

# Do this to your photos (it's not only fun, but it's also helpful)

## Adjusting the "LOOK" of the photo

1. **Sharpen your image: Filter > Unsharp Mask**
2. **To make it black and white (optional)**
  - a. Layer > New Adjustment Layer > Black and white
3. **To adjust the contrast of your photo (very important!)**
  - a. Layer > New Adjustment Layer > CURVES
  - b. Slide the highlights (the white triangle at the bottom) until it gets to the start of the histogram hill.
  - c. Slide the shadows (the black triangle) until it gets to the start of the histogram hill. Pick a point on the line and drag it up and down until the midtones look good.
  - d. Layer > New Adjustment Layer > LEVELS
  - e. Slide the highlights, shadows and midtones triangles.
4. **To adjust the colour/saturation try one or all of the following**
  - a. Layer > New Adjustment Layer > HUE AND SATURATION
  - b. Layer > New Adjustment Layer > VIBRANCE
  - c. Layer > New Adjustment Layer > BRIGHTNESS CONTRAST

NOTE: Remember when you create an adjustment layer that the layer underneath is masked by a WHITE layer mask. If you want parts of the bottom layers to show through use the gradient tool, or a black paint brush to paint

## **Burning/Dodging**

To make some areas darker, or some areas lighter – select the layer with your image on it

1. Burn tool ( the hand) - Makes areas darker. The dodge tool - makes areas lighter
2. Select your tool, above choose either highlights, shadows or midtones. Experiment with the opacity and move directly over top of the area that you'd like to highlight

## **Vignette**

(Darker on the outside, and lighter in the middle to attract the viewers attention to the subject)

1. Select the layer with your photo, unlock it.
2. Filter > *Convert for Smart Filters* (Doing this means you can apply filters to the photo while leaving your original in tact.)
3. First you'll get a message that says the layer will be converted into a smart object. Click OK.
4. *Filter > Lens Correction*. Click on the CUSTOM TAB.
5. In the *Vignette option* set the amount to **-100** and the *midpoint* to **+50**. Hit the OK button.
6. You'll see the Smart Filter appear below the layer. Double clicking this will open the Lens Correction filter options again where you can adjust anything you want. Double clicking the slider icon on the right will give you the option to adjust the layer mode and the transparency of the effect on the layer. Set the value to **70%**.

## **To blend two images (main image + texture) together use a LAYER MASK**

1. Layer > layer mask > reveal all
2. Use the gradient tool to blend. Remember, where it is black you can see through it.

## **Blending Modes**

1. To change the blending mode of the layer use the layer panel and experiment!

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