exercise::12

Color Correction by the Numbers

● = Indicates a step for which the instructions have not been completely presented.

1. Locate and download the resources files for this exercise on the *Exercises* page of the class website.

2. Set the brightness of your computer display to about 50% of maximum brightness.

3. Open the `Harp_seal.psd` file in Photoshop, and make visible the Info panel. (Window > Info)

4. Create two Color Sampler points: One in the Shadow area and one in the Highlight area of the image. To add a Color Sampler point, Shift-click on the image at the desired sampling point using the Eyedropper tool (I).

    a. You can use Threshold (Layer > New Adjustment Layer > Threshold…) to find these points or hold down the Option key while moving the shadow and highlight sliders, but also "eyeball-it" to make sure the points make sense.

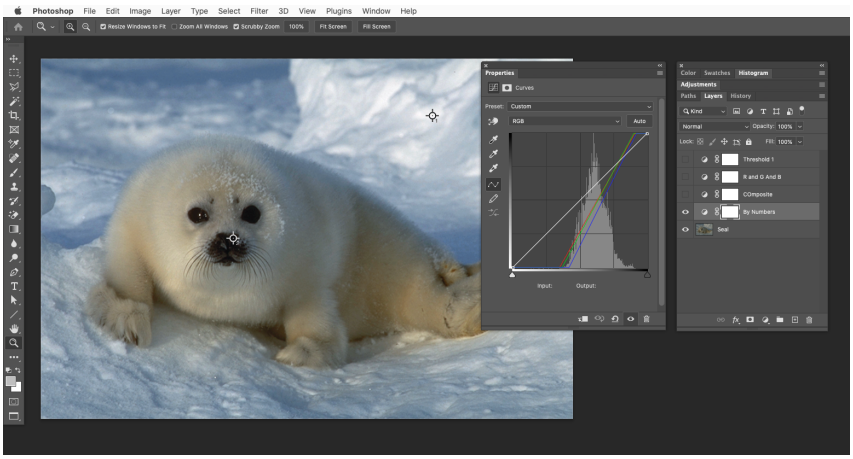
5. Create a new Adjustment Layer using Curves. (Layer > New Adjustment Layer > Curves…). Name it *Curves*.

● **6.** Using the numeric color correction method, adjust the Highlight and Shadow points of the image until the image is visually improved.

- The Shadow color values should be between **0–20** (15 is a good target).
- The Highlight color values should be **250**.
- Make additional adjustments as needed, either to the composite channel or individual ones.

7. Toggle the visibility of the Adjustment Layer, comparing the original image to the corrected image. If further adjustments are required, double-click on the Adjustment Layer icon and make your changes.

8. Save your work and close the file, making sure it's saved as a native Photoshop document.



9. Repeat Steps 4 through 8 on **all remaining images** in the folder (you get to pick). Reference the notes below as you do so.

   If you have access to some of your own photographs, you may replace two of the provided images with your own photos.

10. Here are some correction notes for the provided images:

    a. **Upside Down, Maine Lighthouse, Filmmaking Rules**, and **Portfolio** :: These images need more contrast and highlight adjustment.

    b. **Cheetah** :: As you work with the Curves, keep in mind that the cheetah itself is the focus of the image, not the background. Any color adjustments should keep our attention on it and not the background.

    c. **Frost** :: This image has some contrast issues, but the main issue is the lack of a proper highlight (and over-compensation in the exposure by the camera due to all of the white frost) .

    d. **Lego** :: The background and paper should all be neutral white; the gray Lego pieces are also a good neutral to correct to.

    e. **Leopold Ketel**:: This image has difficult highlights and a color cast that must be removed. Look for neutral areas.

11. Place all native, corrected Photoshop files for this exercise in a folder named `lastname_firstname_12`, and copy that folder to your Drop Box on the shared Google Drive for this class.

This exercise is due by the beginning of class on **Monday, November 23rd, 2026** (Week 09).