

Adobe Photoshop

Painting with snapshots in Photoshop with Julieanne Kost

Software needed Adobe Photoshop 5.0 or later

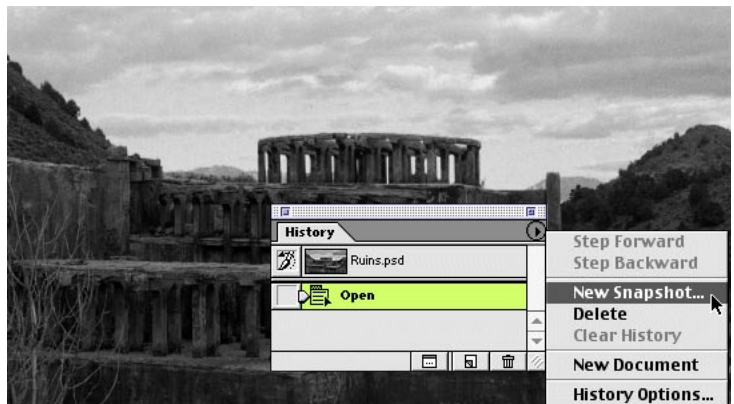


With the introduction of multiple Snapshots in Adobe Photoshop 5.0 came unparalleled freedom for painting between frozen moments of time within an image's creative evolution. Creating snapshots of a document in a particular state, or moment of time, enables innovative individuals the flexibility to try many divergent avenues while allowing them the ability to return to, sample from or expand upon any of their initial decisions. This tip demonstrates the use of snapshots to paint with different versions of an image with differing tonal adjustments.

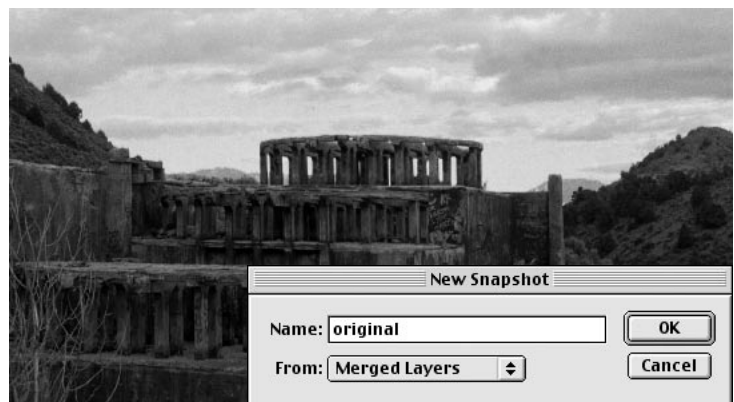
Open the file. Select File > Open and open the file that needs to be improved by painting with light. In this example, the image has only a single *Background* layer but multi-layered files can be used as well.



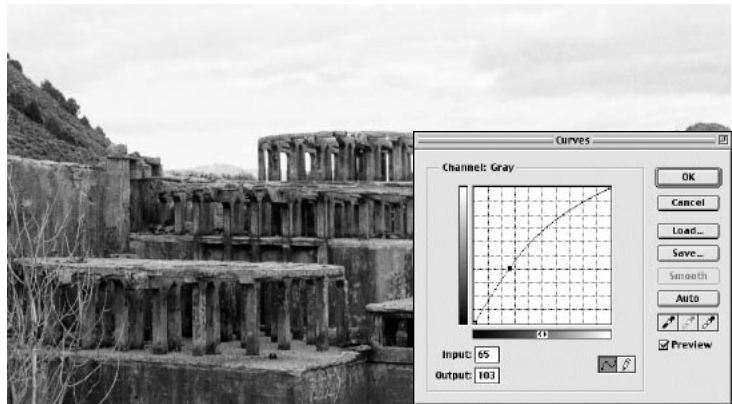
Create a new snapshot. From the History palette's fly-out menu, choose New Snapshot.



