

Adjustment Layers

■ About Adjustment and Fill Layers

An **adjustment layer** applies colour and tonal adjustments to your image without permanently changing pixel values. For example, rather than making a Levels or Curves adjustment directly to your image, you can create a Levels or Curves adjustment layer. The colour and tonal adjustments are stored in the adjustment layer and apply to all the layers below it; you can correct multiple layers by making a single adjustment, rather than adjusting each layer separately. You can discard your changes and restore the original image at any time.

Fill layers let you fill a layer with a solid colour, a gradient, or a pattern. Unlike adjustment layers, fill layers do not affect the layers underneath them.

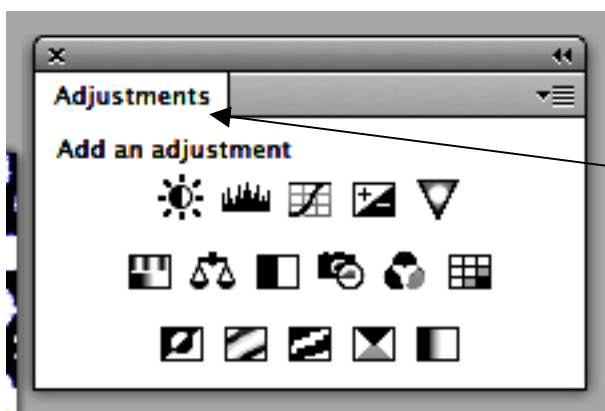
Adjustment layers provide the following advantages:

Non-destructive edits. You can try different settings and re-edit the adjustment layer at any time. You can also reduce the effect of the adjustment by lowering the opacity of the layer.

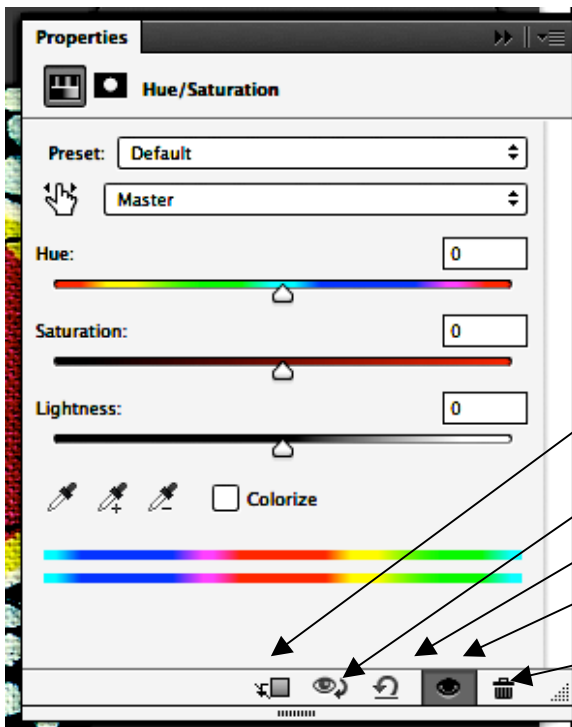
Selective editing. Paint on the adjustment layer's image mask to apply an adjustment to part of an image. Later you can control which parts of the image are adjusted by re-editing the layer mask. You can vary the adjustment by painting on the mask with different tones of gray.

Ability to apply adjustments to multiple images. Copy and paste adjustment layers between images to apply the same colour and tonal adjustments.

Adjustment layers have many of the same characteristics as other layers. You can adjust their opacity and blending mode, and you can group them to apply the adjustment to specific layers. Likewise, you can turn their visibility on and off to apply or preview the effect.



The Adjustment Layers panel will be automatically available in the 'Essentials' workspace.



When you click on an Adjustment layer icon, for instance Hue/Saturation, the Properties panel opens. You can expand and contract the size of the overall panel to suit you.

