Black & White

CONVERSION

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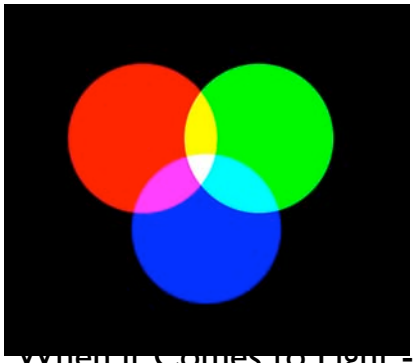
Conversion Tools

- Photoshop
- Adobe Camera RAW
- Photoshop Elements
- Lightroom
- Aperture
- Plug-ins (Nik Silver Efex)

2

10 Seconds of Color Theory

3



When it Comes to Light -
All colors are made from R, G, B

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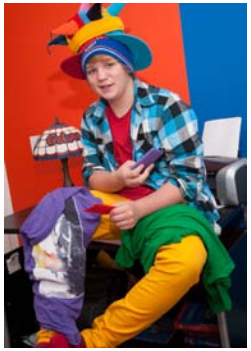
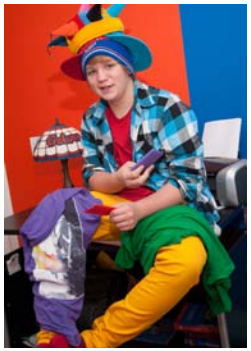
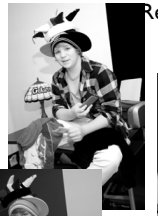


All Images are Black & White!
(Deep Inside)

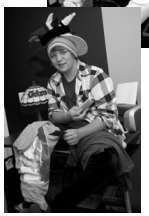
5





Red Channel

Green Channel



Blue Channel

All Images are Black & White!
(Deep Inside)

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Use the Channel Mixer

6

Use the Channel Mixer

6

Red Channel - Ctrl/Cmd-3

7

Green Channel - Ctrl/Cmd-4

8

Blue Channel - Ctrl/Cmd-5

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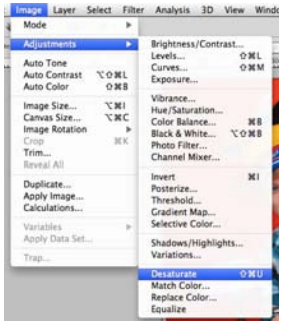
How to Convert: Photoshop

10

Desaturate

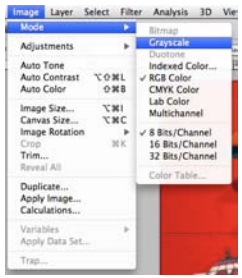
- Quick + Dirty
- Not Recommended
- ... but it'll do.



Desaturate

Convert to Grayscale

- Quick + Dirty
- Not Recommended
- ... but it'll do.



Grayscale

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Grayscale

Desaturate

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Why Not Recommended?

- No control
- Can't adjust retroactively... start from scratch!
- Inconsistent results
- BUT... simple, quick, and brain-dead

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Recommended Methods

- Fine control
- Can adjust retroactively... tweak again and again
- Much more consistent results, once you learn them
- BUT... these methods take a little conscious effort.

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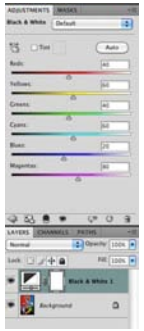
Black & White Adjustment

- The Best Way to Go?
- Really Powerful



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Black & White Adjustment

- The Best Way to Go?
- Really Powerful
- Built-in Presets!

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Blue Filter Preset

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Green Filter Preset

19

Red Filter Preset

20

Lighter Preset

21

Darker Preset

22

Max White Preset

23

Max Black Preset

24

Infrared Preset

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How to Convert: Adobe Camera RAW

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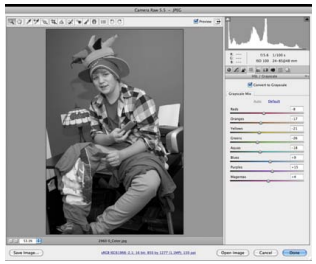
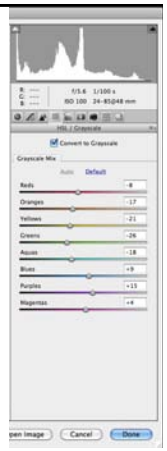
Adobe Camera RAW

- The Best Way to Go?
- Really Powerful
- Target Mode
- No Built-in Presets (build your own presets)
- 100% Non-destructive
- Auto mode (ick!)

