

Adding Vibrancy Using LAB Colour.

By Brian Clarke.

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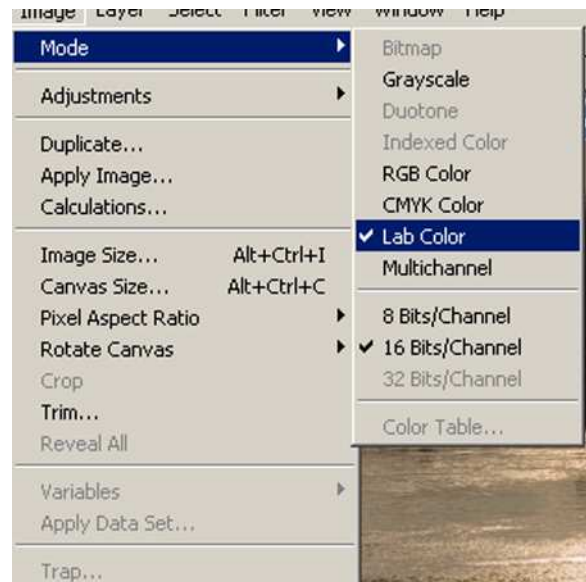
Introduction.

Creating vibrant colour using the “A” and “B” Lab channels.

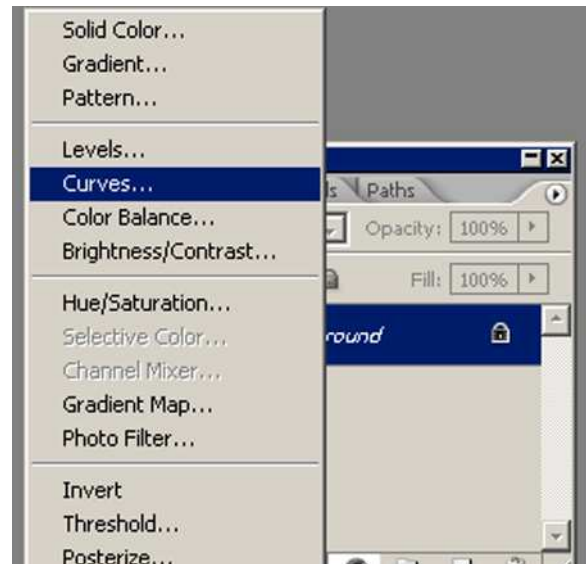
The method.

Open an image whose colour appears to be flat and lifeless.

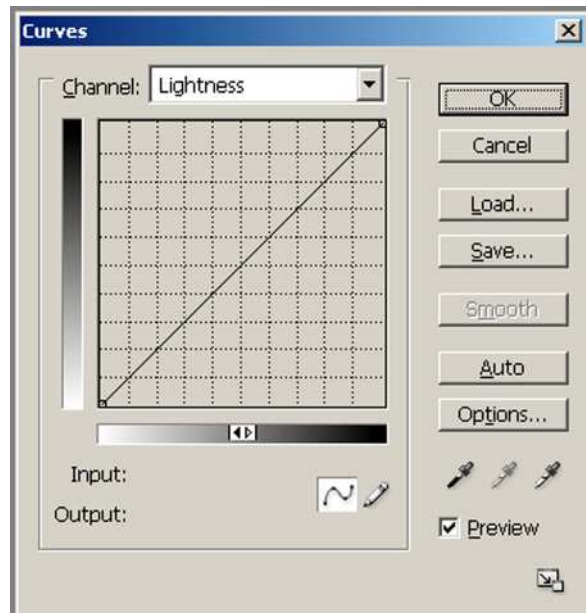
Convert the image to Lab Colour mode by going to **Image>Mode>Lab Colour**.



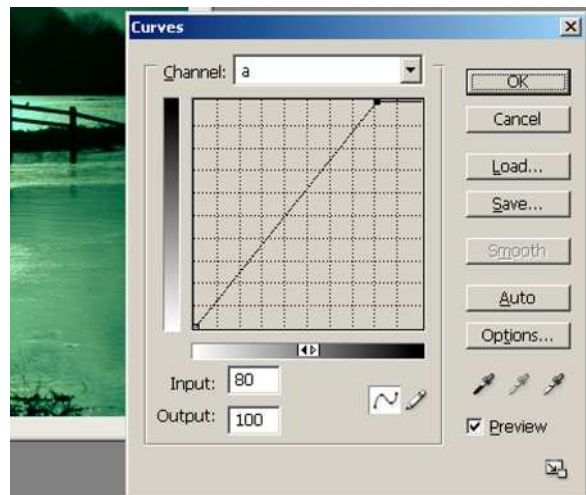
Next choose **Curves** from the create New Adjustment Layer pop-up menu at the bottom of the Layers Palette.



