A Beginners Guide to Photo Editing with Snapseed
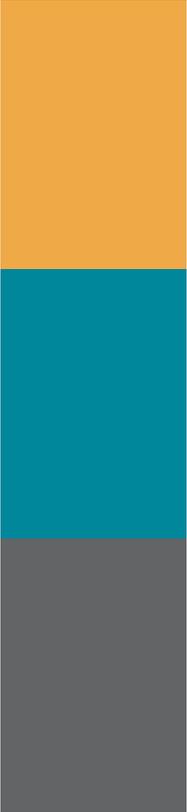
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INTRO

Now that you are beginning to learn how to take photos with your phone. There is so much to take in, taking photos, composition, and editing. It is hard to know where to start. This ebook will introduce you to the App Snapseed. It is one of the most used editing apps for mobile photography and is very easy to use. In the beginning don't worry about learning everything. Just focus on a few simple steps to automatically edit your photos.

Now let's discuss what photo editing. Photos since the 1860's have been edited to improve the image. This was done by hand with negatives in the past. In the 1980's Adobe Photoshop was created to help photographers and designers improve their images. Recently in 2011 the first photo editing apps on the phone were created. Now you can edit any photo on your phone and create photoshop quality edits.

Snapseed was created in 2011 and only had a few filters when the app came out. It was quickly purchased by Google in 2012. It is considered one of the top 100 apps for Android in 2019 by PC Magazine. Snapseed is widely used to create simple auto edits to advanced image editing.

In chapter 1 you'll discover how to use quick editing tools to create impressive photos in no time. We will discuss how to start editing, to add looks, auto edit and how to view edits and how to save a photo. Take a moment to get your phone out and download the editing app Snapseed and come learn with us.

Chapter One

HOW TO OPEN AND EDIT AN IMAGE

There are two ways to open an image in Snapseed. When you first open the app, tap on the plus icon or anywhere to open the image. Next, you can choose which image you would like to open. You can choose from Open from Device, Camera, and Open Latest Image. Often, the best option is to choose "open from device" and then you can choose from any photo on your phone. Then tap on the photo you would like to open in the editing app Snapseed.
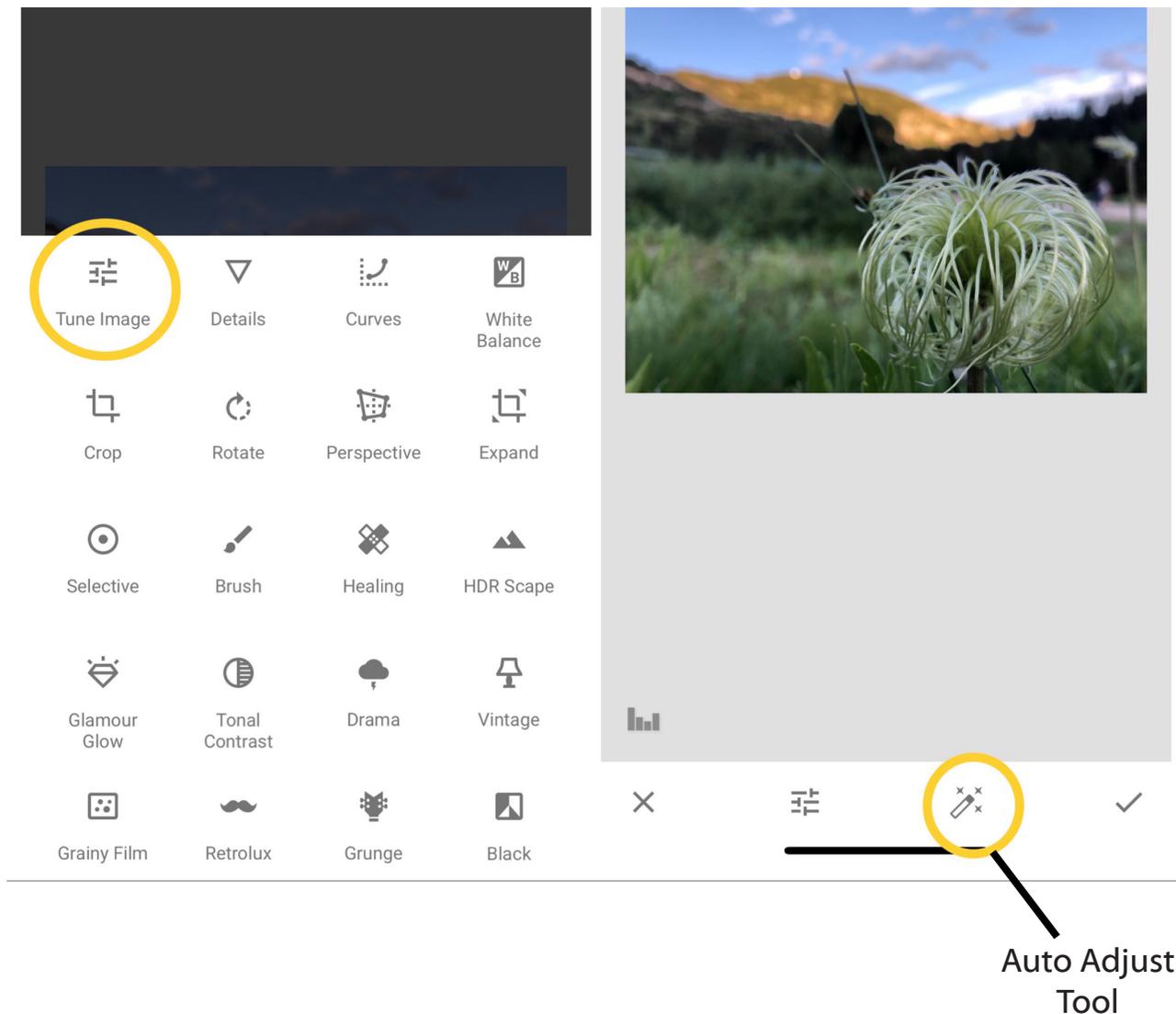

Looks

There are two editing options you can choose from, Looks or Tools. To quickly edit an image, "looks" is the best way to instantly adjust your image with different filters. Tap on the looks options to see the different options of looks you can instantly add to your image. Press down on the center of the image to see the original image. The last step is to tap on the check mark if you are satisfied with the picture.

