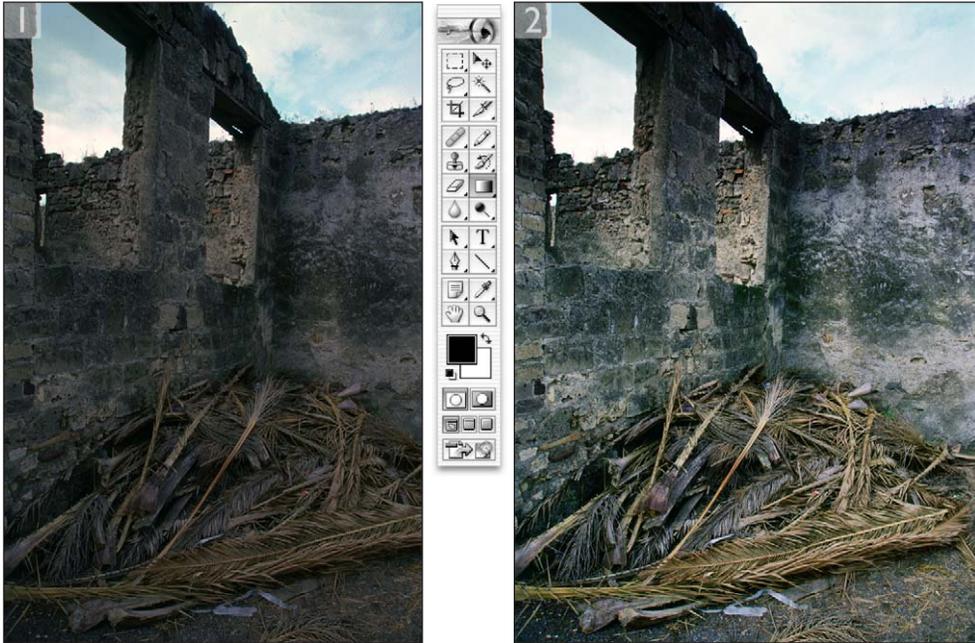


## Blending mode adjustments

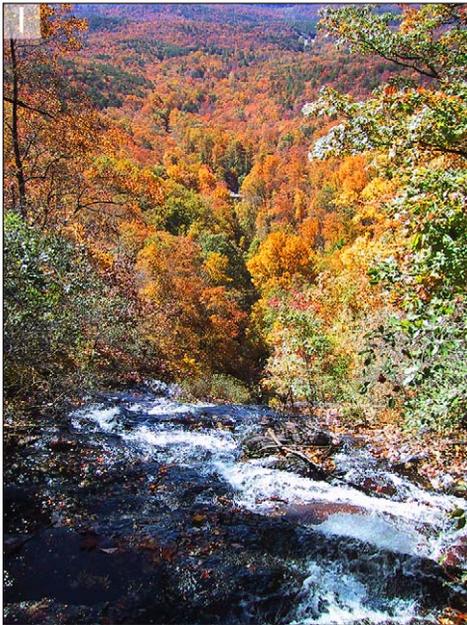


**1** You can use the layer blending modes as an alternative method to lighten or darken an image. In this example we have a dark image that needs to be made brighter. Go to the Layers palette and add a new adjustment layer. It does not particularly matter which – in this example I chose Levels.

**2** Highlight the adjustment layer and change the blending mode to Screen. The result of this will be the same as if you had made a copied Background layer and set it to Screen blend mode. Screening will make the image lighter and Multiply will make the image darker. I then added a gradient to the adjustment layer using the default foreground/background colors. This partially hid the adjustment layer and retained some of the original darker tones at the top of the picture.



Not many people are aware of the fact that you can make use of the layer blending modes in conjunction with adjustment layers to lighten or darken an image. The example on page 239 demonstrates how the screen blending mode can be used to lighten a dark photograph. There is an argument suggesting that the calculations used in a screen or multiply blending mode will actually add levels to an image. So this technique may well help in situations where you wish to preserve the fragile image data instead of pulling the levels apart through the use of aggressive Levels or Curves image adjustments.



1 When you increase the contrast in an image, you will also increase the color saturation.

2 If you apply a Curves adjustment as an adjustment layer, try changing the blending mode to Luminosity. This will increase the contrast in the original scene, but without increasing saturation.

