

Suggested Workflow for Standard Photographic Images (Photoshop 7)

Since each image is unique, some variations from this workflow may be necessary for individual images.

Image Capture

Capture high-bit data if possible as it provides more data to work with.

If capture device cannot transfer high-bit data to Photoshop, then basic edits should be done in capture software. Otherwise edit in Photoshop

If capture device allows gamma adjustment, set to match Photoshop work space (2.2 if AdobeRGB)

Scanning

Scan at highest optical resolution, then downsample later if needed. Will reduce noise.

Digital camera

Set gray balance if possible before shooting

Some upsampling (~150%) acceptable on digital captures without significant deterioration of image

Profile Embedding

Embed capture device profile either in capture software or assign it in Photoshop (Assign Profile)

Convert to working space (Convert to Profile). Recommended for PC: AdobeRGB

Save raw image to disk

Save as .psd file with raw or original in filename

Straighten & Crop

Best done before tonal correction to provide a more accurate tonal range.

Make Corrections

2 Correction goals

1) **Image Correction** – fix defects in the original and distortions introduced by capture process

2) **Targeting** – compensate for the eventual output process. *If known beforehand, gives option of combining both corrections into one step.* Usually best done in Photoshop, not in capture software. For maximum flexibility, targeting corrections should be done later in workflow just before saving device-specific version of file.

Tonal Correction

Create levels adjustment layer

Examine histogram

Decide if image should have pure white and black points. (many low- or high- key images could loose impact if adjusted mechanically)

Set Highlight – move right input slider into first data point. Generally you will not want to go any further as loss of highlight detail will occur.

Set Shadow – move left slider in to set black point

Adjust overall brightness and contrast with gamma slider in the RGB composite channel.

Color Correction

Correct biggest problems first

Use gamma sliders in levels within each channel to correct color

Use layer masks or selections to isolate different problem areas before making corrections

Check for imperfections

Zoom to 100%; examine each pixel; use keyboard shortcuts to navigate one screen at a time.

Keyboard shortcuts: Home: beginning of document
Page-up or down: scroll up or down one screen
Ctrl Page-up: scroll left
Ctrl Page-down: scroll right
End: end of document

Save Master Corrected Image

Save as .psd file with layers and adjustment layers intact. This is your archived master image that can be resized as needed and converted to different formats for different output devices.

Resize for Output

Resample down to desired print size

Do targeting corrections for device-specific output

Use output sliders in levels to match capabilities of output device

Tag with printer profile

Sharpen

Use Unsharp Mask

Final spot check

Zoom to 100%; examine each pixel; use keyboard shortcuts to navigate. Clone or erase any imperfections introduced in sharpening process.

Save device-specific, size-specific version of image

Flatten layers to save space

Include size and device description in filename

Output

Printing to InkJet

Select print with preview from file menu

Under color management set source space to document

Set print space to profile for your specific printer or to correct custom profile if you have them.

Set intent to Perceptual

Make sure you have correct paper type, orientation and size selected within your printer's driver software

Print and pray