Optimizing your scan with Pixlr on-line photo editor

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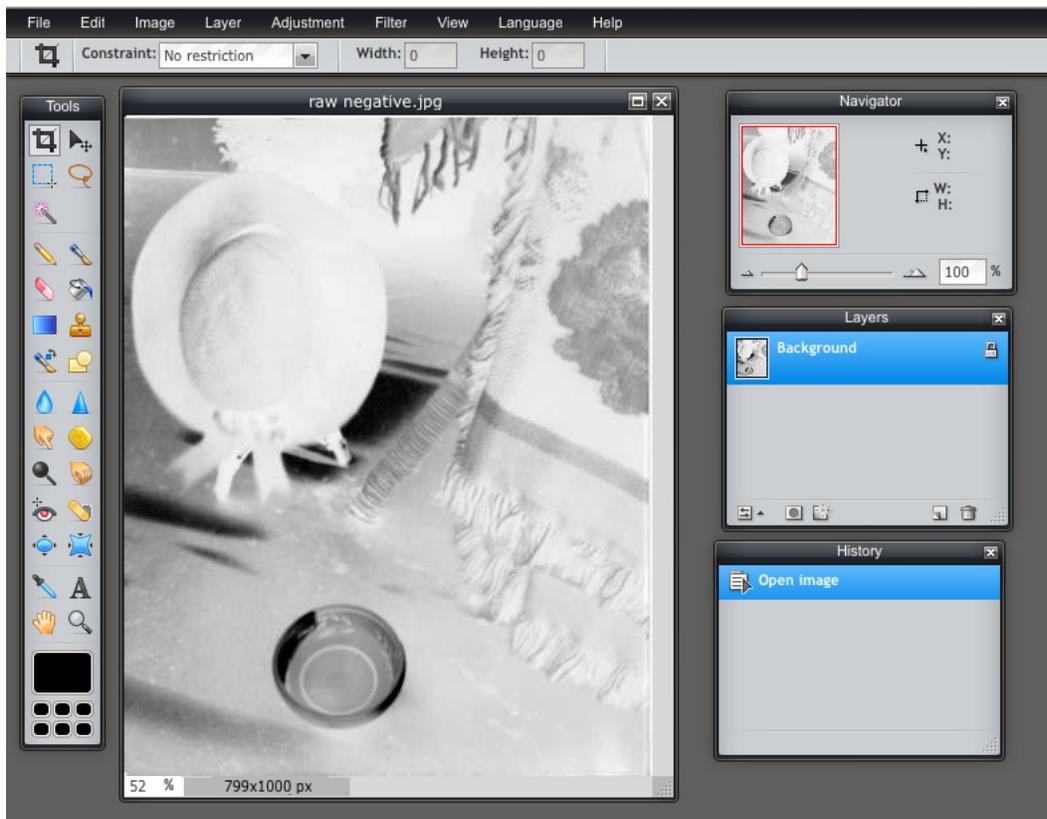
In a web browser,

go to *http://pixlr.com/editor/*

Click **Open image from computer**

That will open a standard file dialogue box on your computer. Browse to find your original scan or camera file, select it and click **Open.**

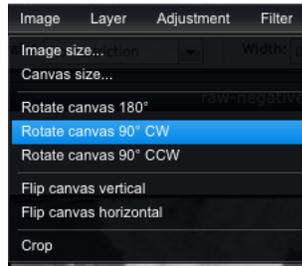This will open your file in the Pixlr Photo Editor.

Menu bar

Rotating your image

If your image is not in the correct orientation, under the **Image** menu, select the appropriate **Rotate** command.
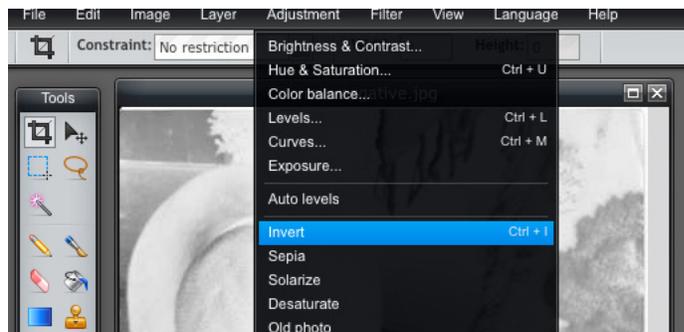
You can also choose **Flip canvas horizontal** to correct right/left orientation if necessary.

Making a positive image of your negative.

If your image is already a positive, this step is, of course, unnecessary.

