

# Using GIMP (GNU Image Manipulation Program)

to do simple but important image manipulations.

GIMP is an image manipulation program. It is full featured and powerful. It is also free and easy to download—for individuals and institutions that have limited budgets it is a very good solution.

To learn more about it follow this link: <https://www.gimp.org/about/>

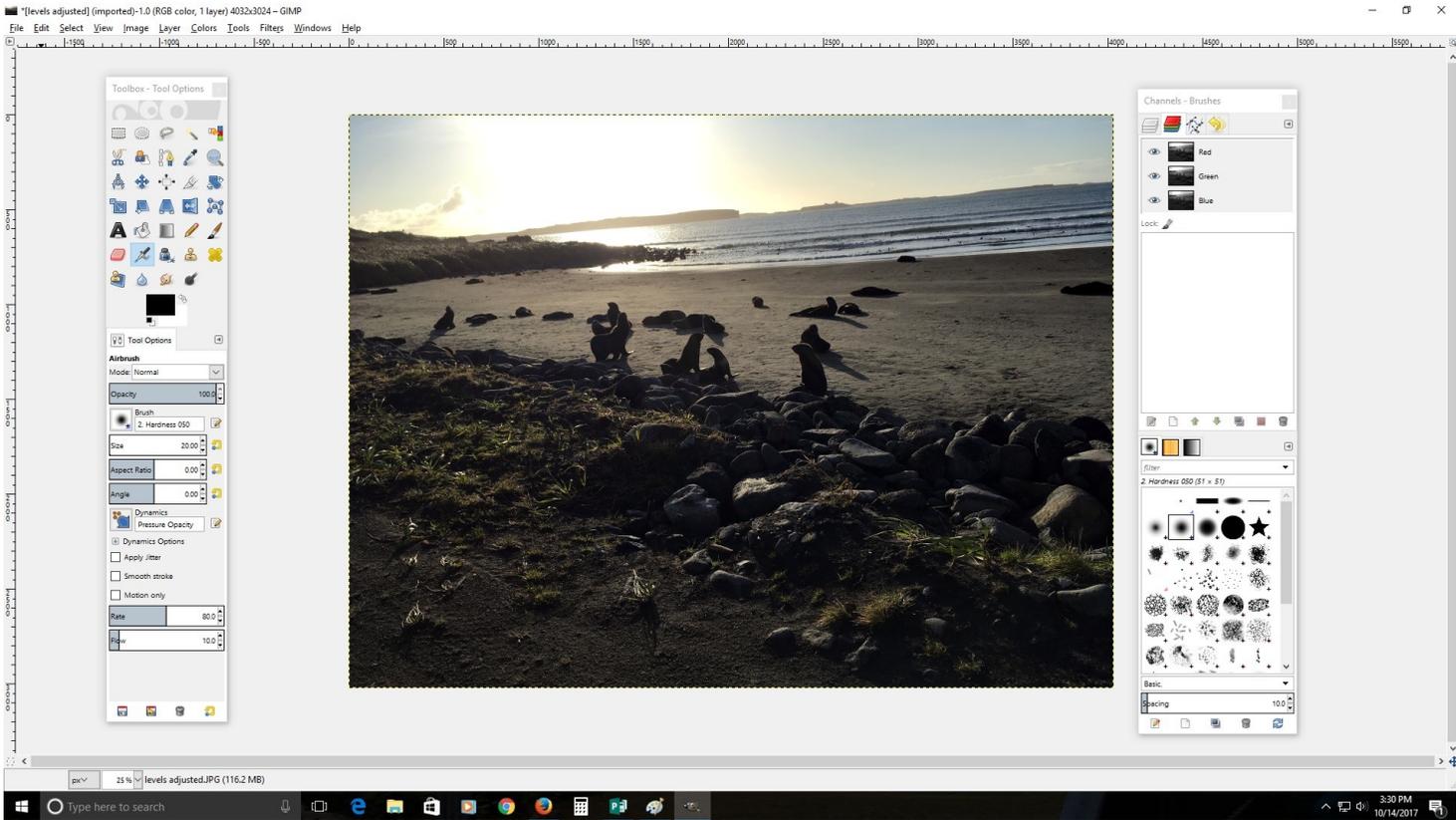
GIMP is like most other programs, download and install, click on it or short cut for it and run it. Because it is trading in the realm of Adobe's Photoshop the interface and function names are very different . However, Google searches and YouTube videos quickly show how to use it.