Tools

The tools feature in the Snapseed editing app has many editing options, filters, and advanced settings. Here are some very simple steps to edit quickly. The first step is to focus on learning how to Auto adjust the image. When you feel comfortable, you can learn more advanced editing tools.
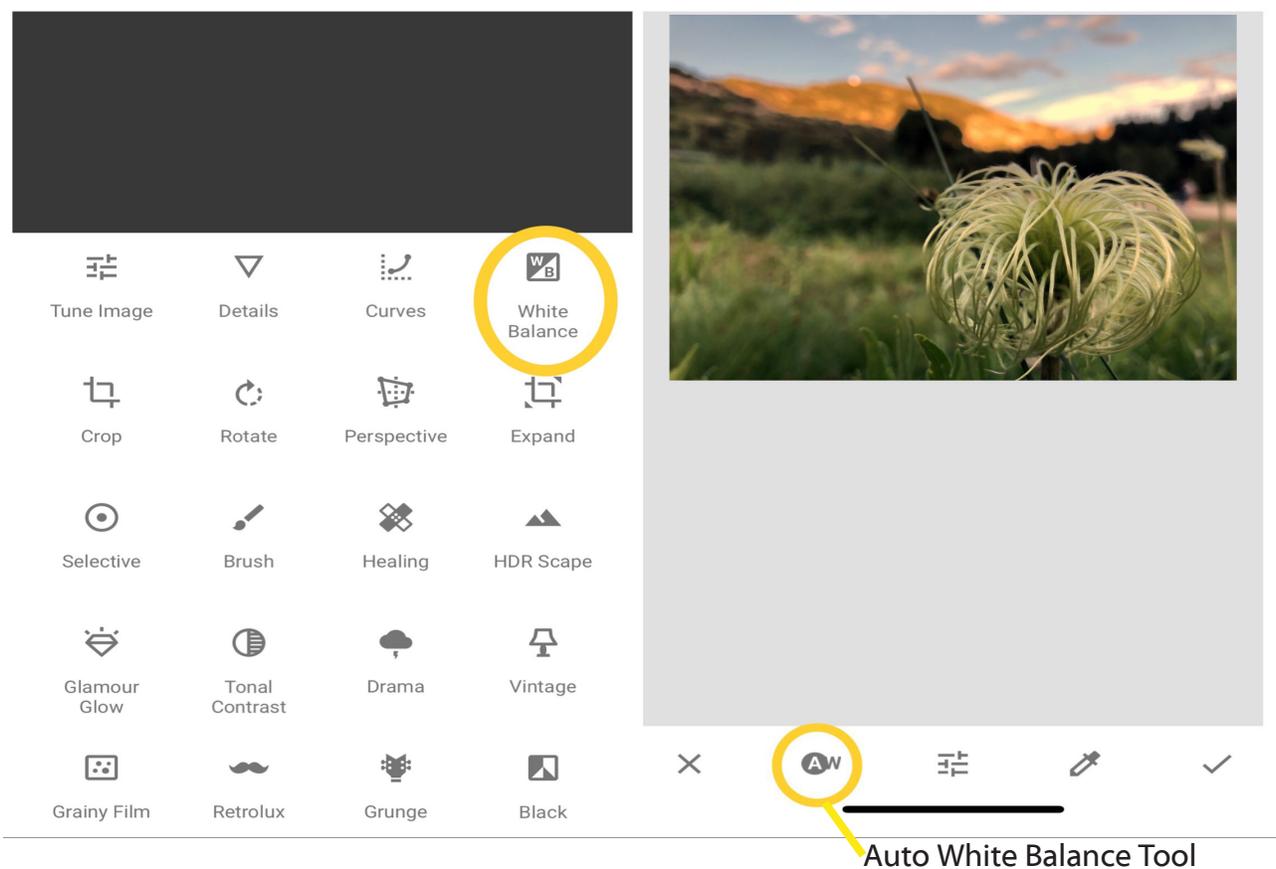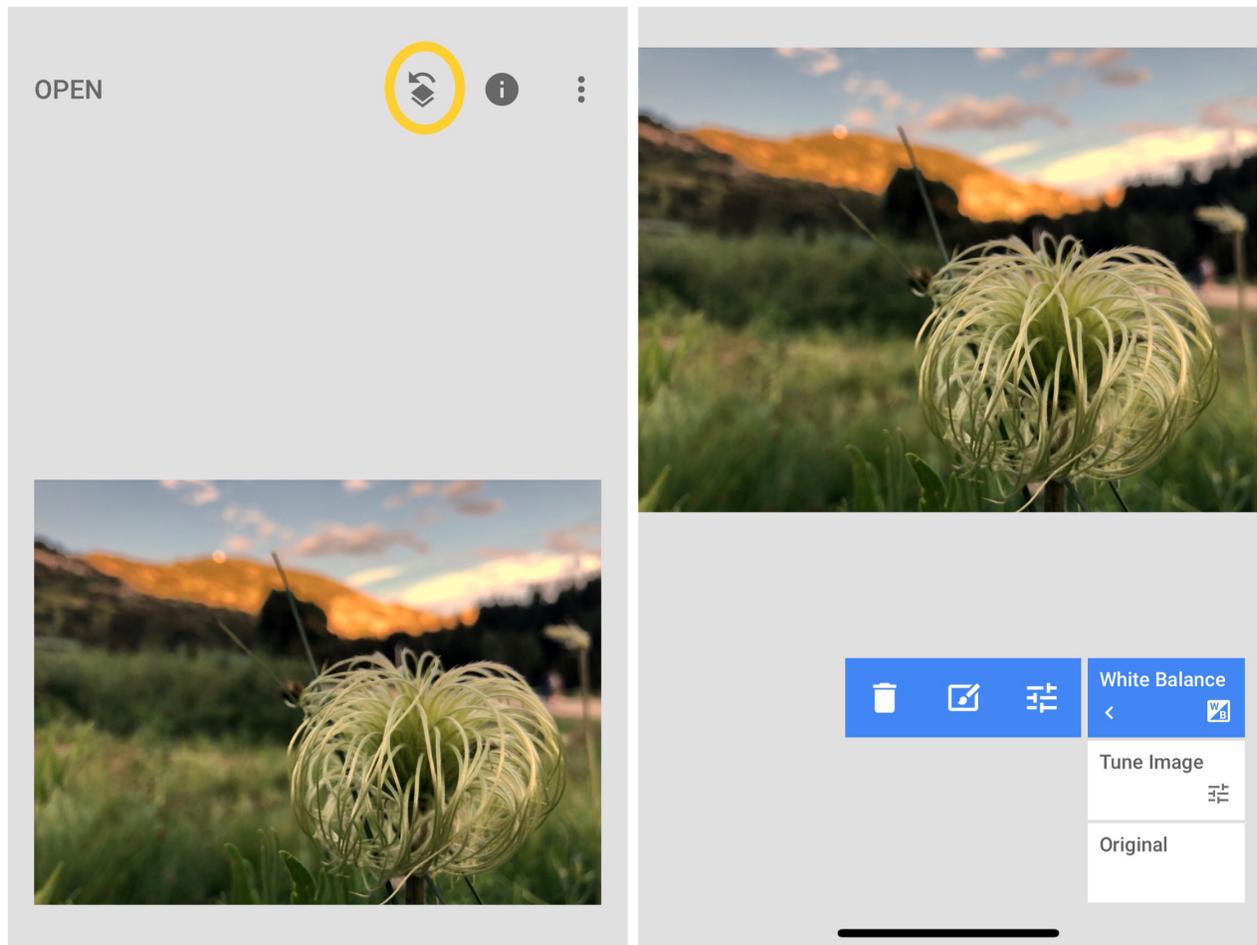
Tune Image	Details	Curves	White Balance
Crop	Rotate	Perspective	Expand
Selective	Brush	Healing	HDR Scape
Glamour Glow	Tonal Contrast	Drama	Vintage
Grainy Film	Retrolux	Grunge	Black

Auto Adjust Tool

Auto Adjust

To auto adjust an image, begin by tapping on the tune image option. There are many settings in the "tune image" menu. First, we are going to focus on auto adjusting. To auto adjust an image, tap on the magic wand tool on the bottom menu. Once you tap on the magic wand tool, it will adjust the image by increasing or decreasing the brightness, contrast, and shadows instantly. Within a few seconds you're almost done editing your photo.
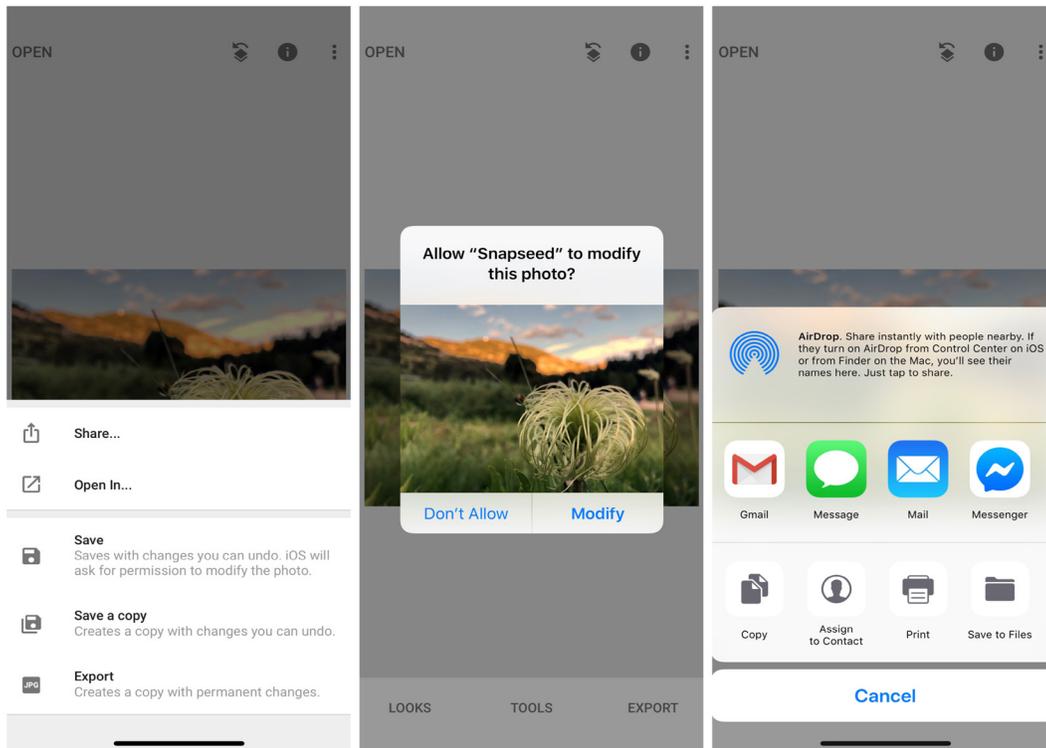
Auto White Balance

The last step to quickly editing your photos in Snapseed, is to use automatically adjust the white balance. To do this, tap on your tools option and open White Balance. In the menu bar on the bottom, tap on the first option this is called the AW button or auto white balance button. Tap on the AW button to instantly adjust the white blance. Your image may brighten or darken creating a better look. Tap on the check-mark when you are satisfied with your image.

Auto White Balance Tool

View And Change Edits

One of the best features in the Snapseed editing app is the option to View Edits and adjust them like layers in Photoshop. Tap on the layer icon with an arrow icon on the top navigation bar. Then tap on view edits. Up pops a list of all the edits you made. Tap on each edit to toggle through the edits you made. Press on the arrow on the left side to open the editing options for that filter. You can choose to delete the filter, add that filter with a paint brush to specific areas or edit the image again. This is a way to prevent over editing and make little changes to your image.
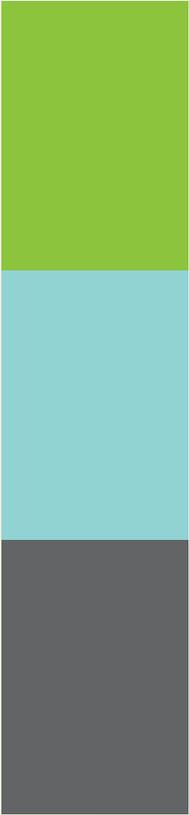
Saving and Exporting Your Image

The last step for quickly editing photos in the Snapeed editing app is to save and export your photo. Tap on Export on the bottom menu to open the saving settings. You can choose from five saving settings so it can be confusing to choose the best one. The first option is to share the image. Use this filter if you want to instantly share to social media or to text or email the image to a friend.

