

Fundamental Editing Case Study

INTRODUCTION TO THE FUNDAMENTAL EDITING CASE STUDIES

By Kent DuFault



I wanted to take a minute and reach out to you personally about The Ultimate Guide to Fundamental Editing and now, the 10 Fundamental Editing Case Studies.

Several years back, I realized that many photographers were becoming interested in the craft and art of photography during the digital era but had no idea what to do with the digital files once they had created them in the camera.

That was the idea behind The Ultimate Guide to Fundamental Editing. I wanted to provide a framework from which photographers could build their experience and style with photography, from capturing the image all the way through post-processing and on to the final presentation.

Photography reaches an entirely new level when you can accurately produce a photograph that **began** as a creative vision that you had when standing behind the camera.

So, why am I now thinking that I need to produce some Fundamental Editing case studies?

Several things about the original guide have occurred to me over time.

First and foremost, as it relates to my desire to create these case studies for you, it revolved around the photograph that I selected for the original Fundamental Editing guide.

This photograph was professionally produced and, as such, was in pretty good shape coming right out of the camera. The use of Fundamental Editing was to 'tune it up' to perfect client presentation status.

That was the philosophy behind the original guide: how to take your already pretty good photos and make them perfect.

A couple of months ago, I started thinking about Fundamental Editing and the fact that it's not just for images that are already **pretty good**. It can actually save photos that come out of the camera in a rather bad shape.

That's what these ten case studies are all about.

I'm going to show you how Fundamental Editing can rescue those less than stellar shots.

I believe that when you're done with these ten case studies, you will come to find that almost any photo can benefit from Fundamental Editing, and become just what you want it to be.

In these case studies, I cover underexposed pictures, pictures with poor color, super noisy pictures, poorly composed photos, images shot under lousy lighting, smog, and other external problems that you will face sooner or later.

These case studies will show you how to take a poorly created picture and vastly improve it.

I've included four of the original image files in the Bonuses section, so that you can follow along and fix the pictures on your own. I didn't add all ten because some of them are under contract and don't allow me to do that.

There are a couple of other reasons why I wanted to do the case studies for you as well.

In the original guide, I showed the steps in all three Adobe products. For these case studies, I just used Lightroom CC.

When the original guide was published, I got feedback that would ask, well, what about this editing program, or what about my older than dirt version of Lightroom?

Okay. You have to strap on your thinking cap.

Virtually any reasonably recent photo editing software program will have the tools to complete the Fundamental Editing list. Heck, I can even complete the list using Snapseed, which is a cell phone editing app!

Study the concepts. Learn them. Think conceptually, and then apply the new knowledge to your own situation.

In addition, Lightroom CC, Lightroom Classic, and Photoshop (I'm not sure about Adobe elements) all have a new tool called Texture. I cover this tool extensively in these case studies.

I decided to take this moment to update the Fundamental Editing List. You will get a nicely designed .pdf of the list that you can print out and keep at your editing workstation in the Bonus section.

I added the Texture tool to the list. I also added some other tools that I now think are important to the Fundamental Editing process.

They include the following:

- Metadata and keywords
- Determining Intent
- Contrast
- Middle Tones
- Shadows
- Whites
- Texture
- Additional Adjustment Brush tools
- Healing Brush

These are all covered thoroughly in the case studies.

In closing, please understand that the Fundamental Editing list is designed to be followed from the beginning to the end.

However, you will discover in these case studies that this rule is made to be broken. The Fundamental Editing list procedure is vital to becoming skilled at creating repeatable and predictable results.

Procedure is important, following steps is essential, but knowing how to work around them is critical.

It is my hope that by the time you finish studying these ten case studies, you will realize the full potential of Fundamental Editing and what it can mean for your photography.

-Kent DuFault