

Have you ever tried to build a composite image from a number of different images that each required separate and distinct color corrections? If you attempt to do this, without some special features that Nancy Lamb made me aware of, it is impossible. The issue is that an Adjustment Layer in the composite image operates on ALL layers below it. Consider that you have three object layers with different correction needs. When you place an Adjustment Layer above the topmost object layer you will not only affect the top object layer but the other two object layers below it.

If you use Layer Groups or Layer Sets you can easily get around this apparent limitation.

To group an object and an Adjustment Layer simply arrange the two layers with the Adjustment Layer directly above the object layer. Then make sure the Adjustment Layer is the active layer and go to the Layer pull-down menu and execute a Group With Previous command. This will group the two layers together and the Adjustment Layer will ONLY operate on the object layer it is grouped with. You can have as many layers in a Group and as many Groups as you want in an image.

The Other method of performing these selected adjustments is to use Layer Sets. To make a new Layer Set go to the little right arrow in the Layers palette click and select New Layer Set. Make sure you change the Layer Mode from Pass Through to Normal when creating the set or the Adjustment Layer will operate on all layers below it. A new layer Set is now shown in the stack of Layers. Simply drag any Layer icon you want to include in the new set to the folder icon in the new Layer Set. Any Adjustment Layer in this new Set will ONLY operate on the object layers in the set.

By the way I have never found this procedure in any of the Adobe documentation that I have. Once you know about it you can find more information in the PhotoShop Help system.