Next, you can choose to open the image in a different app. This is great if you want to continue editing in another app like Lightroom Mobile. The next option is Save. This option saves over the original image but you can go back and undo the image if you change. I don't recommend saving it just undersave because it is better to have the original image and a copy to edit in the future.

Tap on save a copy to create a copy with edits that you can go back and change in the future. Lastly, if you are finished editing your photo and don't think you will make changes you can export a jpg with permanent changes. Exporting an image is good for sharing. When you tap on any of the saving options the image will be saved in the photo gallery on your phone under an album called Snapseed.
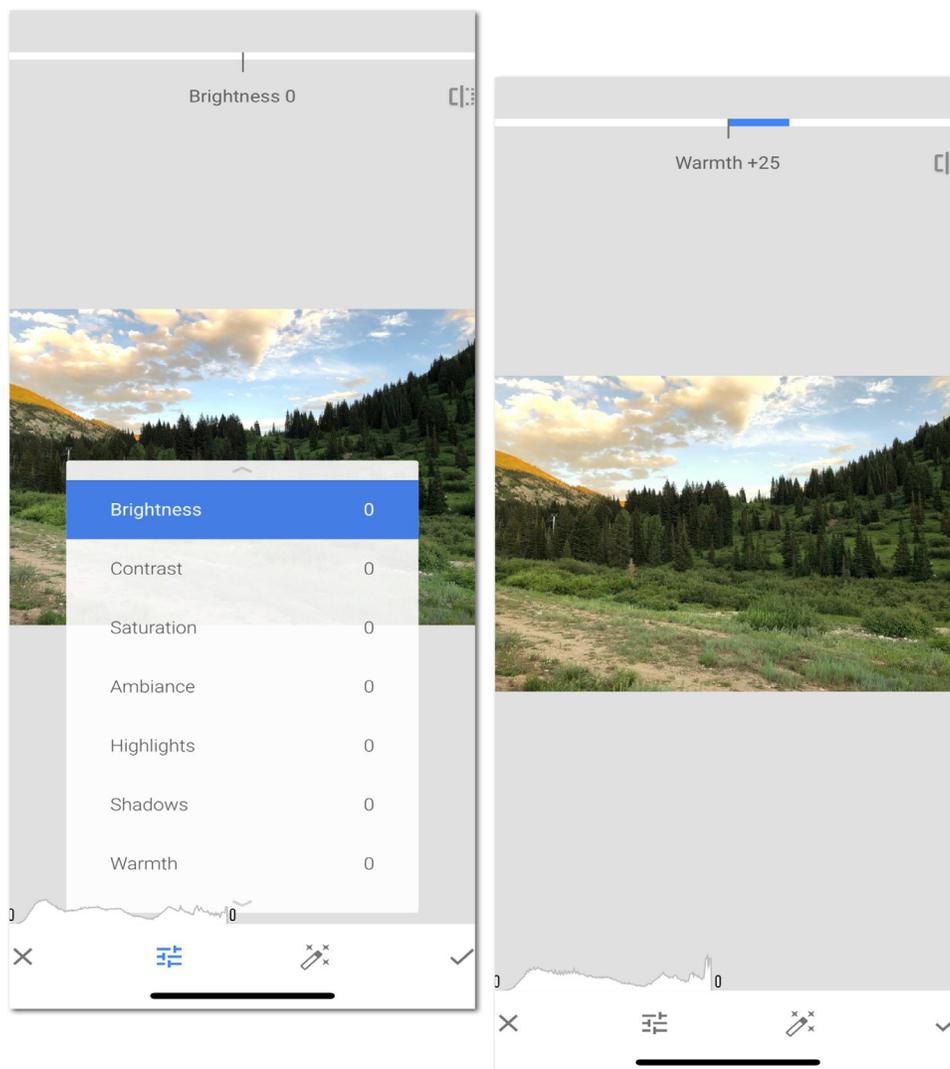
Chapter Two

SNAPSEED TOOLS

Once you know how to quickly edit an image using the auto settings then you can begin learning how to use the Snapseed tools. The tools include tuning an image by adjusting the brightness and contrast. You'll also learn about white balance and curves. It may take time to master these editing tools so don't worry if it seems confusing now. As you practice you will begin to understand how the apps work. We will walk you through how to use some of the main tools in Snapseed. This tutorial will go through how to edit an image to add details, curves, and white balance.
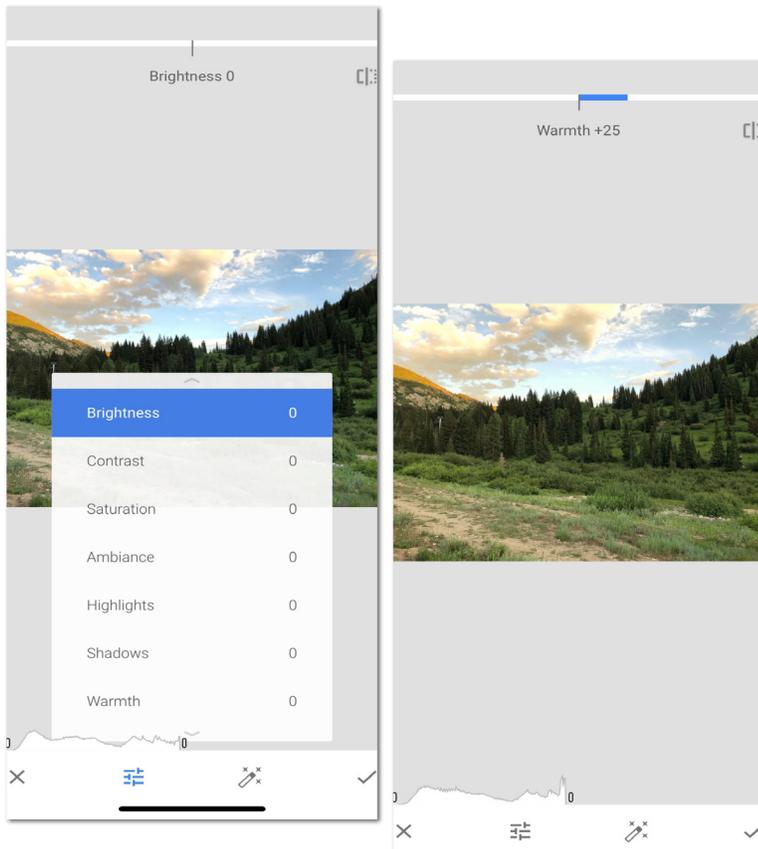
Tune Image

The first step to editing an image in Snapseed is to tune the image. You can enhance the overall appearance and quality of the image. The first icon is a graph looking icon on the lower left side of the image, tap this to show a histogram. The next editing tool is settings which includes adjusting the brightness, contrast, saturation, ambience, highlights, shadows, and warmth. The magic wand tool is auto correction. Lastly, tap the check mark button when you are done editing the image. Here is a detailed explanation about the editing features.

Tune Image Settings

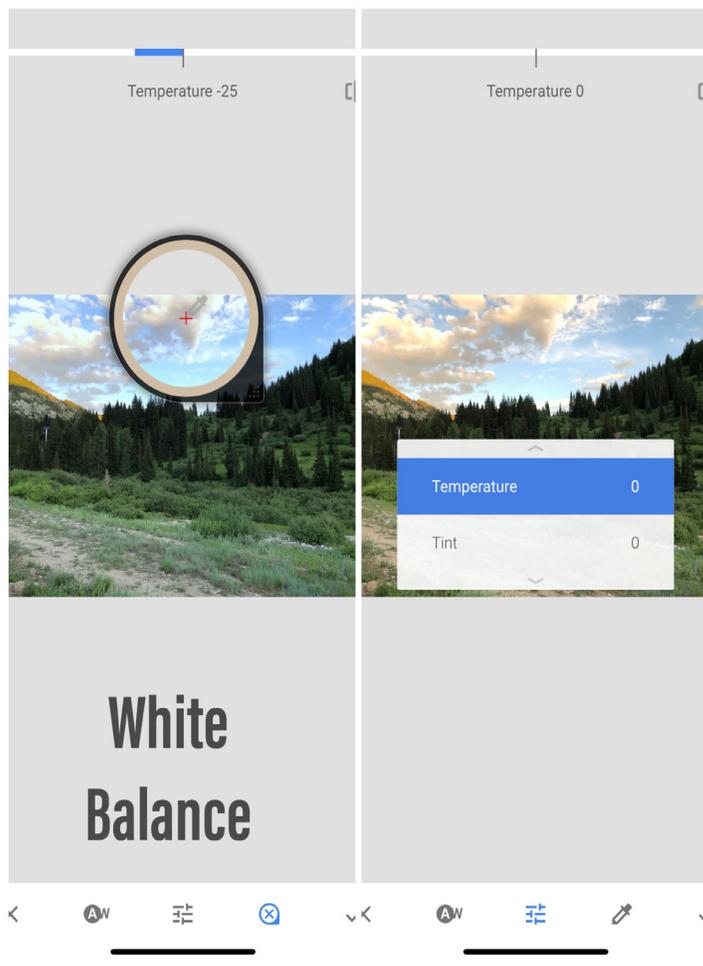|	
Brightness-	The brightness is exposure of the image. You can increase or decrease the light in the image by sliding right or left.
Contrast-	This is the color contrast and refers to the difference in tone throughout the image. The goal is to have a balance of contrast throughout the image. If there are any harsh shadows then adjust the contrast till the shadows are even.
Saturation-	The intensity or vibrancy of the hue or the color, to increase the intensity slide to the right. To quickly create a black and white image you can slide the saturation to "0".
Ambiance-	Controls the balance of light in throughout the image. If an image is back-lit then increasing the ambiance can create balance throughout the photo. Slide right if the subject is darker than the background. This will increase the light on the subject. To make dark images more defined and stand out, slide left to decrease the contrast. If your image is slightly flat, this feature will add flare.
Highlights-	The bright features in an image. If an image is dark you can quickly improve the image by increasing the highlights.
Shadows-	Easily can be adjusted by sliding right or left. Try to use this feature to create balanced shadows on subjects.
Warmth-	Color theory has both warm and cool tones. A cloudy sky will create an image that naturally has cool tones. This often looks unrealistic. Therefore, adjust the warmth of your shot by sliding left and right.

