PSE.NET Technique Tutorial

This technique does not draw easy parallels from the world of traditional photography. Until digital came along it was not possible, at least not without a lot of professional smoke and mirrors, to change the vibrancy of the color in one part of the picture whilst maintaining or even boosting it in another part. It certainly wasn't an easy job to combine both black and white and full color in a single picture.

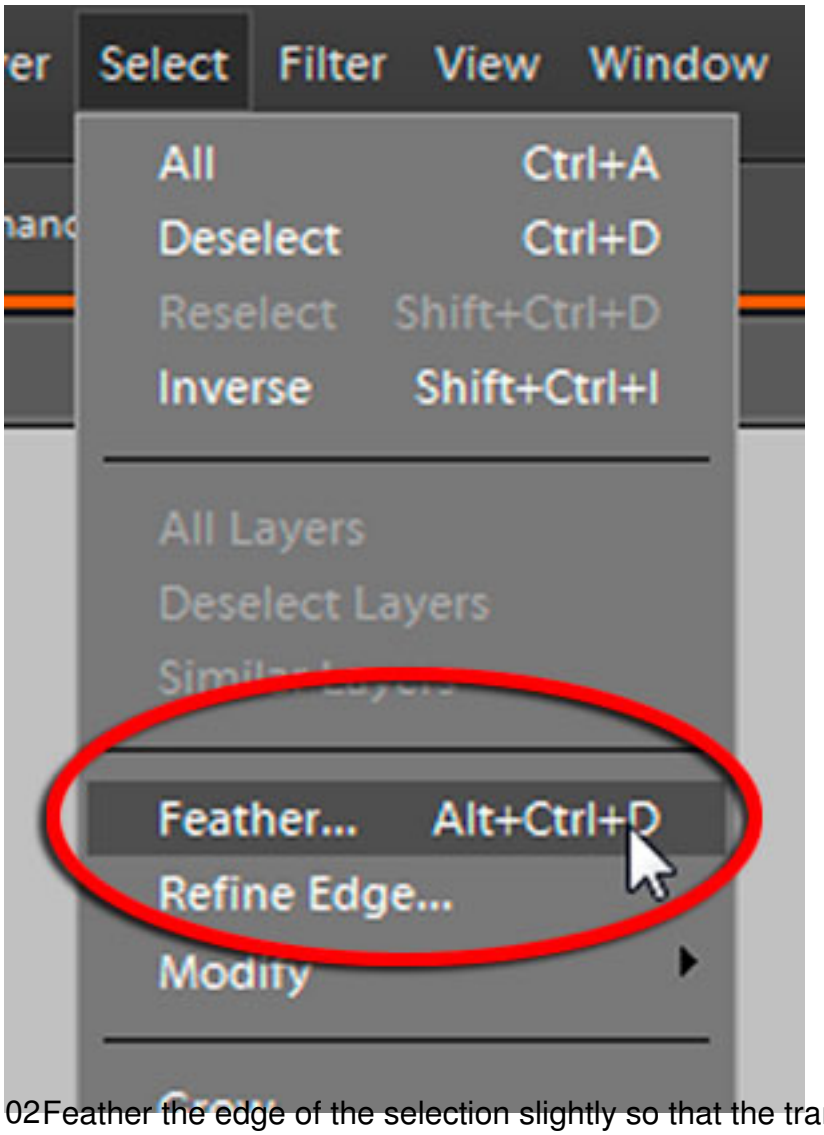
The Hue/Saturation feature has removed such limitations forever. When this tool is combined with a carefully created (and feathered) selection it is possible to desaturate one part of the picture and then, using an inverted selection, increase the saturation of the rest. Like dodging and burning this technique can direct the viewer's interest to a part of the picture that the photographer deems important. In fact it is when these two techniques, dodging and burning and saturation/desaturation, are used in tandem that the desktop photographer can really start to create some dramatic pictures.

In the example image the clown's head was selected using a combination of the Magnetic and standard Lasso tools. Once completed the selection was feathered slightly (1–2 pixels) (Select > Feather) to soften the transition of the effect and saved (Select > Save Selection). With the selection still active the Hue/Saturation feature was opened and the color vibrancy of the clown increased by moving the Saturation slider to the right. To add more contrast, the selection was then inverted (Select > Inverse) and the saturation of the background was decreased almost to the point of just being black and white. An alternative way of working this technique is to create masked Hue/Saturation adjustment layers using the saved selection. This would allow you to readjust the amount of saturation and desaturation at any point later in time and would keep the original picture intact.

