

## HOW TO: Color Correcting by the Numbers

When shooting, place a grayscale card or a Macbeth color chart in the image.

(something with a white, 18% gray and black chip)

- Known values
    - white 244 (255)
    - black 8 (0)
    - gray 128 (you know you have a neutral gray if the RGB values are equal)
- (Calumet sells a set of 10 B&G&W Strips for \$10.00)

Settings: Your white eye dropper should be set R244, G244, B244  
Your black eye dropper should be set R8, G8, B8  
to set - open levels adjustment layer  
-double click on the white eye dropper type in settings from above in the RGB spot  
-double click on the black eye dropper - follow above instruction

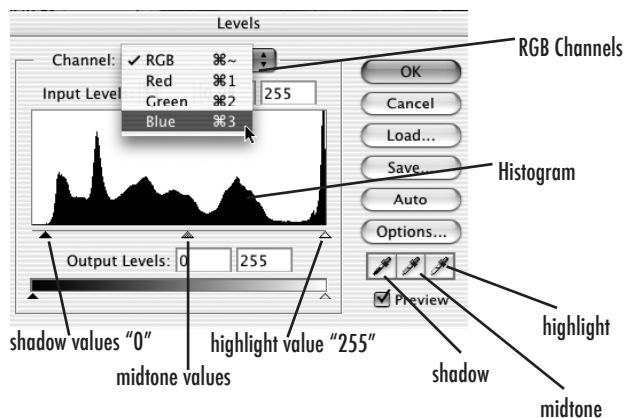
When you say OK to the levels adjustment you make in the next step, Photoshop will ask if you want to save these settings. Click OK. You will not need to set these again until you upgrade the program, etc.



Snap the shot with and without the card at the resolution you will be working.

- if the shot allows, you can snap only one shot if you can crop out the card
- do not shoot a lesser resolution for the card shot. This will effect the results

- Download images to the computer
- Open Photoshop
- Open two images, one with and one without the card
- Open the info palette, place it off to the side where you can see it
- Open, Adjustment Layer - Levels



Studio Photographers, Photograph a color chart with Black and White patches, you can measure off these knowns and color correct quickly and easily. When you change your lighting, set up the card, reshoot it and correct the next images.

- Click on the highlight eyedropper in the levels adjustment palette. It is now highlighted and active.
- In the image click on the white square (notice a color change in the image?)  
(You are setting a known neutral value to the white. This will help to rid any color casts from lighting when the image was shot)
- Click on the midtone eyedropper in the levels adjustment palette. It is now highlighted and active.
- In the image click on the gray square
- Now you have a color neutralized image. Whites are whiter, colors are more saturated, and brightness and contrast are improved.
- Drag the Levels Adjustment layer to the Image without the card. (if you shot many images under the same lighting conditions, one adjustment will work for all)