## I always adjust the color channel histograms, first.

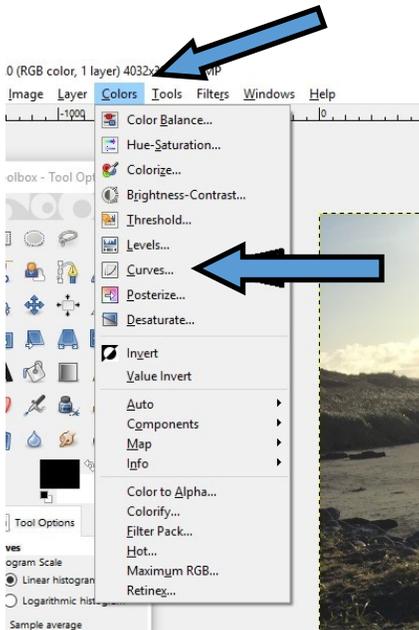
Why: Digital cameras tend to under expose images. Adjusting the color tones in this way results in a better image by increasing contrast.

Helpful tip: It is good to develop a habit of doing non-destructive photo editing. Saving a copy of the image and working on the copy and as well using layers are both good techniques for being able to start over again when you've botched an edit.

## Start GIMP and drag and drop an image to it's desktop. Below is how that appears.



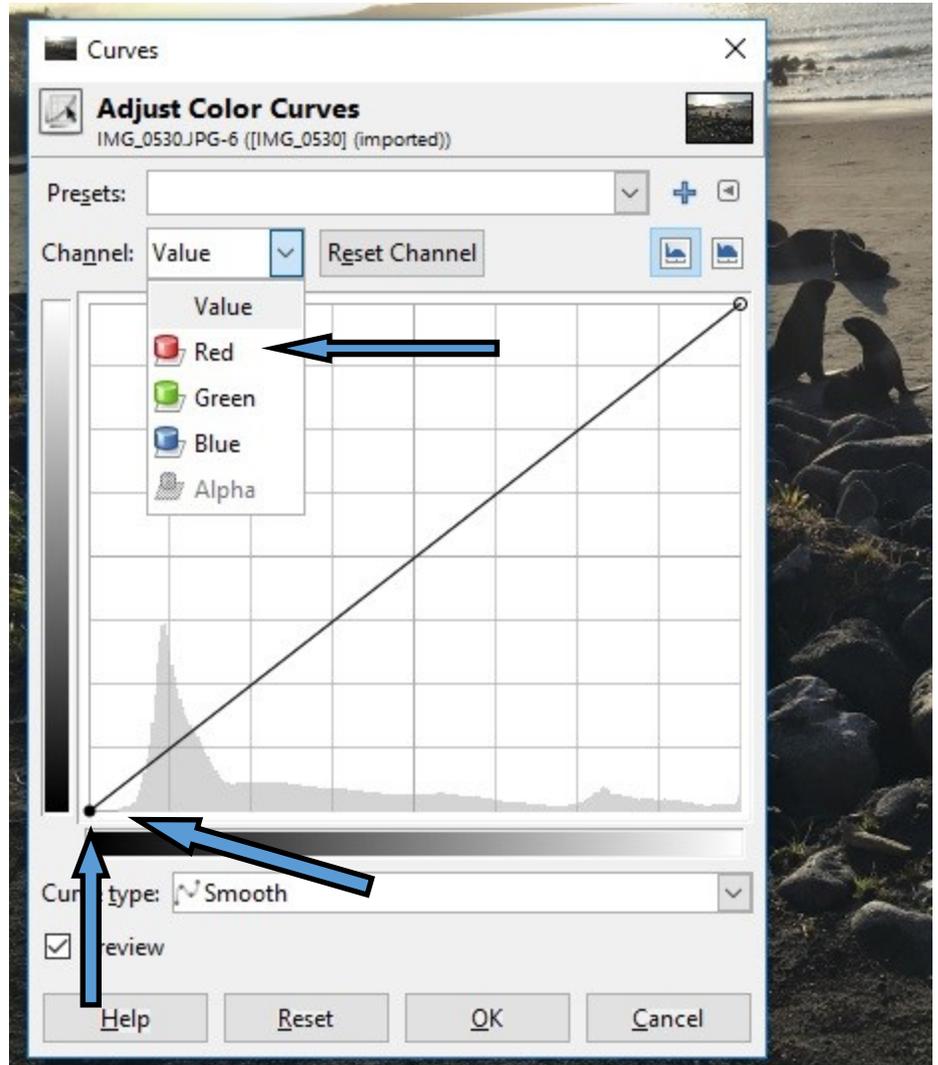
# Adjusting Color Curves



Pictured above —

First: Select “Colors” from the menu bar.

