

9. Fixing underexposed photos using the Exposure dialog box

At the end of this lesson you will be able to demonstrate how to correct an over or under exposed photograph by using the dedicated exposure control dialog box. Adjusting the exposure slider within this dialog box opens up some of the midtones, adjusting the offset slider increases the shadow areas and adjusting the gamma correction affects the midtones and some highlights.

Step One:

Open originalImage1.jpg as this image is under exposed.

Step Two:

To open the Exposure dialog box go to **Image > Adjustments > Exposure**.

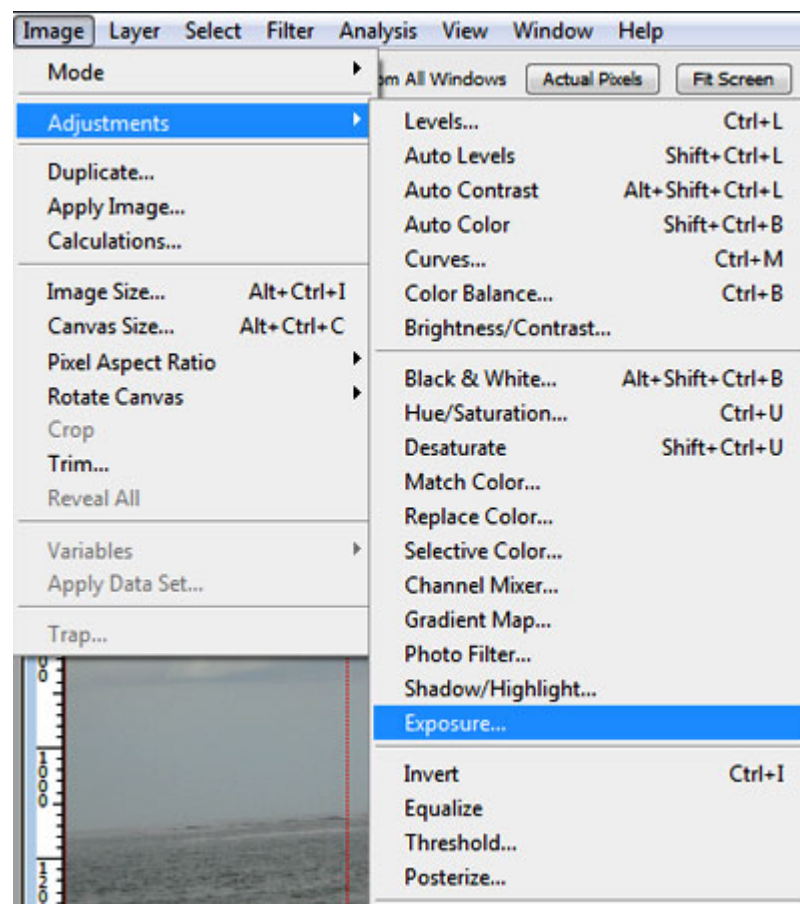


Figure 9.1 Exposure command

The exposure dialog box opens.

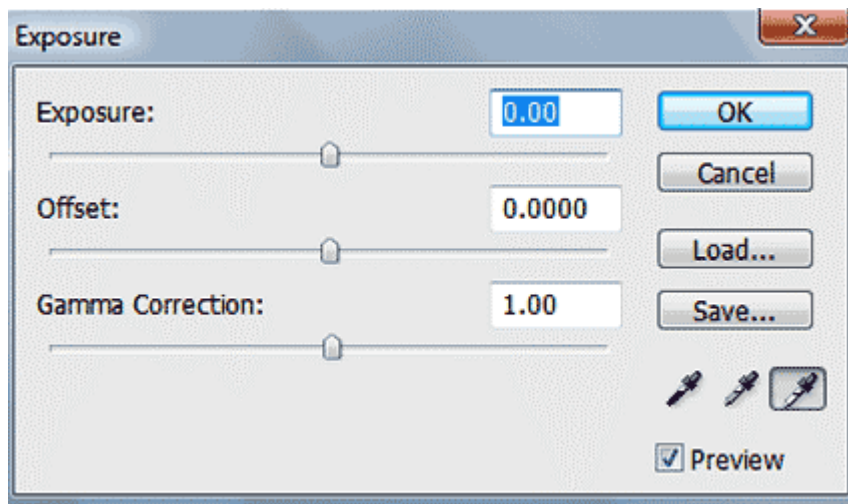


Figure 9.2 Exposure dialog box

Step Three:

Drag the exposure slider to the right to increase the photo's highlights and open up some of the midtones.

