

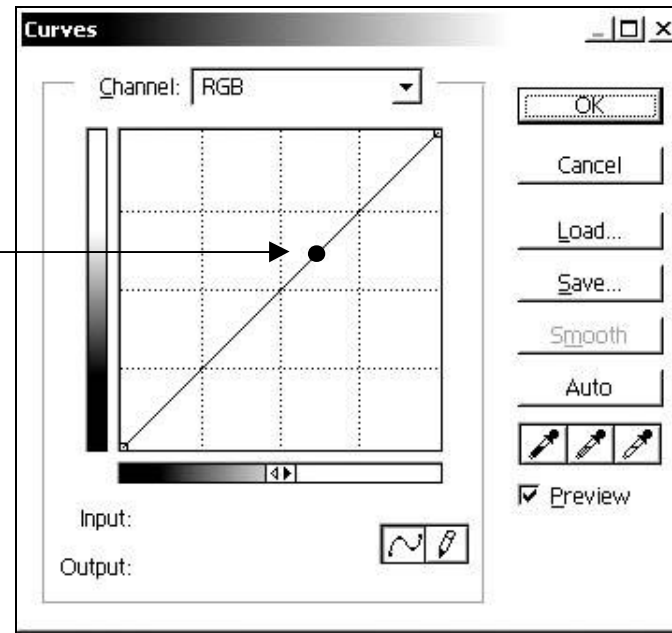
Using curves to control contrast

Luzette Donohue

Curves allows you to make precise adjustments at any point along a 0-255 point scale while keeping other areas of the image constant.

Hold down CTRL or OPT and click inside the problem area of the image. A corresponding point is loaded onto the curve.

Drag the cursor over the image and an indicator will show you where that information appears on the curve.



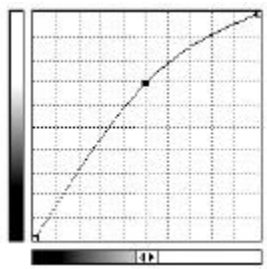
The straight line represents the same information as the histogram in levels with the shadow information at one end, highlight information at the other and mid-tones in the middle.

You can use the eyedroppers to set the shadow and highlight points in your image, simply by clicking where

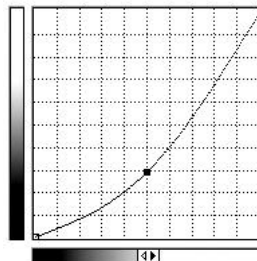
The straight diagonal line shows there have been no changes made yet.

To delete an unwanted point, click on and drag it outside the grid.

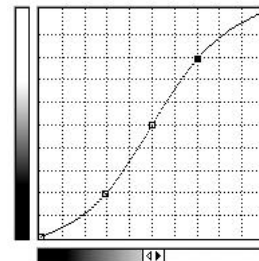
Hold down ALT or OPT and click on the grid to swap to smaller squares for greater precision.



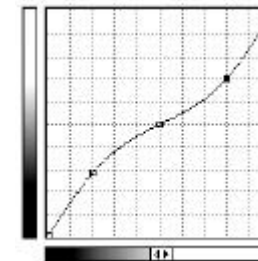
Drag the curve up to lighten your image.



Drag the curve down to darken your image.



Produce an S curve to increase contrast.



Reverse the curve to decrease contrast.

Recommended book

Evening, M. (2000) "Adobe Photoshop 5.5 for Photographers: A professional image editor's guide to the creative use of Photoshop for the Macintosh and PC"