Second: Select “Curves” the window to the right will appear.



Third: Select each Color individually and adjust it. Here I’ve selected Red.

In the lower left we see a gap or very low level on the graph. This may appear at either end or both and is what we are adjusting.

Fourth: grab the dot with the mouse and slide it to the second arrow where the graph begins to climb.

Fifth: select “ok” once all the color channels are adjusted.



Before adjustment



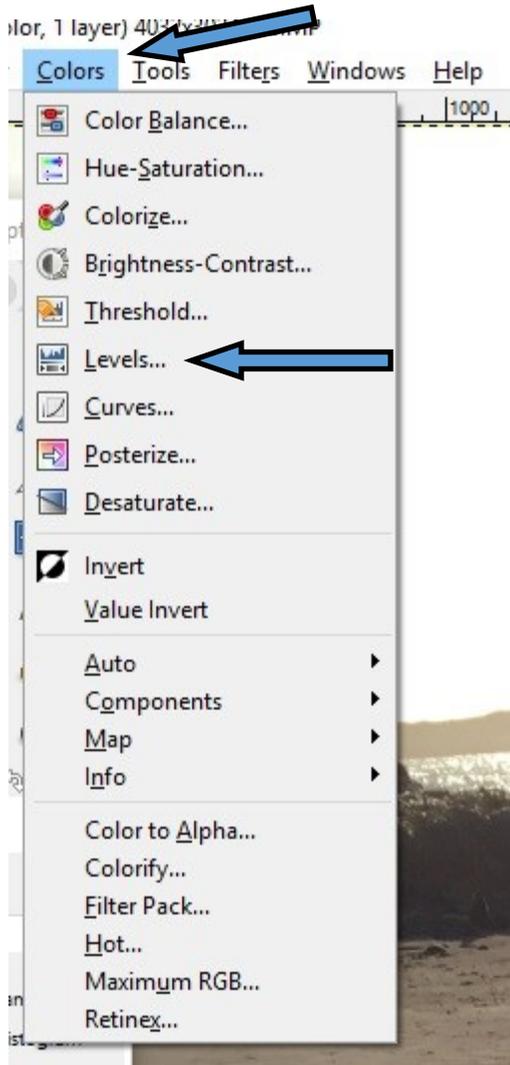
After adjustment

The change is noticeable (look particularly at the rocky foreground) and I think represents an improvement on the image quality.

The most significant use of this technique is with old black and white prints. Scan them as color images at high resolution and then adjust the color channels the results are spectacular.

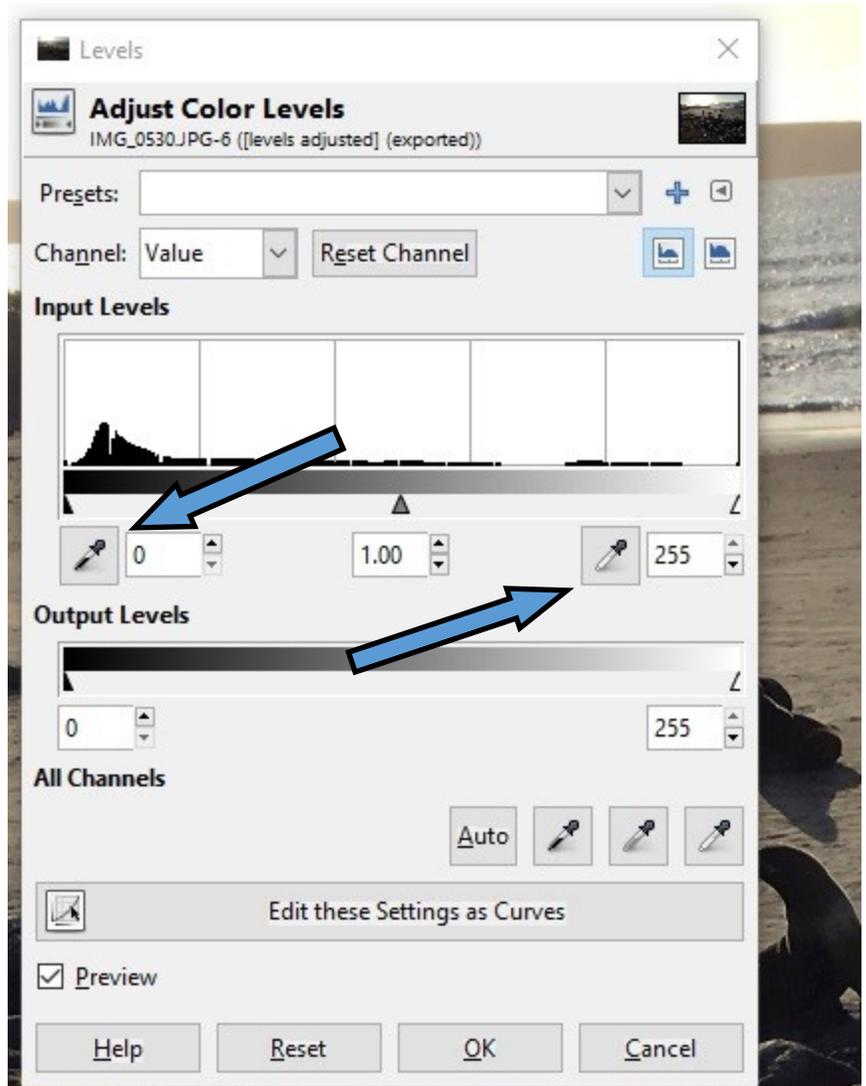
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I always adjust the color levels histograms, second.



