

October Meeting



Post Processing

Post Processing

- So what is post processing ?
- Why do we need to do it ?
- What can we do with it?
- Isn't it cheating ?
- Do we need 'expensive' software these days ?
- What options are there ?

What is Post Processing

Taking the image as captured by the camera and making it viewable.

- Taking a negative glass plate, film negative or digital negative to print or printable output.
- Manipulating the image size and format.
- Manipulating the image exposure
- Changing the image content
- Adding text or additional images/logos.
- Creating a completely new image without using a camera. (Stock images or entirely digital images)

Early Photography



Some photographers assume that early photographs weren't subjected to post processing because they were on plate or film.

Not true.

They had to be printed and it was soon discovered that the image could be manipulated during this process.

However, from the image capture through to the post processing and printing, it required expensive equipment and extensive knowledge of the process.

It wasn't open to everyone.

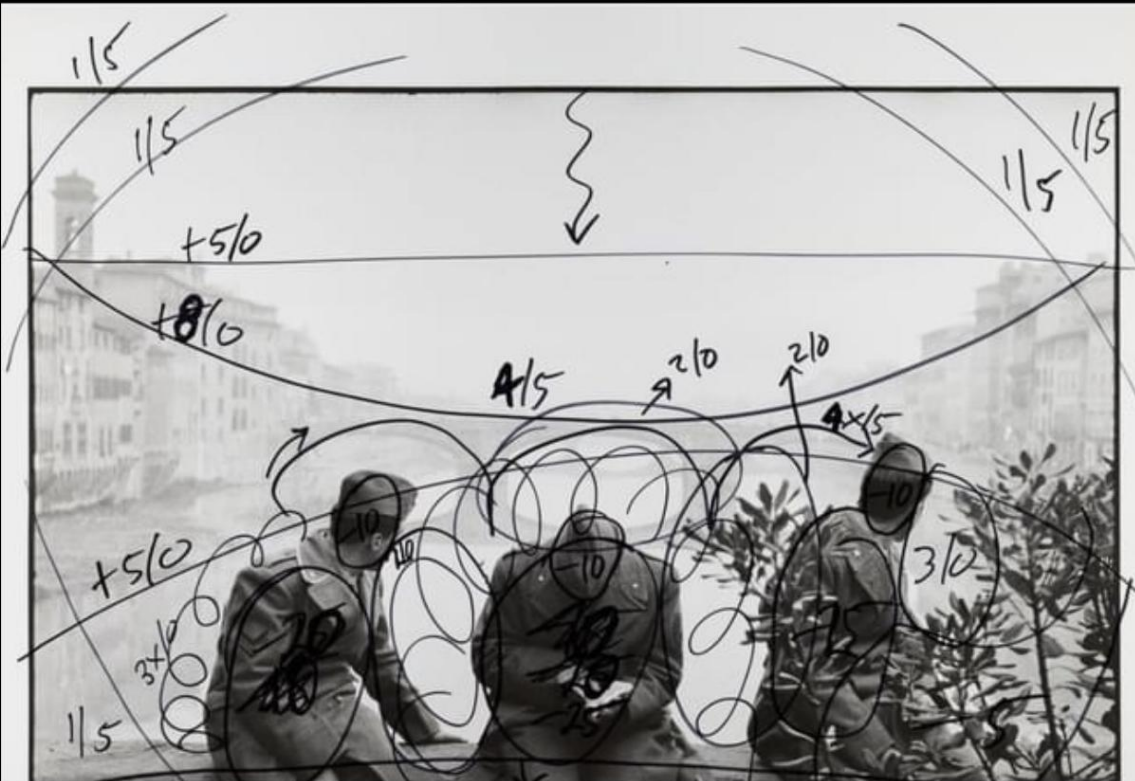
Portrait Studios



Portrait studio's started and were the only option for most people. But these could be expensive. Winters in Derby is one of the oldest surviving portrait studios.

Examples of
early post
processing
'cheats'.





Even the most well known early photographers used crude dodge and burn techniques when the image was being printed. Many of Ansel Adams and Leonard Freed final prints were radically different to the original 'out of the camera' image.

