



▼ Ben Willmore



Photoshop Mastery

Replace Eight Dialogs with Just One!

If you adjust JPEGs or TIFFs using features such as Brightness & Contrast, Levels, Shadow/Highlight, and Hue/Saturation, consider replacing all those adjustments with just one: Adobe Camera Raw. Let's take a look at which sliders in Camera Raw can be used to replace adjustments in Photoshop.

To access Camera Raw, select an image in Bridge and choose Open in Camera Raw from the File menu. If the menu item is grayed out, choose Tools>Cache>Purge Cache for Folder. The adjustment sliders in Camera Raw have different names than the ones in the adjustment dialogs in Photoshop, but they act much the same. All you have to do is figure out which slider corresponds to the type of adjustment you're used to working with in Photoshop, then you can save loads of time by applying your adjustments in a single dialog.

of the same name in Camera Raw. If you're used to applying Levels adjustments in Photoshop, then use the Exposure, Blacks, and Brightness sliders as if you were working with the upper-right, upper-left, and middle sliders in Levels, respectively (you can even hold the Option [PC: Alt] key to get a clipping warning, just like in Levels).

Replacing Shadow/Highlight

The Recovery and Fill Light sliders in Camera Raw can be used as a replacement for the Shadows and Highlights sliders in the Shadow/Highlight dialog.

Replace Hue/Saturation

The Saturation slider in Camera Raw is much like the one found in the Hue/Saturation dialog in Photoshop. But you also have the bonus of the Vibrance slider, which has no equivalent in Photoshop. The Vibrance slider concentrates on areas of your image that aren't all that colorful and lets you make them more, or less, saturated.

The Hue and Lightness sliders found in the Hue/Saturation dialog in Photoshop aren't very useful unless you isolate a color within your image via the Edit drop-down menu at the top of the dialog. You can replace much of the functionality found in that menu by clicking on the HLS/Grayscale tab (found in the bar of icons above the adjustment sliders in Camera Raw—it's the fourth icon from the left. That's where you'll find separate Hue, Saturation, and Luminance sliders for eight individual colors (two more than you have available in the Hue/Saturation dialog).

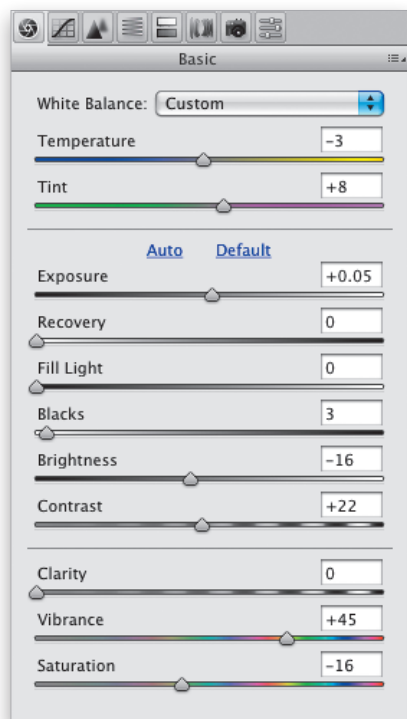
Replacing Black & White

You can replace the Black & White adjustment (that was new in Photoshop CS3) with the Convert to Grayscale checkbox

found under the HSL/Grayscale tab in Camera Raw. If you like the Tint checkbox in the Black and White dialog, you should enjoy exploring the settings found under the Split Toning tab (fifth icon from the left) because it gives you much more control over tinting a grayscale image.

If you explore all of the other tabs in Camera Raw, you'll find replacements for many of the controls found in Curves as well as the Lens Correction and Unsharp Mask filters.

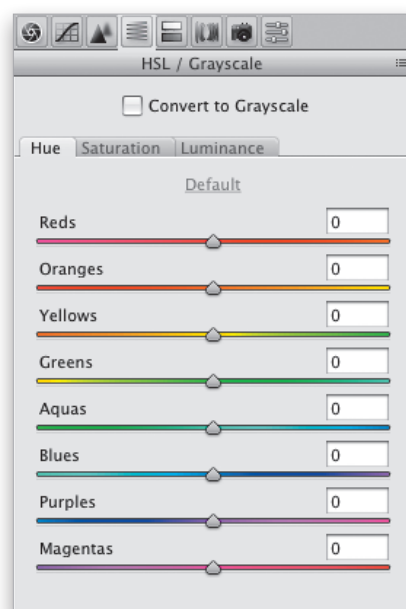
Camera Raw can't replace every single control found in the dialogs that I've mentioned but it can go a long way to making the process of applying adjustments much more efficient. I start all of my images in Camera Raw and only bring an image into Photoshop when I run into one of the limitations of Camera Raw (such as not being able to isolate an area via a selection). ■



Main adjustment sliders in Camera Raw

Replacing Brightness/Contrast and Levels

You can replace the sliders found in the Brightness/Contrast dialog with the sliders



Camera Raw HSL/Grayscale sliders

Ben Willmore is the best-selling author of Adobe Photoshop CS3 Studio Techniques and Up to Speed: Photoshop CS3, as well as co-author of How to Wow: Photoshop for Photography. Ben spends many of his days on the open highway, a digital nomad in his 40' motorcoach. Learn about his latest adventure at www.WherelsBen.com and view his photography at www.TheBestofBen.com.