



The Truth is Black and White

With shades of grey!

Ian Howard



**The Fees from my talks and judging
are donated to the
British Heart Foundation**

**So be pleased that we are supporting a great
charity and the people in our community**

Many thanks for your support

Who am I



This is an image
by Martin Munkacsi

It was this image that
inspired me to become a
photographer

- Member of Deal Camera Club
- I have no photography qualifications or “letters “
- I am just a photographer
- I'm told I take uncomfortable pictures!
- Have several web sites
 - Lensclof.com
 - EKPgallery.com
 - Eastkentphotography.com
- Sell images on line, at art exhibitions and retail
- Enter online competitions
- Have won several of the big magazine competitions
- Run photography group courses and one to one sessions

We are all drawn to Black & White
They have that special power!

*Develop **your** style*
*Take the images **you** like*
*Be the photographer **you** want to be*



This is an image
by Vivian Maier

It constantly reminds me I
need to be a better
photographer



Same image but different stories

Why Black & White? – What's the attraction?

“Black and white photography has the potential to make any photographer a better photographer.”

– Rob Sheppard

“With black and white photography, what you have to say counts more than the way you say it.”

– Gian Marco Marano

“Black and white photography erases time from the equation.”

– Jason Peterson

“When you photograph people in colour, you photograph their clothes. But when you photograph people in Black and white, you photograph their souls!”

– Ted Grant

“Colour is descriptive. Black and white is interpretive.”

– Elliott Erwitt

“What I love about Black & White photographs is that they’re more like reading the book than seeing the movie”

– Jennifer Price

Black & White or Monochrome?

Mono = Single Chrome = Colour

The term monochrome is used to describe a photograph produced in one colour including all its tones. This includes “black and white” and the tonal variations between them (greys).



Cyanotype (Blue Shades)

Monochrome photos contain variations of only **one** colour and nothing else.

This could be different shades of blue, green, or grey, for example.

It can be shades of ANY single colour.



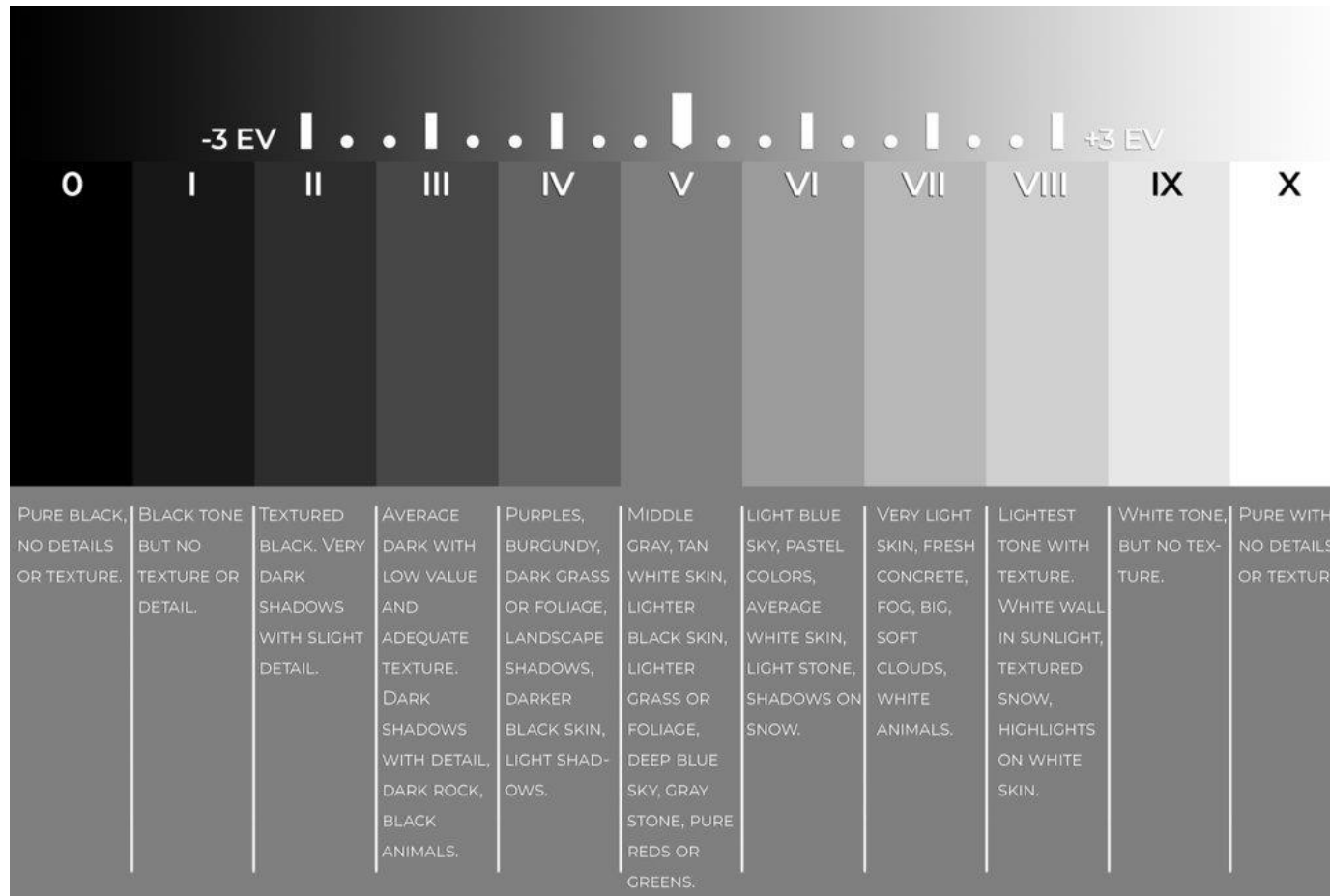
Sepia (Brown Shades)



