

Convert a Color Photograph to Black and White with Photoshop CS4

Photoshop allows the user to convert color photographs to black and white using specialized tools. It is possible to customize the photograph so that the qualities of traditional black and white photo film are retained. In addition, it is possible to select specific properties and qualities of film and apply them to the new digital image. This means that subtleties of traditional film remain available for artistic expression and enhancement.

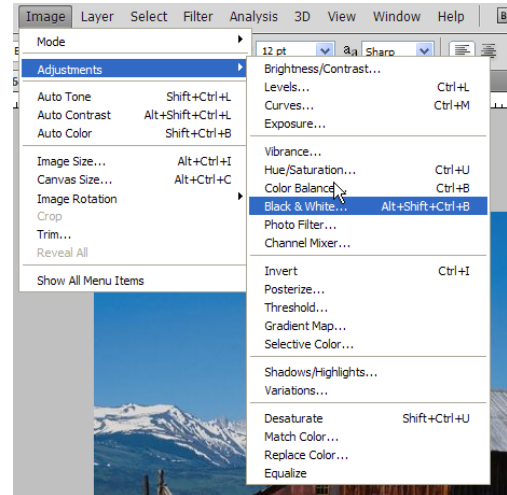
Open a photograph in Photoshop CS4. An example is below:



NOTE: While this document is printed in grayscale, it is also available online in color. It is available for viewing and printing at <http://library.albany.edu/tutimages.htm>.

It is good policy to avoid working on the original image in case it is damaged or lost. To prevent problems, save the photograph with a new name and the Photoshop, .PSD, file name extension.

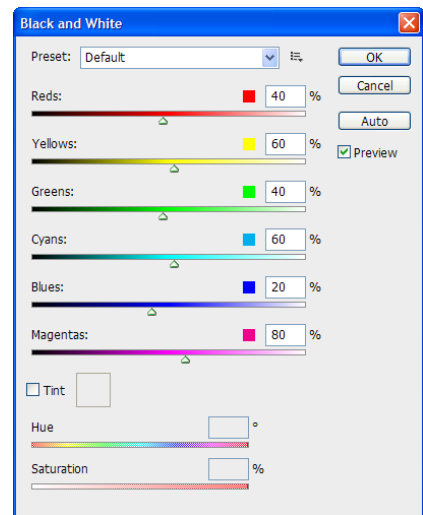
Click Image on the menu bar, select Adjustments from the drop down list, and then click Black and White on the pop out menu. The illustration on the right shows these steps.



The Black and White adjustment panel will be displayed as shown on the right.

The photo is immediately changed to black and white.

The qualities of the black and white photo are determined by the color spectrum of the light associated with the original color image. You can adjust various components of the spectrum by adjusting the color sliders in the panel.



Presets are available in the preset drop down menu. These selections represent camera filters that the photographer could have attached to the camera if black and white film was being used for the original photo.

Experiment with the presets to see how they affect the photograph.

When you are satisfied with the results, click OK.

