

Retouch Portraits

REMOVE BLEMISHES and improve the skin

You can greatly improve a portrait with some simple steps in Photoshop CS5. You can remove skin imperfections such as blemishes and liver spots. You can remove them all, or leave some while making them less obvious. As with many other projects in Photoshop, you can use a variety of tools to reduce or remove blemishes. Depending on the areas that need to be retouched, the Clone Stamp tool, the Patch tool, and the Healing Brush can all be used; however, the Spot Healing Brush is the most effective tool for removing small imperfections. The Spot Healing Brush automatically samples the areas around the spot to be removed and blends the pixels so you do not need to specify the source sample. The key to using the Spot Healing Brush on skin is to work in stages on separate layers and to adjust the brush as you work such that the brush size is just slightly larger than the blemish. You can then change the opacity of each layer and make the changes less obvious. If you do not like the changes, you can simply discard the layers.

1 With the image open, click the Zoom tool.

2 Click Resize Windows to fit

3 Click Scrubby Zoom

4 Click and drag over the blemish areas to zoom in

The image is enlarged and fills the screen.

5 Click the New Layer button to add a new empty layer.

6 Click the Spot Healing Brush.

7 Click Sample All Layers

8 Click Content-Aware

9 Click here to open the Brush picker.

10 Move the Size slider to set a brush just larger than the blemish you want to remove.

11 Move the Hardness slider to 0% for a soft brush.

12 Click each of the worst blemishes of a similar size first.

Photoshop removes the blemishes and blends the surrounding skin area.

13 Click the New Layer button to add another empty layer.

14 Press the left bracket key to reduce the size or the right bracket key to increase the brush size.

15 Click the other blemishes.

- Layer 2 should be highlighted in the Layers panel.

16 With Layer 2 selected, click Opacity and drag to the left until the skin looks natural.

REMOVE RED EYE to quickly improve any photo

Remove Red Eye in Photoshop

1 In Photoshop, open a photo that has a red-eye effect.

2 Press (Ctrl+spacebar) and click and drag over the eyes to zoom in. 3 Press (Ctrl+J) to duplicate the Background layer as a safety step.

4 Click and hold the Spot Healing Brush tool to see the other tools.

5 Click the Red Eye tool.

6 Click and drag over one eye. The red is replaced by a dark gray.

7 Repeat step 6 for the other eye.

CHANGE EYE COLOR digitally

The eye color often appears grayer or darker in photos than the actual color of the eyes when you look at the person directly. You can improve many photos by adding a little color to the iris of the eyes. You can simply add a little more color or you can change the color to a different hue. When you colorize the eyes, you are looking for a natural eye color. You can also select any color as the foreground color and paint in the irises. If you have another photo of the same person where the

eye color appears more natural, you can sample the eye color from the first photo and paint it into the one with the grayed eyes. The specific brush options you set in the Options bar are key to coloring the eyes to appear natural. You can also use the same technique to apply one person's eye color to another subject's eyes. Agencies often request a specific eye color for a model to better blend into the color scheme of an advertising piece. You can save time by using Photoshop to change the eye color in the original photo and avoid finding and photographing a different model.

1 Click and drag the Background layer over the New Layer button to duplicate the layer as a safety step.

2 Click the Zoom tool and zoom in to enlarge the eyes.

3 Click the Eyedropper tool.

4 Click here and select 3 by 3 Average.

5 Click in the iris to set a reference color as the foreground color.

6 Click the Brush tool. The Options bar changes.

7 Click here to open the Brush picker.

8 Click and drag the Hardness slider to 50% so there is only a slightly soft brush edge for better blending.

9 Adjust the brush size just smaller than one-half the iris using the left and right bracket keys on the keyboard.

10 Click the Airbrush button to enable it. Click the Foreground Color box in the Tools panel.

The Color Picker appears.

11 Click and drag the Hue slider to another color. Click OK to close the Color Picker.

12 Click the New Layer button to add a new empty layer.

13 Click and select Color for the layer blend mode. Click and drag over both irises to paint in the new color. & Click the Eraser tool and erase if you paint over other areas. * Click Opacity and drag to the left until the eye color appears natural. The irises of the eyes are now a different color.