

How to Photoshop Head Shots

By Warren Rosenberg, eHow Contributor updated May 22, 2011

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A perfect head shot portrait should include some post-processing in Photoshop.

Most portrait head shot photographs, even those which are most carefully photographed, can be improved by post-processing in [Photoshop](#). While professional photographers can control such things as posing, background, lighting, focus and exposure, no human face is perfect and all can do with some minor improvements using Photoshop.



Warren Rosenberg

A professor of biology and member of the American College of Sports Medicine, Warren Rosenberg has been writing since 1979 on topics including health and fitness. His works include the college textbook "Exercise Science" and articles published in "The Anatomical Record," "Medical Hypotheses" and "The Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences." He holds a Ph.D. in physiology from New York University.

Instructions

Difficulty: Moderately Easy

1 Eliminate distracting elements in the background, which will distract the viewer's focus away from your subject's face. While studio photographers using professional backgrounds may not encounter this problem, most photographs taken in indoor or outside settings may have bright or colorful background objects. Use the patch or clone [tools](#) to eliminate these objects.

Things You'll Need

Digital portrait photograph

Computer and monitor

2 Eliminate stray hairs using the clone [tool](#) with a small, soft brush. Strands of hair that fall across the subject's face or that project wildly from the top or sides of the head will detract from your subject's face and can be easily removed. When cloning away hair from the face, select a patch of skin near the errant hair strands to clone from. When cloning away hair from the top or sides of the head, select a background region with the same color, texture and brightness.

3 Make your subject's eyes the center of attention by darkening the pupil and iris using the burn tool with a fairly hard-edged brush and an exposure of about 40 percent. Brighten the sclera, or whites of the eyes, using the dodge tool, again with a fairly hard-edged brush and an exposure of about 25 percent.

4 Brighten the subject's teeth by using the dodge tool and painting over the teeth with a soft-edged brush and an exposure of about 50 percent. A bright white smile will always improve the appearance of a head shot photograph. Be careful not to overdo it and make the teeth look artificially white.

5 Remove or minimize any prominent wrinkles and blemishes with a healing brush. By reducing the wrinkles that form at the corners of the eyes and mouth, you can give your subject a more youthful appearance. Again, be sure not to overdo this step. A perfectly smooth and blemish-free skin will make your subject look like a department store mannequin.

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