

Approved by Director: Dr. Guy Vallaro

Purpose: To enhance digital images for comparison purposes.

Responsibility: Imprint Examiners

Safety: All proper personal protection equipment will be used as appropriate.

Procedure:

A. Enhancement of Images

1. All images received by the Imprints section as evidence will be copied onto the hard drive of the Imprint Unit's computer. An additional copy of the images will be made for viewing, enhancement and comparison purposes.
2. Image enhancement will only be performed on a copy file, which has been made from the original file. The original image is never touched.
3. The history of any enhancement is maintained for each image that is enhanced.
4. The following tools are among those that can be used to enhance an image. This is not an all inclusive list of tools that may be used.
 - Color channels
 - Curves
 - Levels
 - Brightness/Contrast
 - Hue/Saturation
 - Calculations
 - Dodge
 - Burn
 - Filters
 - Resizing/Cropping
 - Positive to Negative Inversion
 - Conversion to Grayscale
 - Color Balancing/Color Correction
 - File Format Conversion
 - FFT
 - DeBlurr
 - Noise Reduction
 - Sharpening Tools

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5. The examiner will never use tools that can clone, copy or add pixels to the same image.
6. All steps of the digital processing/enhancement will be recorded in the case file.

Sources of Error: N/A

Quality Assurance: N/A

References: See bibliography.

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