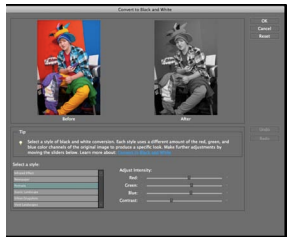




How to Convert: Photoshop Elements

Photoshop Elements

- Can't beat the price!
- Fairly Powerful (only 4 adjustments)
- Built-in Presets
- Includes RAW
- Preview + Compare
- Instructions



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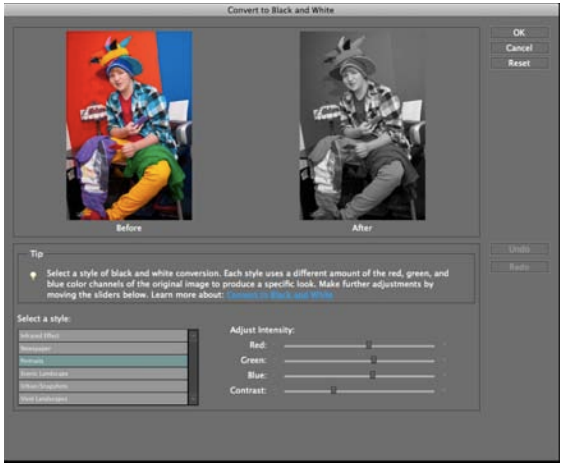

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How to Convert: Adobe Lightroom

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Adobe Lightroom

- Similar to RAW tools
- Really Powerful
- Auto Adjustment (ick!)
- Target Mode

How to Convert: Apple Aperture

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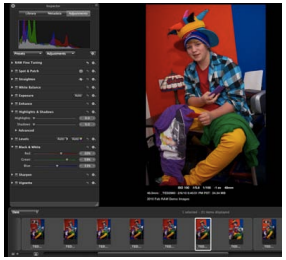
Apple Aperture

- More simplified than Adobe tools (good/bad)
- Brush-in/Brush-out adjustment
- Fairly Powerful (only 3 adjustments)



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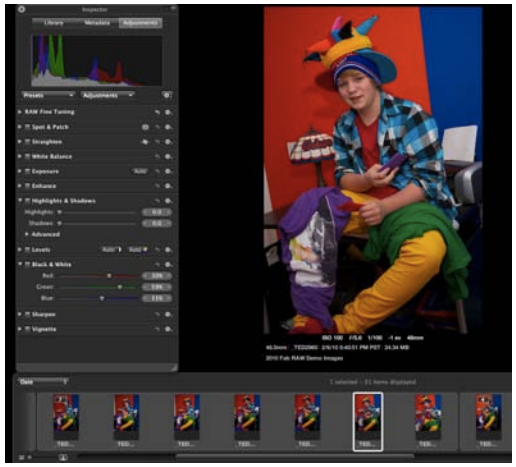

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How to Convert: Nik Silver Efex Pro

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Nik Silver Efex Pro

- Extremely powerful
- Extremely simple
- Many presets
- Add film looks and grain!
- For Photoshop, Elements, Aperture and Lightroom
- Con: Pricy

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Shooting Tips

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B&W Digital Shooting

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B&W Digital Shooting

- Set shooting mode to monochrome
- Set file type to RAW
- Preview will be B&W, but RAW image is still color!
- Shoot RAW+JPEG for quick "post" and review.
- Great way to see how composition looks without "distraction" of color

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Processing Tips

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B&W Processing Tips

- Convert last, after other adjustments and retouching
- Landscapes: Bring Blue/Cyan channel darker, Green/Yellow channel lighter
- Portraits: Play with Red channel to make skin natural
- Sometimes, colors are not what they seem!

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Color Image

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Straight Conversion

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Adjusted Conversion

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Color Image

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Straight Conversion

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Adjusted Conversion

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