Lets focus on Black & White



These are the tonal ranges from white to black and a description of what items typically fall into that zone



Its rare that life contains true Black

But it can in photography and it works

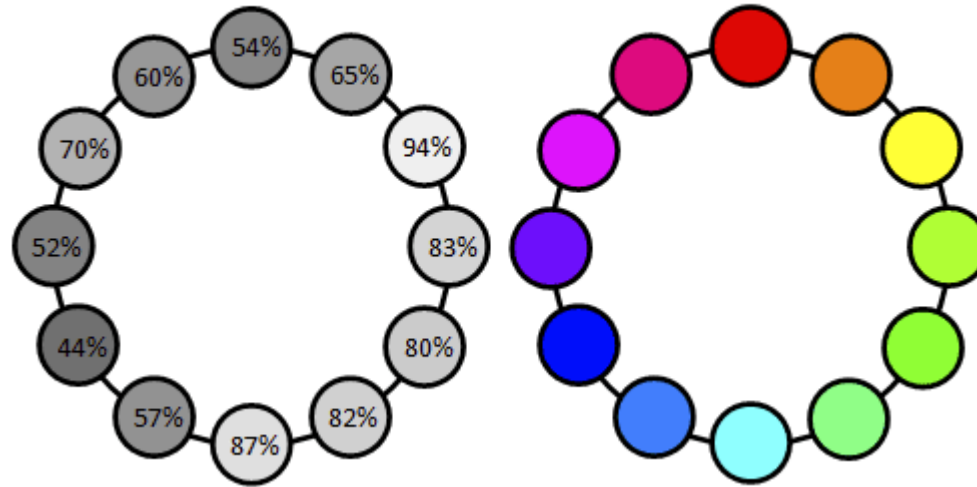
Its rare that life contains true Whites

Generally Pure White does not work in photography

We also know the temperature of white changes from our camera white balance

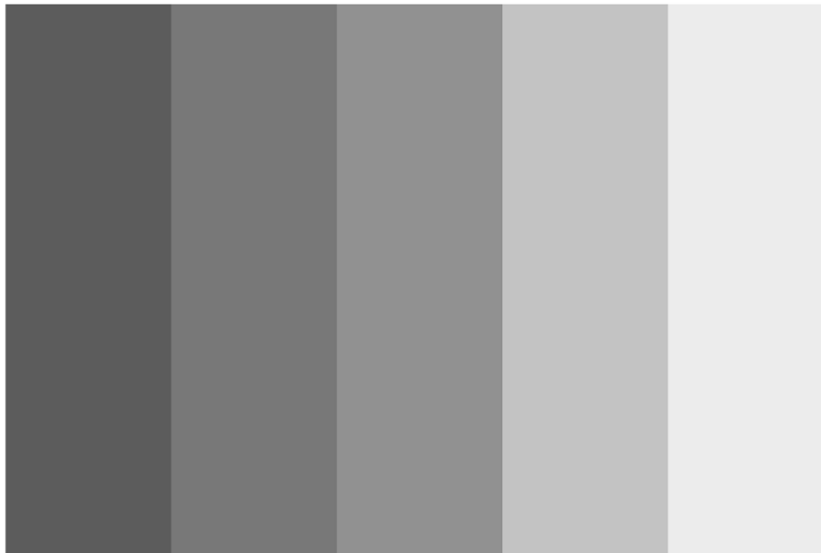
How do Colours convert to Black & White?

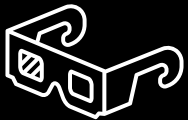
This gives you some idea of how the colours in your image will translate to B&W



Technically you could get a colour image and if all the colours were right when converted it would go grey!

This gives some idea of how different tones of a single colour will translate to B&W





You say you can't see Black & White!



PROBLEM Some people say that they just cant see Black & White images!



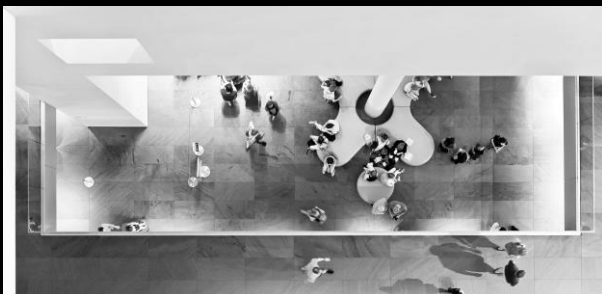
ANSWER #1: Shoot in RAW then when you come to edit the images you have the maximum information and a colour image to work on to create your B&W



