CREATIVE MEDIA
FUNDAMENTALS

EDITING WITH THE IPHONE PHOTOS APP

CREATIVE MEDIA FUNDAMENTALS

CMF003

SEPTEMBER 2023 UPDATE

It's important to keep in mind that the iPhone Photos App was updated in September 2023. If you have not recently updated your iPhone's operating system, the screen shots in the remainder of this guide may look slightly different from what you see on your phone. The diagram below shows the difference between the older and newer versions.

The Cancel and Revert Buttons have been replaced by the Cancel and Done buttons on the top of the screen.

BEFORE SEPT. 2023

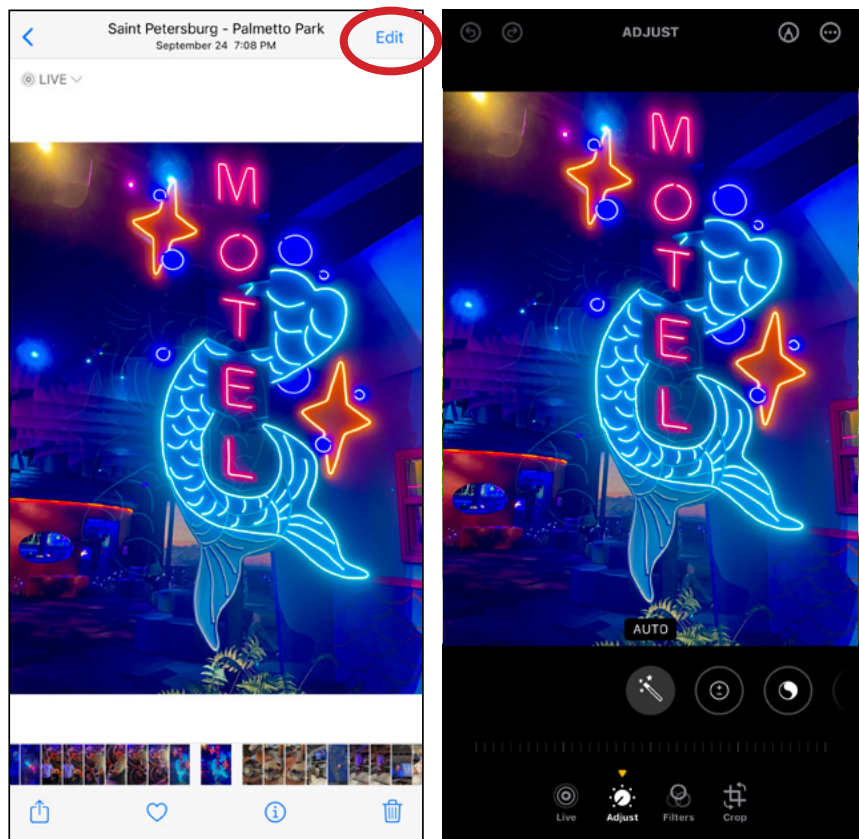**AFTER SEPT. 2023**

The adjustment names have been added beneath their icons.

IMAGE EDIT OVERVIEW

If you wish your existing photos were brighter, more colorful and popped with more contrast, then you'll love to see how the features built into your iPhone can transform an image. In some cases, you'll even be able to change the focus or turn off the flash **after** you've captured an image!

All of these techniques are available via the Edit option that appears when viewing a photograph full screen in the Photos app that's built into your iPhone. Here are a few key points to understand when using the Edit options.

- On older devices, edit mode was accessed via an icon that looked like three adjustment sliders.

- The options available will vary depending on which type of image you are working on (portrait mode, panorama, live photo, etc.)

- Options will move to different positions if you rotate your screen.

- Only tap the Done button when you are finished using all the features available via the Edit button. Just switch to the next option you want to use. There is no OK button for each feature.
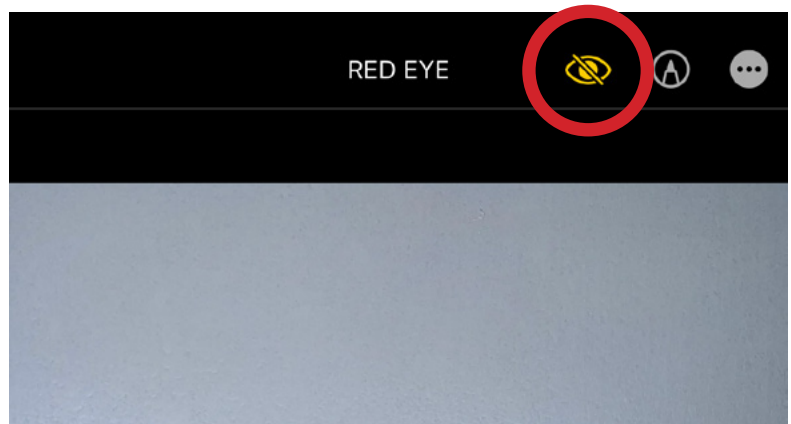

