

Colours and Levels

Colours

Take a look at the pictures below and you will notice that they are not looking their best. Perhaps, they are old and the original colours have faded, or lighting conditions were poor and they were over/underexposed in the first place.

Before Enhancing Colours



The apples in this picture have a grey tinge. They would look more attractive if they were greener.



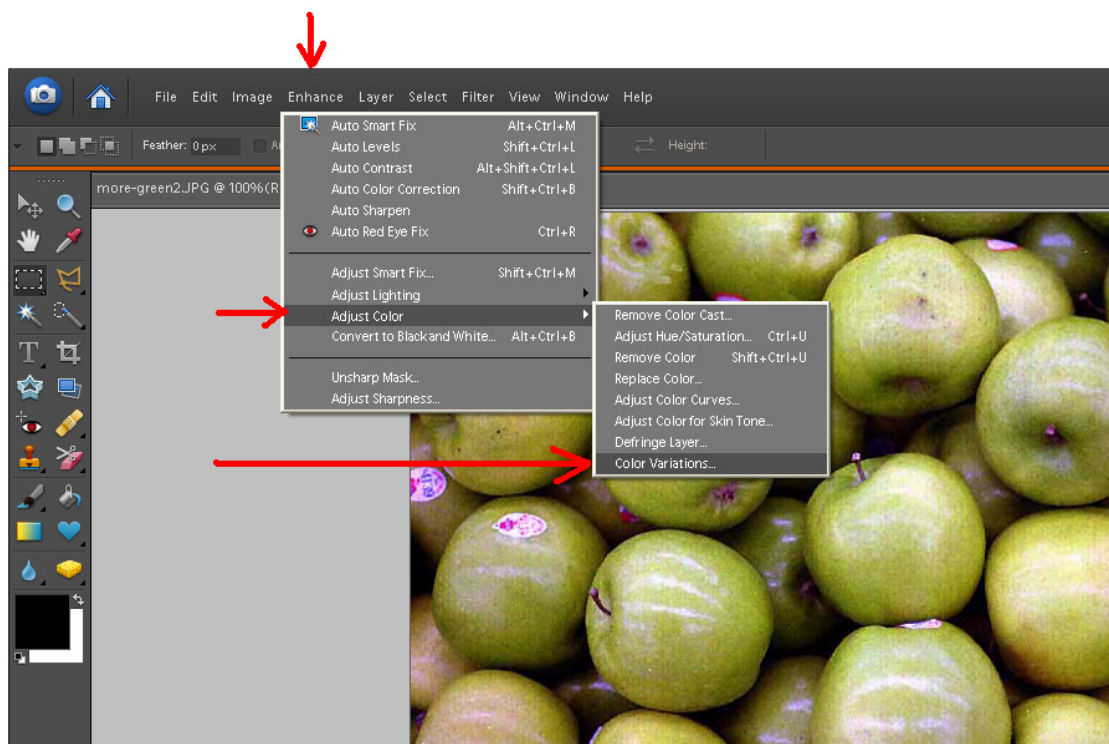
This old photograph would look better if the reddish tinge was removed.

After Enhancing Colours



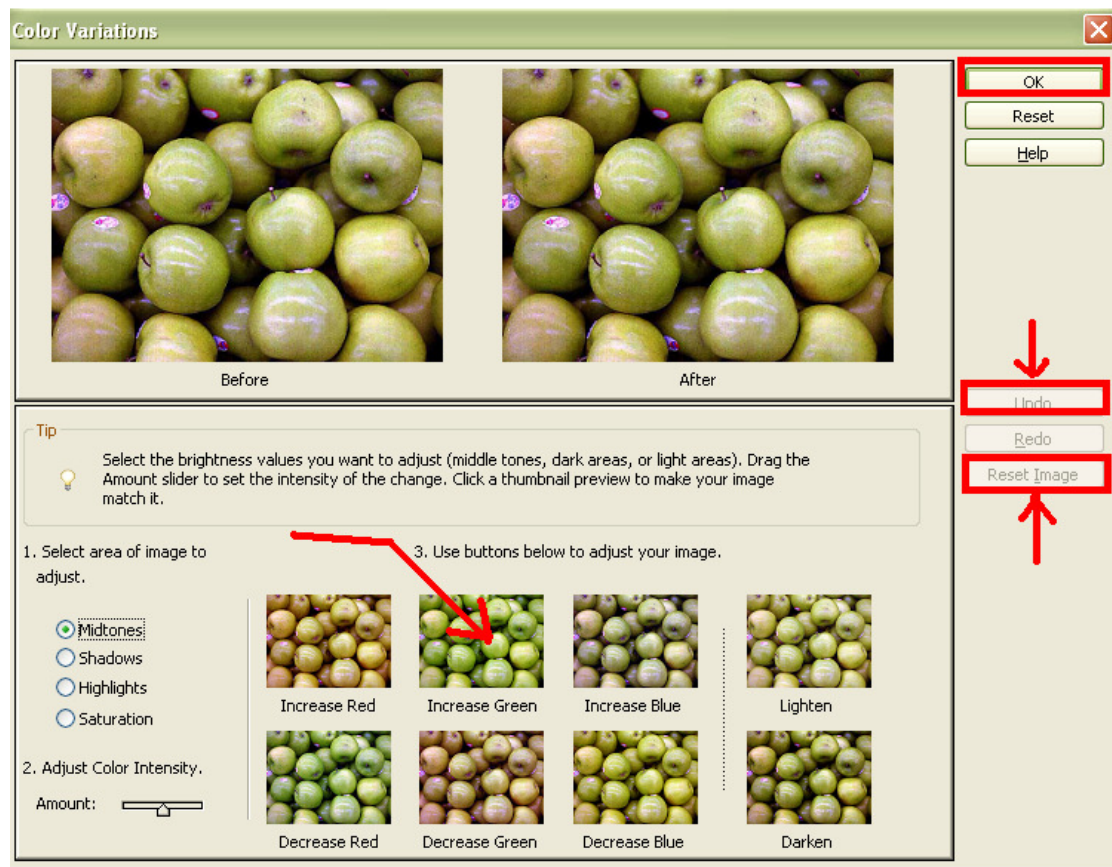
Colours can be adjusted to reduce or increase the colouring. Colour levels can be adjusted to restore the contrast or brightness. Photoshop Elements has a number of very useful features to enhance photographs such as these. They are mostly found within the **Enhance Menu** at the top of your screen.