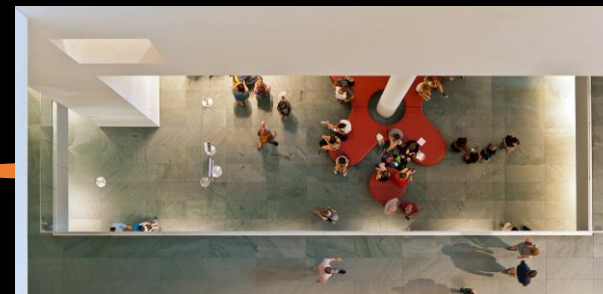
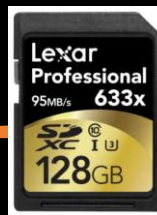
ANSWER #2: Set you camera photo style to black and white!
What you see on the camera screen is not the RAW it's always a jpeg processed version of the RAW in the style you have selected, so you will see a B&W version of the colour RAW you have saved.



ANSWER #3: Many cameras allow you to save a jpeg and a RAW version.
Using this option means you will get a B&W jpeg and a colour RAW copy of the image saved on your card



JPEG



RAW

What subjects lend themselves to Black & White!



Things that make GOOD B&W

- High Contrast
- Strong Shapes
- Patterns
- Tonal Range
- Graphic Images
- Long Exposures



Things that make BAD B&W

- Blank Skies
- Sunrise / Sunset - colour mood shots
- Colour Contrast Shots
 - Purple/Green or Orange/Blue



All the Normal RULES of photography still apply

- Composition – *Rule of thirds*
- No distractions – *Bright spots on the edge (white!)*
- Straight image – *Don't have the Sea going uphill !!*
- Interest – Mood, Story, Emotion
- Depth – *Move through the image front to back & left to right*

Many different ways to create a Black & White!

