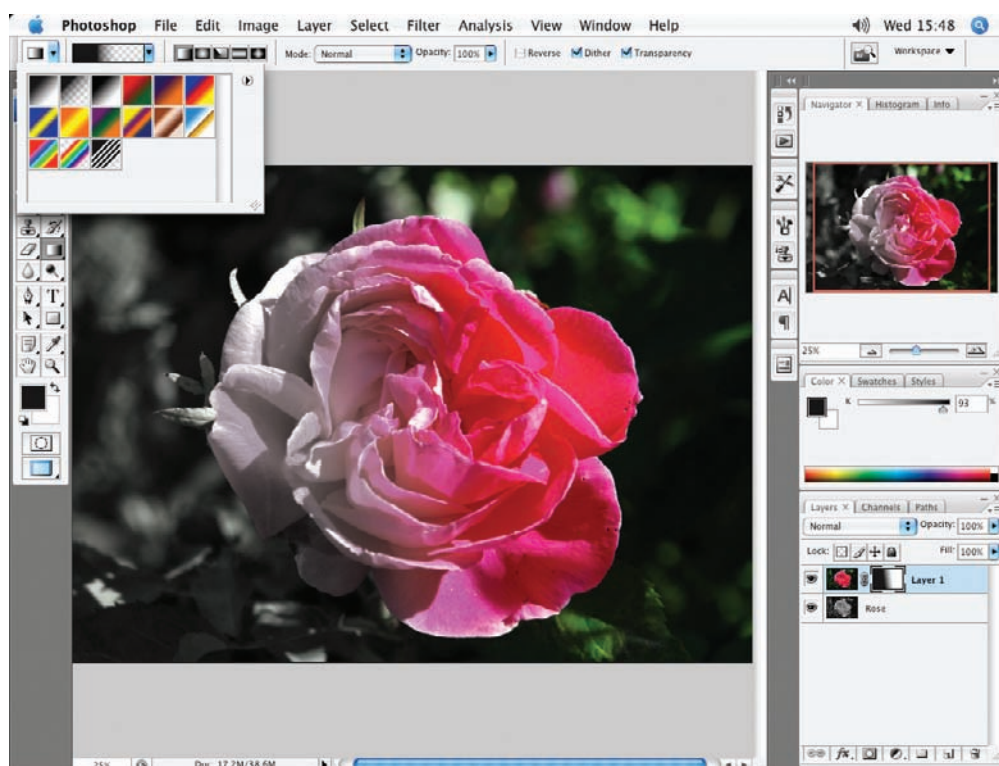


# Helpdesk

This month's Helpdesk dusts off our favourite app and helps resolve some forgotten Photoshop functions **BY ADAM SMITH**



**NO GREY AREAS:** Even after application, this process can be refined. Try applying a mask layer and use the editing options to define areas of Grayscale and specific colour where appropriate

## MONOCHROME TO COLOUR

Hey *Advanced Photoshop* team. First, great magazine; I've learnt so many cool tips and have really improved on my technical skills through your awesome tutorials – so a big thank you. My question is this: how can you get an image to blend from black and white into colour? I've attempted to use the Sponge Tool in the Layers bar, but as you guys can gather, it's unpredictable and takes ages. Can you help?

Randy Townsend, Houston, USA

Thanks Randy, we like to keep up standards at the magazine and we're glad that our readers are getting the most out of it. Regarding your problem, there's a way to perform such an effect on your photography and, yes, it's less painstaking than using the Sponge Tool. Start by choosing **Select>All** and copy your image. Follow this by selecting **Image>Mode**, turning your image to Grayscale.

Once complete, revisit **Mode** and transform the image back to RGB. Now select **paste** and your copied layer will appear in full colour. From here, apply a **Vector Mask** to your coloured layer and select the **Gradient Tool**. Set a **Foreground to Transparent** gradient and drag it across your **Layer Mask** thumbnail; you'll see your image blend from black and white to colour.

