

Composing Curves

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What is composition

The idea behind composing two curves is to create a new curve whose effect is like applying the first curve to produce a temporary image and then applying the second curve to that temporary image.

How you do it

- 1) *Load* the second curve via the *Opt* button in the Curve control
- 2) *Compose With* the first curve via the *Opt* button in the Curve control

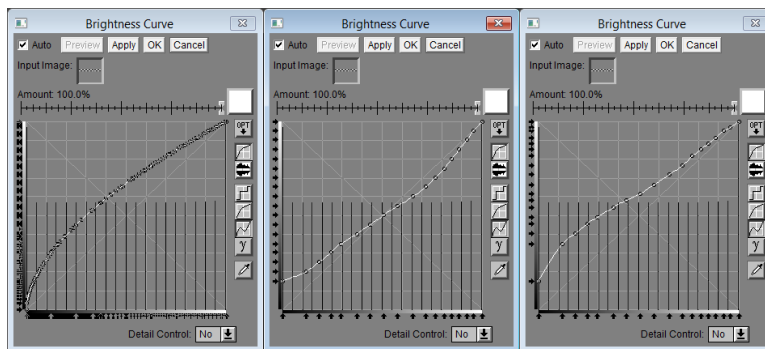
This adjusts all the control points in the second curve according to the first curve. Note that the final curve always has the same number of points and style as the second curve, regardless of the number of points in the first curve or its style. To compose the two curves in the other order, simply start by loading the first curve and then compose with the second curve.

Motivation

An example of composing two curves might come up if you have a standard curve you apply to images before printing them to lighten them a little. If you have a second curve that adjusts the brightness in some other way such as increasing the contrast, then the *Compose With* option in the Curve control lets you combine these curves into a single curve that first adjusts the brightness and then the contrast. The resulting curve can then be used as a printer curve.

Example

In the example below, the first curve lightens the image, mostly in the shadow areas. The second curve applies a calibration for an alternative printing process. The composed curve lightens the image and then applies the calibration in a single step.



Curve 1

Curve 2

Curve 1
composed with
Curve 2