

Basic Steps in Color Photo Restorations

1. Always look the photograph over carefully to assess what it needs. Is it just color adjustment? Are there dust spots, scratches, major damage? Are some portions of it lighter than others, or much darker?
2. When you open your image in Photoshop, Be sure to duplicate the layer you wish to work on.
3. Save your image as a Photoshop file (.psd) before you do any real work on it.
4. Run Levels (Ctrl-L), adjusting first the Black point, then the White Point, then the Midtone sliders in each individual color channel to remove off color casts. Click OK when done.
5. See if Filter>Noise>Dust and Scratches will help remove many small scratches without making the pic too blurry.
6. If you use Dust and Scratches, then you must use Filter>Sharpen>Unsharp Mask to remove any residual blurriness. (keep settings low, 20%, 1 radius, 1 threshold)
7. Then go over the image using all the tools you have been taught (Healing Brush, Spot Healing Brush, Clone Stamp Tool, Dodge Tool, Burn Tool, and Sponge Tool, Image>Adjustments>Variations) to clean up image and adjust any color and value problems.
8. Always remember to Save frequently.