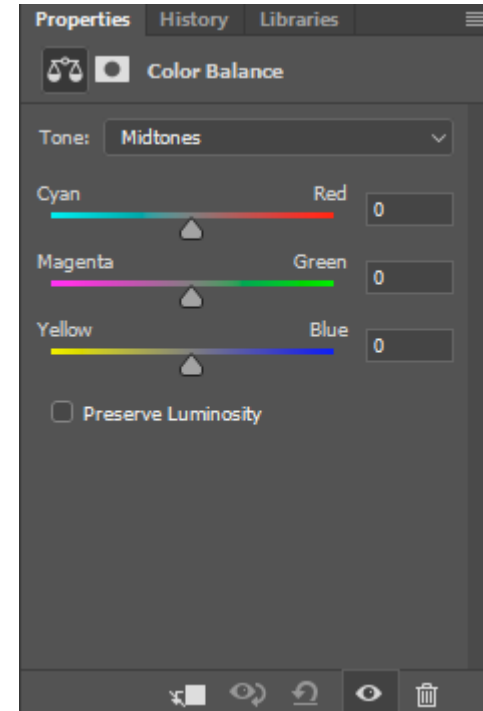# COMPARING COLOR TOOLS IN PHOTOSHOP

Color Balance
Hue, Saturation, Luminance
Curves
Selective Color
Channel Mixer

THE TOOLS

Color Balance:

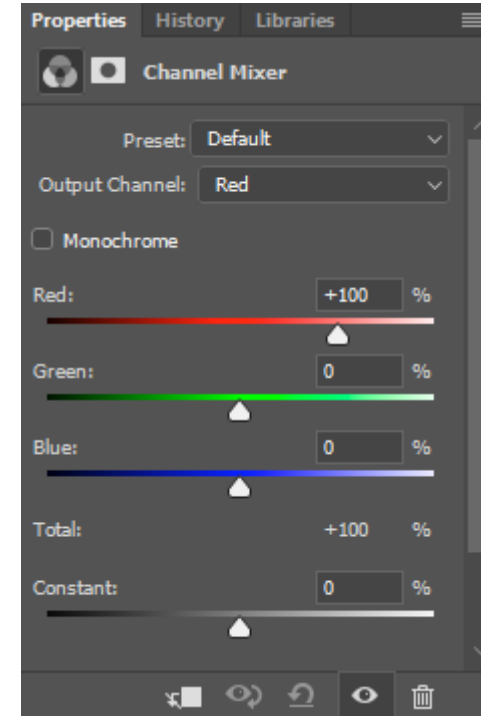Specifically for Color Temperature adjustments. Targets color in the tonal areas of your photo. The Highlights, Midtones, and Shadows.
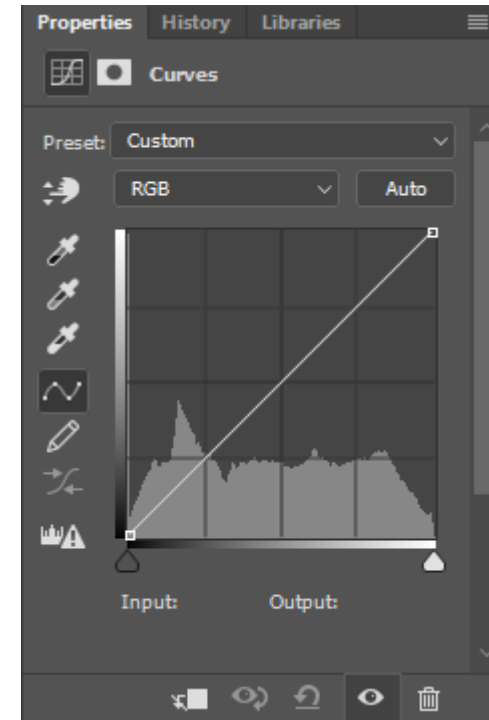
THE TOOLS

Channel Mixer:

Changes the percentage of colors within the color channels. Not the best for precision color work due to its global nature, but incredible for precision masking.
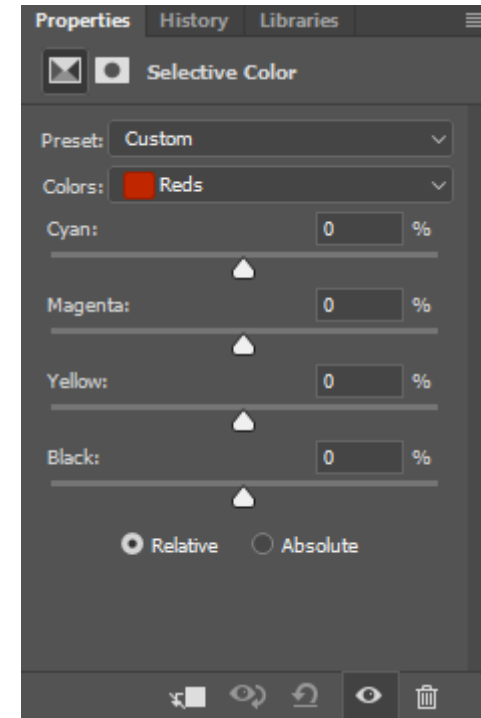
THE TOOLS

Curves:

The most versatile of the bunch. The Curves Adjustment is a Jack of All trades that comes with a learning curve… no pun intended. It can make beautifully crafted color images when combined with masks. It is less intuitive but extremely flexible.

THE TOOLS

Selective Color:
Makes local adjustments to individual colors. Color mixing is intuitive, very accurate, not as heavy handed as the others. The most predictable of all color modifiers.

