

Photo Editing Cheat Sheet

1. Rotate image and crop

Look for elements or lines in the center of the image that should be vertical and rotate until they are aligned with the grid or a vertical guide.

2. Correct perspective distortion

Depending on the camera lens and distance from the camera to the object, the lines at the edges of the image may converge when they should be parallel. This is referred to as “parallax” distortion. You should minimize this as much as possible when shooting the image by stepping back and zooming in. When correcting for it, make sure that the image doesn’t get too narrow or wide. It’s okay to leave a little parallax in the final image for a natural look.

3. Adjust exposure

Make an overall adjustment first. Then adjust highlights as necessary.

4. Correct color

Look at the background as a guide for color correction. Adjust color until white or grey areas look neutral.

5. Sharpen

Sharpening won’t help an image that is out of focus, but it can add punch to a photo. Use sparingly, the effect should be minimal. Sharp outlines should not have “halos”.

6. Resize image

If used on the web, the image should be reduced to save storage space. All corrections should be made prior to resizing. If downsizing an image that you may want to use later, save a full-resolution version before down-sizing.