Third: Select the dark eyedropper and sample the blackest point in the image. Then select the light eyedropper and sample the whitest point in the image. Gimp will adjust the contrast in the image relative to these two points.

Why: Digital cameras tend to under expose images. Adjusting the levels corrects the exposure resulting in a sharper image.



Pictured above —

First: Select “Colors” from  
the menu bar.

Second: Select “Levels”  
the window to the right  
will appear.



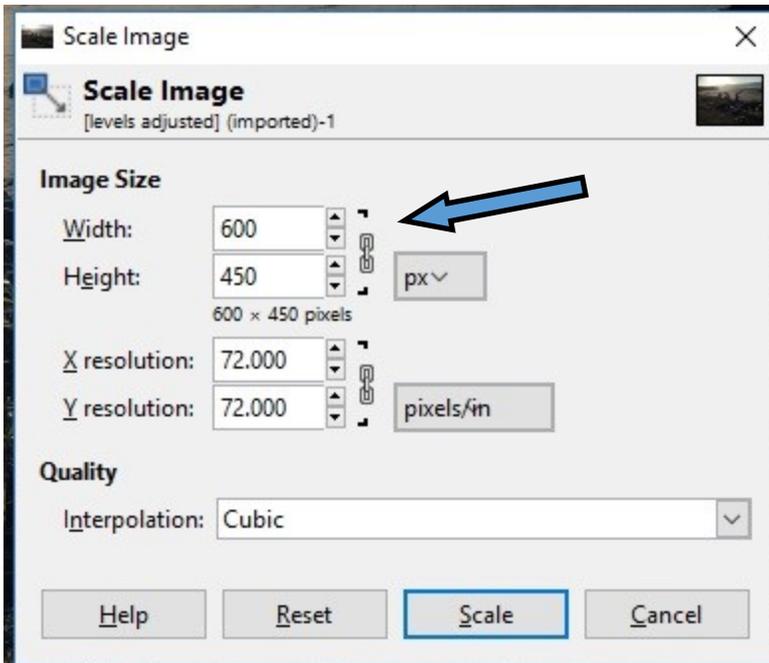
Starting with the color adjusted image, from the previous tutorial it now becomes our before image.

The image to the right shows the levels adjusted in this case only the dark eyedropper was used. The light eyedropper showed that the sun spot as pure white already. I experimented with manual adjustment of the slider and no improvement resulted and so I left it alone.