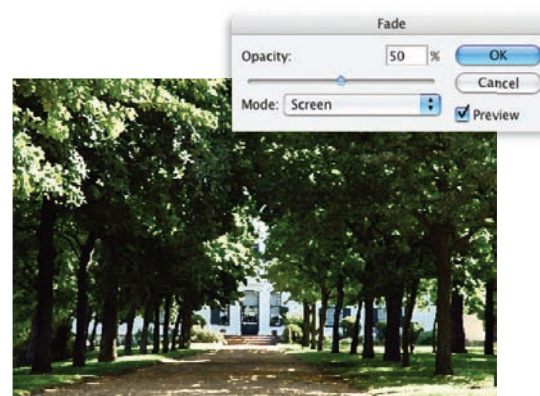
## FADE AWAY

I'm happily retired and like to use Photoshop as a recreational activity. I'm also a very keen photographer and love taking snaps with my Caplio GX of my family and landscape scenery. I really enjoy treating these images to numerous Photoshop Filter Effects.

I do, however, feel that some filters can be over-bearing and have tried using multiple layers, using the **Opacity** and **Fill** tools to try merge the effects with the original snaps, but the results

aren't very satisfactory. Could you suggest any techniques that can improve my application?

Ted Bates, Stoke on Trent



**HAPPY ACCIDENTS:** For a more similar, yet spontaneous, effect perhaps merge your photographic or traditional applications with digital effects layers using varied blending modes. It works for artists such as Andy Potts (page 20)

There are several techniques that we could suggest Ted, but they would be a lot more complicated than necessary for the results you're looking for. What we suggest is the use of Photoshop's **Fade** function. Simply take your image and apply your desired **Filter Effect**. After it's in place, select **Edit>Fade** and you'll be presented with the **Fade** dialog box. Here you can decrease/increase the opacity of the applied effect. Also you can apply **Blending Modes** that add an extra visual dimension to your work. Experiment with these and you may find some new exciting results. Do be aware, though, that after clicking **OK** your effects are all compressed into a single image.

## COLOUR CASTING PROBLEMS

I hate nothing more than taking a photo of someone only to find that the skin tone is off, or its hue is influenced by outside factors. For instance, if I'm taking a photo against a blue background this makes the skin tone a little bit too blue. I'm not a total Photoshop wiz, so any tips on how to remedy this quickly?

John Simmons

There's a simply way of doing this that'll give you a quick fix to your solution. First, take the picture in question and select the **Hue/Saturation** option from the **'Create new fill**

or adjustment layer' options bar. The icon to access this can be found at the foot of the Layers palette. Determine which tone is affecting your image most and then, in the Hue/Saturation dialog box, select Edit and choose the appropriate colour. Then simply decrease the Saturation bar to soften your skin tone. This will probably decrease your background tonal value too, so click on the Layer Mask thumbnail, grab your Brush Tool and set your Foreground Color to black. Start to paint away at your background, revealing its original state.



**AMONG OTHERS:** Photoshop also offers an array of other great colour editing functions. Blending Modes and Photo Filters can be used to produce advanced colour adjustment also. Experiment to realise their full potential

## BLACK AND WHITE APPLICATION

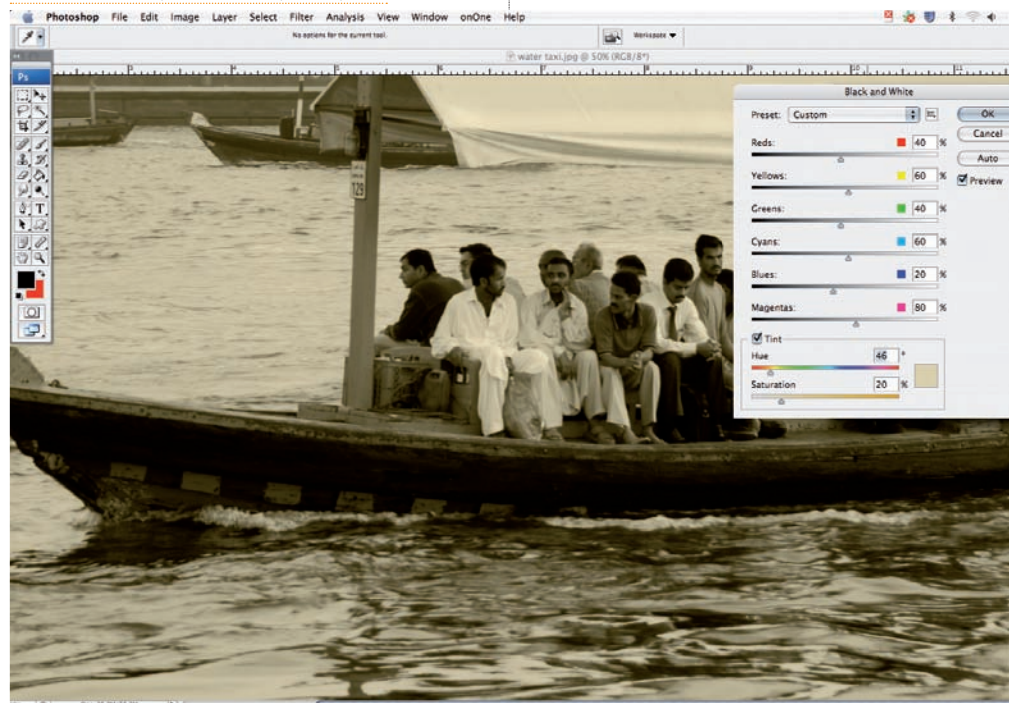
I'm using Photoshop CS and have a problem that I'm sure you clever people at *Advanced Photoshop* can help solve. I'm looking to find a way to create black-and-white photographic images a little more technically than simply applying

