Converting Color to Black & White

The Black & White command lets you convert a color image to grayscale while maintaining full control over how individual colors are converted. You can also tint the grayscale by applying a color tone to the image, for example to create a sepia effect.

Black & White functions like the Channel Mixer, which also converts color images to monochrome while allowing you to adjust color channel input. Unlike the Channel Mixer which utilizes the Red, Green & Blue channels to create high-quality grayscale images by choosing the percentage for each color channel, the Black & White command has a far greater color representation of what is contributing to the black and white version of the image.



You can try various presets created by the Photoshop development team as a starting point on your images - indicated by the red circle. If you wish to use your own settings, save your preset to apply to another image.

Since the Black & White command is also available as an Adjustment Layer, you can apply this effect non-destructively.

Channel Mixer				
Preset: Custom		;	ОК	
Output Channel: Gray	•		Cancel	
Source Channels			Preview	
Red:		+40 %		
Green:		+59 %		
Blue:		+20 %		
Total:		▲ +119 %		
Constant:		0 %		

Hu	e/Saturation	
Edit: Master)	ОК
Hue:	0	Cancel
Saturation:	-100	Load Save
Lightness:	0	
	J H I	Colorize

Before the Black & White command was added in Photoshop CS3, the best way to create a Black & White image from a color one was to use Channel Mixer.

Another option is to simply apply a Hue/Saturation adjustment and remove the color from the image by taking the Saturation down to –100. All of these methods can be done non-destructively as an Adjustment Layer.