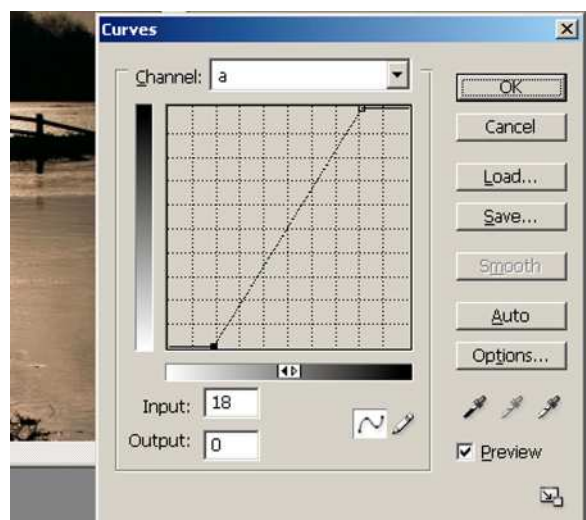
When your Curves dialogue appears the grid may be larger than the one shown here. You will need to get the finer grid for this tutorial, luckily it's easy to get. Just press the **Alt** key and click once anywhere on your larger grid and the smaller grid appears.



In the channel pop-up menu at the top of the Curves dialogue, choose the “a” channel (as shown) click on the **double arrow** in the gradient bar at the bottom of the grid to change your **black** point to the **top right** corner of the grid and your **white** point to the **bottom left**. Now click directly on the top-right corner point and drag it two grid squares to the left. This makes your image look very Cyan.

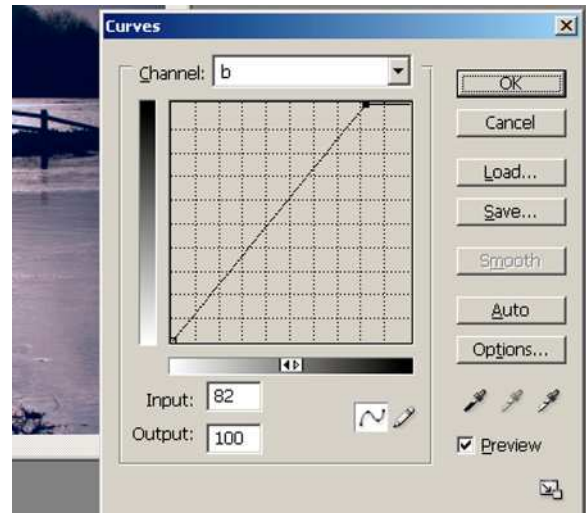


Now click directly on the bottom left corner point and drag it two grid squares to the right. The colours should start to look more vibrant, do not click **ok** yet.

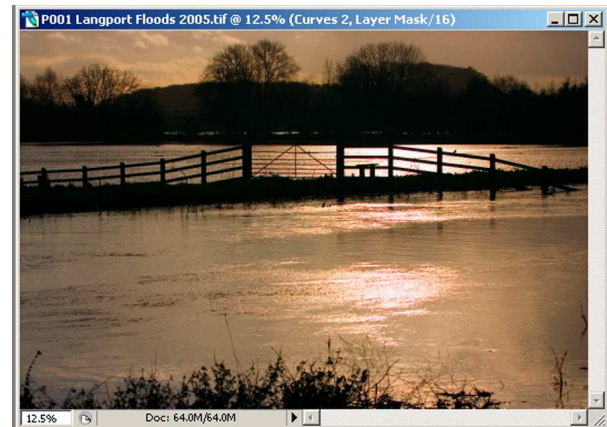


Now switch to the “b” channel up top and do the exact move with the two corner points starting with the top-right corner point. When you click and drag the bottom-left corner point over to the right by two grid squares the colours fall into place.

You can adjust the vibrancy of the image by adjusting 1 or 3 grid squares. The choice is yours.



Before



After

Remember to reconvert the image back to RGB mode prior to printing; the printer will not accept files in LAB Colour mode.