

PHOTOSHOP POWER TECHNIQUES

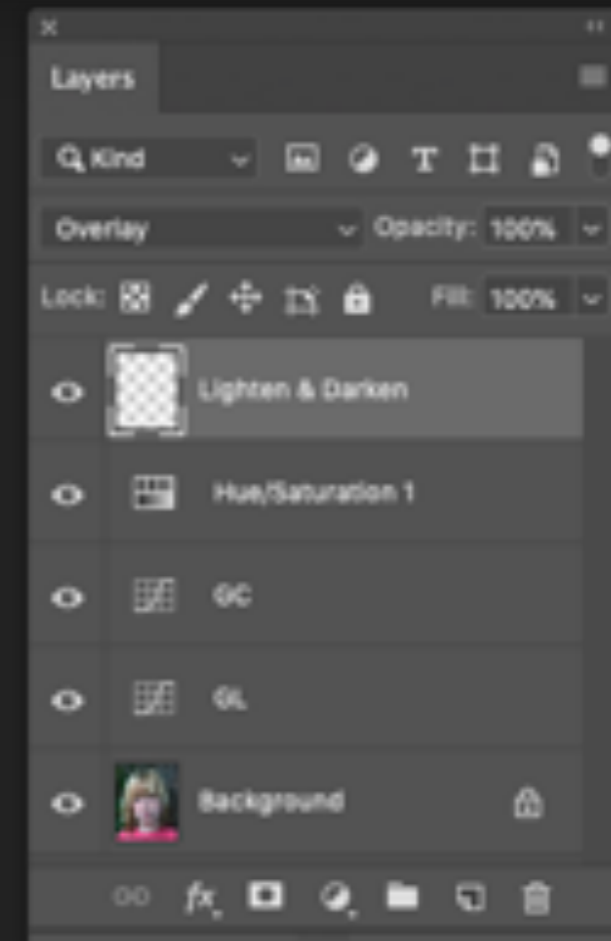
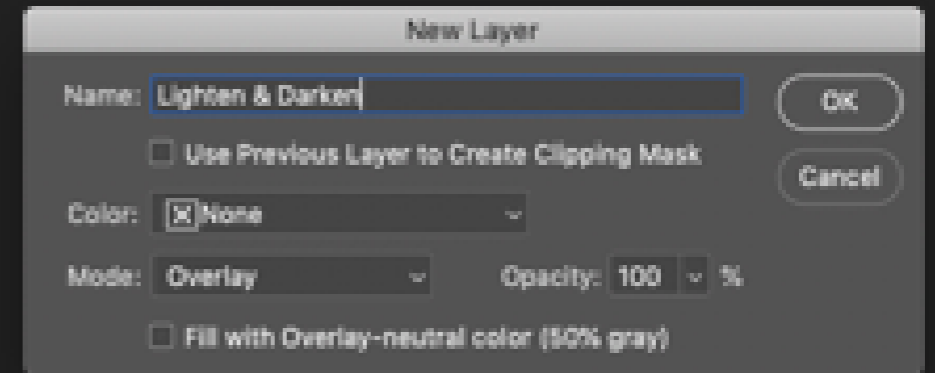
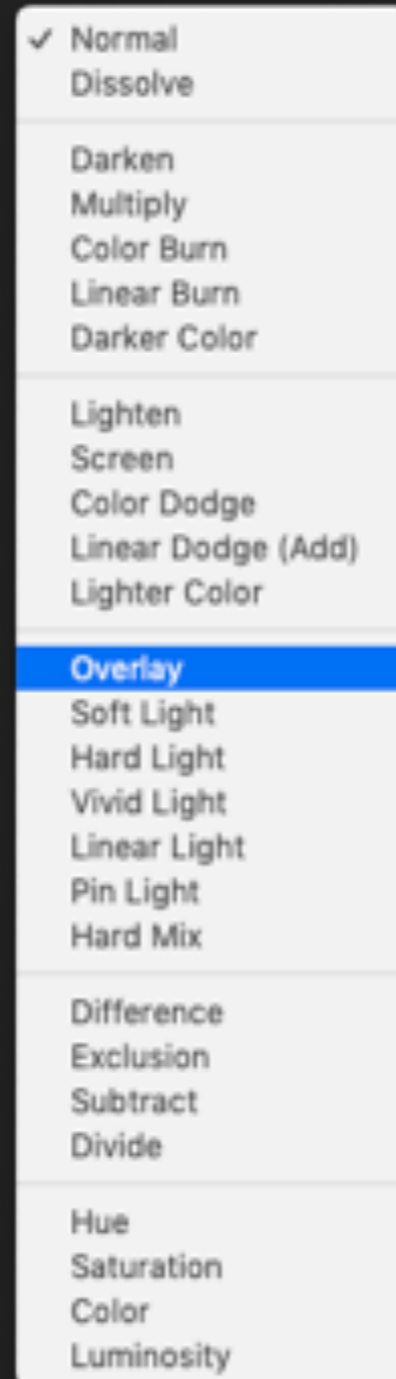
THE POWER OF

LIGHT & DARK LAYER

LIGHTEN & DARKEN LAYER

A Lighten & Darken layer (Burn & Dodge) allows the user to add local contrast and emphasis to specific areas of an image. It is far more flexible and effective than using a mask with a curve or level adjustment layer. In addition it allows the user to make saturation adjustments when the L&D layer has increased saturation in specific areas.