Details Tool

To make the subject stand out adjust the details. Swipe down to select between structure or sharpening. Swipe left or right to adjust the image. Structure increases the amount of detail in an image. Sharpening increases the amount of sharpness in the small details of the image.

This includes adjusting the structure and sharpening. If your image is slightly flat or out of focus, these features can increase the detail and texture of the image.
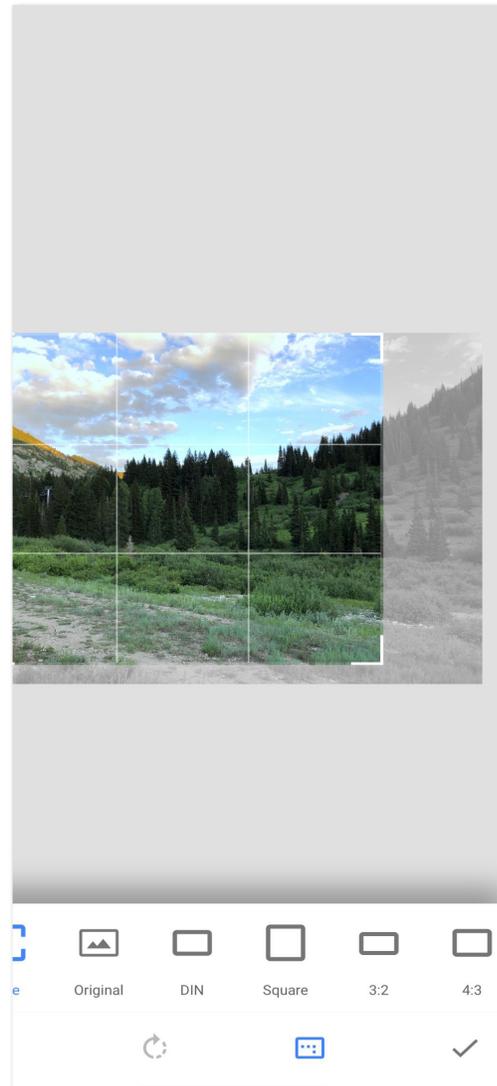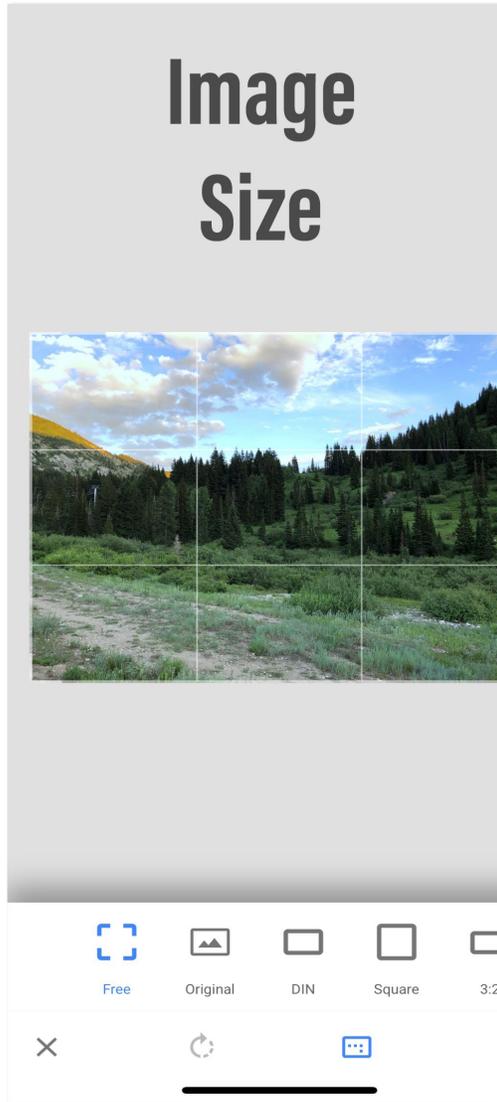
Using Curves

Learning how to use the curve tool may take some time but it is a very important Snapseed tool. The curve tool allows you to adjust the exposure, light, and tone of the image . You can manually adjust and manipulate different parts of the image. When you drag down the line it decreases the exposure. When you drag up the line it increases the exposure. The curve is divided into three sections, the bottom adjusts the shadows, the middle 1/3 alters the mid tones, and the top adjusts the highlights. To add contrast, alter the three sections in curve to create a "S." Snapseed is the best app for photo editing because you can quickly edit curves on and mobile image.

In real life when we walk into different light scenarios color changes depending on the light of where we are. Our eyes have an amazing ability to adjust to different light situations. Mobile phone camera technology does a pretty good job at adjusting the light in different situations, but sometimes you will need to manually adjust for white balance. You can easily do this in Snapseed tools by tapping on the white balance feature. Then you can adjust the temperature and tint of the image. This will make the color more real to the actual scene. Temperature is a measure of the light's color on the image. Depending on the time of day or light-bulb the color temperature of light is different. If it is a cloudy day your image may appear more blue so you my need to adjust the temperature to add a warm tone.

The next step is to edit the tint. Tint is the mixture of color with white. You can adjust the tint to fix a color overlay or cast that may not look right. Use tint to change the mood in the image. A positive tint will make the image look purple and a negative tint will look green.
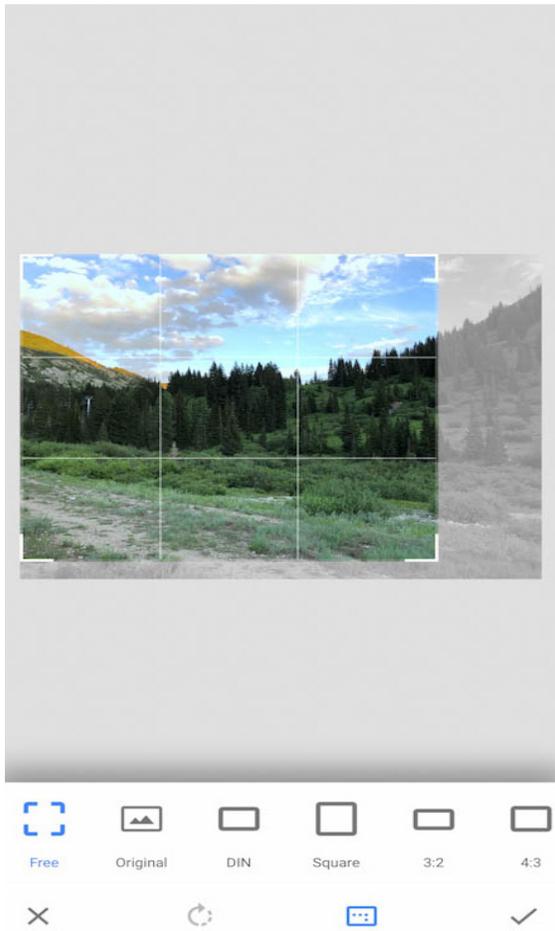
Adjust the Image Size

Altering the image is often what is necessary to create a great shot. You can easily crop, rotate, adjust the perspective, and expand the image. These are simple edits that can be made at any time. Having these tools easily accessible makes Snapseed the best app for photo editing.

