

Portrait Photography

Digital Darkroom: Skin Retouching

Before you begin:

Work in 16Bit and Adobe RGB

Image > Mode > Choose 16 Bit II Edit > Colour Settings > Adobe RGB

Use Groups to keep your layers organised.

Steps

1. Use the Healing Brush to clean up small blemishes.
2. Plan and Draw out the highlights and shadows you intend to enhance.
3. Create a Black & White layer to check the values during your edit.
4. Choose the custom brush
 1. Flow: ~ 4%
5. Colour in using skin tones to smooth out the skin and fix any large blemishes
 1. Do not over do it
 2. This will take away skin textures, but not much
 1. be careful
 3. Think of it as Applying Makeup
 1. Blending skin tones together
 2. Evening out the skin
6. Begin Dodging and Burning
 1. Using Black and White
 2. Soft Light Layer
 3. Blend If
 1. Double click on layer
 2. Holding Alt
 1. Bring down highlight if working on shadows
 2. Bring up shadows if working on highlights
7. Layer Dodge and Burn
 1. Repeat above process
 2. Erase if you need to
8. Colours (Your colours will look bad)
 1. Look for areas which look like smeared dirt on the face
 2. Plan out your edits (similar to step 2)
 3. Use the Lasso Tool
 1. Create random shapes around the area.
 1. not perfect circles or ovals
 2. feather your edges moderately
 1. ~20
9. Use a Curves Layer Mask to adjust colour
 1. Choose which colour you need to fix (Red, Green or Blue) and adjust