

Cropping, cleaning and patching bad scans

I always tell my schools to let us scan their photos but sometimes (especially with baby pics) they will scan their own. Here are some tips on fixing those if they need help.

Directions for cropping multiple scans

- 1) Put three or four smaller pictures on your scanner's bed and scan them as you regularly do except this time scan all four at once as a great, big, single scan.
- 2) When the file opens up it should look something like the file at top right. Of course you will probably want to lay them on the scanner's bed a little straighter than this but if you don't, this will work.
- 3) Choose File>Automate>Crop and Straighten Photos and watch what happens. You may need to do a little additional cropping and because one of the pics was rotated sideways, I will have to rotate it, but the pics next to the original are what I got with no only two additional 90 degree rotations needed.
- 4) Make any minor changes to the photos and save.



Original scan of three photos on scanner bed



After using Automate>Crop and Straighten

Directions for cleaning and patching

- 1) Open the photo you want to clean and patch.
- 2) Choose the Healing Brush and click on the areas you want to fix. Use this brush on just the areas that are small fixes. For instance, on the photo at right I would use it on the spots in her hair or on her sleeve.
- 3) To fix more major items (like the Photographer's watermark) we will use the Patch tool.
- 4) Select the Patch tool.
- 5) With the Patch tool, draw a selection around the area you want to patch. In this case I drew it around the Y in Yuen Lui. Make sure to keep the background in mind as you draw. Too many conflicting backgrounds can be a problem.
- 6) Once you have a selection made, drag it up to an area you would like to use to patch it with. Watch in the area you selected as you drag. When it looks good, click anyplace else and you are set. If after you click off you change your mind, quickly choose Undo from the Edit menu.
- 7) You can fix small glitches later with the Healing Brush tool. It is helpful to remember that if you are using the Healing Brush tool or the Spot Healing Brush tool (Adobe CS2 only) and if it starts looking strange you should reduce the size of your brush.



Before cleaning and patching.



After cleaning and patching.