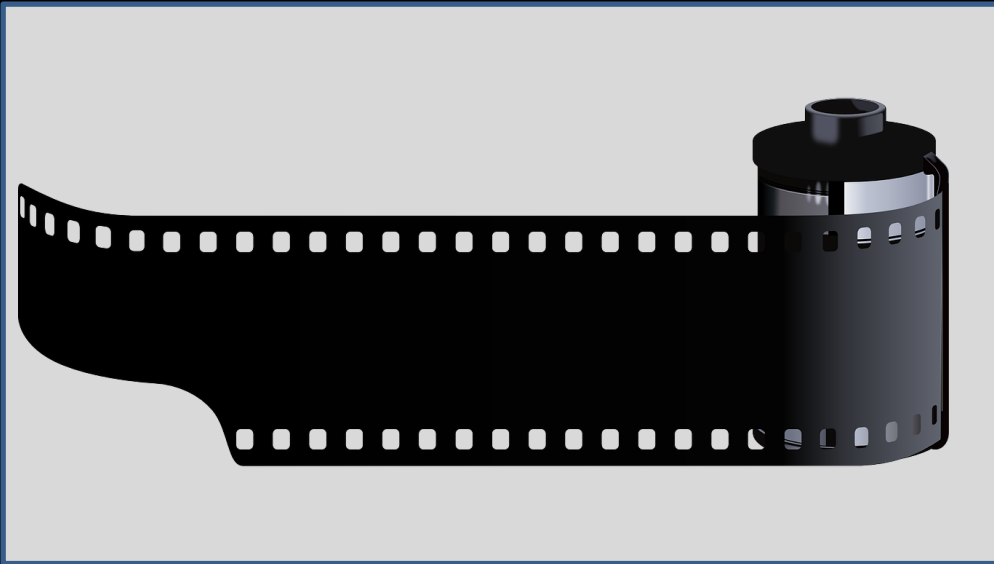
Photography for the People

Then technology development delivered the cheap and simple to use camera and the film strip.

Now the image capture was in the hands of the masses.



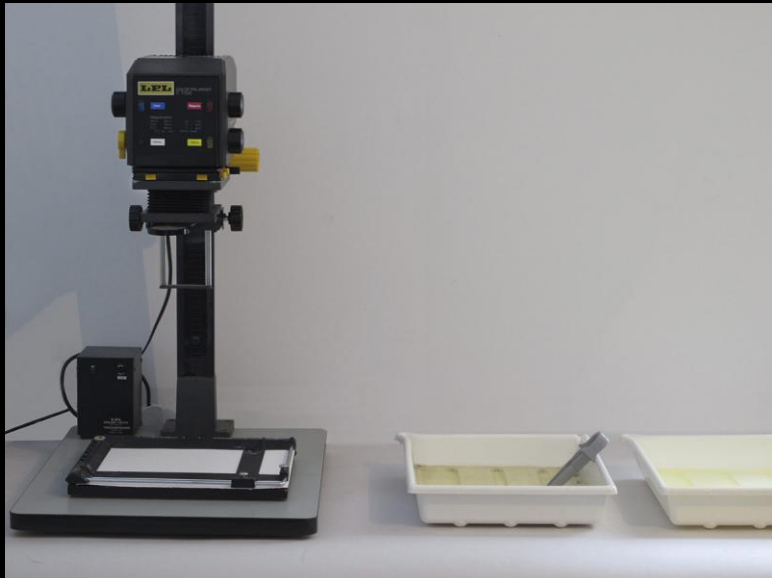
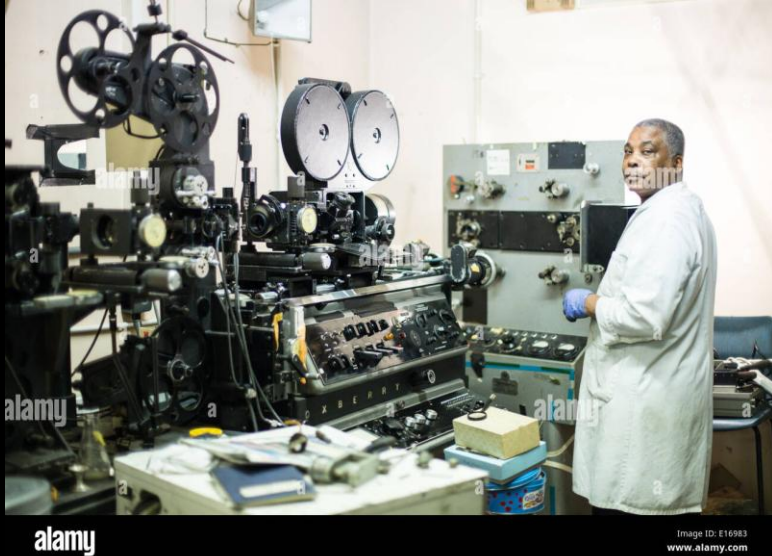
Film to Print



Most films were processed in a lab such as Boots. The ability to modify the image was extremely limited. Usually enlargement were the only option.