#1. At the top of your layer stack create a blank layer (Not an Adjustment Layer!) in Overlay Blending Mode



LIGHTEN & DARKEN LAYER

#2. Select your brush tool and set to 0 hardness. Next set the Flow of the brush to 8. Now paint areas you wish to enhance with Black to darken or White to lighten. The effect will be relatively minor so use multiple strokes to build the adjustment. To increase or decrease the "strength" of the stroke the Flow of the brush can be altered up or down. Use the "X" key on the keyboard to switch the active color from White to Black.



LIGHTEN & DARKEN LAYER

When using a Lighten & Darken layer with a color image the Darken adjustments may add Saturation. This is most apparent in skin tones. The images below illustrate the saturation increase as darkening was applied to the cheeks. Using the technique outlined on the following page the saturation increase was reduced and the image was restored to the original saturation level leaving the darkening effect.

Original



Lighten & Darken



Saturation Reduced



LIGHTEN & DARKEN LAYER

To reduce Saturation in a Lighten & Darken Layer:

#1. Select the Lighten & Darken Layer

#2. Holding down the Cmd-key (Ctrl-PC) click on the Lighten & Darken layer in the layer stack. This loads the area of saturation increase as a selection. Ignore this message: *No pixels are more than 50% selected.*

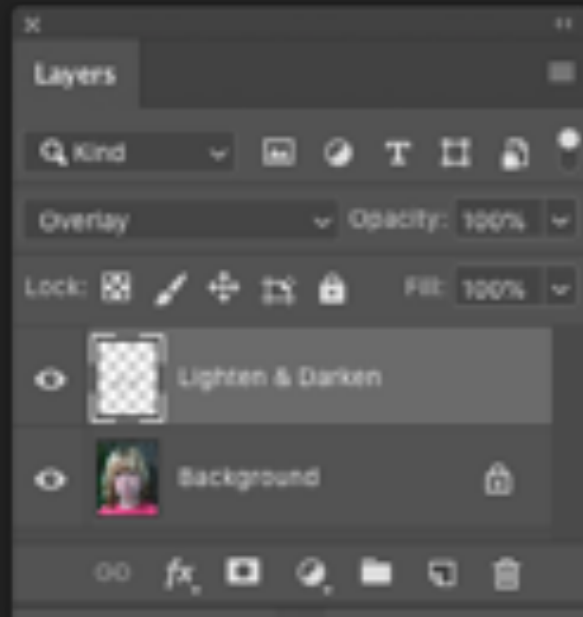
The selected edges will not be visible. Select OK

#3. Now add a Hue/Saturation Adjustment layer. The “invisible” selection will attach itself to the Saturation Adjustment Layer as a mask.

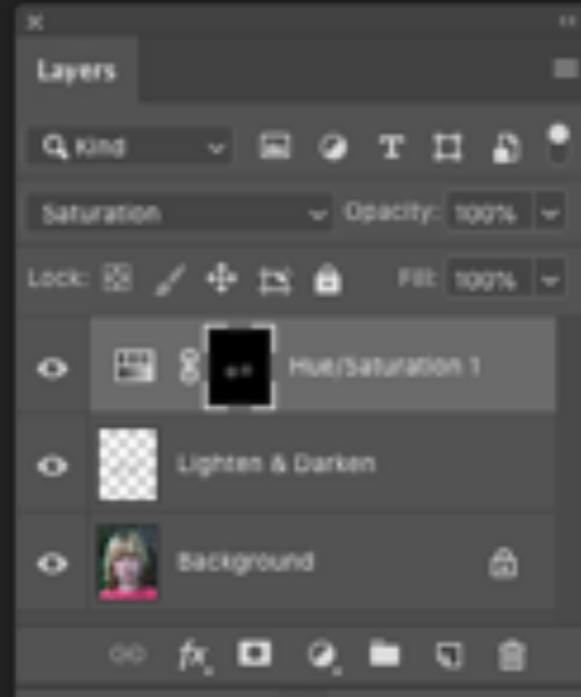
#4. Slide the Saturation slider to the left to desired level to desaturate the effected areas.



#1.

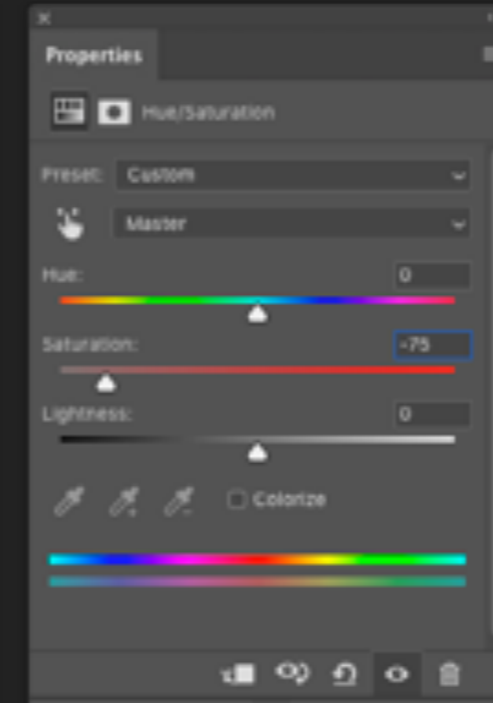


#2.



#3.

#4.



Lighten & Darken Image

