Portraiture Creating and Editing

Aaron Taylor Aaron Taylor Photography LLC



Who Am I?

Owner of Aaron Taylor Photography LLC

- Family portraits
- Seniors
- Weddings and events
- Business and social media
- Headshots
- Education and mentoring

Writer for Improve Photography from March 2016 to March 2017

Featured on Shutterfly's "Family Photo Ideas"

Co-creator and writer for Photographers' Cooperative



My Story

- Began about three years ago in Maryland
 - Teaching high school English, about to welcome a second child
- Offered free sessions to teacher co-workers November 2014
 - Realized that I had so much to learn
- Consumed LR, podcasts, building website
- Launched company in March 2015
- Winter 2016 began with IP
- Came to Columbus June 2016
- Networked with as many as I could
 - $\circ \qquad {\rm Columbus} \ {\rm Moms} \ {\rm Blog}$
- Here I am at Westbridge



My Approach to Portraiture

On-location and post-processing Some of my favorites





Canon 6D Canon 100mm f/2.8L macro IS

f/4.5 1/200 ISO640





Crop Exposure Skin highlights Catchlights Vignette Darkness under eyes

Retouched a few hairs



Adjustment Brushes

Dodge (lighten)

Burn (darken)

Dodge + Shadows +25

Highlights -25

Highlights -50

Shadows +25

Shadows +50

Eye	Enhance	
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- Exposure +0.15
- Contrast +8
- Clarity +23
- Saturation +18
- Sharpness +25

Amount 25

Hair Definition

- Exposure +0.07
- Contrast +24
- Clarity +30
- Saturation +7
- Sharpness +10

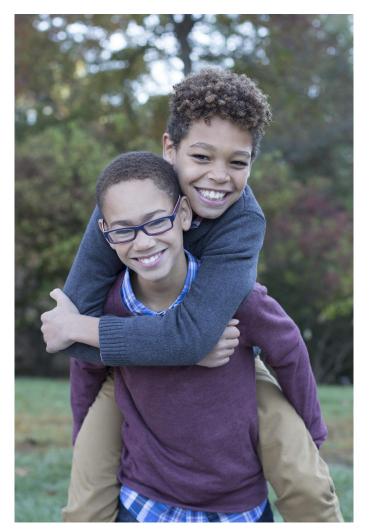
Amount 30

Whiten Teeth

- Temp -4
- Contrast +12
- Saturation -20
- Amount 20



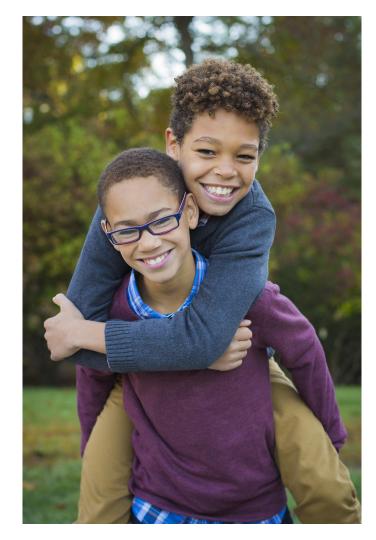
Feather 25- 40 Flow 100 Size as necessary with brackets



Canon T3i 50mm f/1.4

> f/3.2 1/160 ISO400





Crop and straighten

Increase contrast

Increase temp from 5200 to 6950

Lower whites, increase blacks

Increase vibrance and saturation

Burn/dehaze boy with glasses a bit

Use "iris enhance" on eyes





Canon 6D Canon 100mm f/2.8L macro IS

f/2.8 1/160 ISO400

Reflector held in her arms





Import preset

Sync settings from session (cool down temp, tiny exposure boost, lower highlights, medium tone curve contrast)

Crop

Skin highlights (lower whites)

Iris enhance

Hair definition

Boosted shadows around eye

Increase exposure on shadow side of face



Import Preset

Tone Curve Medium Contrast (Tone Curve panel)

Lens Profile Corrections (Lens Corrections panel)

Vignette Highlight Priority -10 (Effect panel)

Sharpening (Detail panel)

- Amount 25
- Radius 1
- Detail 25
- Masking 70

Something I don't always remember is my color calibration.