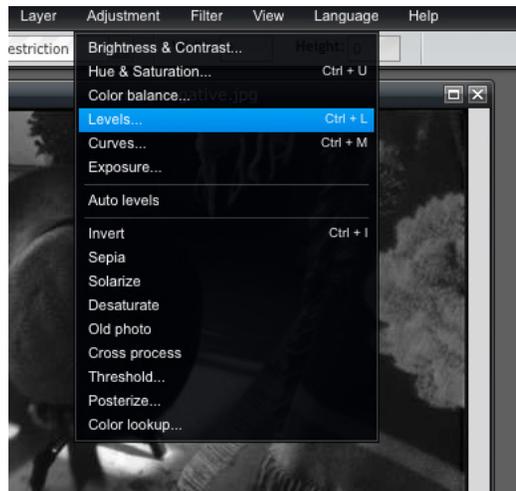Under the **Adjustments** menu, select **Invert.**

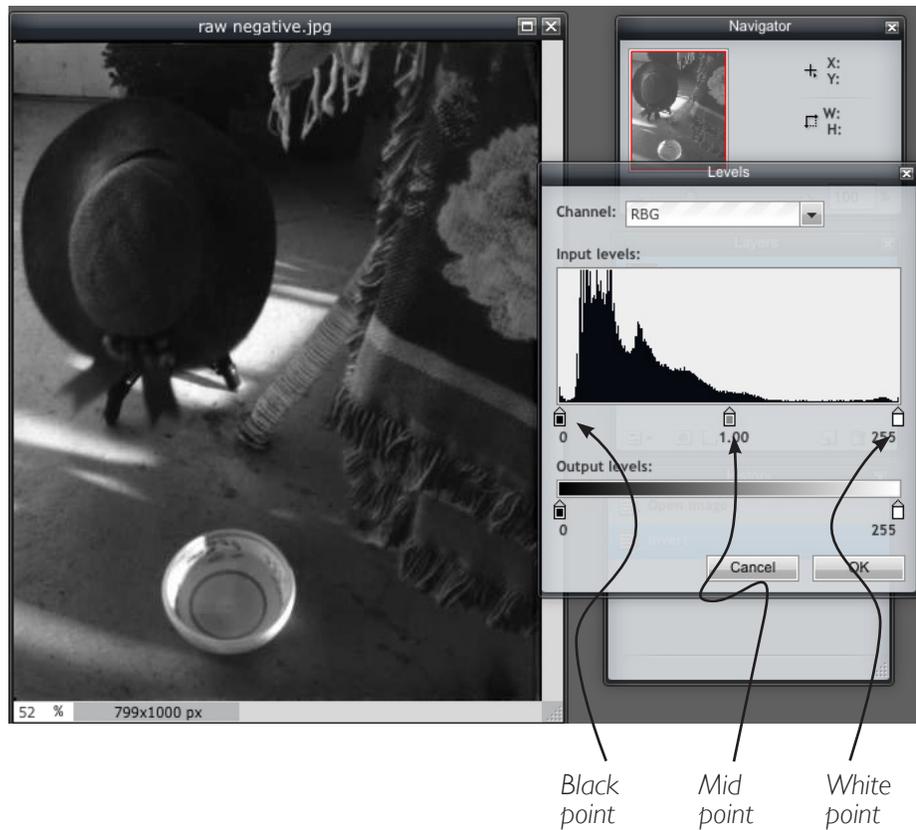This will convert your image to a positive.