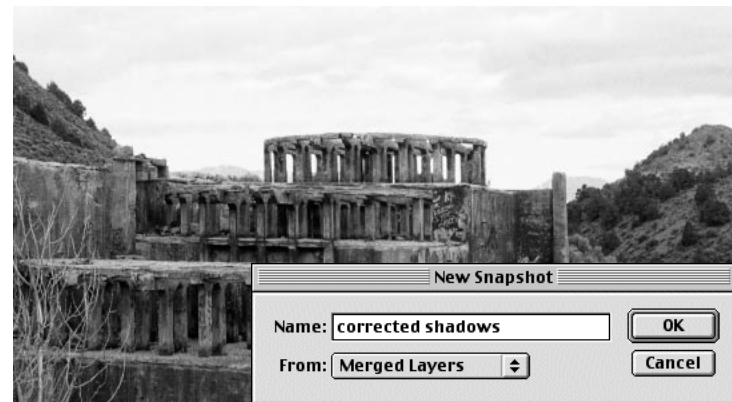
Select the snapshot options. Name the snapshot *original* and select Merged Layers from the From menu.



Adjust the shadows. Select Image > Adjust > Curves. Click on the curve in the 3/4 tones and drag the curve upwards to lighten the shadow areas of the image. *Note: ignore the highlight areas of the image for now and concentrate on making the tonal range of the shadow area correct.* When the shadows are adjusted correctly, click OK.



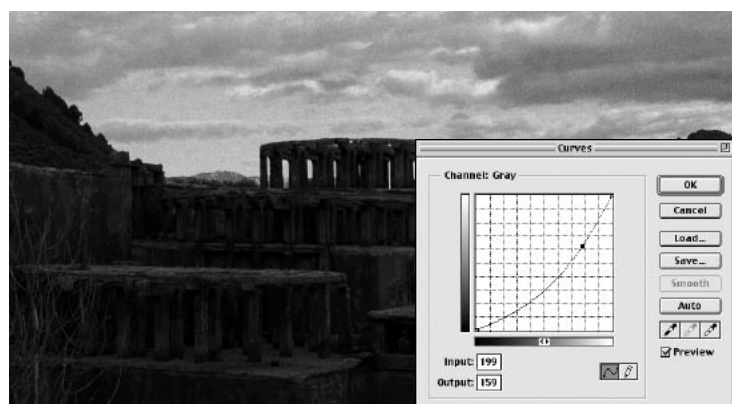
Create a new snapshot. From the History palette select New Snapshot. Name the snapshot *corrected shadows* and select Merged Layers from the From menu. Click OK.



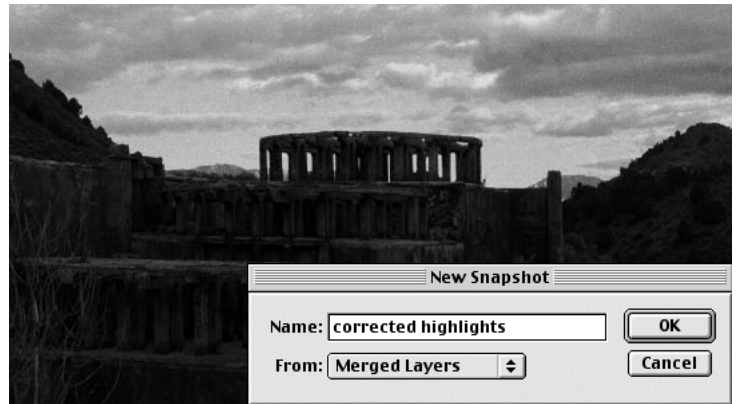
Go back in time. Use the History palette to return to the original state of the file by clicking on the original snapshot.



