

So, You Want to be a Better Photographer?

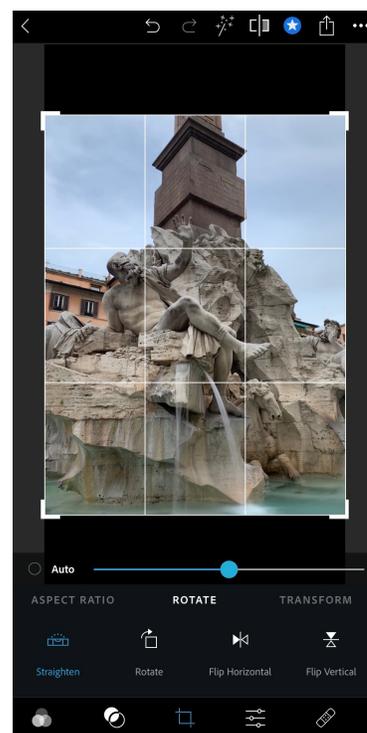
Editing your Images



Post-capture editing sometimes gets a bad rap, but is an essential tool for the photographer. It was utilized in darkrooms of the past and the same techniques have been translated digitally for Photoshop use. Adobe Photoshop is industry standard- most photographers and graphic designers utilize this software. For our purposes, we are going to use an app called "Photoshop Express" by Adobe. (Once you have downloaded the app and allowed it access to your phone's camera roll, select an image to edit and open it with PS Express.)

There are, of course, a lot of options for adding filters, text, or additional features to your photos within this app. We will be focusing on more traditional photo editing techniques with the tools available. They are very intuitive in this application, and can really enhance your images post-capture with a little time, patience, and practice.

Begin with the crop tools. Here you can change the aspect ratio of an image, rotate and straighten, and even transform (skew and change the perspective) to your image horizontally and vertically.



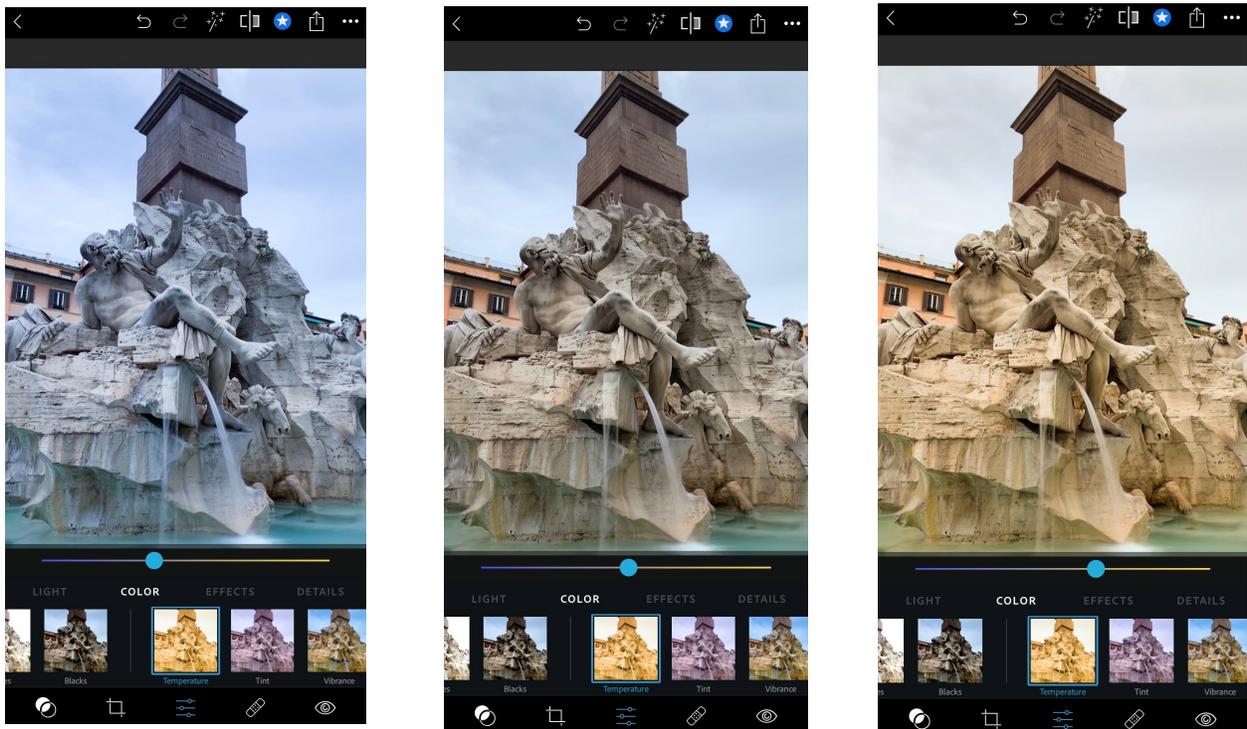
Next, move on to light and color. Each item in this category has a sliding tool which makes it very easy to see changes in your image as you're working. I begin with exposure (the amount of light captured in an image, which affects how bright or dark your pictures appear). If you have bright, white areas where no details are visible, your image is *overexposed* and is brighter than it should be. An *underexposed* image is just the opposite: dark, shows little detail, and only the brightest parts of the image are visible. Use this tool to correct your exposure.



[Here we see the image underexposed, with correct exposure, and overexposed.]

Following exposure, correct your contrast if necessary. Contrast will give texture- it improves tones in an image. There are also available tools to bring up highlights/ shadows and intensify whites and blacks.

After corrections to light, move on to color. Smartphones sometimes render color incorrectly due to your light source, so I find temperature and tint corrections to be helpful. Low temperature in a photograph indicates the image is too *cool-toned*, where high temperature renders the image to *warm-toned*. You can also alter tint, or increase or reduce vibrance or saturation here as well.



[Here we see the image as too cool, at a correct temperature, and too warm.]

Beyond color, you can find options for clarity, grain, and sharpness under the effects and details category.

Another useful tool is the spot healing tool. It appears as a bandage at the bottom of the screen and you can change the size of the brush, zoom in on your image and remove imperfections, such as a blemish in a portrait. (This tool takes a little practice and finesse, but can really improve your images. There is a small “back” arrow at the top if it makes a correction you are unhappy with.)



Following this, there is a red eye tool that is similar and can be very helpful for portraits.

Of course, Photoshop is very powerful software but this app does a wonderful job of mimicking a lot of those tools. We covered the basics in photo editing, but there are of course other options as far as filters (you

can edit photos in black and white), adding text, and effects like light leaks, etc. If you'd like to challenge and practice your post-capture skills, edit one image 3-5 different ways and compare each when you're finished. You can change the entire mood and message of a photograph with your choices here. Good luck!