

Photoshop Black and White

Let's explore a few ways to create a Black and White Image from Color.

Let's start in Photoshop, Open Image "Black and White with Color". Duplicate the background layer ⌘+J. Name the New Layer "B&W Adjust".

Pull down Image>Adjustments>Black and White. the Pop-up gives you sliders to use, and also some presets. Starting with the Presets, look through each and choose the one you like, I prefer the High Contrast with Red Filter, then I adjusted the Red slider to -52% and the Blue to -10%. When you're satisfied with the conversion, click OK.

We'll deal with adding color later.

Next Let's simply try desaturating. Let's Turn the the B&W Adjust layer off by clicking the eyeball. Now let's duplicate the background layer ⌘+J again and drag it to the top. Rename this Layer B&W desaturate.

Pull down Image>Adjustments>Hue and Saturation. This time the presets offer Sepia and Cyanotype for something close to B&W, but with this method, let's use the Sliders.

Move the Saturation slider all the way to the Left. This desaturates the image. you can use the Hue and Lightness sliders to create what you like, when you're satisfied, click OK.

Let's try one more in Photoshop, This will be very similar to the first B&W we made.

Let's Turn the the B&W Desaturate layer off by clicking the eyeball. Now let's duplicate the background layer ⌘+J again and drag it to the top. Rename this Layer "B&W Adjust Layer".

In the Layers panel make sure the top layer is Highlighted, click the New Adjustment Layer icon, (it's the black and white circle at the bottom of the panel) and select Black and White.

Just like before, Starting with the Presets, look through each and choose the one you like, I prefer the High Contrast with Red Filter, then I adjusted the Red slider to -52% and the Blue to -10%. When you're satisfied with the conversion, click OK. Highlight both the B&W Adjustment Layer and the B&W Adjust Layer and Pull Down Layer>Group Layers. This will group the Adjustment layers together.

Okay. once more, Let's Turn the the B&W Adjust Layer layer off by clicking the eyeball. Now let's duplicate the background layer ⌘+J again and drag it to the top. Rename this Layer "B&W NIK".

Now we'll use the NIK Plug-in Silver Effect Pro2. Pull down Filter>NIK Collection>Silver Effect Pro2. This is my Favorite method.

NIK has several presets, they are named to suit the effect, Modern, Classic and Vintage. you can also save the preset you prefer by clicking the star next to the name and they will be stored in your Favorites folder. Let's choose Classic>Push Process. The presets can be modified by using the sliders in the left panel.

For this demonstration let's just stay with the preset as designed and Click OK. the NIK preset will be loaded on a separate layer. Highlight both the Silver Effect Pro2 Layer and the B&W Nik Layer and Pull Down Layer>Group Layers. This will group the NIK layers together.

So now we've discussed 4 methods to create Black and white images. To compare+ each method, turn all the eyeballs on to active each layer, then working from top to bottom layer, turn off the eyeball to see the method below. Naming each layer helps to identify each process.

So now let's add some color to the B&W image.

In the Layers Panel, turn off all layers except the Background Layer now Highlight the Background Layer to make it active. You'll have a color image now. Using the quick selection tool, and select the flag. You can add use the Alt/Opt key to subtract stuff outside the flag boundaries. Once you have a decent selection, click the Layer Mask icon and the bottom of the Layer Panel, it looks like a front loading washing machine. Now you have a Layer Mask, but it's the wrong mask, so let's invert it, ⌘+I, so the flag is covered with black.

Now turn on the top layer with the NIK B&W Layer. Now Click and drag your mask from the background layer up to the Layer Group with the NIK B&W Layer. The Flag should show in color with the background in B&W.