I use the Colorchecker Passport, and I do have custom color profiles for my camera.

I more often use the Colorchecker in difficult white balance situations or when accurate color and white balance is a priority.



Image Critique

Photos of mine I'd like to could improve.





What a difficult shot to compose!

So many elements to keep from intruding on each other.

Paying close attention to framing





Difficult exposure due to bright background

I exposed for skin, which **blew out the highlights** in the background





Composition and expression

Depth-of-field too shallow--infant out of focus

Multiple white balance color temperatures

Noise!





Pose almost works--bring in a little tighter

White balance too much magenta





Would benefit from dodging and burning





The little details...





Missed my **focus** but I still love the expression





Nailed **focus**, wish this was candid but still love the smiles



My Approach, Round 2

Family Sessions and Headshots





Canon 6D Canon 24-70mm f/2.8L version ii

24mm f/4 1/160 ISO200

Upon Import with a custom preset

(tone curve Medium contrast, sharpening, lens profile correction, vignette) AARON TAYLOR PHOTO



Why share?

Go wide!





Canon 6D Canon 100mm f/2.8L macro IS

f/6.3 1/80 ISO1000





Canon 6D Canon 100mm f/2.8L macro IS

f/6.3 1/80 ISO400

Bounce flash











Canon 6D Canon 100mm f/2.8L macro IS

f/5.6 1/160 ISO200

Gray seamless taped to the wall Big 48" octobox with two speedlights just barely camera-left

Spot removal Crop Highlight and white levels down Even out backdrop Eye enhance Desaturate Explain editing with Tone Curve Matte look Blue channel curve Black levels down



