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](http://www.vraweb.org/resources/diag/photoshopresources.html)

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Mark M. Braunstein – Visual Resources – Connecticut College – mark.braunstein@conncoll.edu