Home Film Processing



If you wanted to have the ability to change the image, you needed your own darkroom. Colour film processing was particularly complex. However black and white processing was certainly available to the keen amateur.

Change has come

- Today, with the advent of digital photography, we have access to a wide range of tools that allow us to modify the image much more easily. No darkroom needed, no chemicals involved.
- You can apply post processing changes to your image on your PC or your phone.
- **You are now in charge!**

Basic Editing

- Cropping
- Correcting exposure
- Colour changing
- Sharpening or softening the image
- Removing unwanted items or distractions
- Using different styles

Cropping



Change Format





Leveling



Exposure Adjustment



Exposure Adjustment



Colour Change/Enhance



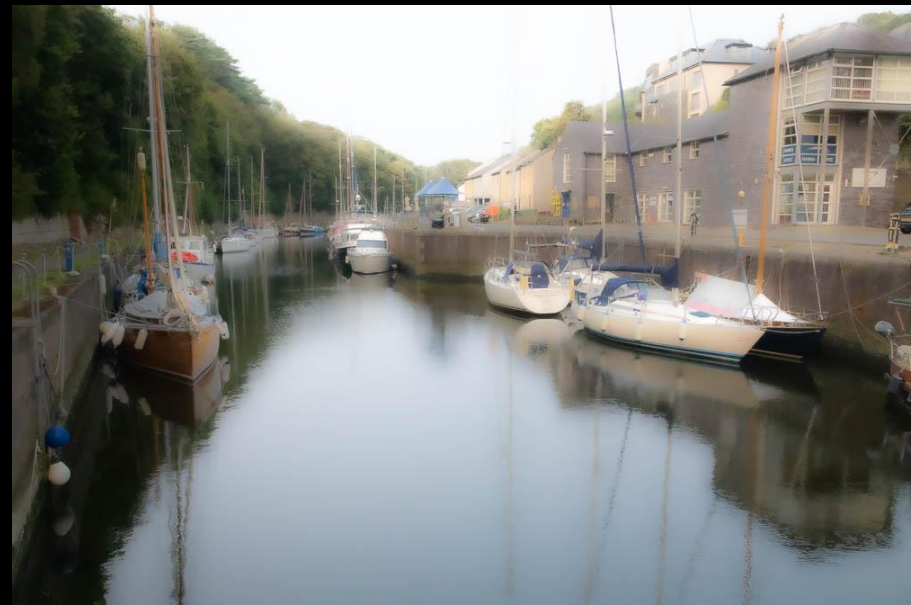
Colour Change/Enhance



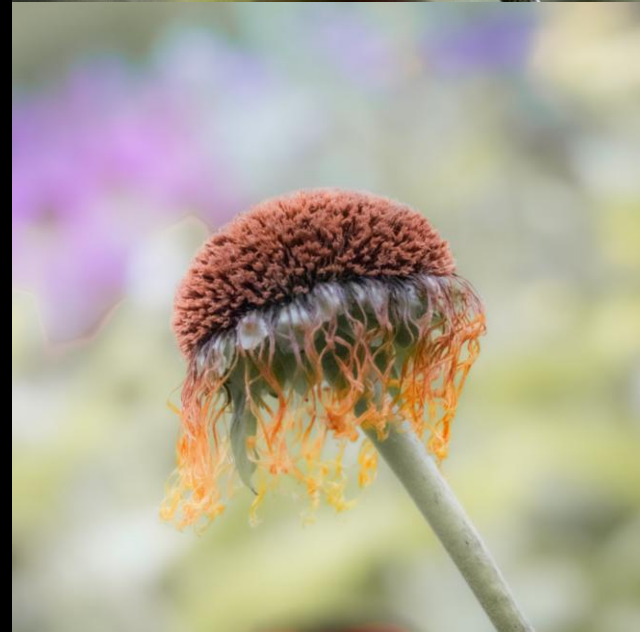
Black and White



Sharpen or Soften



Sharpen or Soften



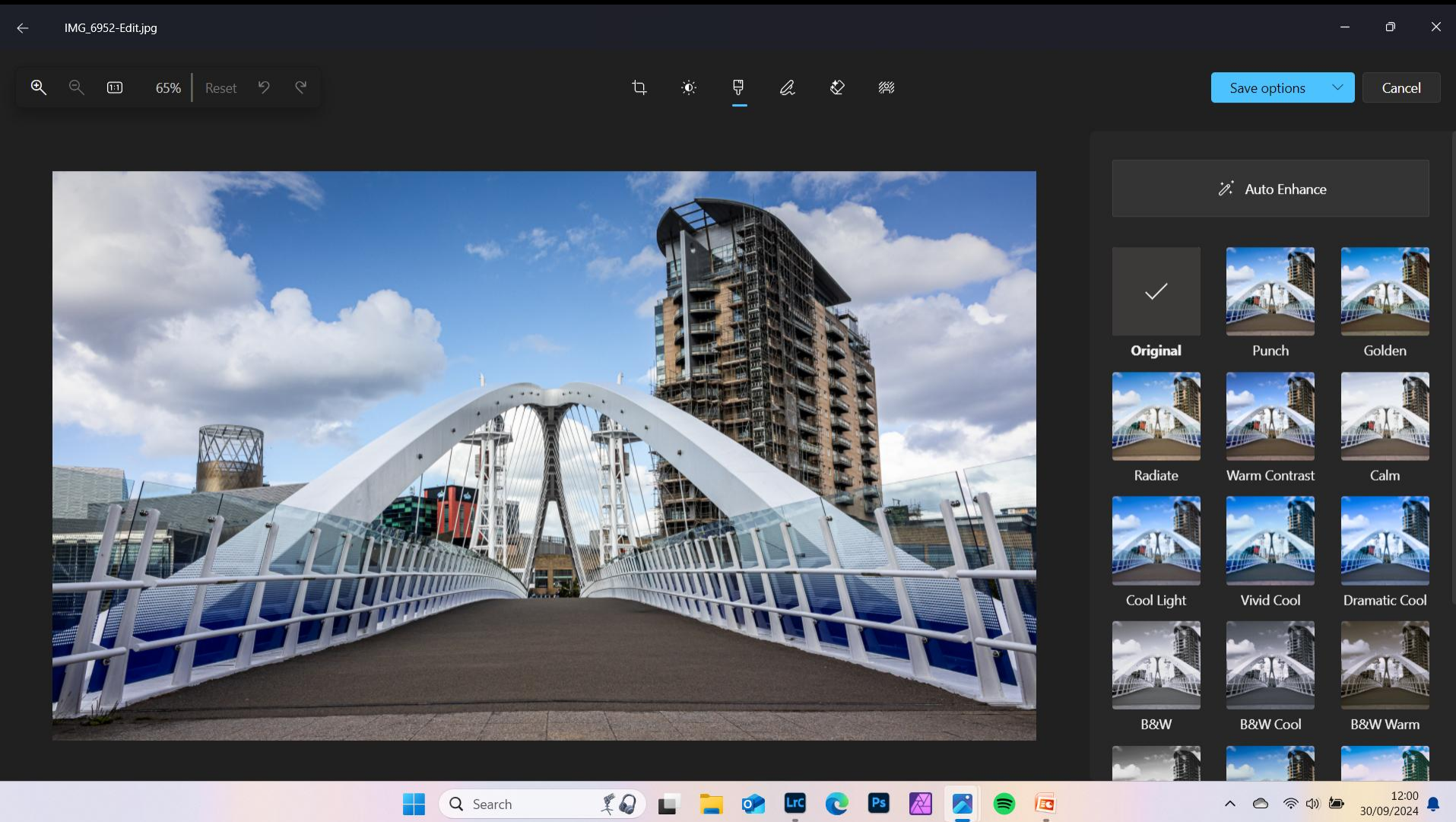
Remove Unwanted Distraction



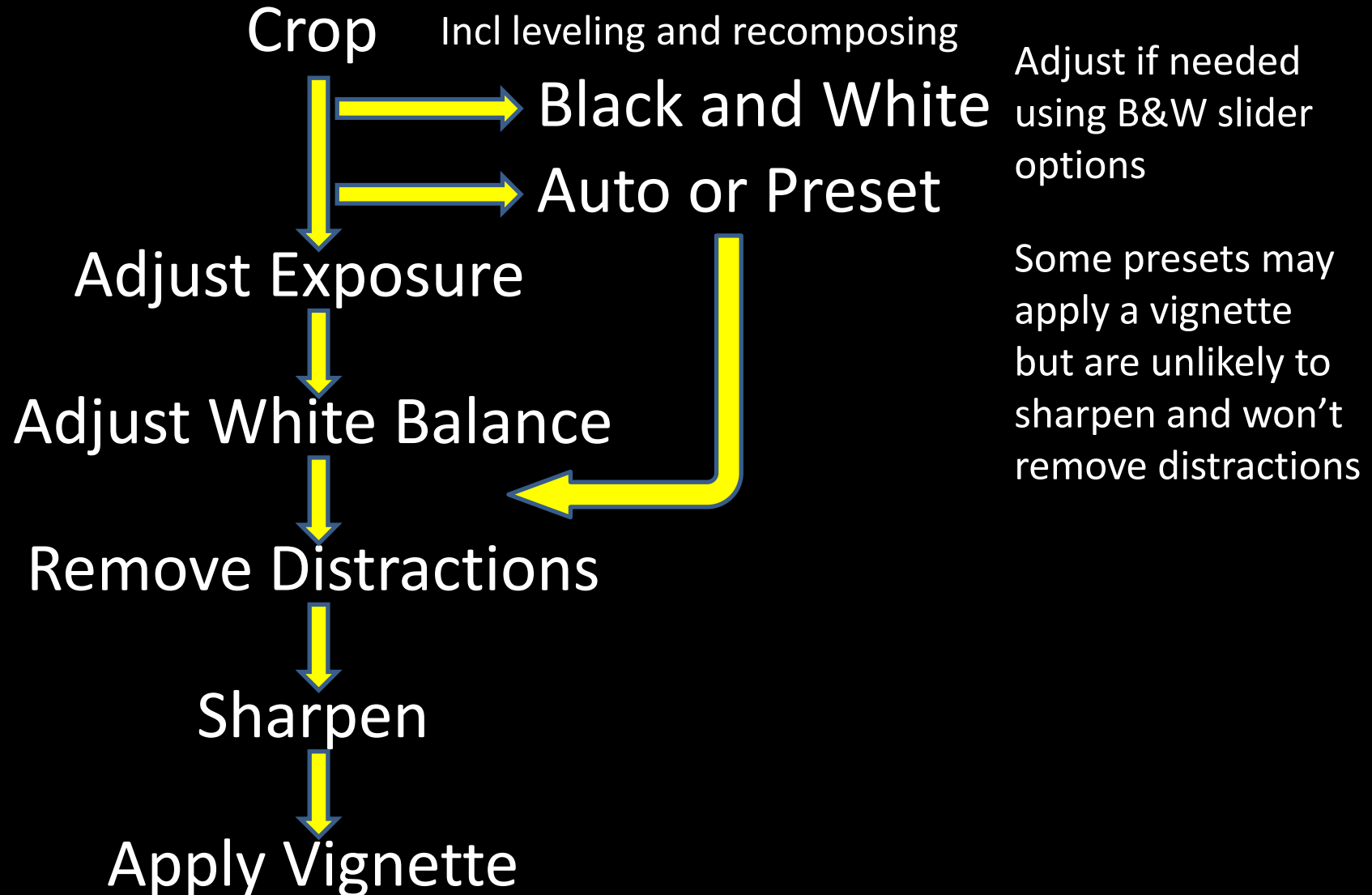
Remove Unwanted Distraction



Using Styles



Recommended Workflow



What Product to Choose

There are a number of decisions you have to make when choosing post processing software.

1. How much am I prepared to pay.
2. How much function do I need and how easy is the product to use (simple or complex).
3. Do I want a 'catalogue' product or not.
4. Do I want an online product or not.
5. My PC platform or compatability with other existing software.

Simple vs Complex

- Simple editing tools we have demonstrated and will satisfy most requirements.
- Simple tools can:
 - Crop and level
 - Change exposure, brightness and shadows
 - Change colour saturation, white balance etc.
 - Sharpen
 - Remove distractions (some products)
- Complex products
 - Will all support 'layer' structures
 - Allow composite images to be created
 - Support elements such as sky replacement