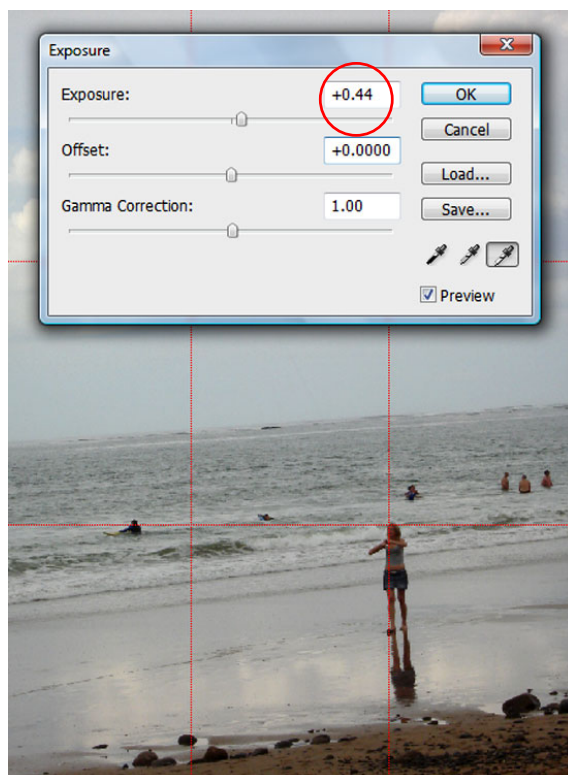


Figure 9.3 Exposure slider adjustment

Step Four:

Drag the Offset slider to the left to increase the shadow areas.

Step Five:

The gamma slider usually affects the midtones and some highlights. Dragging to the right opens up the midtone areas; dragging to the left darkens the midtones.

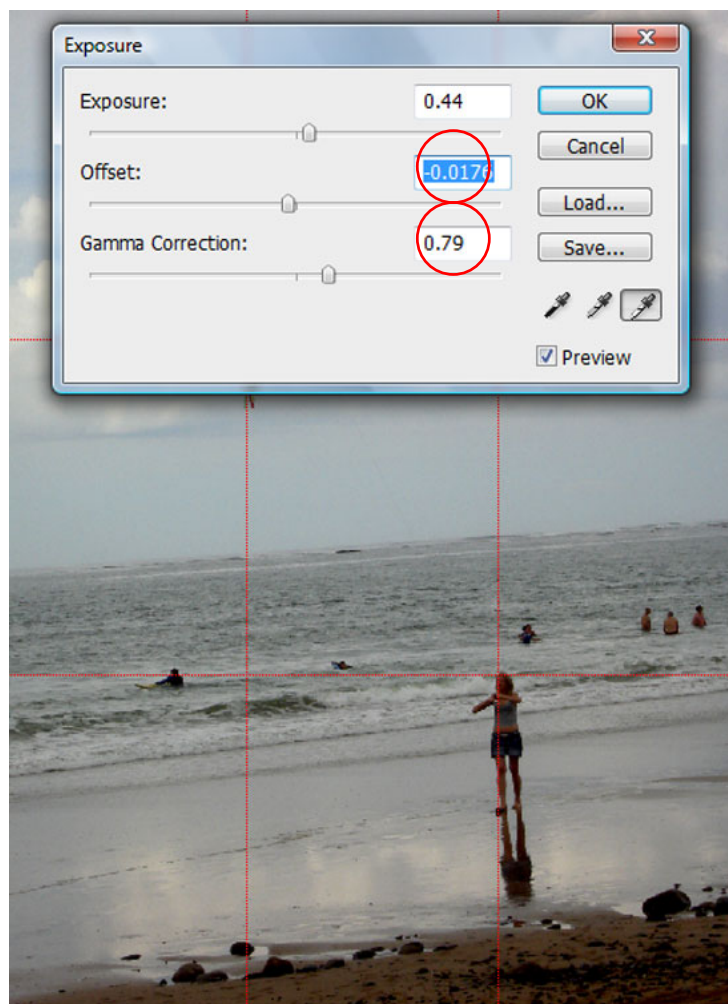


Figure 9.4 Gamma Correction and Offset slider adjustment

Note: As every image is different the settings applied will also be different. Select some underexposed images of your own and adjust the settings until you think there is a good improvement in the image.

Step Six:

Save your image. Select **File > Save As** and give it a name e.g. Lesson 9.jpg.

Underexposed images can be fixed using the Exposure dialog box or the Levels dialog box. Now that you know how to use both methods, work with the method that you prefer.

In the next lesson we will be learning how to frame an image.