Clip to next layer only (Clipping group)

Hold the cursor on the eye as a quick before/after

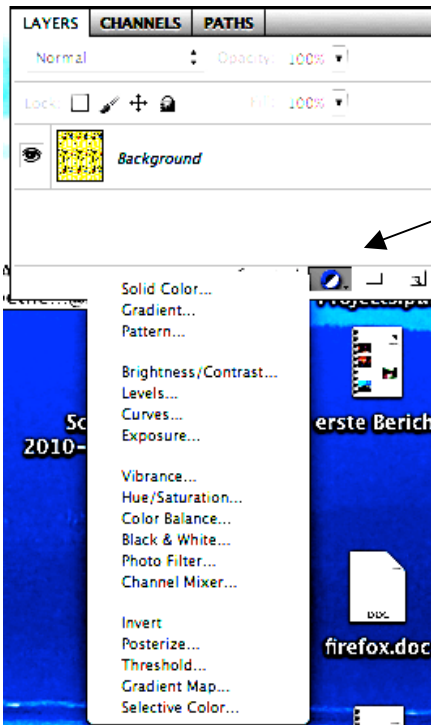
Reset adjustments

Temporarily switch off eye icon - before/after

Delete Adjustment Layer

Confine adjustment and fill layers to specific areas

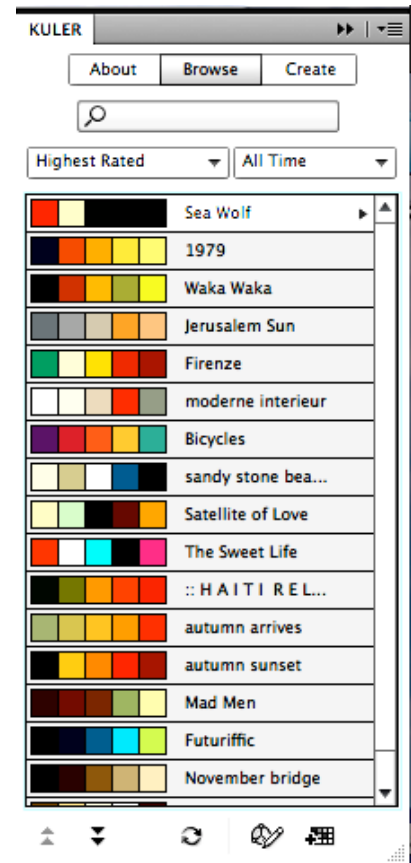
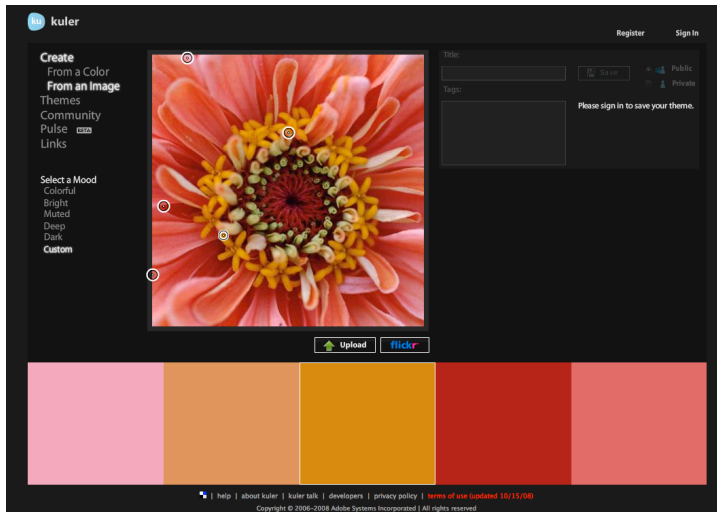
To confine adjustment and fill layers to specific areas, use layer masks. By default, adjustment and fill layers automatically have layer masks, indicated by the mask icon to the right of the layer thumbnail. (To create adjustment layers without masks, deselect Add Mask by Default in the Adjustments panel menu.)



For **Solid Fill**, **Gradient Fill** and **Pattern Fill** access the adjustment layer panel via the Layers panel.

■ Adobe Kuler

Kuler is a wonderful colour resource available free on the internet. If you are connected, you can access the 'Kuler community' and either use the uploaded colour stories or create your own to share. You can create new colour ways or base the colours on a photograph.



You can save the colour swatches to your memory stick
And load in to the Photoshop swatches panel.

To access **Kuler** in Photoshop:

Window: Extensions: Kuler

