

Dealing with a Color Cast

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In this digital age, one thing that seems certain is that there are a dozen or so ways to do almost everything in Photoshop. Here is one of mine for dealing with a color cast.

Open the image you want to edit

From the main menus select Image > Duplicate Image and click OK to accept the default name and create the copy.

Working on the copy (duplicate) image from the main menus select Filter > Blur > Average

This will turn the duplicate image into a uniformly toned / colored nothing. That is what you want as it provides input for the correction

Reselect (click back on) your original image and position it so that you can see it and the now blurred duplicate at the same time. You don't need to be able to see all of the duplicate, just enough so that you can see a portion of the uniform color.

Using either the menus (Layer > New Adjustment Layer > Levels and click OK to create the layer) or more simply just clicking on the "Add New Adjustment Layer" icon (half black - half white circle) in the bottom middle of the Layers pallet) on your Layers Pallet and selecting Levels add a Levels Adjustment Layer to your original image.

Select the gray point (middle) eye dropper on the Levels Adjustment Layer

Move the eye dropper over the uniform color on the duplicate and right click with your mouse to have the Levels Adjustment Layer pick up that color as middle grey.

You should see an immediate change in your original image colors as that blurred color (which contained the effect of the color cast) is interpreted to be a clean 18 percent grey (sans color cast). You can click to toggle the layer dialog box image preview on and off to see the change that took place.

If you like the correction, click OK to accept the new Levels Adjustment Layer on your original image. (If you need to, you can still use the normal levels sliders to adjust the whites, blacks and midtones in your image further before accepting it or by reopening it later.)

Go back to the duplicated image and close it without saving. It has served its purpose

Try this on an image that you feel has a pesky color cast that you haven't been able to quite get out using other methods.