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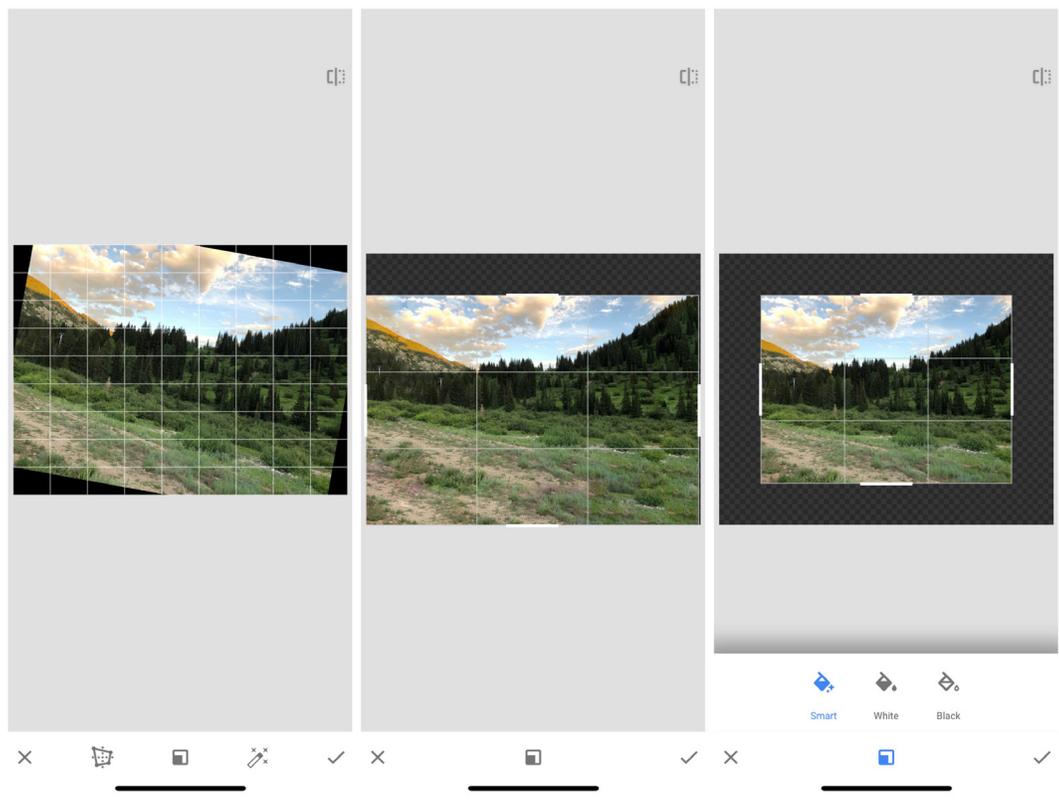
Crop

Cropping is easy and any image can be cropped, but if you are using it on social media or other places, it is nice to know what the cropping ratios mean.

Free	Original	DIN	Square	3:2	4:3

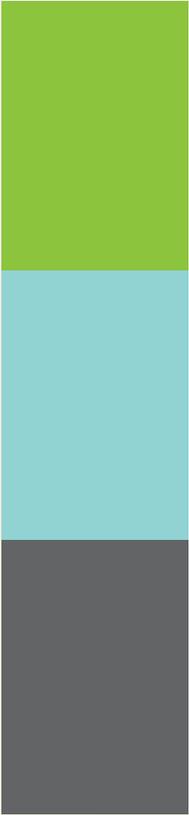| **Free-**	Where you can set the aspect ratio top to bottom or right to left. Your image can be any ratio.
Original-	The ratio based on what the original image was taken in.
1:1-	This ratio will create a square image.
DIN-	The European standard for aspect ratios (Example A4, A3, etc.)
3.2-	The aspect ratio that is usually used with DSLR Cameras
4:3-	The ratio that is often used for screen and video
5:4-	The ratio which is used for many US page sizes. This works well for 8x10, or 16x20 page sizes
16:9-	The aspect ratio that is used for most video and TV displays

Rotate, Perspective and Expand

The last Snapseed tools that I will cover in this chapter are rotate, perspective, and expand. The rotate feature makes it easy to switch an image from vertical or horizontal, you can also mirror the image. Easily adjust slanted lines by sliding left or right to straighten the image by degrees. Next,use perspective to change the tilt, rotate, scale or free to alter the view of the image. Perspective provides many creative editing possibilities for your shot. If the image background was not large enough, just tap on Expand to digitally expand the image. The expand feature may look digitally manufactured due to the nature of the filter. I recommend using the expand feature in very rare instances.
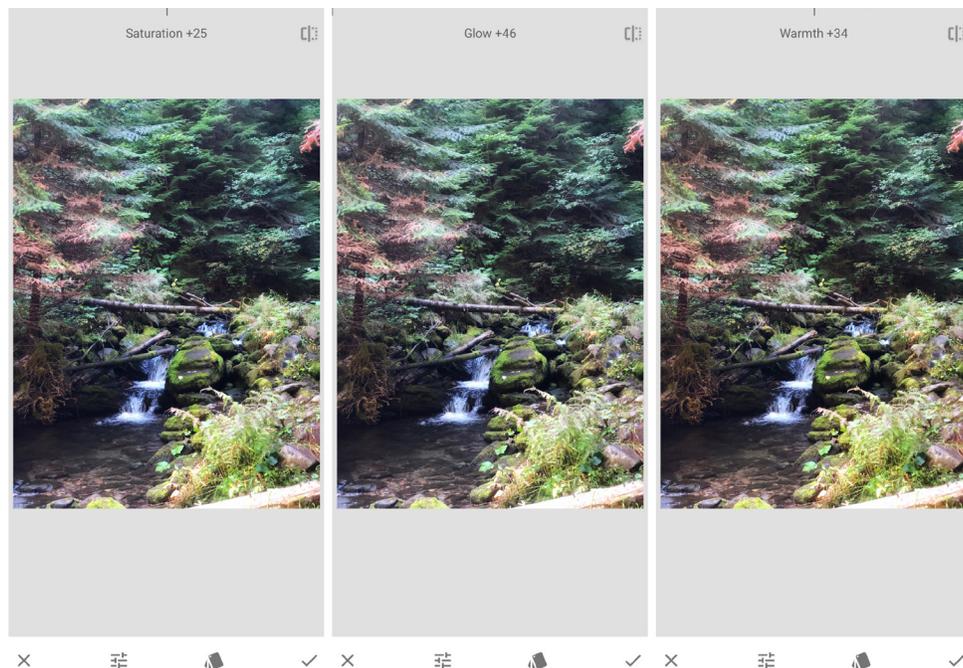
Chapter Conclusion

Snapseed is the best app for photo editing due to the many tools and features that it includes. Quickly change a flat, underexposed image into something that you can share with others. Check out our blog for additional tips on tricks for photo editing.
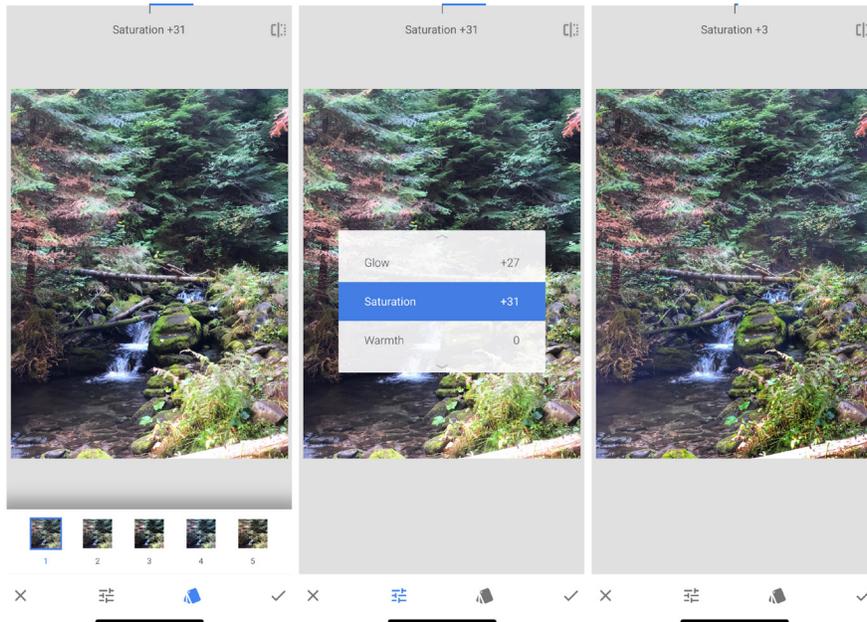
Chapter Three

HOW TO USE FILTERS

Snapseed has thirteen filters that are easy to use and can add a great touch to your image. Get creative by adding an HDR, or grunge filter. Try filters to get a fantastic image. Here is a detailed explanation on how to use Snapseed filters.
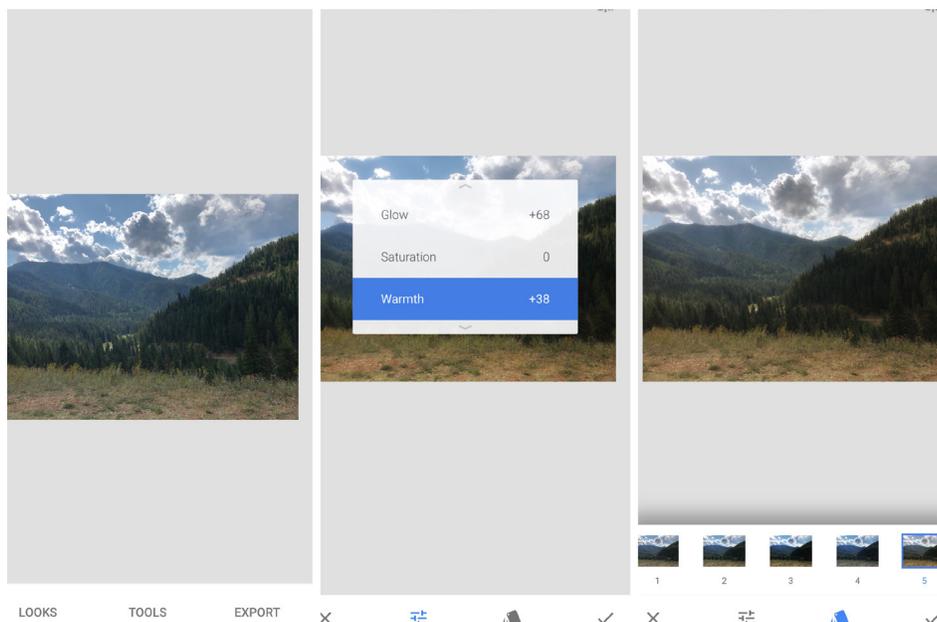

HDR Scape

The HDR Scape filter adds a high dynamic range feature to your image. HDR stands for High dynamic range. It works to create a balance between dark shadows and bright highlights creating better images. This filter brings out the shadows and enhances the details and highlights. It creates images that look full of life texture and slightly dreamy. Too much of the HDR scape filter can make the image look unreal. The controls on this filter include: filter strength, brightness, and saturation. When opening this filter the first time the filter strength is automatically set to +50 which is strong. I suggest setting the filter to about +10.

