

Under Exposure correction

Most of us wind up with pictures that are under exposed, or we forget to use a fill in flash . But not to worry, this fix will resolve most pictures that have this problem. Of course you will need to fiddle to find the best result. OK, these fix's are run in Photoshop CS2, but are equally at home in most versions of PS. Step listed below:-

1 Open your chosen photo in Photoshop



Here is mine, one of my granddaughter at 2 months old, where the picture is under exposed and looks very clogged colour wise.....think the batteries in the flash were having a bad day.

- 2 Open Levels under the image menu **Image>Adjustments>Levels**
- 3 Drag the **middle slider** to the left until the image looks correct for exposure; don't worry about the background area. You can adjust that later using the same technique.



- 4 **Highlights**, use the far right slider, drag it to the left and adjust to taste. Click Ok

Skin area now has a better colour balance, but still need's to be fiddled with. OK, here is the next part

4. Open the history palette **Window>History Palette**, Your last 20 adjustments will be stored here, but you should only see two, history states.

5. In the history palette, click the first greyed out column next to the greyed out state named **levels**. An icon will appear that looks like the **Photoshop history brush**. This will show that you will be painting from what the image looked like originally after you used the levels.

6 Choose the **history brush** from the toolbox, choose a soft edged brush.

7. Start painting with the history brush over the areas you want to adjust, do it carefully, it needs practice and patience. You will notice that you are in fact painting in the lightened areas of the image.



You can change the levels at which you paint. If you find it to intense, then reduce the brush opacity on the picture above and below I have used a brush at 100% and 70%. It's a case of practice to make it work.

Info below. It takes practice and it isn't the only way of correcting exposure, but it's quick and easy and works on 70% of images



As you can see the brush opacity makes subtle changes, you can also use the same technique on the background or other areas of the image you want to change, by changing the opacity. It just takes practice and is best done with a pressure pen, I use a Wacom.....Very old one. Other techniques I will post some other time – Brian UK