Improving the overall appearance of your image.
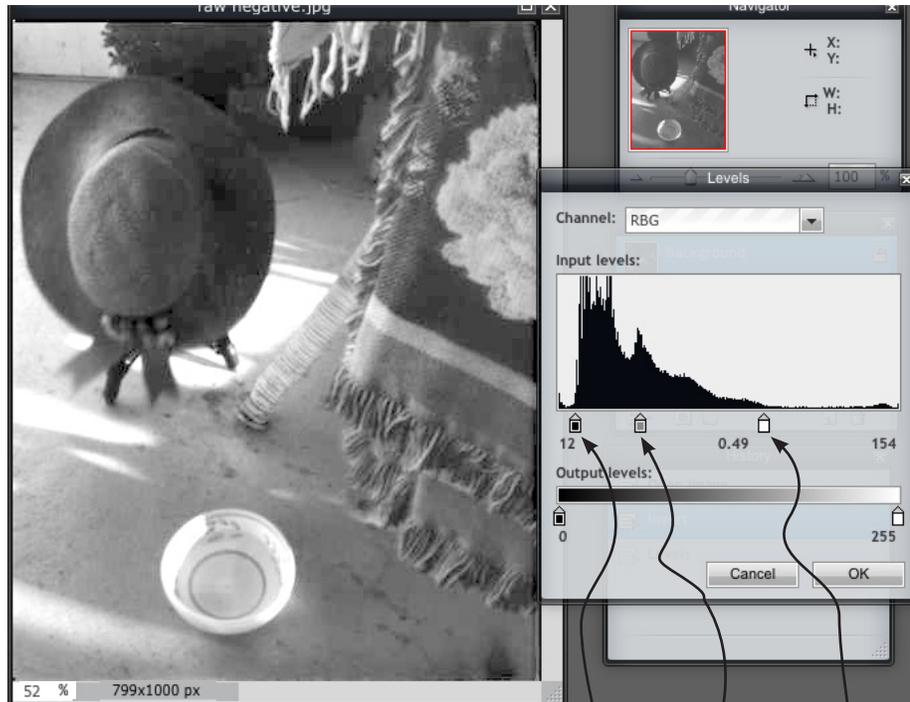
From the **Adjustments** menu, select **Levels.**

This will bring up a graph of the distribution of tones in your image, which has three adjustment controls at the bottom of the graph, which can reset the blackest thing in the image, the whitest thing in the image, and can adjust the distributions of the middle tones.

Every image will have a different distribution and will need different adjustments (or maybe none at all).

Black point

Mid point

White point

Drag the black slider in to the blackest part of the graph and the white slider to whitest part of the graph. Then move the middle point back and forth until you think the image looks best. Moving the mid point to the right darkens the image and moving it to the left. lightens the image.

In my image I had to make much more of an adjustment on the white side than on the black, and then had to move the middle to lighten the overall image.
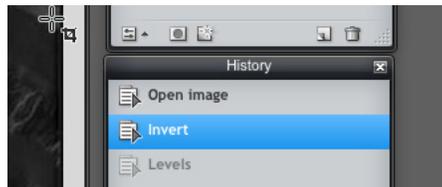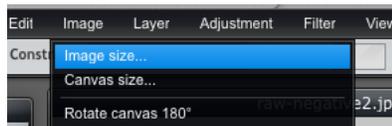
Take some time and play around with these adjustments.

When you are satisfied with the new appearance, click **OK**.

If you're not happy after clicking OK, rather than doing it again, go back a step in the **History** *window and then try again.*

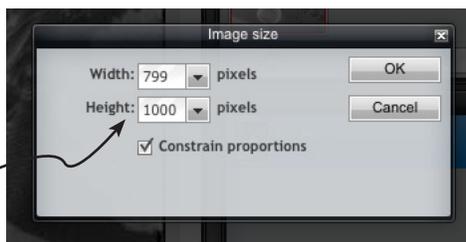*Adjusted Black point* *Adjusted Mid point* *Adjusted White point*

Making your image the right size for the WPPD Gallery

From the **Image** menu, select **Image Size**

The maximum size allowed for the WPPD gallery is 700 pixels in the largest dimension, Make sure **Constrain proportions** is checked and replace the *larger* number with *700* pixels,
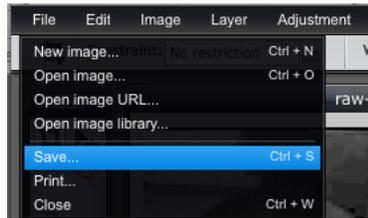
Click **OK**

Maximum size for pictures of your camera is 500 pixels.

If your image file is already smaller that 700 pixels that's OK, but you may have scanned the image at too small a size and you may want to rescan so it appears larger in the gallery.

The controls for every scanner are a little different. See *http://idea.uwosh.edu/nick/DigitalImaging.pdf*, page 17-23 for a discussion of scanner controls.

Saving your file for the WPPD gallery

From the **File** menu, select **Save.**

In the **Name** field, to make sure you don't overwrite your original image file, change the name slightly.

From the **Format** menu, make sure **JPEG** is selected.

Drag the **Quality** slider to the left until the file **Size** is below 100K.

Most images will show no decrease in quality down to about a Quality setting of 30

Click **OK**

That will open a standard file dialogue box. Take note of where you're saving the file and click Save, and then upload the file to the WPPD gallery using the form on the WPPD web site *http://www.pinholeday.org.*

There are many other adjustments in Pixlr such as color balance and retouching of dust and emulsion flaws.