

Colorizing a Black and White Photo
Upload 1 final colorized photo to Flickr • 20 points

Practice files at www.andylangager.net/photo

Essentially, you can do this a million different ways, but we'll try two versions:

Version 1 ~ Best with objects easy to select

1. Make a selection
2. Add a curves adjustment
3. Play with curves until color looks good
4. Repeat with different parts of the photo

Version 2 ~ Best with fine detail that is difficult to select

1. Add a curves adjustment first
2. Play with curves until color looks good
3. **Hide** the curve adjustment layer mask (select the layer mask, make your foreground color black by hitting "D", then "X", then go to Edit > Fill, make sure it says Foreground Color and click OK).
4. Paint white on the layer mask where you want the color to appear. If you make a mistake, paint black to hide it.

BEFORE we do this, we're going to change the color mode of the photo to **CMYK**.

Image > Mode > CMYK Color

When you add a curves layer now, you'll see a drop-down menu. The choices are **CMYK, Cyan, Magenta, Yellow, and Black**.

The CMYK option will adjust the overall lightness and darkness.

The Cyan curve will control cyan and red.

The Magenta curve will control magenta and green.

The Yellow curve will control yellow and blue.

The easy way to remember this is C, M, Y is the same order as R, G, B.

Another thing that can help is playing with the blending mode of the curves layer. For example, you can try Overlay or Color to see if it looks better than Normal.

Andy will show some tips for adjusting the curves. There is also a tutorial video for curves and colorizing on our class website.

[Here is a link with more info.](#)

You can keep simple... limit it to about 3 different colors.

Colorize one photo (yours or from Google image search) and upload to Flickr. Do a second for extra credit if you wish.