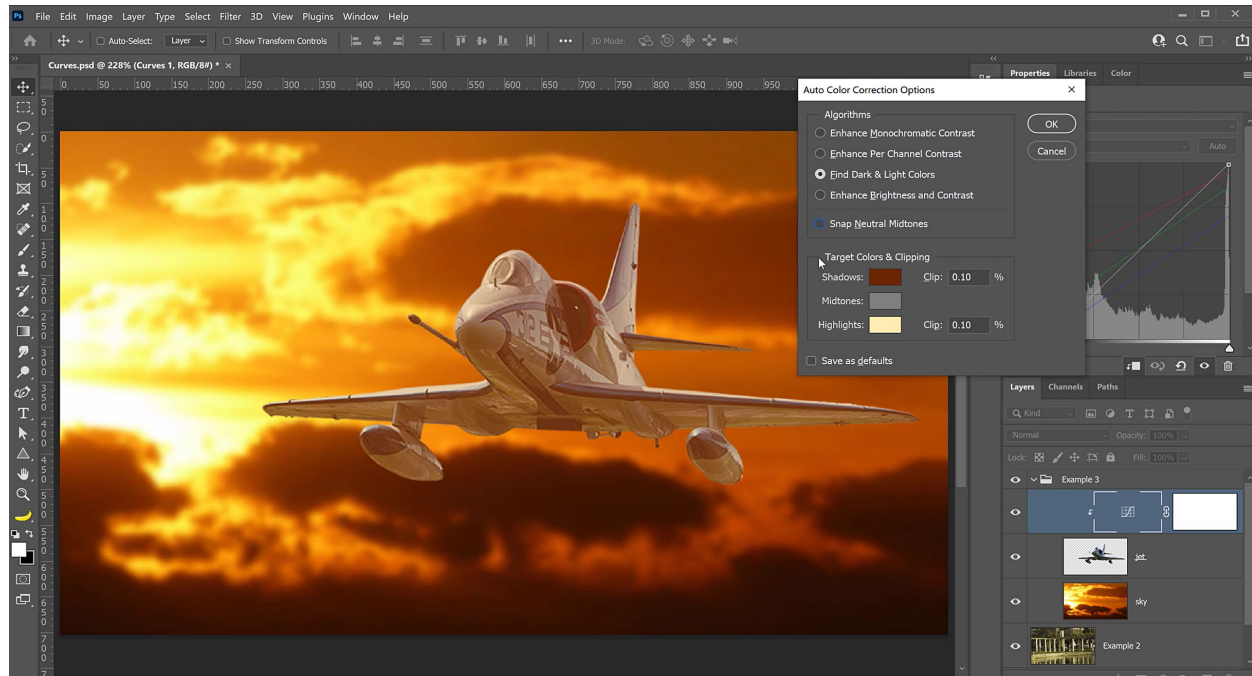

When you press OK, you will get a notice asking if you would like to make the colors you chose the default colors. Click on "No." Then use the RGB curve adjust the brightness and contrast of the image.

Neural Filters

Neural Filters is a new workspace in Photoshop with a library of filters that dramatically reduces difficult workflows to just a few clicks using machine learning powered by Adobe Sensei.

One of these filters is the Colorize filter which will automatically assign colors to a black and white image using AI. But you can use this same technology to remove a color casts from photos.