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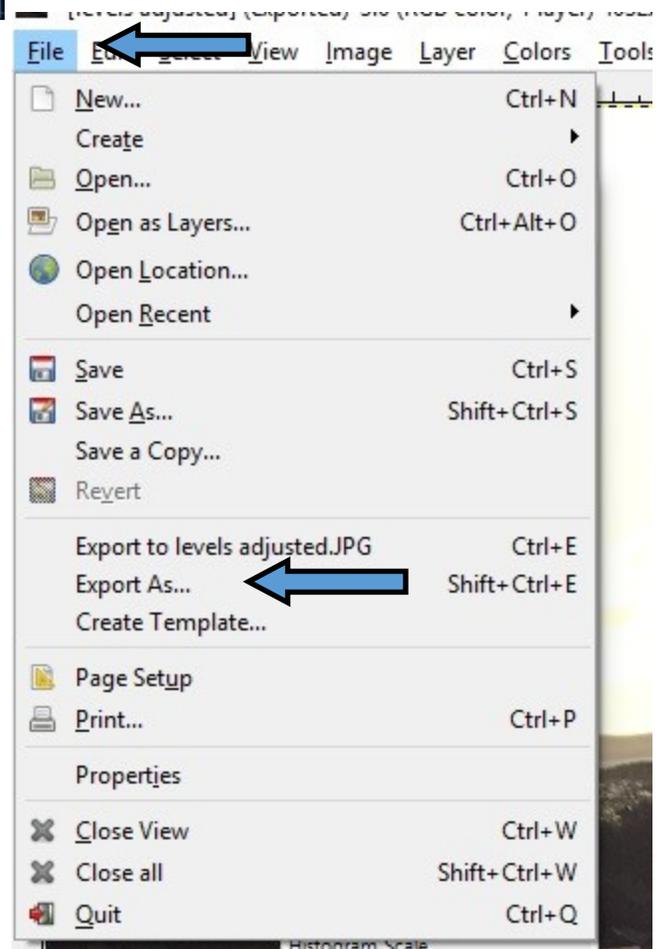
Optimizing images for use on websites with GIMP.

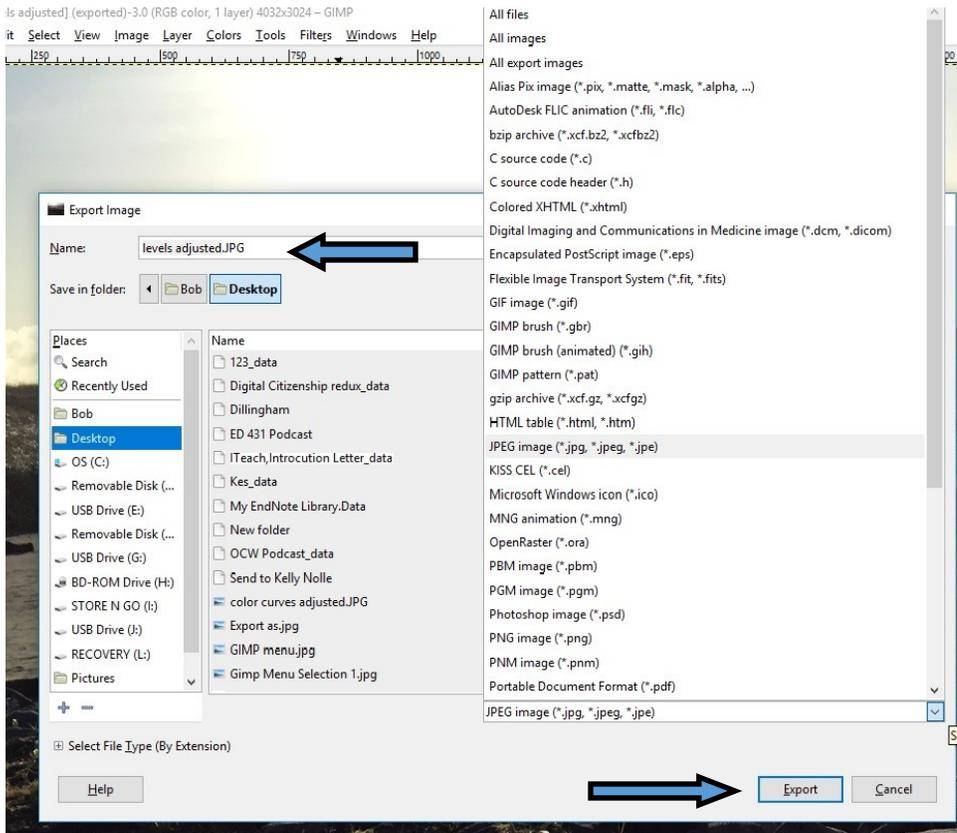


First: Select the “Image” tab on the menu and pull down to “Scale Image” as seen to the left.

Second: Size the image for the web, 600x400 pixels is a good average size. And press the scale button.

Third: Select the “File” tab on the menu and pull down to “Export as...” as seen to the left.





Fourth: Name the file and select the file type, for our purposes here saving as a .jpg file is best. And then press the “Export” button.

Fifth: Adjust the slider downward to reduce file size. Finish by pressing the “Export” button.

