Forum: Gallery Art
Topic: Colour matching (beginner question)
Subject: Re: Colour matching (beginner question)
Posted by: Vincent
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I use a level adjustment (in RGB mode) to match each channel individually. And 'gasp' I actually do this directly to the source material without an adjustment layer. Of course it's masked on it's own layer when I do. If you don't feel comfortable with using something like levels or curves, before I understood them, I worked with the brightness/contrast adjustment to match my gray tones. It means you'll be doing more leg work afterwards to do corrections that the b/c adjustment couldn't handle, but it did help me gain a better understanding which eventually helped me to become confident enough to move on to more appropriate adjustments. The key to matching in grayscale channels IMO is to understand the difference between brightness and contrast, and there is a big difference. Brightness makes everything lighter or darker on your image. So if you brighten, you add brightness to both the light areas and dark areas. By adding contrast, you are reducing the amount of levels of gradation from black to white. So if I add contrast to an image, I am removing the grayscale tones that would've appeared in transition from lighter to dark areas.

Anyways, however you decide to do it, individual channel adjustments are the way to go because when you adjust via channels, you only effect one colour at a time, when you adjust colours to the whole image however, you might be messing up a blue that was perfectly fine, just to fix the red. It's like the lady who swallowed the spider to catch the fly. It results in a chain reaction of 'tweeks'.