Choose Filter > Neural Filters from the main Photoshop menu. Then select Colorize.
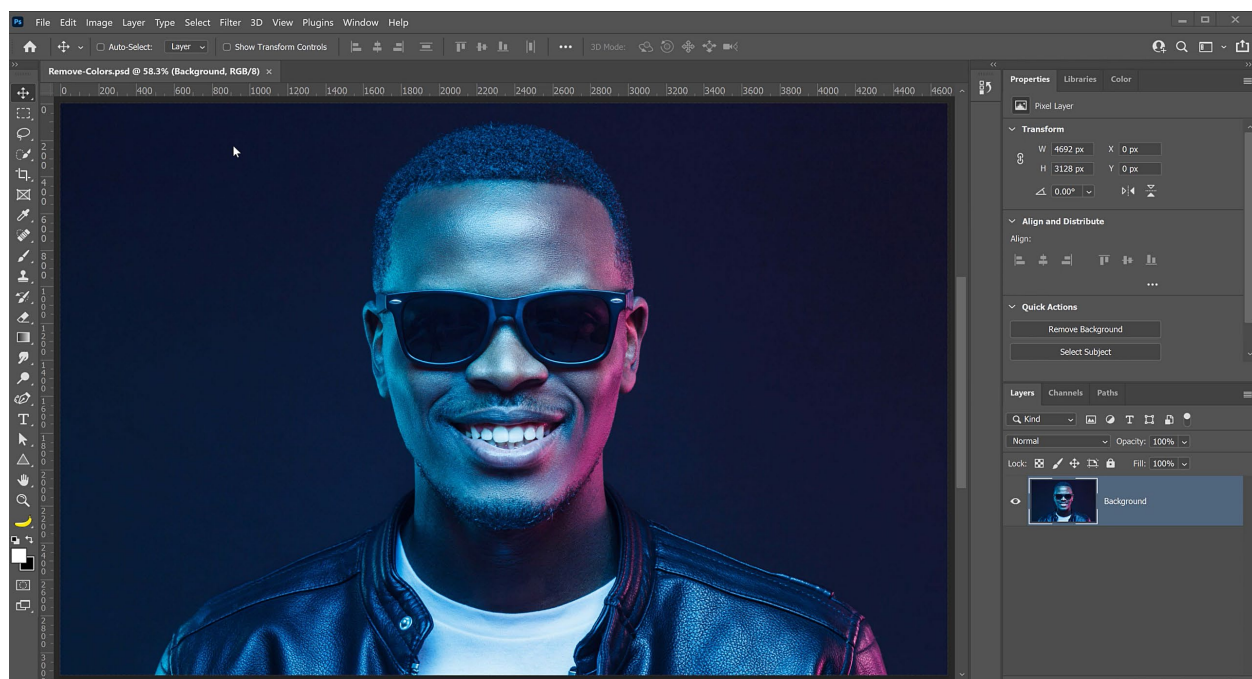
Blend-If

In the Advanced Blending area of the Layer Style dialog box, you will find the Blend If menu.

From the dropdown chose either Gray or an induvial RGB channel.

Gray specifies a blending range for all channels.

The individual channel specifies a range for an individual color channel (for example, red, green, or blue in an RGB image).

Use the "This Layer" and "Underlying Layer" sliders to set the brightness range of the blended pixels—measured on a scale from 0 (black) to 255 (white).

The This Layer sliders specify the range of pixels on the active layer that will be hidden (or shown). For example, if you drag the white slider to 235, pixels with brightness values higher than 235 will be hidden.

Use the Underlying Layer sliders to specify the range of pixels in the underlying visible layers that will be shown over the currently active layer. For example, if you drag the black slider to 40, pixels with brightness values lower than 40 will show through the active layer in the final image.

Note:

Hold Alt/Option and click on a slider split it in half

Long Shadow with Path Blur

You can create cast shadows by using Layers Styles. But a Layer Style doesn't give you the long shadow effect.

Here's a trick that you can use to create a long shadow in Photoshop.

Hold Ctrl/Command and click on the layer thumbnail to load the layer as a selection.

Then create a new layer and fill it with black.

Convert your new layer into a Smart Object so you can have an opportunity to edit fine-tune the shadow at a later point.

Then go into a Filter > Blur Gallery > Path Blur.

Click-and-drag on the arrow to place your shadow.

To create the long shadow effect, uncheck the Centered Blur checkbox.

Then increase the Speed.

And continue adjusting the shadow position if need be.

Same Window Two docs

On certain images, you may want to zoom in really close to do some detail work, but at the same time, you might need to see how the overall image looks. To solve this problem, you can open the same document in two windows and put them side-by-side in two different zoom levels.

To do this, (with your document open) go to Window > Arrange > New Window for [*file name of your document*], which will open a second window for the original document.

Then go to Window > Arrange > 2-Up Vertical to place the two windows side-by-side. You can then zoom to different levels on each. Whatever adjustments you make to one window will be reflected on the other.

You can then zoom to different levels on each. Whatever adjustments you make to one window will be reflected instantaneously on the other.

Sky replacement with video

The Sky Replacement is a new feature in Photoshop 2021, which uses Adobe Sensei, an Artificial Intelligence (AI), to analyze the image and select the sky.

You can find it under Select > Sky.

But there is an even more impressive feature that will use the same technology to replace the sky in your image.

To start using this new Sky Replacement feature, choose Edit > Sky Replacement.

The Sky Replacement in Photoshop is very powerful, but unfortunately it doesn't work on video layers or video groups.

But we can trick Photoshop into thinking that the video file is an image. All you need to do is convert the video into a Smart Object! Photoshop will then run the Sky Replacement feature on the video file.

The catch is that you need footage that is shot on a tripod. Photoshop will not motion track the footage.

If you have a more complex shot, try using Adobe After Effects to replace the sky in video.