

How to use LEVELS in Photoshop to get rid of gray on the page

OBJECTIVE

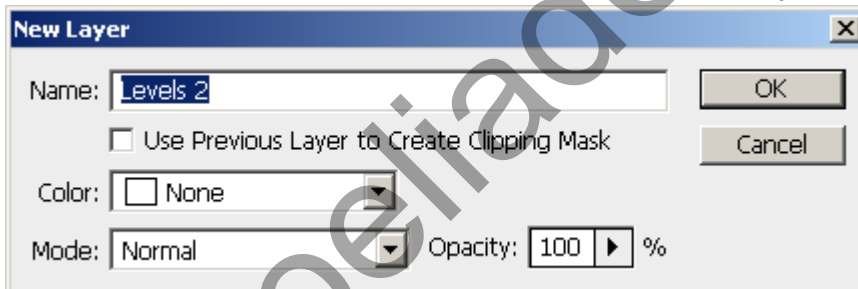
This tutorial will take you through the steps you will need to get rid of grayed out scans and clean up dirt from the scanner and smudges.

Part I. Using LEVELS to get rid of gray on page

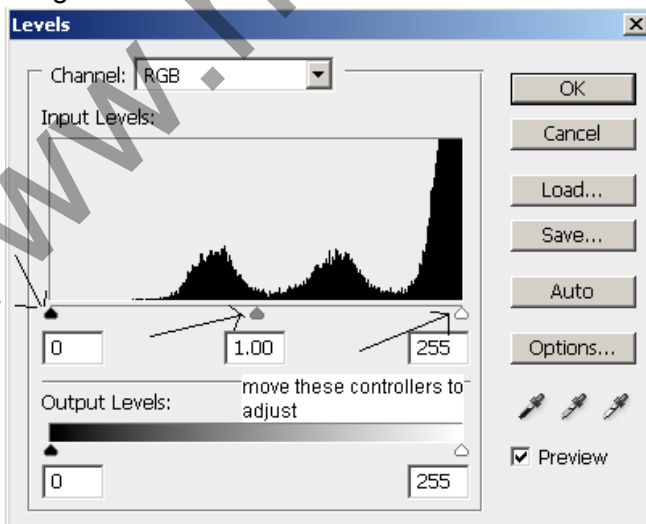
1. Start with opening your scanned image. It might contain dirt marks from the scanner, or a gray tint from the sketchbook.



2. We'll apply the LEVELS adjustment to lighten the white areas and darken the black areas. That will create contrast that will help you with the next few steps. Go to LAYER – NEW ADJUSTMENT LAYER – LEVELS. Click OK on the New Layer window.



On the Levels window, move the sliders until the contrast gets rid of the gray areas on the image.





Note:

If your image gets too light after adjusting it, you might notice that adjusting the LEVELS again might take the image back to where you can see the gray areas again. You can do the following to create a copy that you can use to darken the lines in your sketch.

Go to SELECT – ALL and then EDIT – COPY MERGED. This will make a copy of what you see on the canvas. Then, paste it to its own layer by going to EDIT – PASTE. Set the layer mode to Multiply. This will darken your image based on the dark lines.



3. Finally, if you still see some spots on the drawing, use the Clone/Stamp tool to remove them.



4. To do this, first select the clone tool.



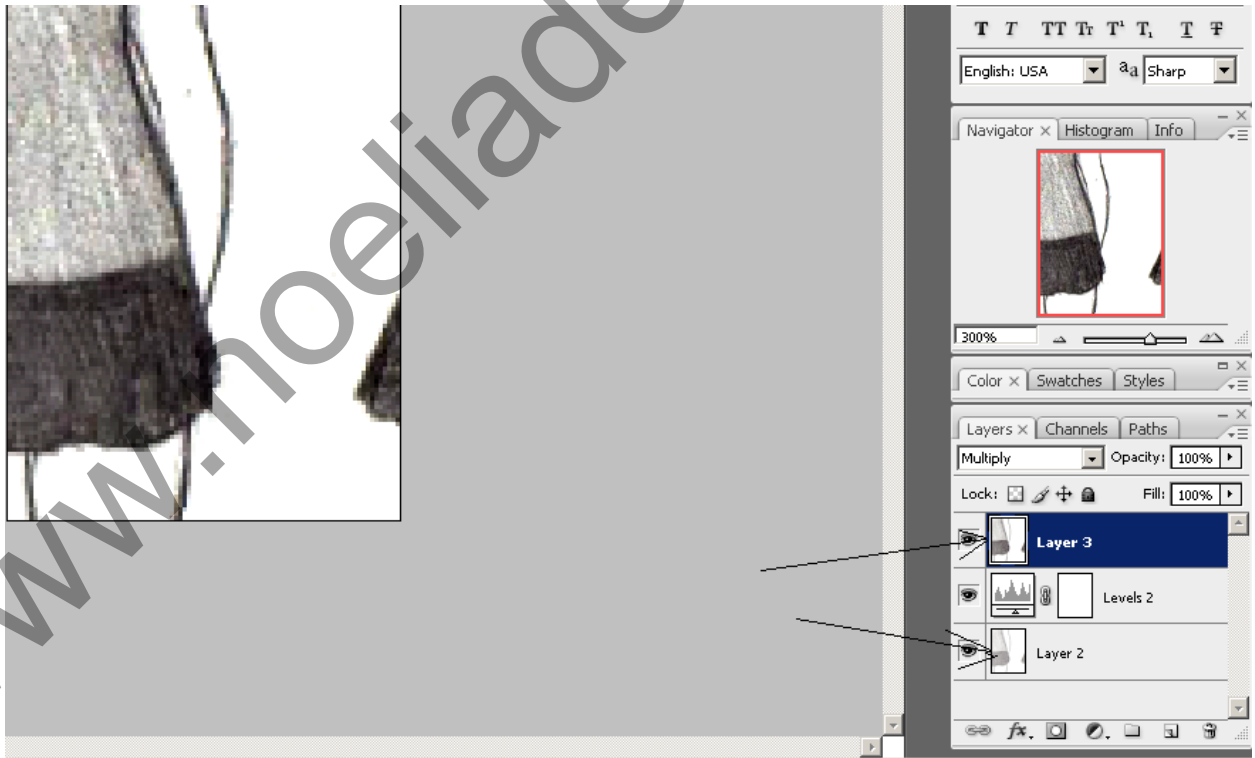
5. Then, select a clear area on the canvas where there's nothing and is clean. Press the ALT key to sample that area that will be cloned. The cursor changes to a target shape. With ALT still pressed, click on that clear area to sample it.



6. Then, move the mouse to where one of the blemishes is that you want to remove.



Click on the canvas as many times as needed until the blemish is gone. If you see it doesn't work well, you might need to do the cloning on both layers, the original and the one that you pasted. Continue cloning until the spots are gone.



The final result will be a sharp image of your sketches without the gray on the page or scanner spots on it.