

Trade Secrets # 3

1. Select a Raw/Tiff/Jpeg file
2. Open In Photomatix
3. Click on "Toning"
4. Apply the following settings [The image will look very washed out]

5. Settings

Strength 25

Colour Saturation 46

Luminosity -5

Light Smoothing No2

Micro Smoothing 30

Highlight Smoothing 68

Shadow Smoothing 0

Shadow clipping 0

6. Save as Adobe RGB and 16 bit Tiff

7. Open in PS

8. Create a new curves layer with the blending mode set to "Luminosity"

9. Double click on the black point eye dropper [This will bring up a default settings dialogue]

10. Set the three lower box levels R G B to 7.0 exit and save.

11. In the curves dialogue box click the black level eyedropper once.

12. On your picture select the area, which will have the darkest curve level i.e. a shadow area.

[This should make the blacks pop, click in different areas to achieve different results. The opacity slider can also be moved to affect the overall look

13. Duplicate your background layer and apply shadow and highlight to these settings



Shadows

Amount 18%

Tonal width 19%

Radius 30%

Highlights

Amount 0%

Tonal width 0%

Radius 0%

Adjustments

Colour Correction +20

Midtone Contrast

14. At this stage I merge all visible layers or flatten.
15. Duplicate your background and reduce noise with "Noise Ninja"
16. Optional process create a new layer and apply B/W gradient
17. Using Alien Skin exposure II apply a film finish to your taste. Grain etc.
18. Merge all visible layers again.
19. Duplicate your background layer
20. Apply a high pass filter at about 1.8 and set blending mode to soft light.