

# exercise :: 04

## Identifying and Removing Color Casts

### Assignment ::

Using our four-step process of correcting images in LAB, plus the additional techniques for removing color casts discussed in class, color correct and all of the images provided by the instructor. The goal is to minimize any existing color casts in the images while increasing the overall saturation and contrast of the images.

### Process ::

1. Locate a folder called `Lab_Resources_04` in the instructor's Handouts folder on XServe (XServe > Class Folders > FALL 09 > VC 251 > Handouts). Copy the folder to your Desktop, and rename the folder on your computer using your name in the following format: `lastname_firstname_04`.
2. For each of the images in the folder, optimize the images using the steps discussed in class. Do as much of the work as you can using Adjustment Layers. The steps are:
  1. Make **steeper the a and b Curves**, initially keeping the middle at 0.
  2. **Adjust the a and b Curves separately**, removing any color cast.
    - Use Color Sampler Points to help guide your correction decisions.
    - The middle of the curve no longer has to live at 0—move it to one side or the other to remove color casts.
    - Don't rely on just straight-line adjustments—go ahead and make the Curves *curvy* were necessary.
    - Remember that not all Neutral areas can be made perfectly neutral—correct only the ones that matter.
  3. Make **steeper the L Curve** at the highlight and shadow points.
  4. Make steeper the L Curve at the **main point of interest** in the image.
  5. Perform an **Unsharp Mask** on the L Channel, starting with: Amount 200%, Radius 1.0 pixels, Threshold 10 levels.
3. After you have corrected each image, save the image as a native Photoshop document (.psd) and keep it in LAB color mode.

### Print Comparison Creation ::

For the final step, select the one image from this exercise that you feel looks the best after the image correction, and create a before-and-after layout for printing in InDesign. To create this layout:

1. Temporarily convert the image into RGB mode, and save TIFF files of both the **before and after versions** of the image (start with the LAB image each time).
2. Place the images in a Letter-size layout in InDesign, sizing the images to at least 6 inches in their longest dimension.
3. Label the images, setting the text color to 40% gray using a sans-serif typeface. Place your name and exercise number somewhere on the page.
4. Print out the layout on the VC Color printer to be turned in.

**Requirements ::**

Turn in both the digital files and prints created for this exercise. Place all files (including the InDesign layout and linked images) in a folder named `lastname_firstname_04` and place a copy on them in the instructor's Drop Box on the XServe (XServe > Class Folders > FALL 09 > VC 251 > Drop Box). This exercise is due at the beginning of class on **Tuesday, November 3rd, 2009** (Week 06).