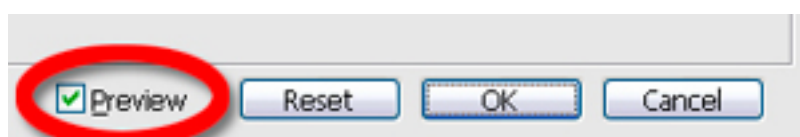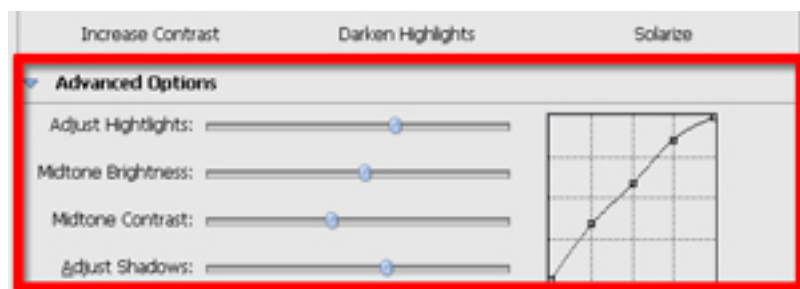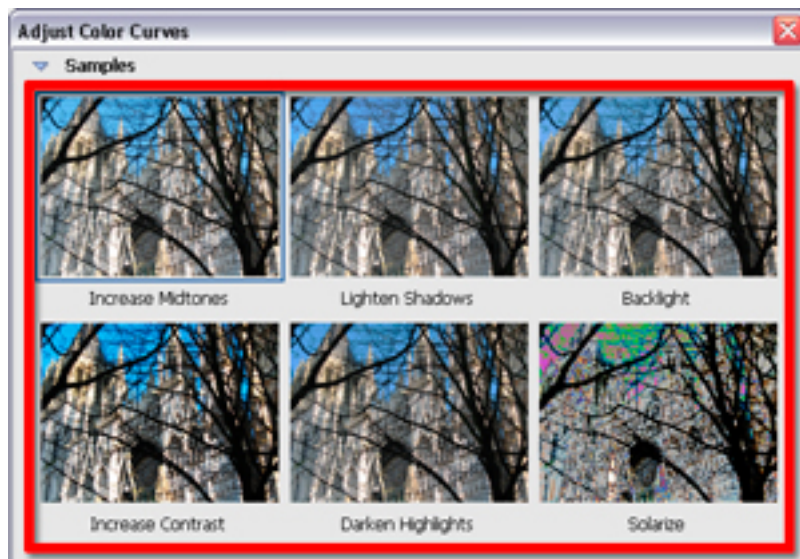## PSE.NET Tips 'n' Tricks

The Adjust Color Curves option provides another way that you can alter the brightness and contrast in your photo. Unlike the very basic Brightness/Contrast control, Adjust Color Curves provides separate controls for altering the brightness of highlights, shadows and midtones as well as a single slider for changing midtone contrast.The feature is divided into two different sections - Samples and Advanced Options. Each section can be opened or closed by clicking the small triangle next to the section heading in the dialog.

The **Samples** area contains six thumbnail previews of your photo with standard enhancement changes applied. Clicking on a thumbnail will apply the adjustment to your photo. With the Preview option selected you will be able to see the tonal changes on the full image.
The **Advanced Options** section contains four slider controls plus a curves graph that plots the tonal relationships in the picture. Whereas the Samples thumbnails provided a one-click adjustment the controls here allow multiple, additive, fine-tuning changes.
The best approach is to apply a thumbnail version of the change that you are requiring first, e.g. Lighten Shadows, and then fine-tune the results with the sliders in the Advanced Options section. Pressing the Reset button restores the dialog's control to zero and then applies the values for the Increase Midtones option. Also holding down the Shift key changes the direction of the Highlight and Shadow adjustment.

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