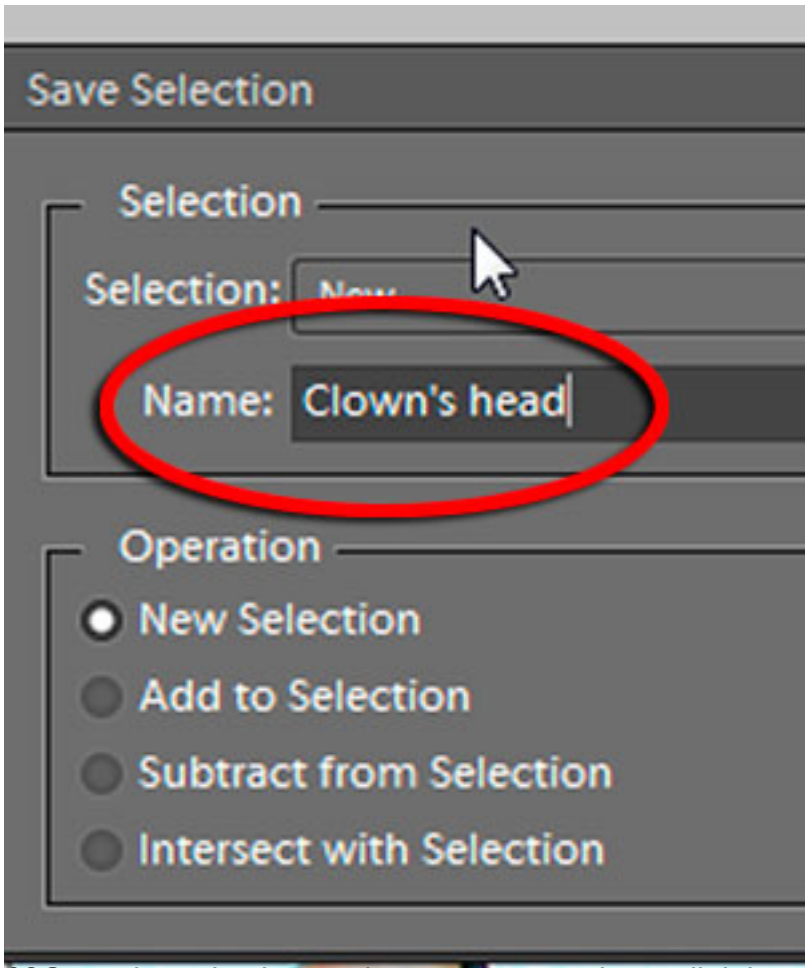
Step by Step:

Use these steps to add saturation to parts of your image.

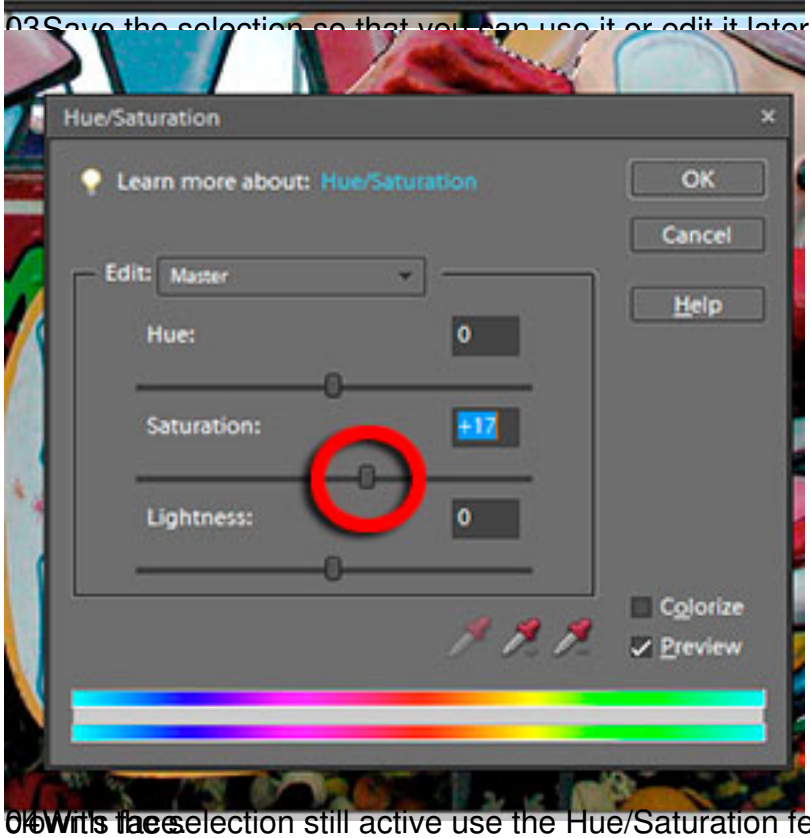
01 Carefully select the area to saturate/desaturate using your favorite selection tools.