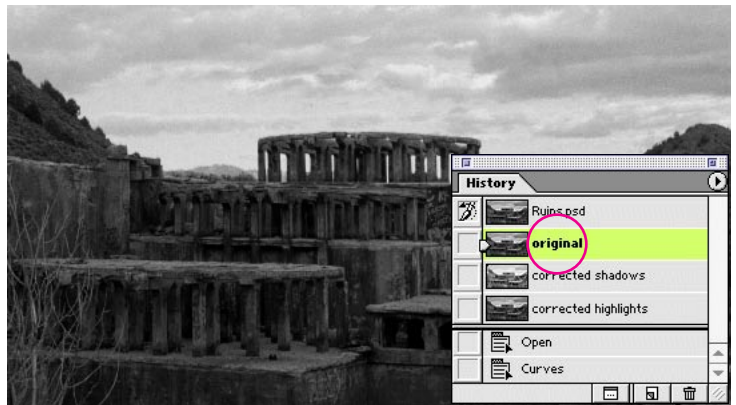
Adjust the highlights. Select Image > Adjust > Curves. Click on the curve in the 1/4 tones and drag the curve downwards to darken the highlight areas of the image. *Note: ignore the shadow areas of the image for now and concentrate on making the tonal range of the highlight area correct.* When the highlights are adjusted correctly, click OK.



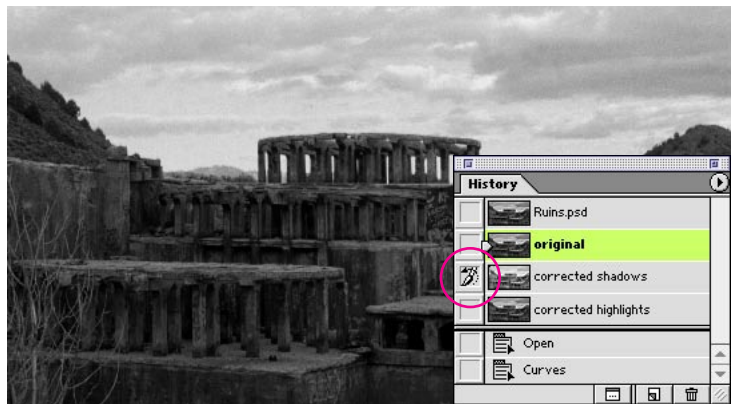
Create a new snapshot. From the History palette select New Snapshot. Name the snapshot *corrected highlights* and select Merged Layers from the From menu. Click OK.



Go back in time. Use the History palette to return to the original state of the file by selecting the original snapshot.



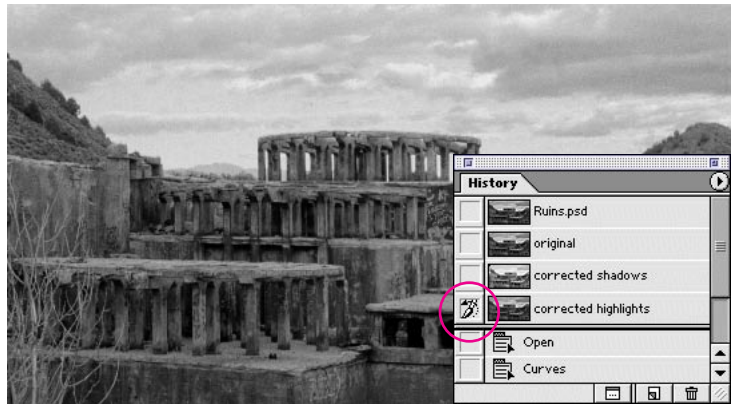
Use the History Brush. From the tool palette, select the History Brush. From the Brushes palette, choose a large brush with soft edges. In the History palette, set the History Brush to sample from the *corrected shadows* snapshot by clicking in the well to the left of the *corrected shadows* snapshot thumbnail.



Sample from the shadows. Begin painting in the shadow areas of the image that you want to lighten. Because the history brush is sampling from the lightened version, the corrected shadows will appear. If the effect is too strong, lower the Opacity in the History Brush Options palette. Continue painting until the shadows are corrected.



Sample from the highlights. In the History palette, set the History Brush to sample from the *corrected highlights* snapshot by clicking in the well to the left of the *corrected highlights* snapshot thumbnail.



Sample from the highlights. Begin painting in the highlight areas of the image that you want to darken. Because the history brush is sampling from the darkened version, the darker highlights will appear. If the effect is too strong, lower the opacity in the History Brush Options palette. Continue painting until the highlights are corrected.



This technique isn't limited to altering the tonal range of an image. It can be used to paint between any snapshots or states in the History palette, so the possibilities are only as endless as your imagination.

