

For an excellent overview of techniques, see <http://www.crhfoto.co.uk/>

- 1. In camera** Quick & easy but lacks flexibility.
It's better to start from a colour image!

- 2. Greyscale** Image > Mode > Greyscale
This conversion uses a mixture of 30% Red, 59% Green, & 11% Blue - OK for skin tones but not much else.

Quick & easy method but rather inflexible.
Discards colour information. Produces low contrast image.

- 3. Desaturate** Image > Adjust > Desaturate
Or use Hue/Saturation adjustment layer and move saturation slider to zero.

This method keeps the colour information but tends to give flat results.

- 4. Lab Colour** Image > Mode > Lab Colour then select the Lightness channel

Can give good results but discards the colour information.

- 5. Gradient Map** Layer > New Adjustment Layer > Gradient Map

Keeps colour information.

- 6. Quick mask** This technique keeps colour information but lacks flexibility.
A bit of a gimmick in my opinion!

- 7. Calculations** Image > Calculations.
Discards colour information. It is hard to predict results.

8. Russell Brown's method

Uses two Hue/Saturation adjustment layers. Bottom (filter) layer needs Colour blend. Top (film) layer has Saturation set to 0.

Keeps colour information. A good analogue of using filters with mono film. Works with Photoshop Elements too.

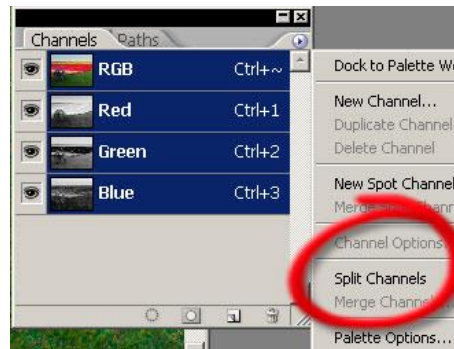
9. Single channel

Select all. Open Channels palette and click on channel to use. Edit Copy. New Document. Edit paste.

10. Channel mixer

The most versatile option for Photoshop users with versions CS2 or older.

11. Split channels



Useful for visualising the effect of individual channels.

Used in conjunction with layer masks, this method gives the ultimate in control but needs the user to be well-acquainted with Photoshop. Not available in Elements.

12. B&W adjustment layer

Arguably, the method of first choice with Photoshop CS3 and later.

The Elements version is more like channel mixer.

13. Raw converter

Tiff & JPG images can be opened from Bridge into Camera Raw. (May need to change settings via Edit > Camera Raw Preferences).

14. Use Lightroom

Very straightforward: simply use Greyscale then fine-tune it.

or with the HSL panel open, set the Saturation to 0 for each colour (It's worth saving the settings as a Preset for future use)..

You can further fine-tune with the vibrance & saturation sliders.