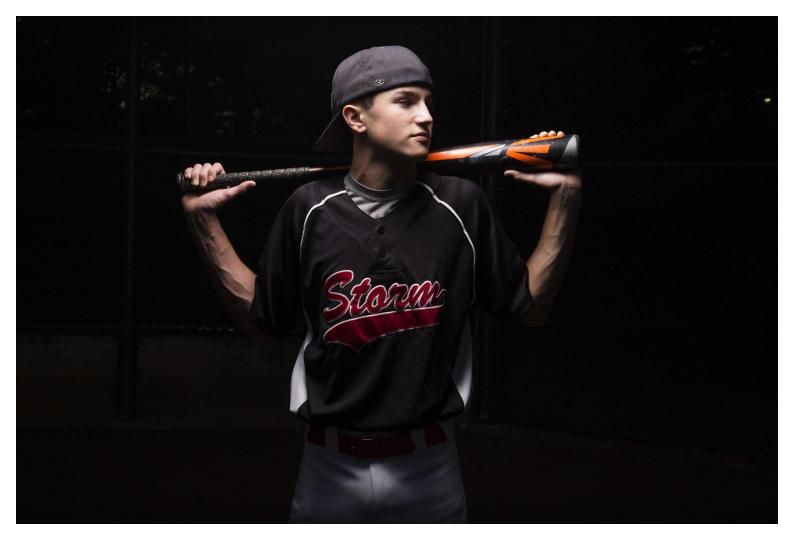


Canon 6D Tamron 28-75mm f/2.8

59mm f/11 1/200 ISO100

Off-camera flash with umbrella





Power of the adjustment brush





Canon 6D Canon 85mm f/1.8

f/3.5 1/200 ISO100

Off-camera flash with umbrella





Canon 6D Canon 100mm f/2.8L macro IS

f/5.6 1/160 ISO160

Same setup as photo of my daughter

Import preset Graduated filter Exposure +.3 Spot removal Eye enhance



Frequency Separation

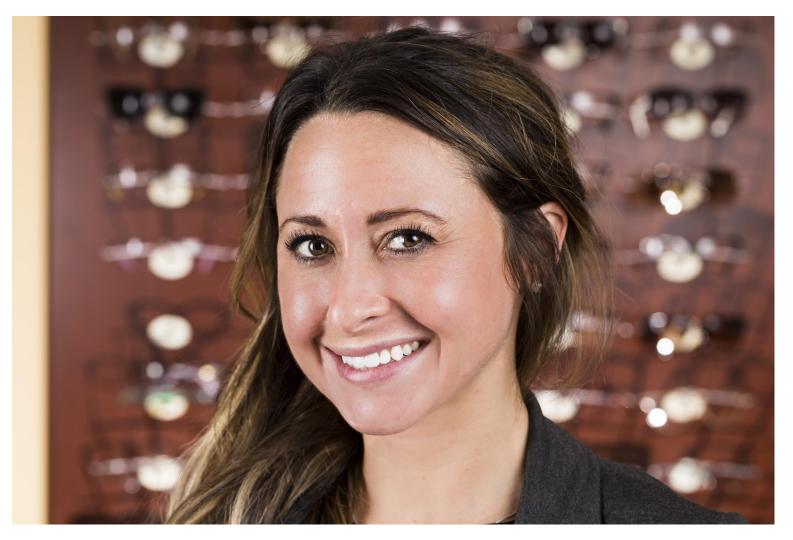
An advanced skin-retouching technique in Photoshop





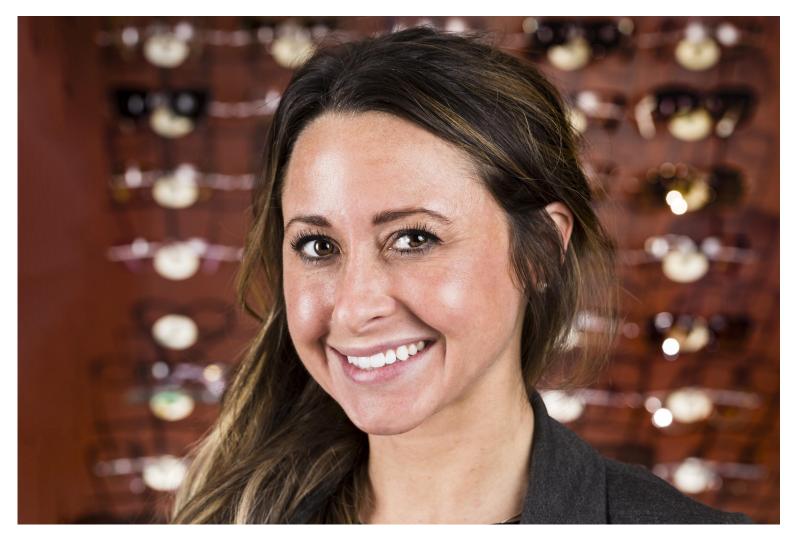
Upon import





Lightroom skin smoothing brush





Photoshop frequency separation

Maintains skin texture

Blend tones





Upon import





One last fix!



How do you do frequency separation?

Steps in Photoshop

- 1. Open your portrait
- 2. Duplicate your the background layer twice
- 3. Call first duplicate "Blur"
- 4. Call second duplicate "Detail"
- 5. Click the "eye" on Detail layer for now so that you can't see it
- 6. Select Blur layer and Filter \rightarrow Blur \rightarrow Gaussian Blur
- 7. Blur enough so that you can still tell what the image is supposed to be
- 8. Select Detail layer and Image \rightarrow Apply Image
- 9. Layer = Blur; Blending = Subtract; Scale = 2; Offset = 128
- 10. Detail layer blending mode "Linear Light"
- 11. Select both Detail and Blur layers, group together, name the group "Skin Retouching"

Create an Action to do this for you!



Technique

Use your Detail layer to retouch

• Adjust opacity of your healing brush to maintain some texture

Use your Blur layer to blend skin tones (most of the work is done here)

- Look for blotchy skin (too much red)
- Look for bright highlights (too much white)
- Use the lasso tool with a 15-20 px feather
- Apply Gaussian Blur with restraint





LR edits before PS frequency separation





Full PS retouching





LR edits and LR skin smoothing brush





LR edits before PS frequency separation



How about a live example?

Frequency Separation



My Company

Photo Sessions

- Family portraits
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- Business and social media
- Headshots
- Education and mentoring

Education

- One-on-One Mentoring for camera and editing
- Photo Reviews
- Online Mentoring and Skype Sessions
- Plenty of free articles
 - My blog
 - Photographers' Cooperative
 - Improve Photography
 - Columbus Moms Blog
- "Photography for Beginners" PDF download

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