The History Panel and History Brush

The HISTORY panel is a valuable asset in the development of a product. It records the steps that you carry out in a session. Each step is called a STATE. You can return to states, save a snapshot at a certain position, save a file at a certain position and so forth.

Using the History Panel

To demonstrate how to use the HISTORY panel, a photo will be opened, some edits made to it then the HISTORY panel used to manage those edits.

A   Loading the Sample Photo

1   Load Photoshop or close the current files and select OPEN from the FILE menu.

2   Access the PScs5 SUPPORT FILES, open the CHAPTER 38 folder and open the file:

<div align="center">History</div>

3 Set the screen to the ESSENTIALS workspace, expand the HISTORY panel by clicking on its icon and the OPEN file step should have been added to the panel.
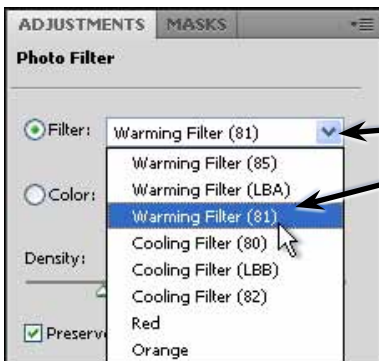

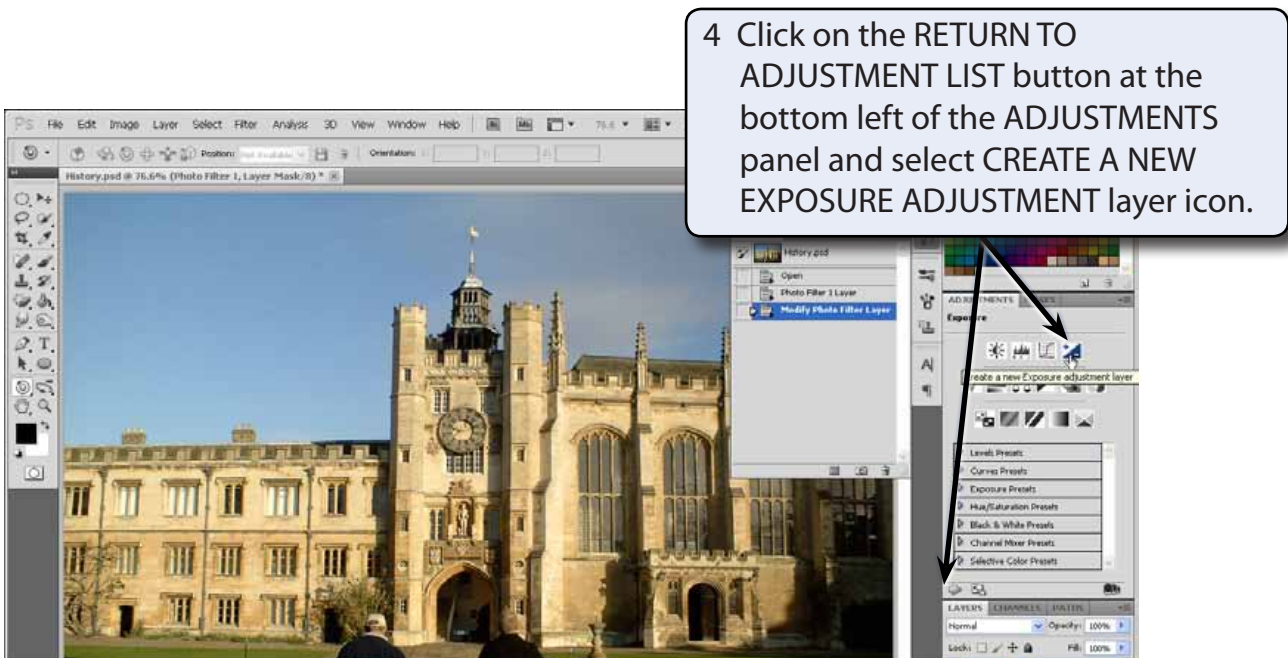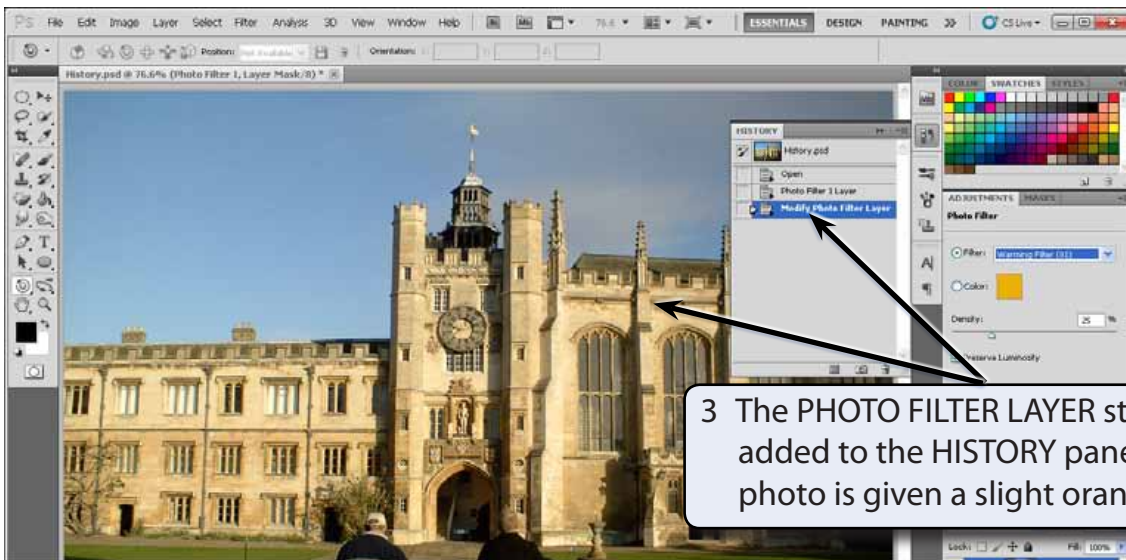4 The panel has two sections, the SNAPSHOP area at the top and the STATES area below it.

5 The ARROW marker is used to select STATES.

B   Altering the Photo

Some edits will be made to the photo so that you can see how the HISTORY panel records them.

1 In the ADJUSTMENTS panel click on the CREATE A NEW PHOTO FILTER ADJUSTMENT LAYER panel.

2 Set the FILTER box to the WARMING FILTER (81).

NOTE: **The PHOTO FILTERS are similar to filters on a camera to adjust the photo for different light.**

3 The PHOTO FILTER LAYER state is added to the HISTORY panel and the photo is given a slight orange tint.

4 Click on the RETURN TO ADJUSTMENT LIST button at the bottom left of the ADJUSTMENTS panel and select CREATE A NEW EXPOSURE ADJUSTMENT layer icon.

5 Increase the EXPOSURE to +0.30 and the image will become lighter.

6 Select the BRUSH TOOL, select a SOFT ROUND brush, set the SIZE to 45 px, the MODE to NORMAL and the OPACITY to 50%.

7 Paint over the sky without releasing the mouse button until you have covered the whole sky.

8 Set the OPACITY to 100% and paint over the whole sky again. Each time you release the mouse button a BRUSH TOOL state is recorded in the HISTORY panel.