** These are the ones I have used*



GOOD B&W Conversions

- Black & White – Lightroom (Hue Sat)*
- Black & White – Lightroom (Pre-set) + (Hue Sat)
- Capture One
- Topaz
- Luminar*



OK B&W Conversions

- Black & White – Photoshop*
- Calculation - Photoshop
- Black & White – Lightroom (Top Button)*



BAD B&W Conversions

- Desaturate – Photoshop*
- Convert to Grey Scale – Photoshop*
- Chanel Mixer - Photoshop



Add-ons or Plugins for Photoshop and Lightroom that are good options

- Silver Efex Pro*
- Topaz
- Luminar4*
- Lumenzia*

Some tips to make your Black & White Images stand out from the crowd!



Pre Conversion to B&W

- Take a subject that works in Black & White
- Shoot using a polarising filter can help
- First process your RAW image as you would a standard colour image
- Ensure there is sufficient contrast in the image
- Increasing colour saturation can help (eg blue if you plan to use a red filter)
- Try HDR processing your image before your B&W conversion
- Desaturate image to get a quick look at it in B&W - but don't use desaturate method



Tips & Tricks

- You may need to do more than one B&W conversion and then blend the final images
- Final processing step - add a B&W gradient filter to give punch to the image
- Does the image have "Depth" it **must** not be "Flat"
- Sometimes having low contrast in the background and high contrast in the foreground can create depth
- Use noise in the image to your advantage or remove it in processing
- Do your colour filter effects in post processing not on camera for greater control
- B&W conversion can sometimes save a badly lit or colour cast image
- HDR images work well in Black & White
- To key line or not to key line?
- When you mount your images leave a paper border to show what pure white looks like

We can see the impact of colour filters on a B&W image
Traditionally achieved via a coloured filter on the camera

Today in digital these are easily achieved in post
processing with greater control

Impact of colour filters on a Black & White Image



Let's Process an Image

Processing our RAW Image in Lightroom

lightroom
Raw processing

Adobe Lightroom Classic
ian howard

Library | Develop | Map | Book | Slideshow | Print | Web

▼ Navigator FIT 100% 50%

▼ Presets

▼ User Presets

- standard no Vignette
- Wed People
- wedd STD

► Portraits: Deep Skin

► Portraits: Medium Skin

► Portraits: Light Skin

► Auto- Retro

► Style: Black & White

▼ Style: Cinematic

- CN01
- CN02
- CN03
- CN04
- CN05
- CN06
- CN07
- CN08
- CN09
- CN10

► Style: Cinematic II

► Style: Futuristic

► Style: Vintage

► Subject: Food

► Subject: Landscape

► Subject: Lifestyle

► Subject: Travel

► Subject: Travel II

► Subject: Urban Architecture

► Color

► Creative

► B&W

► Portraits

► Defaults

► Curve

Copy... Paste

Zoom 19.5% Show Grid: Auto Soft Proofing

▼ Histogram

Original Photo

Tone

Exposure +0.44

Contrast 0

Highlights -53

Shadows +49

Whites 0

Blacks 0

Presence

Texture -10

Clarity +20

Dehaze +22

Vibrance +11

Saturation 0

Tone Curve

HSL / Color

Color Grading

Detail

Lens Corrections

Profile Manual

☒ Remove Chromatic Aberration

☒ Enable Profile Corrections

Setup Default

Lens Profile

Make Nikon

Model NIKKOR AF-S NIKKOR 16-35mm f/4G E...

Profile Adobe (Nikon AF-S NIKKOR 16-35m...