      The HDR scape filter also has filter settings that can be used in different photography settings: nature, people, fine and strong. Tap on the card deck icon to see the filter options. By choosing the right filter setting for the scene you can use this Snapseed editing trick to create a HDR Scape without over editing the image.
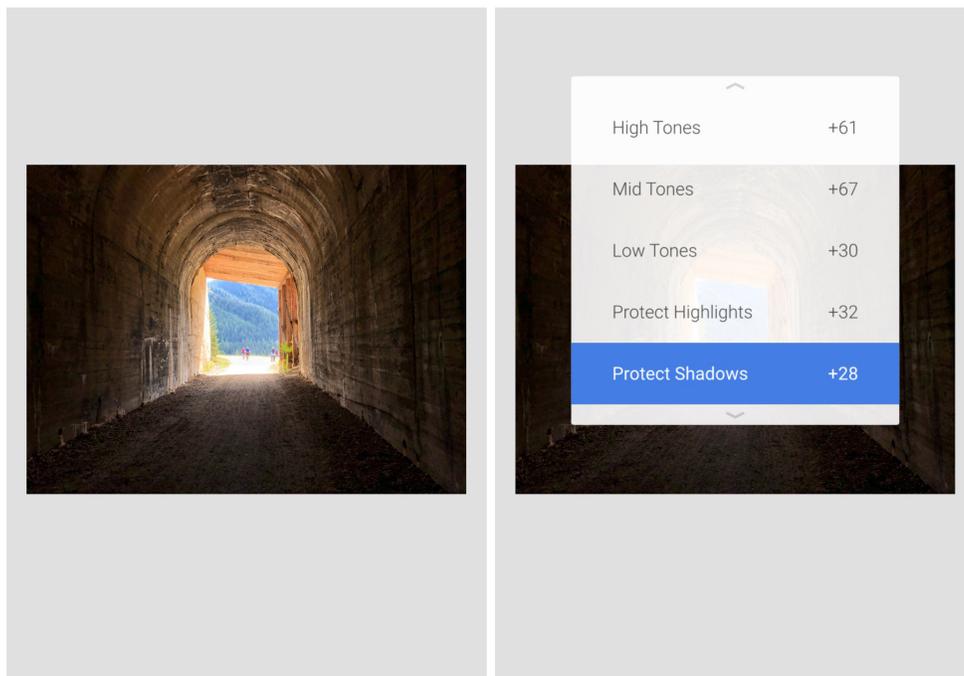
Glamour Glow

Getting a warm soft image can sometimes be hard to do but with this Snapseed editing trick it is easy to add glamor glow. This filter will take away the effects of harsh light and will create a smooth image. You can change the glow, saturation, and warmth of the image. Swipe right or left to adjust these features. To adjust the glow, slide right to increase the degree of softening. To increase or decrease the vibrance of the colors adjust the saturation, slide right or left to adjust the warmth and add a more warm or cool tone] to the image. I like to use this look on fall photos to add a glowing effect.
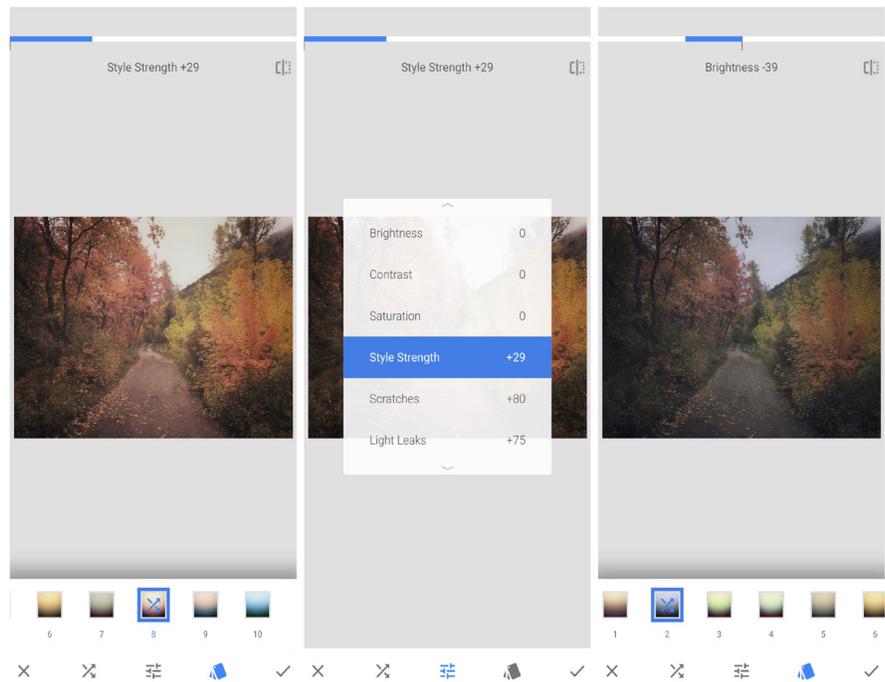
Tonal Contrast

This filter is one of the best ways to alter the tones and contrast in subtle ways. You can enhance fine shadows, highlights and contrasts with more exposure control. Swipe vertically to access the editing options, then swipe left or right to adjust the image. The editing options include: high tones, mid tones, low tones, protect highlights and shadows. This is one of my favorite Snapseed editing tricks. In this filter you can easily control the changes so it enhances the image without over-editing.

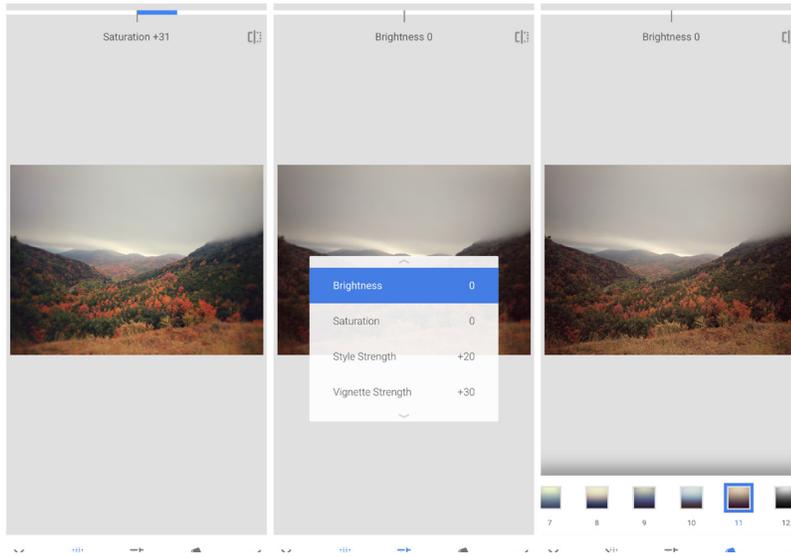|	
High Tones-	Adjust the highlights on the image by adding more or less contrast.
Mid Tones-	Affect the middle gray tones in the image.
Low Tones-	Add more or less contrast to the shadows.
Protect Shadows-	Keeps the detail in the shadows after contrast in the low tones in adjusted.
Protect Highlights-	Keeps the detail in the highlights when the high tones are increased.

Drama

To create an image that pops from a dramatic look this is the perfect filter. Try this filter to create artistic effects and enhancement. You can tap to choose different filter settings from drama, bright and dark. Then, to adjust the filter strength or saturation slide left or right.

Vintage

If you like the way old photos and videos look from the 50's, 60's, and 70's this is the perfect filter for you. To add a nostalgic feel you can tap on the card deck icon to choose the color settings. Add vignette blur to the image by tapping on the blur on/off button. If the icon has a slash across the icon it means the blur is off. Slide vertically on the image to open the editing options, these include brightness, saturation, style strength, and vignette strength.

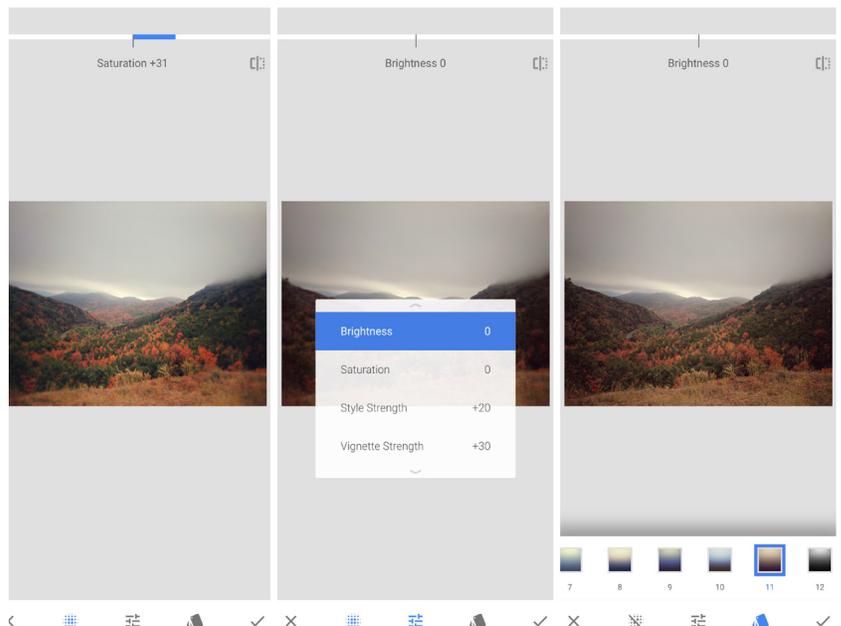| Brightness-	Will lighten or darken the image.
Saturation-	Will enhance the vibrance in the image
Style Strength-	Will adjust the effect on that style
Vignette Strength-	Will darken the edges to create a vintage vibe.

