

Photoshop Color Correction – Finding the Black and White Points

In Photoshop:

Open your image

Image > Duplicate then **Close** your original

Image > Image size

Check that **Constrain Proportions** has a green check mark

Resolution should be 72

Change the **width** or **H** in **pixels** as desired for you web page (we used 300 px in our demo)

Click to apply these settings

View > Actual Pixels – shows you the size your image will be on your web page

In The Layers Palette – Drag the background down to the Make New Layer icon (to preserve your background layer)

At the bottom of the Layers palette click the **O** and slide down to select a new **Threshold** adjustment layer

Black Point Target

In the **Threshold dialog box** move the **scrubber** all the way to the left > then slowly bring it to the right as you watch the dialog box image - when you find a circle size area big enough for the eyedropper target stop and check the actual image by toggling the preview button. You can zoom in to get a better look at the spot by holding the control key (pc) or command key (mac) and the + sign. (+ zooms in, - zooms out) If this looks like a good black area of the image go ahead and **hold the shift key down** and **click the spot with the tip of the eyedropper** to place a black point **target**.

White Point Target

Now drag the **scrubber** all the way to the **right** and repeat this process at the **right hand end** to find and place a **target** for the **white point**.

Cancel the Threshold dialog box

After you've placed your black and white targets click **Cancel** in the Threshold dialog box.

Back to the Layers Palette

In the layers palette select the **uppermost layer** then go to the **O** again (at the bottom of the layers palette) and this time select **Levels** to make a new Levels Adjustment Layer. In the levels dialog box get the **black eyedropper** (the one on the left) and **click in the middle of your black target point**. Now get the **white eyedropper** (the one on the right) and **click in the middle of your white target point**. **Click ok**.

Save your image with it's layers as a .psd file to preserve the layers for alterations.

Now flatten and save the image with a new name (menu is in the upper right corner of the layers palette). **Now go to save for web and devices to optimize your image for your web page.**

PLEASE NOTE: **O** means the Create New Adjustment Layer icon, it's colored half dark and half white