

PHOTO ENHANCEMENTS – PHOTOSHOP TUTORIALS

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If you have any questions about any of these tutorials, please contact me at kim@cge essentials.com

Eyes and Teeth Brightening:

Open your photograph that needs enhancing. From the tool palette on the left of your screen, select the dodge tool (7th icon down from the top on the left side). Hold the button down in order to move over and select the dodge tool. Other tools here are burn and sponge, but we won't be using those for this tutorial.

Once you have selected the dodge tool, you will need to adjust the size of the brush. To do this, go to the options bar at the top of the screen and click on the brush icon. You will need to change the brush to a small, soft brush. Try starting with a size 13 and 50% hardness. Then go back to the options bar and set the range to Midtones and the exposure to 20%.

You can now begin to lighten up the white areas of the eyes. Take your time, zoom in close if you need to. You don't want the area to be stark white, just lightened up a bit but still natural looking. Once the eyes are done, you can keep your brush the same and move on to brightening up the teeth.

Wrinkle Minimizing:

For this tutorial, you will be using the healing brush which is located in your tool palette. It looks like a band-aid and is the 4th icon down on the left side (hold your button to see the other options).

Open your photograph that needs enhancing. Zoom in to the wrinkle area you want to work on. Now go get the healing brush from the tool palette. You will need to go to the options bar to adjust the settings of the brush. Make the brush size a little bit bigger than the wrinkled area, but not too large. Next to the brush size, you will see the "mode". Set that to normal. Now you will need to mimick an area of skin that is free of wrinkles. To select the area you want to use, hold down the Alt button (you'll see a cross-hairs cursor come up so you'll know you are doing it properly) and click your mouse while holding the Alt button. Now go back to the wrinkled area and begin using small brush strokes to cover the wrinkles. If you don't like how it's turning out, you can undo it by going to Edit/Undo.

If you find it is too difficult to keep your brush strokes on the subject's face, you can use the lasso tool to select the wrinkled area first and then use your healing brush to select a wrinkle-free zone and then begin brushing within the lasso-selected area. Only that area will be adjusted.

Removing Blemishes:

For this tutorial, you will be using the clone stamp which is located in your tool palette. It looks like a rubber stamp and is the 5th tool down on the left side (hold your button to see the other options).

You will need to go to the options bar to adjust the settings of the brush. Make the brush size a little smaller than the blemished area. Next to the brush size, you will see the "mode". Set that to normal and set the opacity to 100% (these are the default settings).

Open up the image you want to enhance. Zoom in on the blemished area. Directly next to the blemish, find an unblemished area of skin to clone from. Hold down your Alt button and click your mouse to select that area. You'll see the cross-hairs come up when you hold down the Alt button so you will know the precise area you are cloning from. Once you have made your selection, you can use your clone stamping cover over the blemish. Try to use one or two clicks of the mouse instead of actually brushing back and forth. Now zoom back out and look at it to see if it looks nice. This is perfect for moles or pimples that are small.

Minimizing Harsh Highlights:

Do you have a photo of someone with a shiny forehead or perhaps a little too harsh of a highlight from the sun? This is how to fix it. For this tutorial, you will be airbrushing to minimize the hot spots in the photo.

Go to the tool palette and select your standard brush. You will need to adjust the size to be about the same

size as the highlight area on your subject. Now go up to the options bar at the top of the screen and set the Mode to Darken, set the Opacity to 50% and set the Flow to 20%. Next to the Flow setting is an icon that looks like a pen with a squiggly line. Click on that to enable airbrush capabilities.

Now go to the photo. Click on an area of the photo that is similar in tone but doesn't need retouching. You will be using this area to mimick from. To do this, hold down the Alt button (an eye-dropper cursor will appear) and click your mouse to select a color sample of the skin that looks appropriate for the area. You may need to brush a little color on to see how it looks, then take another color sample and brush again, until it looks natural. This method is best to click once or twice on the area that needs fixing, rather than making long brush strokes. Zoom out and see if it looks nice. If not, click on Edit/Undo and try again.

Minimizing Dark Under-Eye Circles:

For this tutorial, you will be using the cloning stamp brush to minimize dark circles under the eyes of your subject.

Go to the tool palette and select the clone stamp which is located in your tool palette. It looks like a rubber stamp and is the 5th tool down on the left side (hold your button to see the other options).

You will need to go to the options bar to adjust the settings of the brush. Make the brush size about the same as the dark area you want to fix. Next to the brush size, you will see the "mode". Set that to lighten and set the opacity to 50%.

Open up the image you want to enhance. Zoom in on the dark area. You will now need to get a sample of the skin tone from an area near the eyes that doesn't need adjusting. To do this, hold down the Alt button (cross-hairs cursor will appear) and click on the unblemished area while holding down the Alt button. Now take your brush tool and carefully click once or twice over the dark circles area. Zoom out and take a look. The area may still be a little dark, but at least your subject won't look too worn out anymore.