

Spots of colour in a black and white photo

We would like to convert a colour picture to black and white, while keeping part of it in colour. Here is the image to be converted (it is on Flickr : https://www.flickr.com/photos/pierre_et_nelly/30975488291/) :



The aim is to convert this image to black and white while maintaining the red colour of the roses.

Procedure



To do that, you must be in the *Photo Persona*. If not, click on the Persona icon at the top left corner of the Affinity Photo window (see figure beside).

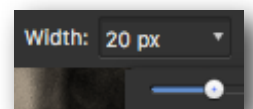
The best option is to use the **Selection Brush Tool** (see figure below). By default, it is just below the *Crop Tool* in the vertical tool bar at left on the Affinity Photo window. Do not mix it with the *Paint Brush Tool* or the *Paint Mixer Brush* which are lower on the tool bar.



Click on the Selection Brush Tool icon. The mouse pointer then looks like a circle.

To select an area of the photo, go over it with the mouse pointer, click and hold down the mouse button. Then, hover over the area.

Do not bleed over the edge of the area to be selected. The **Width** option (see figure beside) has a tiny white arrow. Clicking on it allows you to set the circle's diameter. That option is in the option bar at the top of the Affinity Photo window.



The selected area is created semi-automatically. A dotted line follows its edge.

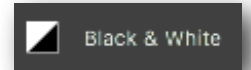
At any time, it is possible to release the mouse button and select an additional area.

Most of the time, it works well, but sometimes the edge is created in the wrong place. That being the case, you can remove the offending area by holding down both the **Alt** key and the mouse button while hovering over the area with the pointer. It is possible to correct the edge of the selected areas as many times as you like. It is also possible to cancel the last performed action with the key combinations **⌘-Z** under Mac OS and **Ctrl-Z** under Windows.

Once this is done, click on the **Invert selection** icon at the top of the Affinity Photo window (see figure beside). This selects the part of the image you need to convert to black and white.



Then, click on the **Black & White** option in the *Adjustment* tab on the right side of the Affinity Photo window (see figure beside).



The selected area switches to black and white straight away.

At the same time, a window appears with six sliders (see figure below). It will allow you to improve the rendering of greys.

These cursors mimic the action of the colour filters photographers used at the time of the argentic film.

Here, the red filter was decreased to 10%, the yellow one to -20% and the green one to 0%. Other settings were left as they were.

Obviously, it is a matter of taste and style. You can test these settings and their combinations until you get the result you like best.

Below is the end result (it is also on Flickr : https://www.flickr.com/photos/pierre_et_nelly/32393044551/).