Adjust Colours



1. The apple picture is found in the **Enhance Folder**. Open this apple picture. (Click File > Open > My documents> DI2011 etc...)
2. Click Enhance Menu
3. Click Adjust colour
4. Click Colour variations

As shown below, you will see the apple picture with **Before** and **After**.



In this case, we wish to make the apples greener. We will achieve this by clicking the colour button that says - **Increase Green**. The more times you click this button, the greener the apples will become.

Notice the buttons on the right side of the dialogue box.

- Use **Undo** to go back a step of green (if you had “over-greened” your apples).
- Use **Reset Image** to cancel your colour adjustment efforts and start again.
- Click **OK** if you are happy with the results in After.

Levels Adjustments

Before Enhancing Levels



This photograph is overexposed due to the brightness of the winter snow.



This old photograph has faded and the blacks are now grey.

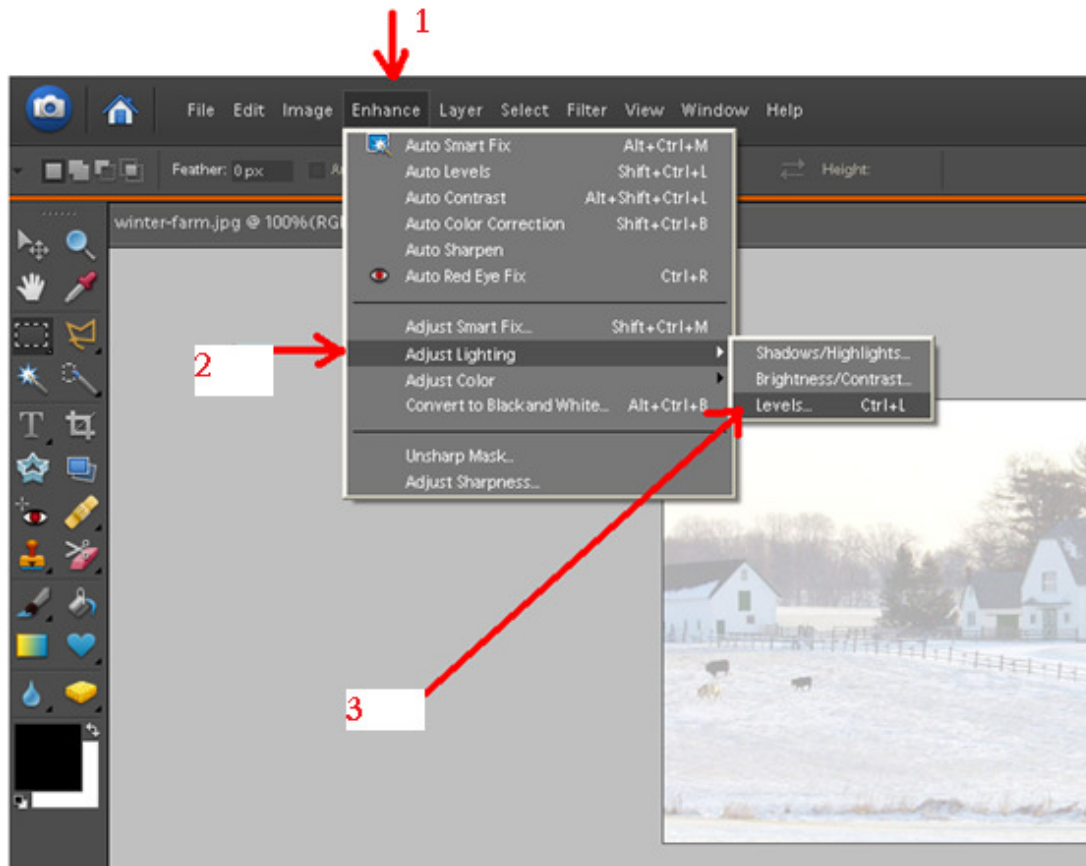
After Enhancing Levels



The Levels dialog box is a powerful tonal and colour-adjustment tool. You can make levels adjustments in the entire image or a selected portion.