THE TOOLS
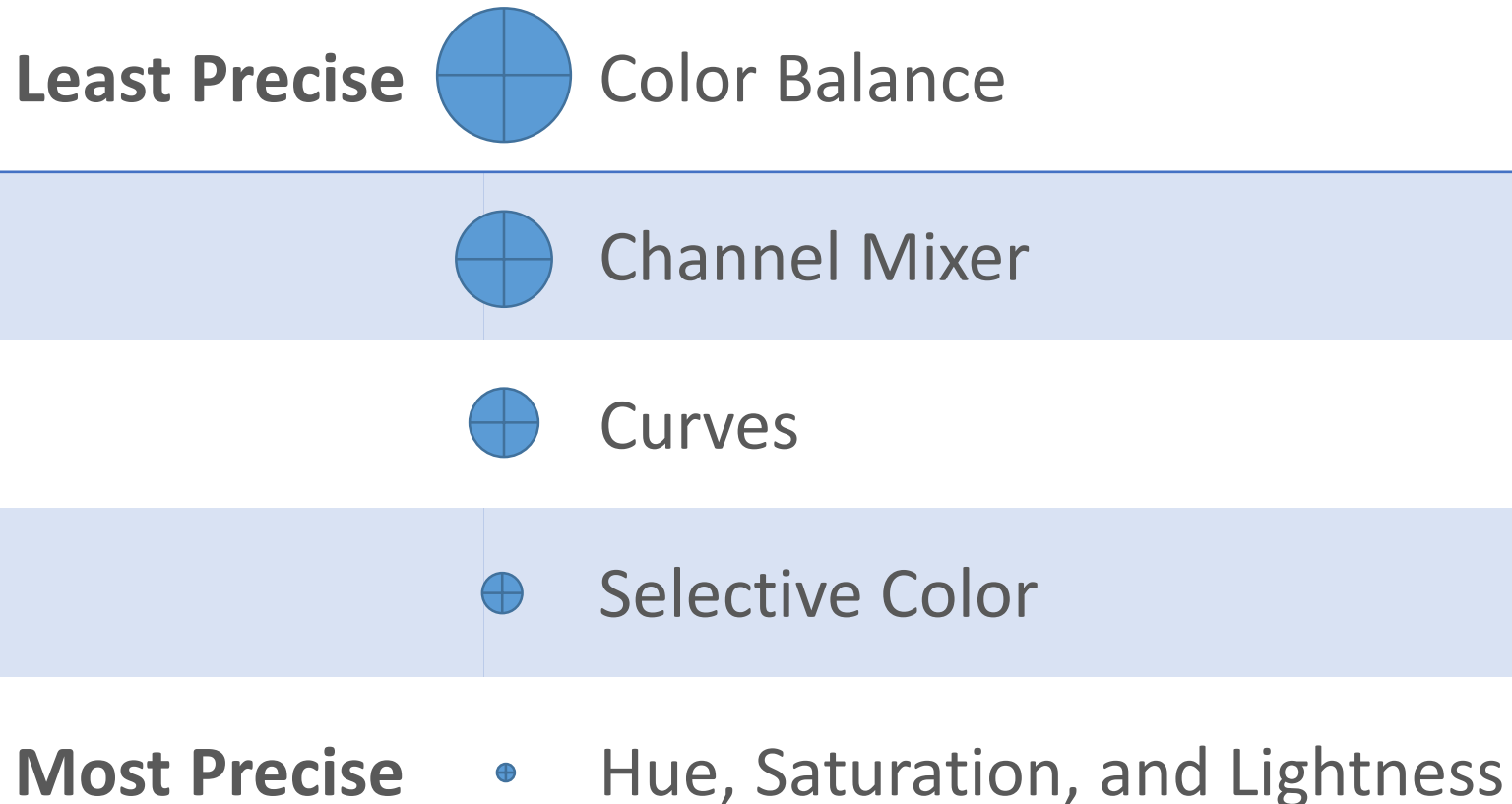
The Hue/Saturation Adjustment Layer:
Great for pinpoint color manipulation with Hue, Saturation, and Lightness. Easy to use once you understand color theory principles, most precision with the most flexibility.
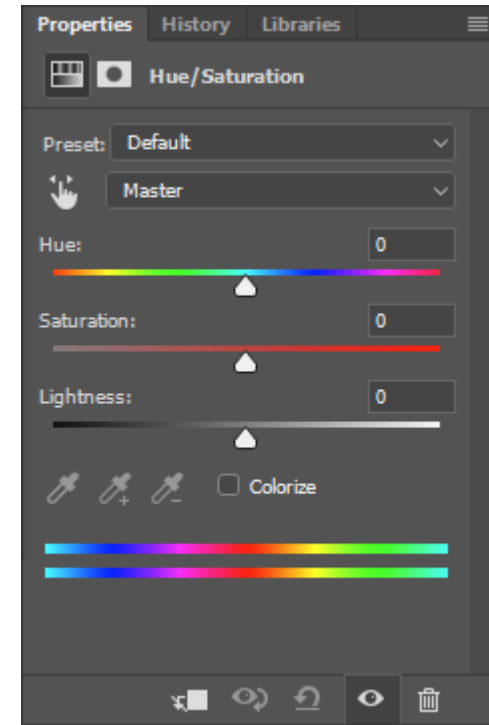
LEVEL OF PRECISION

Based on the ability to target individual colors and edit them independently from others. More precise adjustments act on a more local level rather than a global image level.

NOTE: This does not include the use of precision masking or blend modes, only the tools precision by their inherent nature.

Least Precise   ⊕   Color Balance

⊕   Channel Mixer

⊕   Curves

⊕   Selective Color

Most Precise   ·   Hue, Saturation, and Lightness

COMPARISON CHART FOR COLOR TOOLS

	Color Balance	Channel Mixer	Selective Color	HSL Adjustment Layer	Curves	
Can Modify Shadows, Highlights and Midtones independently	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Can Modify Shadows, Highlights and Midtones independently
Intuitive and Predicatble	Slightly	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Intuitive and Predicatble
Can select color with dropper	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Can select color with dropper
Can modify Hue, Saturation and Luminance independently	No	With Work	With Work	Yes	No	Can modify Hue, Saturation and Luminance independently
Allows for Individual Color Manipulation	No	With Work	Yes	Yes	Yes	Allows for Individual Color Manipulation
Allows for Global Editing	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Allows for Global Editing
Allows for advanced Mask Creation	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	Allows for advanced Mask Creation
Suitable for White Balance Correction	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Suitable for White Balance Correction