Amount

Distortion 100

Vignetting 100

Transform

Previous Reset



Adjustments in Photoshop



Photoshop
Levels adjustment to darken
sky and river bank

Silver efx pro 2
005 High Structure (Harsh)
Add Red filter
Add Vignette

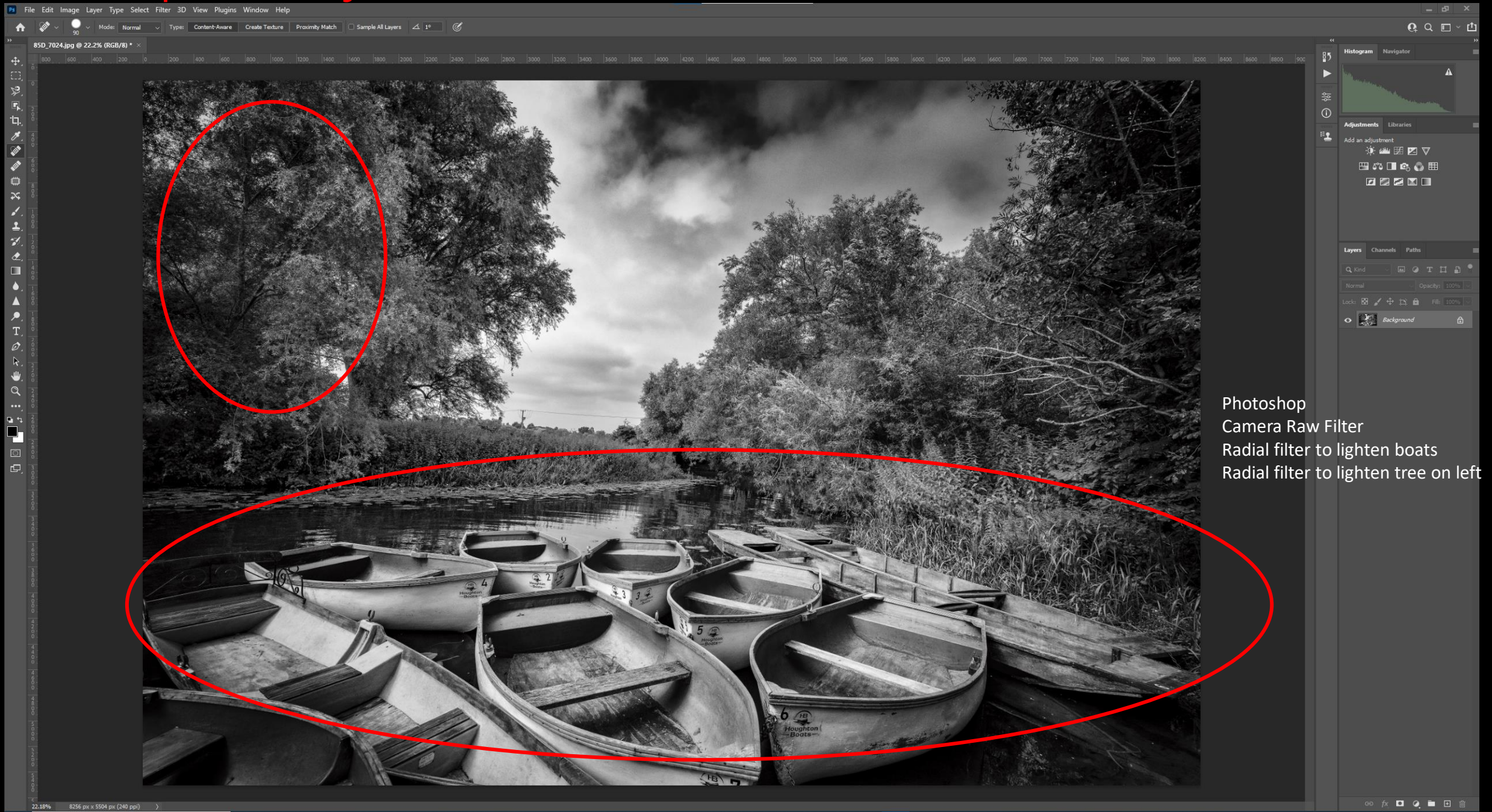


Photoshop Adjustments after Silver Efex Pro 2



Photoshop
B&W Gradient filter 50%

Photoshop Final Adjustments



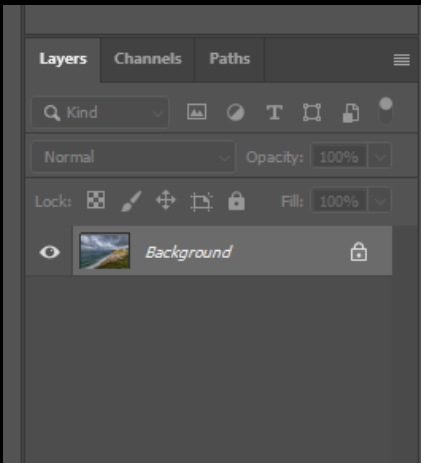
Photoshop
Camera Raw Filter
Radial filter to lighten boats
Radial filter to lighten tree on left