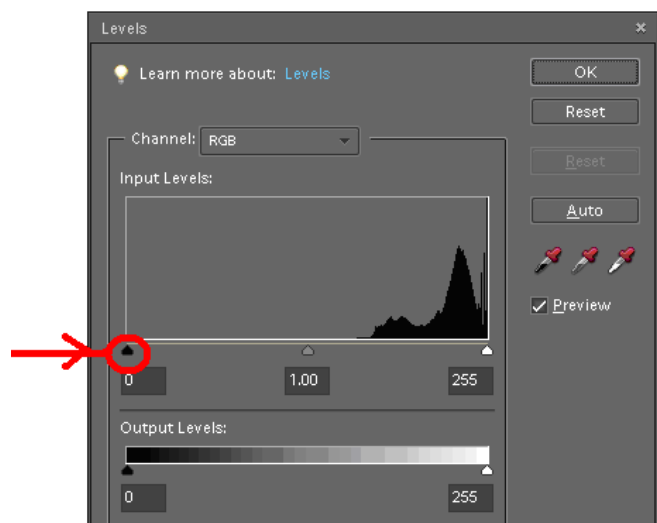
Click on menu bar, Enhance > Adjust Lighting > Levels
Or you may prefer using the keyboard shortcut Ctrl+L

Adjust Levels

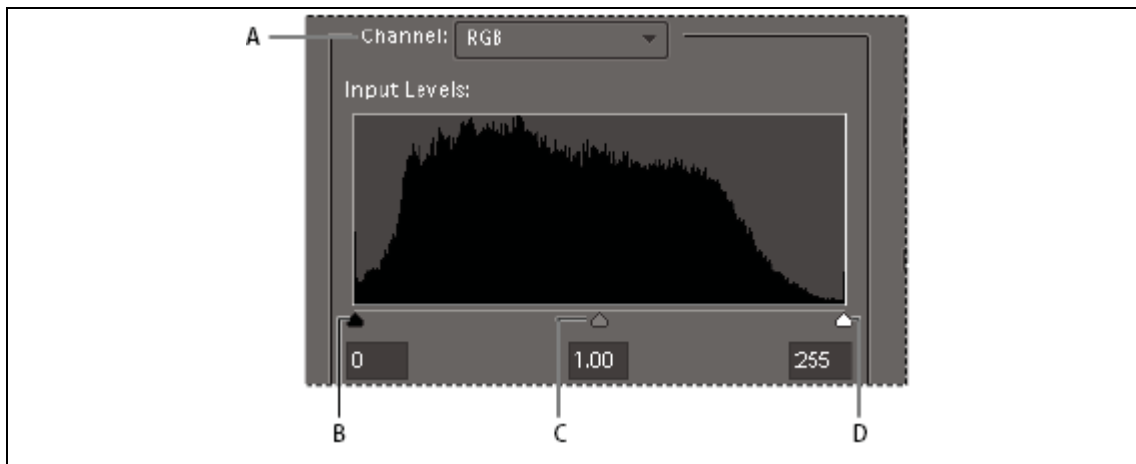


1. The winter-farm picture is found in the **Enhance Folder** in your own Folder. Use thumbnails view to find and open this picture. (Click File > Open > My documents etc...)
2. Click Enhance Menu
3. Click Adjust lighting
4. Click Levels

Adjust to make sure that your image uses the full tonal range.



About Levels Adjustment



Levels dialog box

- A. Channels to adjust color
- B. Shadow values
- C. Middle tones
- D. Highlight values

You can do any of the following with the Levels dialogue box:

- Set the shadow and highlight values to make sure that your image uses the full tonal range.
- Adjust the brightness of the image's middle tones without affecting the shadow and highlight values.
- Fix a color cast by making grays neutral. You can also enhance an image by adding a slight color cast, for example, by adding a warming effect on a sunset.
- Target shadow and highlight RGB values if you are preparing images for commercial printing.