Grainy Film

Use Grainy film to create a look that feels like you are shooting on film. Tap on the card deck icon to choose the grain style and feel you prefer. You can also adjust the grain or style strength by swiping vertically.

Grain- When adding the grain a 0 will make sure that no grain is added.
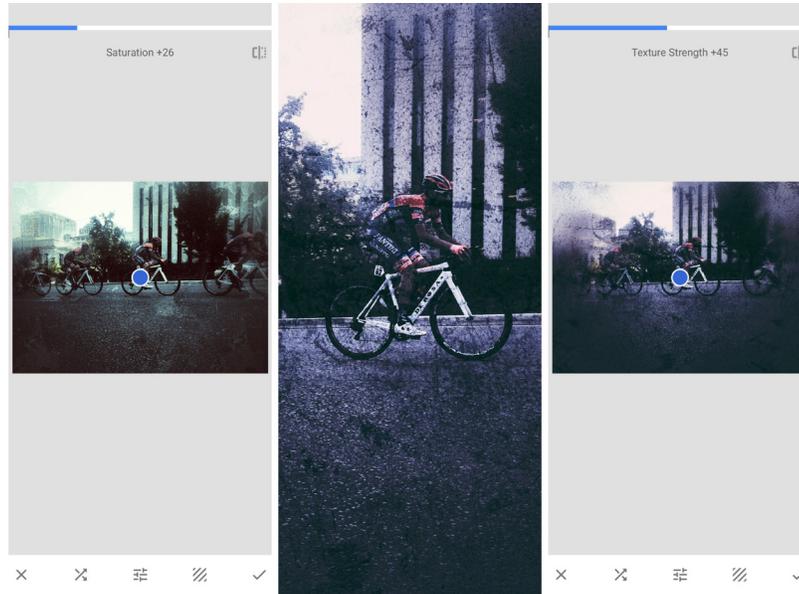Style Strength- will adjust the effect on that style

Retrolux

To create a retro image with scratches, light leaks, and film styles use this filter. To add a look, tap on the card deck icon. To select random options with the same style tap on icon. The menu enhancements include: Brightness, saturation, contrast, style strength, scratches, and light leaks.
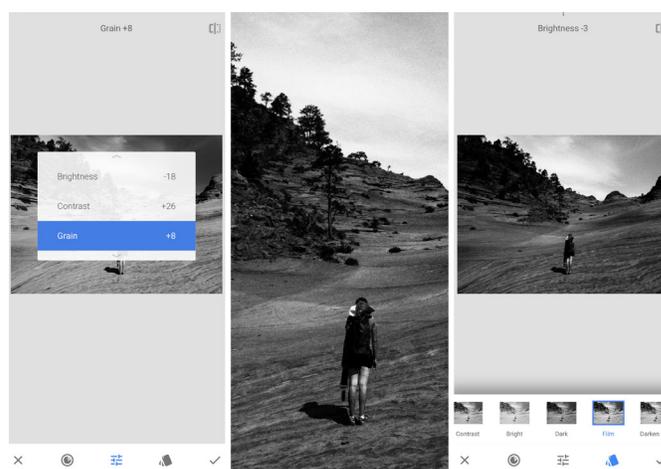
Grunge

To get a grungy look and feel choose a texture and the texture style in the thumbnail. Tap on the two arrow icon for the texture to placed randomly. This brings us the style option and you can slide through 1500 variations. Tap on the edit menu to choose the style, brightness, contrast, texture, and saturation.
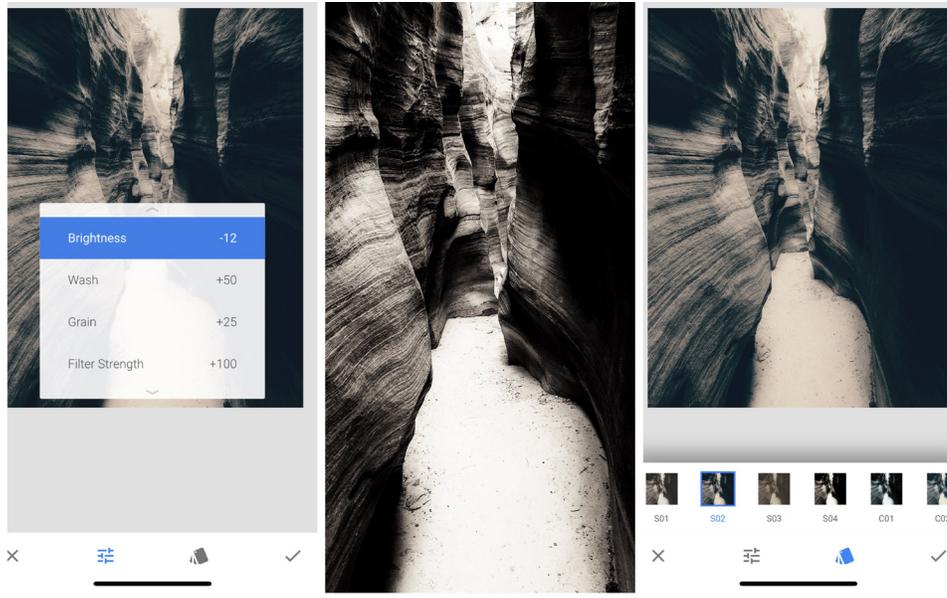

Black and White

To quickly create black and white images tap on the card deck icon to choose the black and white preset. Tap on the color filter icon to represent shooting shoot a colored filter. To adjust the brightness, contrast and grain by swiping vertically and horizontally.
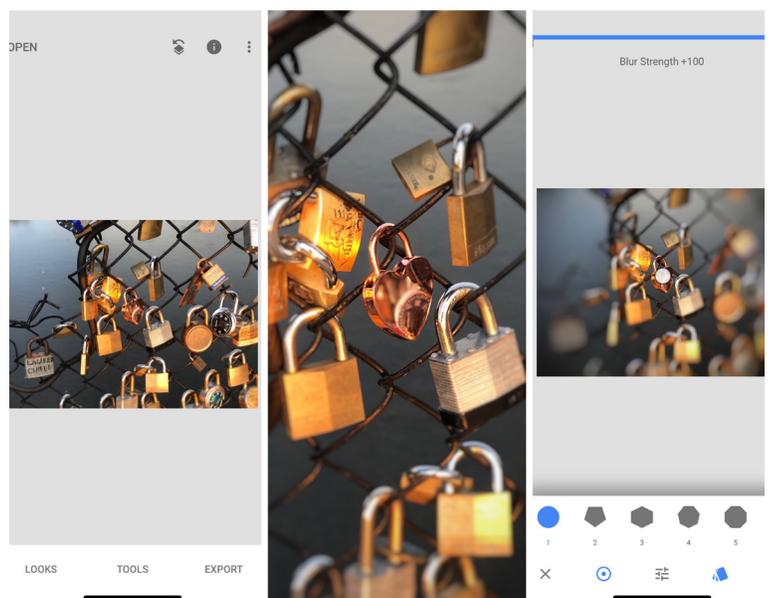
Noir

If you want to create black and white images that look cinematic or are with darkroom-inspired tones and washed looks use Noir. Tap on the card deck icon to select the Noir style. The adjustment menu includes: brightness, wash, grain, and filter strength. The wash effect applies dynamic shadows and highlights that look like over-processing a print in a dark room.