Desaturate. Also, it's a real pain applying this and treating the image with Levels, only to find you don't like the application and have to Step Backward or restart what you've done later on. I can't afford CS3 with its advanced black-and-white application tools, so please help.

Janice Times

It's true that previous versions of Photoshop have neglected a more apparently sensitive way to create competent monochrome imagery. However, that's not to say that it can't be achieved in versions such as CS or before. There are, in fact, several ways to do so, Janice. First, you can apply desaturation, from the Hue/Saturation option, and Levels from the 'Create new fill or adjustment layer' menu, available from the bottom of the Layers palette. These effects will be added as editable, separate layers to your original image.

Alternatively, you can now use the new Black & White feature found in the Image>Adjustments menu. Before this feature was included in Photoshop CS3 you used to be able to achieve a similar effect using the Channel Mixer. This gets rid of the need for all of this and you can easily tweak your monochromatic tones using the different colour value slider controls. If you quickly want to produce a sepia style of monochrome you can do this in the same dialog by clicking on the 'Tint' box and then tweaking the Hue and Saturation slider controls. For a convincing sepia tone we suggest that you set your values to Hue 42, Saturation 20%.



**TIME TO UPGRADE:** Both of these options work to good effect, but if you have the pennies it really is worth investing in CS3 for its superior black-and-white application, among other cool advanced functions

**"CHOOSING WORKING CMYK MEANS YOU WON'T LOSE YOUR TONES WHEN CONVERTED FROM RGB"**

## CMYK FILTERS?

I'd been trying to work out why, when opening certain files, the Filter Effects were disabled. Luckily enough I picked up *Advanced Photoshop* 32 and Helpdesk informed me why. However, I have to admit the answer got me thinking about how annoying it is not being able to use filters in CMYK and also when creating an image in RGB, only for the colours to change upon CMYK conversion and not look how you expected. Surely there's a way to resolve these problems.

Kieran, Denton

Well, with a little persistence and a few head scratches, we think we have found you an answer Kieran. As many of you digital artists are aware, some filters, such as Artistic, Texture and Brush Stroke, which can be handy when involved in a creative process, are greyed out when working in a CMYK image. Even after our investigation we found that it's still impossible to work in this Color Mode and use the filter effects. However, there is a way to cheat this. Simply set your image to RGB Mode and then select View>Proof Setup (Ctrl+Y) and choose Working CMYK. This allows you access to all Filter Effects and you won't lose your tones when converted as you're working with previewed CMYK tones. Also, this option offers a smaller file size to work on using a quarter less memory. Not that important, but a time advantage for those working with large file types.



**IT'S A KEEPER:** This option is a real bonus for artists that produce a multitude of design for print purposes. Once you start using it, you'll never know how you did without it

## HELPDESK CALL FOR QUESTIONS

Want help with Photoshop?

Send our emails to us at:

**advancedpshop@imagine-publishing.co.uk**  
or post a message on our forum board at  
**www.advancedphotoshop.co.uk/forum.**

Remember to specify whether you're using a PC or Mac and the version number of your edition of Photoshop.