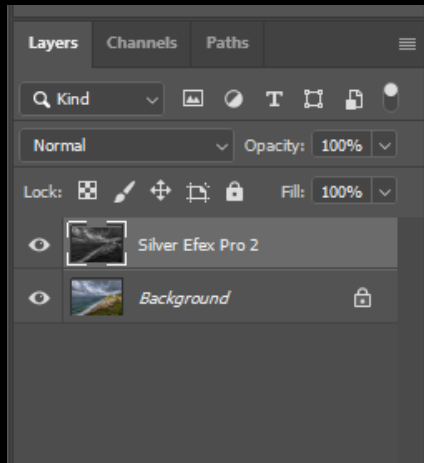
Multiple Conversions

You can produce multiple monochrome conversions and then blend them

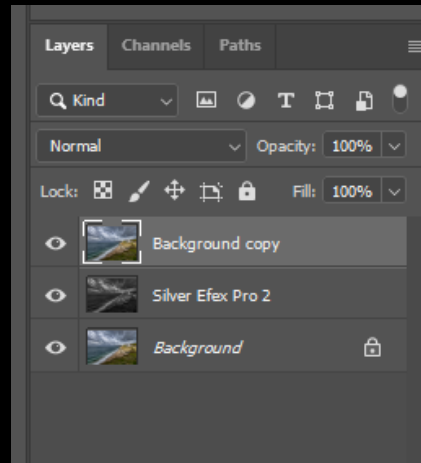
Multiple Conversions



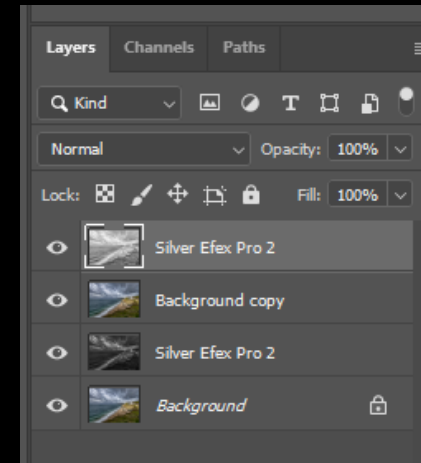
Initial Colour
Image



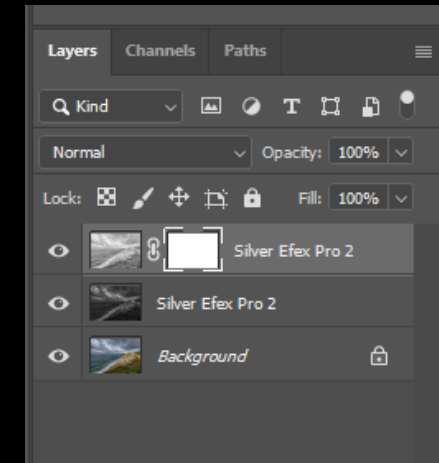
First monochrome
Conversion



Duplicate
background colour
layer and move to
the top



Second
monochrome
Conversion

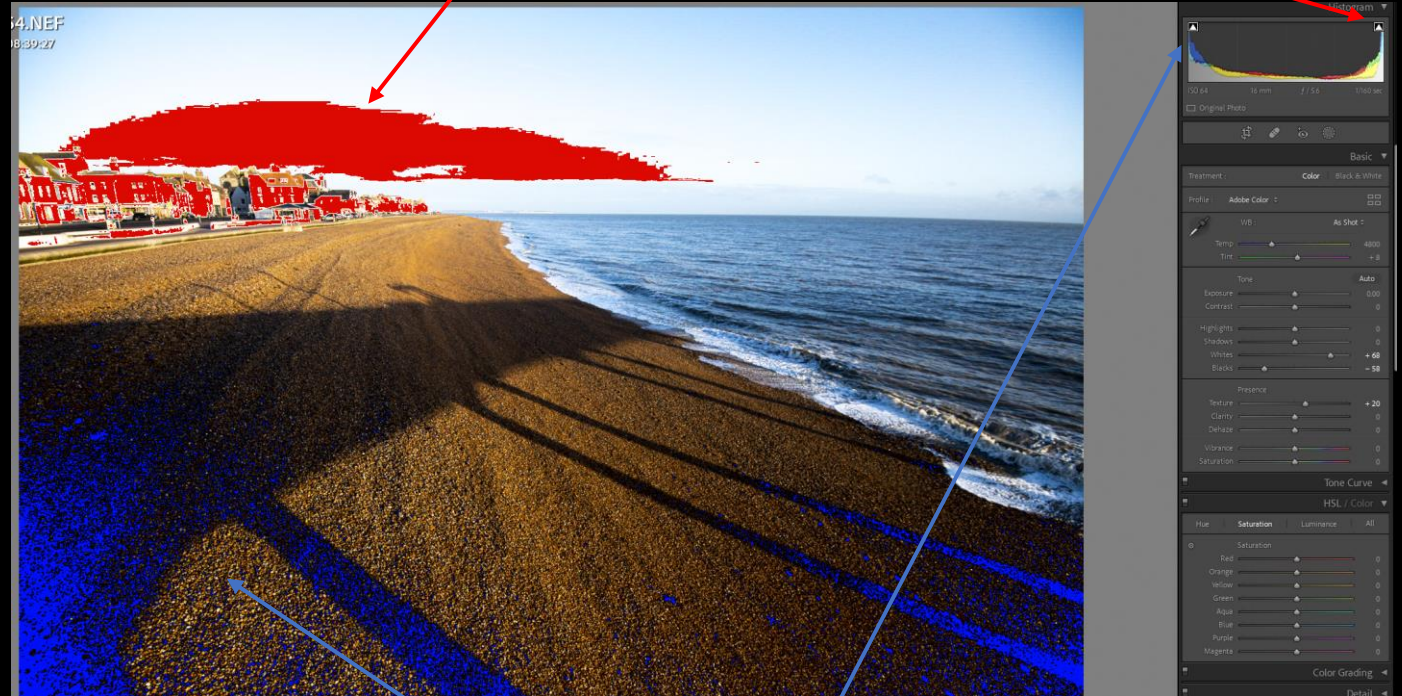


Delete Background
copy colour layer
and blend
monochromes
using layer masks
etc

Processing Black & White!



- Start with a good image
- Start with a Raw image
- *Process a good colour image*
- *Use your histogram*
- *Don't blow your highlights*
- Know how to use your editing software
- *Learn the different methods of dodge and burn and be able to use them*
- *Don't be afraid to generate multiple conversions and blend them*
- *Ensure you generate sufficient contrast in your image*



Highlights

Shadows

Post Processing You need to Understand Dodge and Burn!



- Burn to DARKEN (Highlights, Midtones or Shadows)
- Dodge to LIGHTEN (Highlights, Midtones or Shadows)
- *How to Dodge & Burn*
 - Using photoshop tools
 - Using Lightroom
 - Using Curves
 - Using selections
 - Using blend mode
 - <https://karltayloreducation.com/4-ways-to-burn-dodge-in-photoshop/>