



# Lets talk Photoshop

## *Converting to Monochrome*

**W**hich method do you use? There are quite a few methods available, below is a small selection.

### Full conversion

#### 1. Image > Adjustments > Desaturate

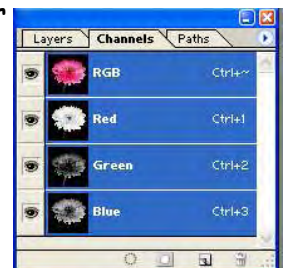
Initially this is what I used, I would then play with the brightness & contrast to get what I wanted. This was ok as far as it went but I usually did not get the outcome I really wanted and unfortunately there is no way to alter this.

#### 2. Image > Mode > Greyscale

The same as above, again there is no way to alter the image other than brightness/contrast style adjustments.

#### 3. Select one of the channels

Click on the Channels tab and choose a channel that gives you the image you want. Then draw a marquee around the image, copy it (Ctrl-C) create a new file and paste (Ctrl-V).



#### 4. Image > Adjustments > Channel Mixer

This is what I prefer, the change is done in an adjustment layer so I can alter or discard it at anytime.

Create an adjustment layer using the channel mixer and tick the monochrome box in the bottom left corner. This changes the RGB to gray scale but allows the merging of the 3 channels in the ratio you choose with the sliders. Remember the general rule of thumb is to have the 3 sliders add to a total of 100%.



### Partial conversion

**S**o what if you want part of the image to remain colour? Here are a few methods that will allow this to occur.

#### 1. Paint a neutral colour

Create an adjustment layer and set the blending mode to Saturation. Select a neutral colour and using the brush tool paint the area you want to be B&W, you use the erase tool to remove the effect.



## 2. Using a Selection

1. Open your image
2. Select the area you want to keep colour. This can be done using the Pen, Lasso, or Marquee tools depending on how complex the selection needs to be.
3. Now you have a choice:-

### Option 1

- If you want to recolour this area later copy (Ctrl +C) and paste (Ctrl + V). This will place the selection in it's own layer exactly above it's original position allowing you to make adjustments in the future.
- Select the background layer.

### Option 2

Invert your selection (Ctrl + Shift +I).

4. Change your image to B&W—use whatever method you prefer (eg Desaturate image, Hue/Saturation Adjustment Layer or Channel Mixer).  
The area you wanted to remain colour should now be all that is in colour.

## 3. Channel Mixer

1. Open your image
2. Convert to B&W using a Channel Mixer Adjustment Layer.
3. Select the Channel Mixer Adjustment Layer (if not already selected).
4. Press D to make sure the Foreground & Background colours are black and white.
5. Click on the Brush Tool.
6. Using the black, carefully brush over the parts of the picture that you want to be in colour, (you may need to adjust the brush size for the small details).  
When you do this the parts that you brush should turn back to color. If you colour something accidentally change your colour to white and brush over it to return it to B&W.

## Missing a channel mixer? Then try these plug-ins

ppc2bw.zip is available from <http://www.photo-plugins.com/>

Or

sf\_graymixer.zip and sf\_colormixer.zip from <http://www.simpelfilter.de/en/>