Lens Blur

Create lens blur by choosing linear or elliptical focus . Pinching with two fingers to adjust the size, shape, and rotation of the focus. Tap on the card deck option to choose the shape of the highlights. Easily, enhance the image with menu adjustments. You can alter the blur strength, transition swipe, and vignette strength. The transition swipe increases or decrease the amount of fade between the focused and blurred
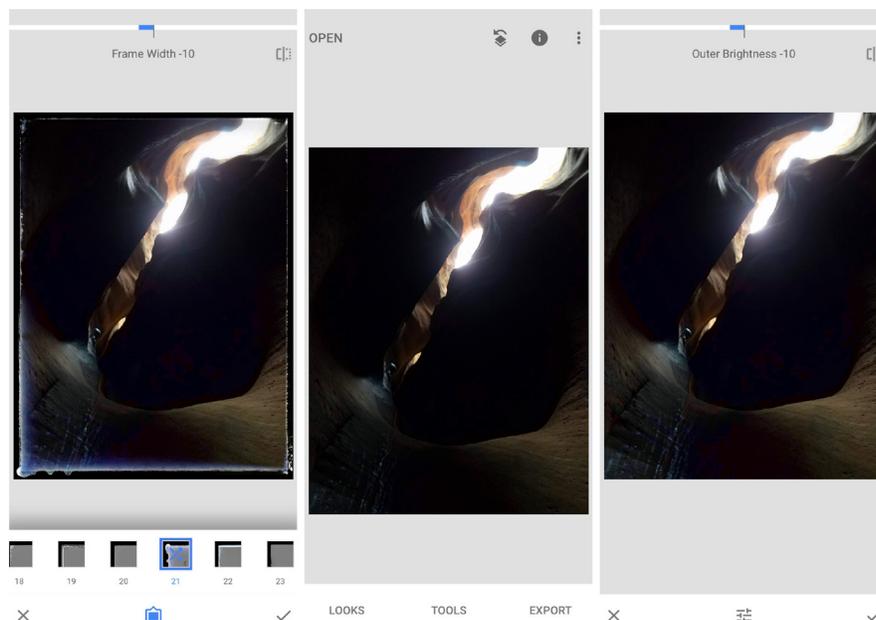
Vignette

Add a darker or lighter tint around your image with the vignette filter. You can choose to increase or decrease the outer brightness and inner brightness by swiping right or left.
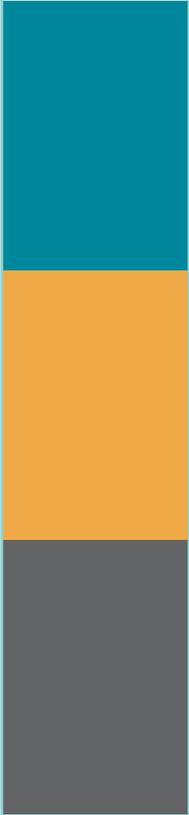
Frames

Fun borders can be very easy to add to your image as a finishing touch. Tap on the frame option to choose a style. Slide right or left to choose the size of the border. Frames will not alter the image size or resolution.

Chapter Conclusion

Playing with Snapseed filters will add a professional look and feel to your images. You can create the mood and style of an image by using filters. If you wanted to create a vintage film look try add the filters: drama, grainy film, and vignette. Add a touch of style to black and white images by adding filters and drama to your image. With filters there are so many options to create fantastic images.
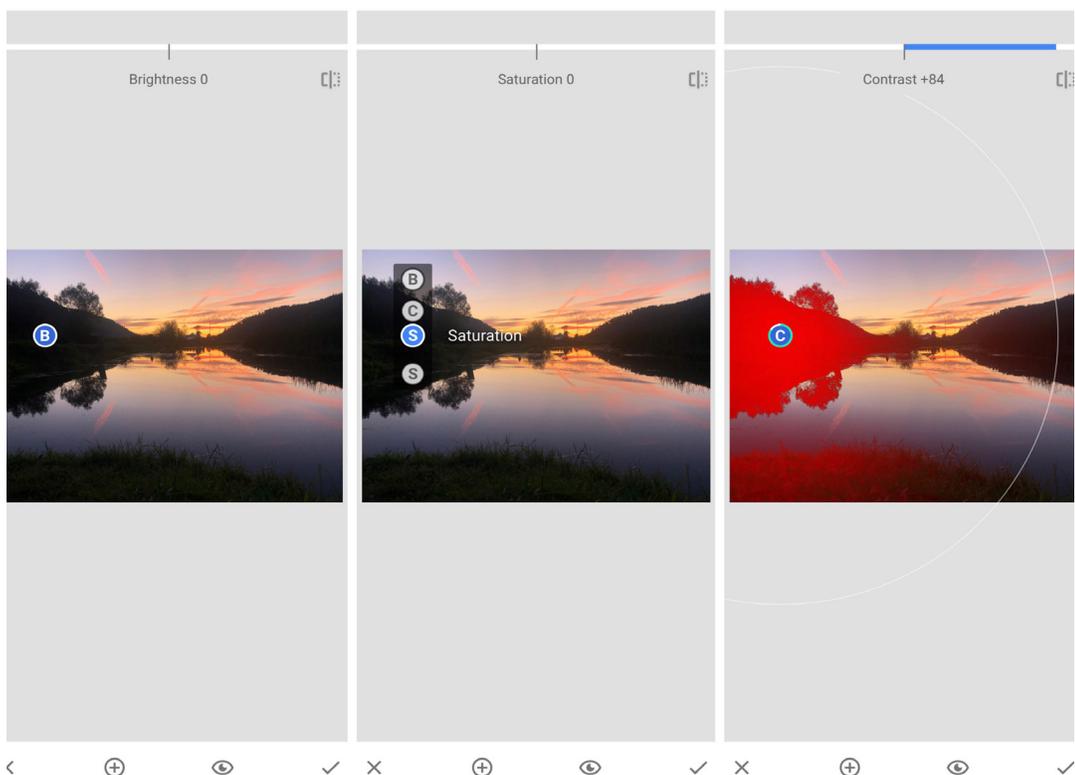
Chapter Four

ADVANCED EDITING TIPS: HEALING, BRUSHES AND SELECTIVE EDITING

In this chapter we will cover advanced editing tools that will help you make any image look great. You will learn how to use selective edits on specific areas. Also you will learn how to use brushes and healing to fix small imperfections in your shot.
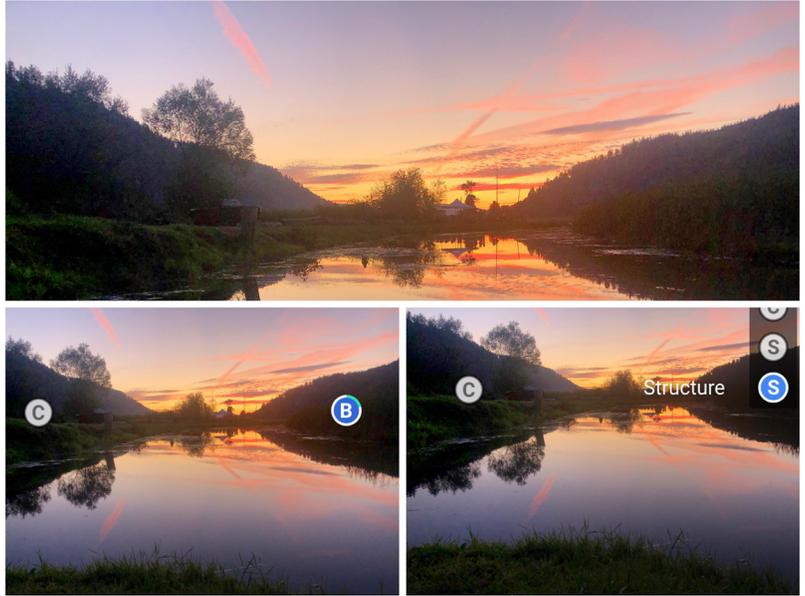
Selective Editing

Begin by tapping on the selective editing option in the tools section. Once you are in the editing screen, tap on the part of the image that needs area specific editing. You will see a blue "B" icon appear. The icon is only blue when you are editing that area, otherwise it is white. In selective editing you can adjust the brightness, contrast, saturation, and structure.

With the first tap you can easily adjust the brightness by sliding right and left. Look to the top of the app and see the increase or decrease of brightness on the slider. To adjust the other features, tap below the letter and slide your finger up and down. You will see the first letter of the feature you are editing for (B) brightness, (C) contrast, (S)saturation, and (S)structure. You can stop on that letter and adjust the image for that area (S)structure. You can stop on that letter and adjust the image for that area.

To increase or decrease the size of the selective edit, pinch out or in to see a highlighted red circle. You can adjust the size depending on the area you need to edit on the image. To add an additional selective editing location, tap on the plus sign on the bottom left side. Tap on the check-mark to save your image. Now you can quickly edit any section in this image as mentioned in this Snapseed tutorial.

Brush Tool

The brush tool allows you to paint on different effects in only the desired area on your image. The first brush option is dodge and burn. This feature gently lightens and darkens areas of the image where the brush tool was used. The term dodge and burn comes from an old darkroom photo editing and retouching technique.

The process includes lightening and darkening small specific portions of the image. To lighten or darken the image, press the up or down arrow. Next, adjust the exposure by increasing or decreasing with the arrows. You can do the same thing to the temperature and the saturation in regions of the image.

Healing

The healing tool is the way to remove unwanted objects from your image. To retouch your image, tap on the section you would like removed. You will see that area replaced by a part of the surrounding region. The healing tool in Snapseed does not allow you to choose the exact location of the area being replaced, so it may take a little bit of practice.

Chapter Conclusion

In this chapter we discussed tools that can be used for editing specific regions of an image. You can easily make selective edits to any part of your image. Use the brush tool to increase exposure and to touch up different areas on your shot. Eliminate bushes, trees, signs, and other miscellaneous items from your image with the healing tool. Please check out these posts and the learn section for more information about mobile photography.

Snapseed Tips and Tricks
Final Conclusion

Snapseed is one of the best mobile editing apps for a phone. In this book you learned quick tips to edit your photos and save your images. Then we went into detail about the everyday tools. Next, you learned about filters and how to use them to create interesting photos. Lastly, we discussed advanced editing tips to selectively edit, and heal specific areas throughout your image. Now you can go and try out all the new skills you learned. Remember to share what pictures you edited by tagging us on Instagram by using the hashtag #picxtrix. For more mobile photography tips and tricks check out our weekly blog at picxtrix.com.

Learn More

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