

Adobe Photoshop

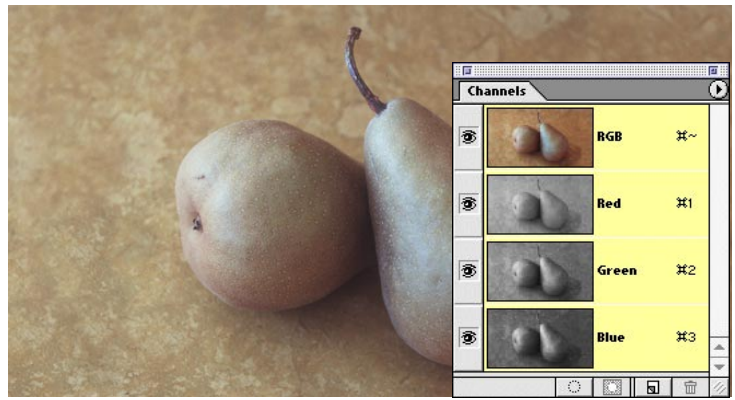
Hand coloring techniques in Photoshop with Julieanne Kost

Software needed Adobe Photoshop 5.0 or later

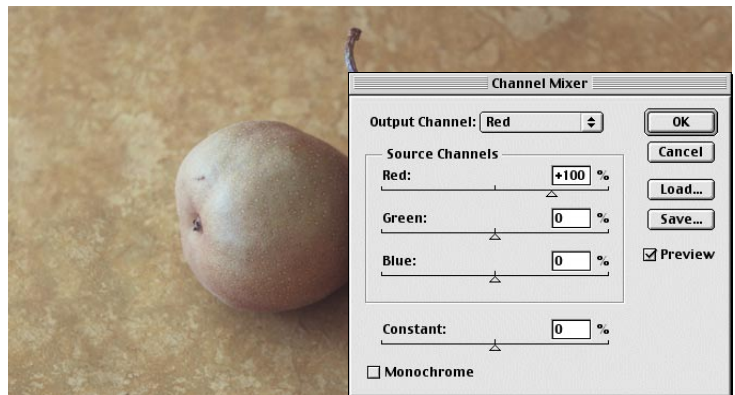


This technique demonstrates how to create the most precise custom conversion from RGB to grayscale without ever changing color modes. By using the channel mixer adjustment layer, the image appears grayscale but is still RGB color, thereby enabling other colors to be added with painting tools.

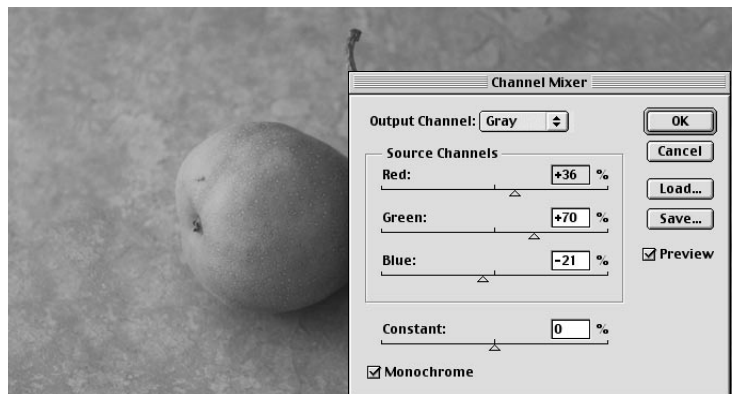
Open the image. Open the RGB file that you want to convert to Grayscale. In the Channels palette, view the individual channels in the image by clicking on the channel's name. (The Green channel typically holds the best detail in the image). After viewing the channels, click the RGB composite channel and make sure that all of the channels are visible.



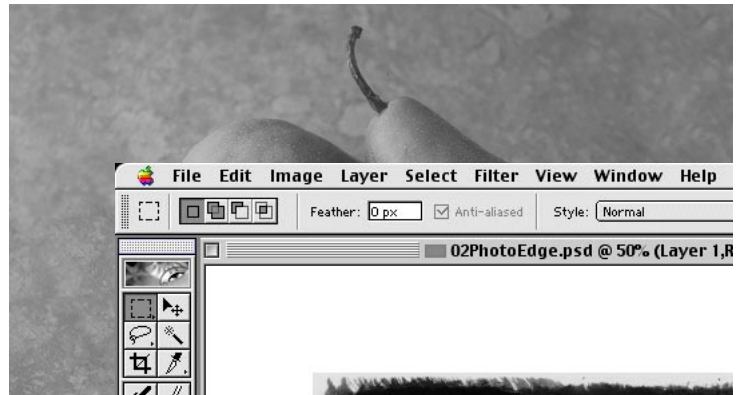
Add an Adjustment Layer. Select Layer > New Adjustment Layer > Channel Mixer and click OK. *Note: Adding the Channel Mixer adjustment layer will change the the appearance of the image to grayscale in the next step yet is not harmful to the original color image.*



Customizing the conversion. In the Channel Mixer dialog box, select the channel with the most detail in it as the Source Channel (in this case, the Green channel). At the bottom of the palette, check the Monochrome button to create a grayscale image. *Note: this also changes the Output Channel to Gray).* Use the sliders to adjust the amount of each of the channels is blended the image until you are satisfied. Click OK.



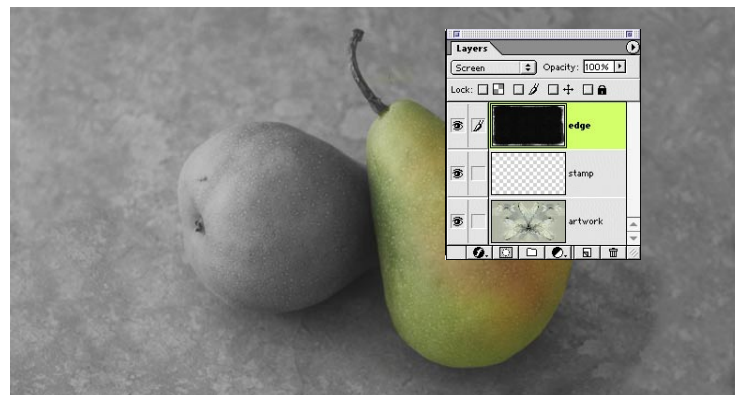
Create a new layer. Select Layer > New > Layer and name the layer *color*. Set the opacity to 100% and the Mode to Multiply. Click OK. *Note: if Multiply Mode makes the color too dark, experiment with other modes such as Soft Light or Color.*



Color the image. From the tool palette, select the Paintbrush. Select a foreground color by clicking on foreground color swatch. In the Paintbrush Options palette, decrease the opacity of the Paintbrush (if desired). Begin painting in the image with that color. *Note: decreasing the opacity of the paintbrush allows the color to build up slowly, often producing a more natural look.*



Changing color. Change foreground colors as needed and continue painting, building up color in the image as you go. *Note: creating new layers for each color provides added flexibility with the ability to change the opacity as well as blending mode while only affecting the single color. Multiple layers also allow for easier editing of colors such as erasing or shifting hue.*



Variation: To create a gradient blend in an image, first select the area for the gradient to be applied to. From the tool box, select the Gradient tool and select a foreground and background color. From the Options bar, select the radial option and the Foreground to Background gradient. Drag the gradient in the selection to create the radial blend.

