

Ewen's Command Shortcuts for Photoshop

Substitute Command for Control in Windows Versions

NEVER SAVE OVER YOUR ORIGINAL IMAGES. MESS WITH COPIES ONLY. NO TEARS THAT WAY.

Levels

Hit CMD +L for levels

CMD+Shft+L for Auto Correction of Levels and Tones

Improving Shadows with Dodge Tool

This is the Blacked Out Magnifying Glass on the Tools pallet

Open the brush to a large size and take the hardness back (top left of the screen) to about 30% and then select 'Shadows' on the pull down menu top left and start to paint away the shadows

Crop

Crop tool is just a case of drag and play before you say yes. And even if you do, just undo and play again.

Rotation

The best kept secret in EVERY version of Photoshop

Select the Ruler tool (Its behind the eye dropper tool) then draw out a line on something which is level.

Click IMAGE-> IMAGE ROTATION -> ARBITRARY and PS will automatically have selected the ruler angle as the correction (it selects the rotation CCW or CW based on which direction you dragged the line out in)

Then just Crop

Vignette

Draw out an ellipse around the subject. Invert your selection by right clicking on the image and selecting it from the pull down menu.

Feather the selection in the same way - Something big like 50 to 150 pixels and then hit CMD+J to make a duplicate of the 'frame'

Go to Blend Mode on the layers pallet (right hand side) and select 'Multiply' from the pull down.

Play with Opacity of the layer in order to get something which looks natural

YOU CAN ALSO DO THE SAME BUT WITH BLUR BY APPLYING A GAUSSIAN BLUR TO THE FRAME

Selecting Backgrounds which are nearly the same colour as the buildings or foreground

Duplicate the layers once

With the top layer selected use the 'CHANNELS' Palette which is to the right of the 'LAYERS' Palette.

If its sky your looking to select against, then remove the red and green channels and the sky will go pure white.

Use the Magic Selection tool to select the sky then without touching anything else in the image go back to the 'LAYERS' Palette and delete the selection.

Put a fake sky between the two layers and then mess with opacity to make it look natural

Black & White

Shakey and wobbly images, or images which are a little blurred can often be brought back by making them just simply Black and white...Its artistic. Black and White tools are under the IMAGE -> ADJUSTMENTS-> menu

Black & White with Spot Colour

Make 2 duplicate layers by hitting CMD+J twice

Then make the top layer black and white. With this layer selected, use the eraser tool on about 70% opacity and rub out the areas of the black and white image which you want to show through as colour and voila.

Start to play with reversing the layers or with big brush strokes to get different effects

High Key Images

Make 3 duplicate layers

Change the top layers blend mode to 'OVERLAY'

Then make the second layer from the top into Black and white. It will show through the top layer.

Play with the opacity until you get something which looks natural

High Key with Spot Colour

Just as above but rub out some of the areas of the black and white layer and the beautiful colours which are on the third layer down start to show through nicely

Again you can mess with making the black and white layer Sepia or another colourwash entirely

CAUTION, WHEN YOU'RE FLATTENING THIS IMAGE...MERGE THE BLACK AND WHITE LAYER DOWN TO THE COLOUR LAYERS BELOW FIRST. IF YOU MERGE THE 'OVERLAY' LAYER DOWN TO THE BLACK AND WHITE LAYER FIRST THE EFFECT DOESN'T HOLD.