



COLOR GRADING CHECKLIST



**QUICKLY RUN THROUGH
THIS CHECKLIST FOR EACH
ONE OF YOUR SHOTS TO
MAKE SURE EVERYTHING IS
PERFECT**

EXPOSURE

Are your brights too bright or your darks too dark?

1) If you can't tell by eye, use the vectorscopes or waveform monitors in your editor. However, use these tools only as general guidelines. Often times what looks better to your eye is the way to go :) Here is a quick video on understanding these tools: <http://bit.ly/2vdFKij>

2) It's okay if there is a blown out part of your image as long as it's not the main subject.

3) If you shoot flat don't be shy! Crank those sliders for deep darks and bright brights.

WHITE BALANCE & TINT

Is your image too blue or too orange?

1) Look at the overall tones of your image (blacks, whites, and mids) and see if the image as a whole shifts too blue or too orange.

2) Once you correct the orange/blue check to see if the image is too red or green. Often certain cameras or lenses will produce a green cast in your image that you will need to fix.

3) If you're unsure which way your image is shifting a helpful tip is to individually make adjustments to the blues, oranges, reds, and greens to see if that makes the image look better or worse. This is helpful because sometimes it's hard to know where the color shift is coming from.

WHITES

Are your whites white?

1) It's super important that your whites are white. You might be able to get away with a touch of orange added for a warmer, sunny look, but any other color will look off. Compare your shot against a web browser or something white to get them just right.

BLACKS

Are there any crazy color shifts in your blacks?

1) Adjusting darks can drastically change an image so make micro-adjustments until they look even.

2) Sometimes using the FF presets will add a slight green or orange hue to the darks, as long as it looks ok to the eye and its not too drastic it should be fine. sometimes it adds a nice warmth or brings out the greens in a woodsy shot.

3) In rooms with tungsten lights, it will often look more natural to leave some of the orange in the shot. focus mainly on making the whites white and don't mess with the darks too much or the shot might come out looking odd.



SKIN TONES

Do your skin tones look natural?

- 1) If the skin tones look too red or green try adjusting the colors in the mids or darks to see if that fixes the problem.
- 2) If they still look a bit off you can adjust the hue in the Hue vs. Hue menu (In DaVinci Resolve) with your color picking tool.



WEIRD COLORS

Are there any other weird colors??

- 1) Does everything look great, but the groom's suit is tinted blue when its supposed to be black? Are the orange walls a little too orange? Spot adjust colors by using the color picking tool and adjusting the saturation of that specific color.



ROOM LIGHTING

Is your room dark enough??

1) You always want to color grade in a dark room (all lights off with curtains closed) because this will eliminate any of the rooms weird color tones that will affect how your eye's see the images.



COMPUTER MONITOR

Is your monitor calibrated for the best color?

1) Having a correctly calibrated monitor is HUGE when grading your films. Sadly most monitors display colors horribly. This is a big problem because you may think your colors look great but when you view them on another screen they look totally off. Now, all that hard work you put into your film is wasted.

Hands down our favorite monitor for color grading is this guy: <http://amzn.to/2ujk7AV>

The best thing about this monitor is that it come's pre-calibrated from color experts. Normally if you were to calibrate a monitor on your own it would take a tremendous amount of time and around \$500-\$1000 in gear.

Do yourself a favor and invest in a solid monitor. I can guarantee you won't regret it!