

## CORRECTING AN IMAGE WITH AREAS OF COLOUR THAT ARE OUT OF GAMUT

If an image has very strong colours it may look good on screen but if the colours are outside the capabilities of the printer to handle then the printer will attempt to modify the problem colours. Sometimes this works fine but you can use an Adjustment layer to provide some degree of control over selected colours. Generally Greens and Blues give most problems. It is not recommended you use the Sponge Tool's Desaturate option found under the Toolbox.

### Adjusting Image Colour Saturation

1. Open an image that has strong or over saturated colours
2. The printer will have difficulty in printing accurate colours as seen on screen, particularly if the monitor/printer have not been calibrated
3. Zoom to 100% or press Ctrl+0 (zero) to fit the image on screen
4. To check which colours are out of gamut and will probably not print accurately press Shift+Ctrl+Y or go to the View menu and select View > Gamut Warning - areas of an image that will not print well, will now be covered by a 'grey mask' over the problem colour
5. The grey gamut warning area covers all image colours that are considered outside the capabilities of the printer to produce, so the printer will attempt to provide alternative colours, sometimes it does a good job and other times its not so successful
6. Note which colours the Gamut warning highlights – probably Blues and Greens
7. From the Layers palette choose the 'Create new fill or adjustment layer' option (the black/white circle)
8. Choose Hue/Saturation from the drop-down menu
9. With the Hue/Saturation dialog box displayed click the drop-down arrow next to the Edit field, Master will be selected by default and but we need to choose specific colours that are out of Gamut
10. From the Edit drop-down menu decide which colour you wish to desaturate first
11. For example if areas of sky are affected it will be necessary to adjust both Cyan and Blue as both colours are found in a sky
12. The Gamut warning mask should still be visible from Step 4 so use it to watch as selected colours are being desaturated
13. Areas of the grey gamut warning mask will slowly disappear as relevant out of gamut colour is desaturated which are done separately
14. Click Blue from the Edit list and then click and drag the Saturation slider to the left to desaturate the Blues or click the slider triangle to select it and then use the cursor movement arrow keys to make finer adjustment
15. It is not necessary to OK until you have carried out adjustment to each affected colour
16. Repeat this process with Cyan
17. Then select other relevant colours from the drop-down menu and desaturate as necessary, for example Greens
18. Be guided by what you see on screen and stop when you think you have gone far enough
19. You may find small areas of Gamut warning still show but this is often acceptable and the printer will probably be able to choose a suitable substitute colour
20. Click the Hue/Saturation dialog box OK button to apply the changes
21. The image will now look less saturated but will be within the capabilities of the printer to produce a good representation of what colours are seen on screen, particularly if the monitor has been calibrated
22. You may feel it necessary to apply a Levels or Curves adjustment to the image?