

# Photoshop CS4 – Using **SELECTIVE COLOR** to Improve Fine Line B&W Images

For plans, maps, drawings, and just plain text on a printed page, blacker blacks and whiter whites can be optimized through various techniques and with several tools. *White* and *Black eyedroppers* in either **Levels** or **Curves** work well, as do pulling the *Shadows* and *Highlights* sliders in Levels past the edges of and into the Histogram. Try also using **Selective Color**. A color menu command for black & white? Huh?

if needed: if image is *Grayscale*, first convert it to *RGB*:

**IMAGE** menu → **Mode** → **RGB Color**

for *Whiter Whites*:

**IMAGE** menu → **Adjustments** → **Selective Color**

- ⊙ **Selective Color** dialog box opens
- ⊙ **Method** button on last line → *Absolute* (not *Relative*)
- ⊙ for Whiter Whites, **Colors** top line pull-down menu:
  - √ *Reds* pull-down menu → pull down to **WHITES**
  - √ *Black* bottom slider → slide to the LEFT → **OK**
- ⊙ for still Whiter Whites, repeat the previous Whiter Whites steps again

for *Blacker Blacks*:

**IMAGE** menu → **Adjustments** → **Selective Color**

- ⊙ **Selective Color** dialog box opens
- ⊙ **Method** button on last line → *Absolute* (not *Relative*)
- ⊙ for Blacker Blacks, **Colors** top line pull-down menu:
  - √ *Reds* pull-down menu → pull down to **BLACKS**
  - √ *Black* bottom slider → slide to the RIGHT → **OK**
- ⊙ for still Blacker Blacks, repeat the previous Blacker Blacks steps again

for still *Blacker Blacks*:

**IMAGE** menu → **Adjustments** → **Selective Color**

- ⊙ **Selective Color** dialog box opens
- ⊙ **Method** button on last line → *Absolute* (not *Relative*)
- ⊙ for Blacker Blacks, **Colors** top line pull-down menu:
  - √ *Reds* pull-down menu → pull down to **NEUTRALS**
  - √ *Black* bottom slider → slide to the RIGHT → **OK**
- ⊙ if needed, restore *Whiter Whites*

**IMAGE** menu → **Mode** → **Grayscale**

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for PDF of this document, see: <http://www.vraweb.org/resources/diag/photoshopresources.html>

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Mark M. Braunstein – Visual Resources – Connecticut College – [mark.braunstein@conncoll.edu](mailto:mark.braunstein@conncoll.edu)