



## Gradient Map Black and Whites

By Lydia Tarbox

I love a beautiful black and white photo. In my scrapping, I like to use them in two main ways. First, I like to use great black and white photos as the focal points on my layouts. The striking contrast of a black and white photo can make a wonderfully bold statement on a scrapbook page. Second, I like to convert photos to black and white when I'm having a hard time matching the colors in a kit. Black and white goes with everything, right?

In this tutorial, I will show a really quick and easy way to convert your photos to black and white using a Gradient Map adjustment. You'll notice that the initial conversion results in a photo with a lot of gray in it. But, adding just a few more more adjustment layers enables you to brighten the whites and darken the blacks, leaving you with a stunning black and white photo in no time. I love this method so much that I've even created my own action so I can convert my photos with just one click of the mouse.

Want to see how I do it? Let's get started!

### Step One: Open a Photo

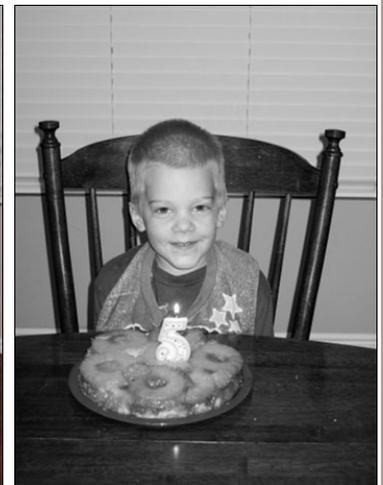
- Open a photo of your choice (File > Open).
- In the Menu Bar, choose File > Duplicate and click OK. (PS: Choose Image > Duplicate.)
- Close the original photo.

### Step Two: Apply a Gradient Map

- Press the letter D to reset the Color Chips to the default of black and white.
- Press Ctrl J (Mac: Cmd J) to duplicate the photo layer.
- In the Layers panel, click on the Create New Fill or Adjustment Layer icon and choose Gradient Map.
- Press Ctrl E (Mac: Cmd E) to merge the Gradient Map layer with the duplicated photo layer.

### Step Three: Make Adjustments

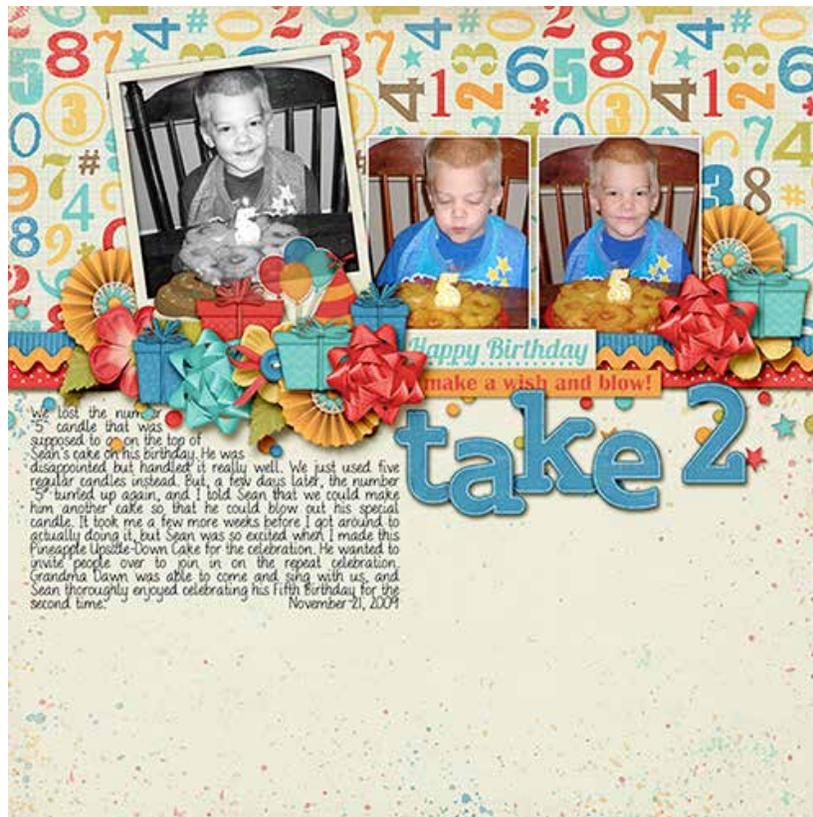
- In the Layers panel, click on the Create New Fill or Adjustment Layer icon and choose Levels.
- In the Properties panel or Adjustment panel, move the Black Point, Gray Point, and White Point sliders to achieve the desired effect.



- Press Ctrl E (Mac: Cmd E) to merge the Levels layer with the photo layer.
- In the Layers panel, click on the Create New Fill or Adjustment Layer icon and choose Brightness/Contrast.
- In the Properties panel or Adjustment panel, move the Brightness and Contrast sliders to achieve the desired effect.
- Press Ctrl E (Mac: Cmd E) to merge the Brightness/Contrast layer with the photo layer.



And, here's the layout I created using the converted photo. I'd love to see what you can do with this tutorial! I'll be looking for your layouts in the [Digi Scrap Tutorial Gallery](#).



## Credits

**Digi Scrap Tutorial:** Gradient Map Black and Whites by Lydia Tarbox

**Layout:** Fifth Birthday Take Two by Lydia Tarbox

**Kit:** Celebrate by Julie Billingsley; September 2013 Premier kit

**Font:** DJB Bailey