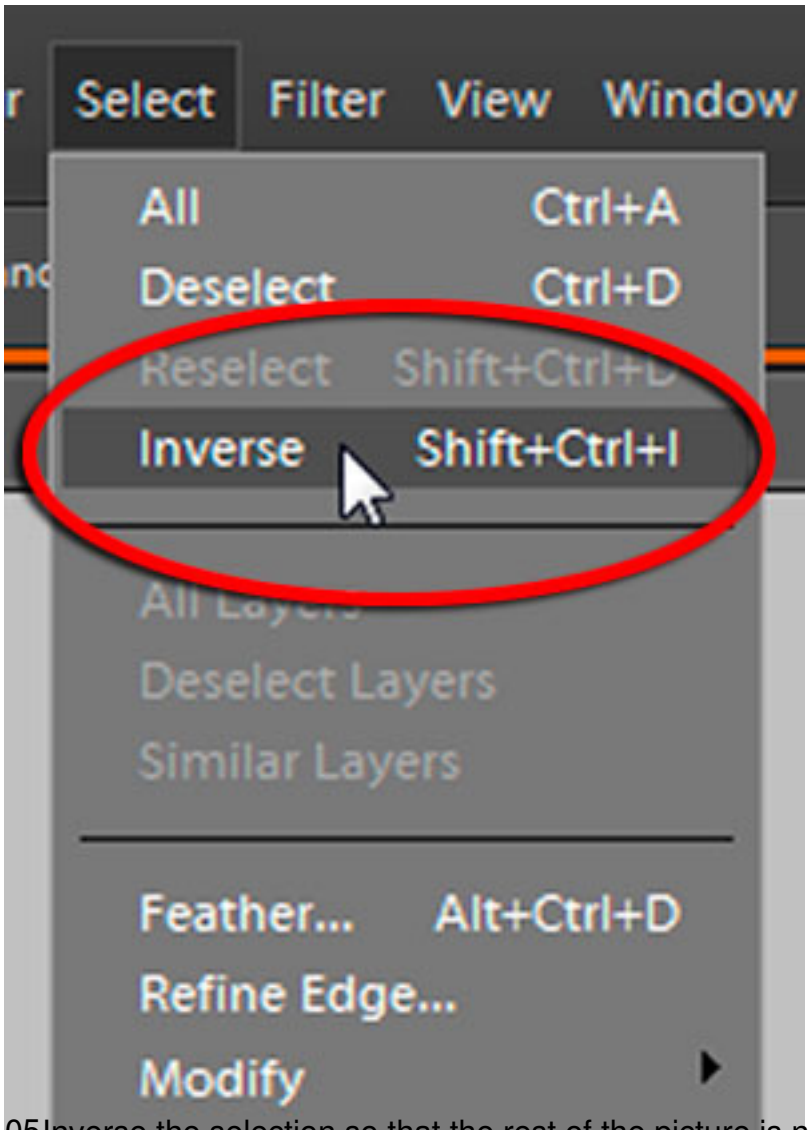
02Feather the edge of the selection slightly so that the transition will be smoother.



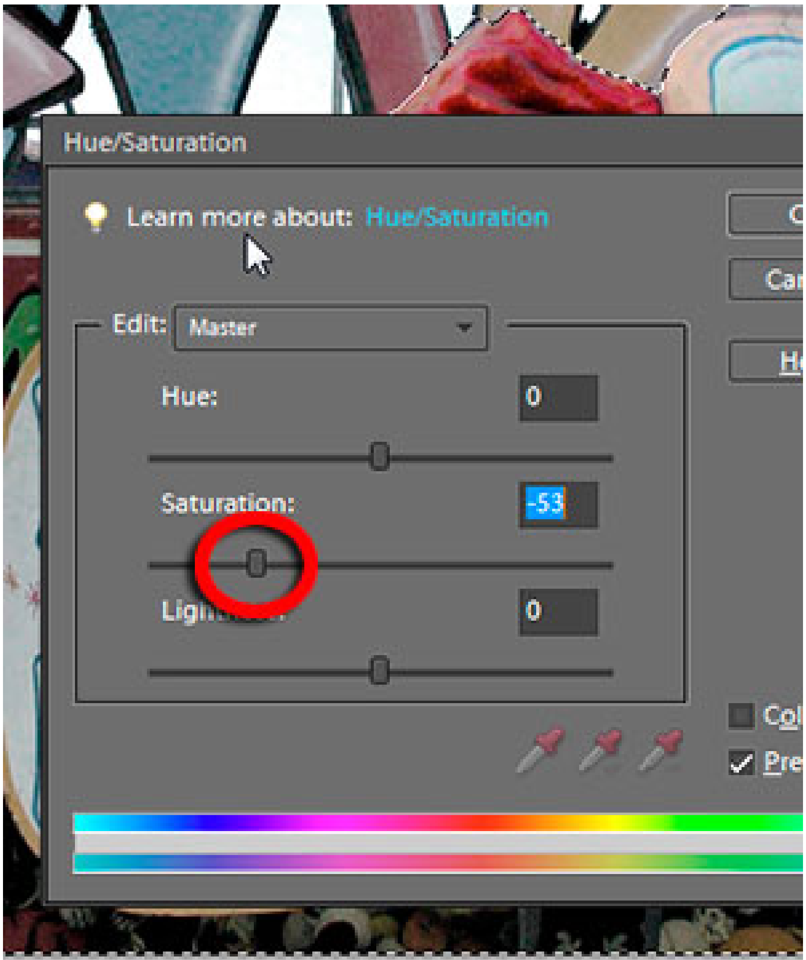
03 Save the selection so that you can use it or edit it later.



04 With the selection still active use the Hue/Saturation feature to increase the saturation of the clown's face.



05Inverse the selection so that the rest of the picture is now selected.



9. Adjust the Hue/Saturation slider to decrease the saturation and provide color contrast between

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