



Neutralize Color Casts

By Karen Schulz

Get ready to be amazed at how quickly you can neutralize a photo's color cast with the easy-to-use Photo Filters.

For this tutorial you will need:

- A photo that contains a yellow cast
- Photoshop Elements or Adobe Photoshop

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Just What is a Color Cast and How Do I Identify it?

A color cast is an unwanted color tint in a photo. This can result from an incorrect white balance when the photo is being taken, or when the light from a colored surface is reflected onto a subject. Color casts are typically yellow, pink, or blue.

Color casts can be obvious, such as in the photo below, which has a strong yellow cast.



Below is the same photo with balanced coloring.



Or color casts can be more subtle, like the one below, on the left, which has a slight yellow cast. The photo on the right has had the color cast removed. Look especially at the little boy's face and the wall. Do you see the difference?



Why Would I Remove a Color Cast from a Photo?

Removing the color cast from a photo will allow you to see the true, original colors of the photo.

How Do I Remove a Color Cast?

There are multiple ways to remove a color cast using Photoshop. Some ways are simple, some more complicated. When attempting to remove a color cast, it's advisable to start with a simple method first. It may work perfectly for your photo and no additional work will be required. Removing a color cast using Photo Filters is one of the simpler methods to try when attempting to remove a color cast, and good one to try before attempting any of the more complicated methods.

Step One: Prepare the Work Space

- Open a photo that has a yellow color cast or open the ks-color-cast-photo-1.jpg (File > Open) from the downloads.

Step Two: Neutralize a Yellow Color Cast

- In the Layers panel, click on the Create New Fill or Adjustment Layer icon and choose Photo Filter.
- In the Properties panel, click on the down-pointing arrow in the Filter options to reveal the names of the available filters.
- Click on the name of the first Filter (Warming Filter 85) to select it. Use the Down Arrow on your keyboard to quickly cycle through the Filters. You will see the Filter preview on your photo. Continue until you find the filter that removes the excessive yellow in your photo. (Mac: You will need to apply each filter to see the results.)
- Once you find the filter that removes most of the yellow cast, drag the Density slider to the right to intensive the filter or to the left to decrease the intensity, if needed. I think the Cooling Filter (2) at a Density of 25% neutralized the yellow cast best in this photo.
- Leave Preserve Luminosity checked to preserve the brightness of your photo.

Here is the Before and After of my photo:



Step Three: Save Your Photo

- Save your photo as a .jpg.
- Close the working image.

Bonus: Neutralize a Pink Color Cast

Step One: Prepare the Work Space

- Open a photo of your own that has a pink color cast or open the ks-color-cast-photo-2.jpg (File > Open) from the downloads.

Step Two: Neutralize a Pink Color Cast

- Follow the same steps that we used to neutralize the yellow color cast.
- For this photo the Underwater filter worked best, with a Density of 41.



Step Three: Save Your Photo

- Save your photo as a .jpg.
- Close the working image.

Bonus: Color Tips

- Warm colors include reds, oranges, and yellows. Cool colors include greens, blues, and magentas.
- If your photo has a reddish tint, which is warm, use a cool Photo Filter to neutralize the reds.
- Conversely, if you have a photo that has a cool tint, start experimenting with Photo Filters that are in the warm spectrum.

Here is a layout created with my neutralized photo.



Credits:

Photo: Karen Schulz

Page: Scraplift by Karen Schulz (Original Artist
Cathy)

Font: Samantha Upright

Page Kit: This is Me December by Karen Schulz



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