**So what is “cross processing”?**

In the old days before digital photography (the dark(room) times, as I like to call them!) film was processed using chemicals. Different types of film needed different sets of chemicals. Slide film needed one set, a different set was needed for black and white, another for colour . . . and so on.

***NB:****If you have an old colour film lying around, have a look at the label on the side. It probably says “C41 process”. This tells the film processor which chemical set to use (C41 was the most common set for colour film).*

But what if you used the C41 chemicals to process, lets say, slide film? Well, the effect is that photographs have both a high contrast and a colour cast to them.

The colour cast could actually look quite artistic. Photographers made use of this to deliberately create an artistic look to their photographs.

The look has become more popular recently because it's found its way into magazine adverts. It has consequently become popular for wedding photography as couples look for more artistic wedding photography.

If you’ve never seen a cross processed image there’s a wedding photography example below, together with a Photoshop tutorial to show you how to achieve this cross processing effect.

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**Making the effect using Photoshop - tutorial**

**Photoshop cross processing tutorial - step one:**
Choose one of your own photographs that you have taken for this project.

Open your image in Photoshop. We’re going to create the effect using curves. To do this, select **Layer**, then **New Adjustment Layer** and finally **Curves…**

A new dialog box will pop up, and here you can enter a name if you like. If not, just click on **OK**.

Once you have done this, the curves dialog box will appear. It should look something like the screenshot below:



Click on the diagonal line – marked by the arrows above - and pull the left hand end down a little, and the right hand end up a little. This creates an “S” shape curve.

Your photo should instantly have more contrast. You're on your way to creating the effect!

**Add some colour cast**

Now you have the contrast, we need to add a colour cast.

**Photoshop cross processing tutorial - step two:**
Create another curve adjustment layer, like you did in step 1 above (select **Layer**, then **New Adjustment Layer** then **Curves…**)

This time we are only going to be adjusting the “Red” part of the photograph. Have a look at the screenshot below:



There are three steps to take here. Taking one arrow at a time:

* Click on the down arrow of the drop down box (arrow 1). A menu pops down.
* Select “Red” from this new menu (arrow 2).
* Finally, create another shallow “S” shape to the curve, like you did for Photoshop cross processing tutorial - step 1 above (arrow 3).

***More* colour cast**

**Photoshop cross processing tutorial - step three:**
Create a third curve adjustment layer, like you did in steps 1 and 2 above (select **Layer**, then **New Adjustment Layer** then **Curves…**)

This time we are only going to be adjusting the “Blue” part of the photograph. Have a look at the screenshot below:



The steps to take here are similar to the “Red” adjustment above:

* Click on the down arrow of the drop down box, but this time select “Blue”(arrow 1).
* Then, create another shallow, **but this time an inverse** “S” shape to the curve (arrow 2).

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**Finishing up**

**Photoshop cross processing tutorial - step four:**
The last part is easy. If you press **F7** on your keyboard, the **Layer** palette will appear. You will have four layers – your image, and then three curve adjustment layers.

If you think your image could do with a little more contrast, double click the bottom curves layer and adjust the “S” shape.

If you think it could be a little redder, click the middle layer and adjust the “S” shape curve.

Finally, if you think a little bluer would work well for your digital photo, select the top curve layer and adjust the *inverse* “S” shaped curve.

Once you are happy with your image, go to **Layer**, then select **Flatten image**.

This process can be used to experiment with your photographs to create an interesting effect, so go ahead and get creative!