

Basic workflow

1. **Correct your photos in Camera Raw.**

Whether your photos are RAW images, TIFFs, or JPEGs, you can open them in Camera Raw, make relatively quick, non-destructive changes to them, and then save them or open them in Photoshop. Follow the same workflow in Camera Raw as in Photoshop to create your edits.

Note If you open a JPEG in Camera Raw and make changes to it, you must save it as a TIFF, PSD, or DNG file to preserve the metadata and keep the edits non-destructive. After you save your changes to a JPEG file, they become part of the image and you cannot reverse them.

2. Open your image in Photoshop. Whether you are coming from Bridge, Camera Raw, or another program, the following steps require you to edit your image in Photoshop.

3. Crop, straighten, and resize your photo. Unless you want several different aspect ratios (such as 4x6 and 8x10), you should crop your photo strictly to the area you want.

4. Correct overall lighting. Correcting the lighting in your image is usually instrumental in correcting the color, so you should always do this first. Correct the overall color. If you correct the lighting and there is still a colorcast to your image, now is the time to correct it. This is also the time to make overall color changes, such as transforming your photo to black and white or adding a lens filter to warm or cool your photo. After you've corrected both lighting and color in your image, it should look pretty good, with lighting and color at the best settings and evenly distributed across your image. Now you are ready to make targeted adjustments.

5. Clean the unwanted elements out of your photo using the Clone Stamp and Healing Brushes. While your lighting and color are still uniform, you want to clean up scratches, lens spots, blemishes, or stray elements in your photo that distract from the subject. These tools in Photoshop are fantastic and create realistic results, although they can still cause visible areas of pixel distortion.

6. Combine images. If you are combining two or more images to create a collage or special effect, now is the time to do it. If you are using the Clone Stamp tool to create head swaps or otherwise add elements from one photo to another, you want to make sure the lighting and color are as uniform between the two images as possible before you begin. This makes the next step much easier.

Dayley, Brad (Author). Adobe Photoshop CS6.

Hoboken, NJ, USA: Wiley, 2012. p 400.

<http://site.ebrary.com/lib/artedmc/Doc?id=10560606&ppg=440>