

Layer Enhancement

Use this method to increase image contrast quickly without altering the colour balance.

- Open image
- Create duplicate layer
- Desaturate the duplicate layer (Keyboard shortcut Ctrl+Shift+U)
- Change blending mode to soft light or hard light depending on desired effect
- Fine tune by altering opacity of duplicate layer



Figure 1 Original Image



Figure 2 Soft light blending mode - opacity set at 45%



Figure 3 Hard light blending mode - opacity set at 45%

An alternative method makes use of a gradient map adjustment layer

- *Open image*
- *Create duplicate layer*
- *On the layers palette create a gradient map adjustment layer*
- *Change blending mode to soft light or hard light depending on desired effect*
- *Fine tune by altering opacity of duplicate layer*



Figure 4 Gradient map adjustment layer - blending mode soft light - opacity 45 %