When viewing a photo in the Photos app, tap the Edit button (circled) to access the edit settings (shown at right).
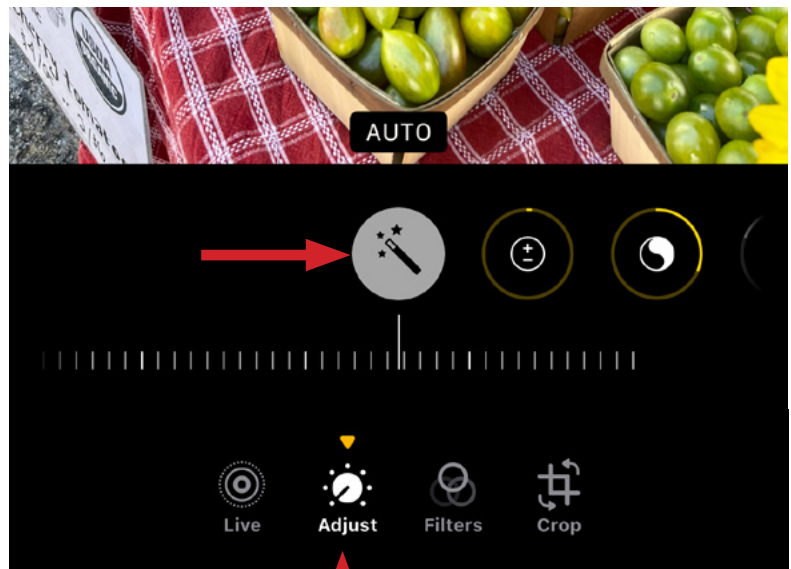
INITIAL IMAGE EDITS

RED EYE REMOVAL

The Red Eye icon will appear in the top right corner of the edit screen when you are viewing an image that was shot with flash. If flash was not used, then the icon will not be available.

To remove red eye, click on the icon to enable the tool. Then tap of the red part of each eye.

AUTO ENHANCE

The iPhone comes with an auto setting that will evaluate your picture and make the adjustments it deems necessary to make the image look better. The Magic Wand icon can be found at the bottom of the Edit screen when the Adjust setting is chosen. Tap it to auto-enhance the image and tap it again to return to the original version. Note that there are no customization options with this setting.

The Adjust option

CROPPING

The Crop tool can be found at the bottom of the Edit screen. Tap on it and a crop box will appear around your picture.

To crop an image, drag the corners or edges of the crop box and then drag the center of the image to reposition it within the cropping rectangle.

Rotate The Rotate 90° Icon can be found above the image on the left side of the screen. Tap it to rotate 90° counterclockwise. Tap multiple times to achieve a 180° or 270° rotation.

There are three icons below the image and the left one will be active by default. This is the rotate icon. When this is active, you can drag left and right on the horizontal scrubber bar in order to manually rotate the image. The other two icons will allow you to skew the image vertically or horizontally.

You can also flip the image, in order to get a mirrored version, by tapping the flip icon in the upper left corner of the screen.

The Rotate option is selected and the scrubber bar is being dragged to rotate the image.

The Aspect Ratio Icon is located above the image, on the right side of the screen. There are several aspect ratios to choose from, and they will limit the shape of rectangle you can create by dragging the corners or edges of the cropping rectangle.
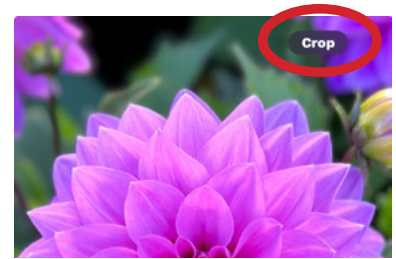
A few notes about aspect ratio:

- The numbers swap when switching from a horizontal to vertical image (16:9 to 9:16).

- Use the Original option to maintain the ratio of the original photo.

- Use 16:9 if you want to fill an HD television.

- Use 4:3 to fill an old-school tube television.

After you have moved the crop handles, pause for a moment and the cropped portion of the image will no longer be visible.

Crop While Zooming You can also access the Crop Tool when you are viewing an image and have used your fingers to zoom in on an area. If an image is being shown in a zoomed view, a Crop button will appear in the top right corner of the screen. When you tap it, all of the Crop Tool settings will appear.

You can undo a crop at any time by opening the Crop Tool and tapping the Reset button above the image.

ADD FILTERS

The Photos app includes a series of photo filters that you can apply to your image. The Filter icon (three circles overlapping) can be found at the bottom of the Edit screen.

Choose a visual effect from the horizontal list below the photo (like Mono to turn an image black & white). Choose the left-most effect (Original) to disable any effect.

These are the same filters that are available in the Camera app via the same icon. You can change or remove any effects here that were applied in the Camera app.
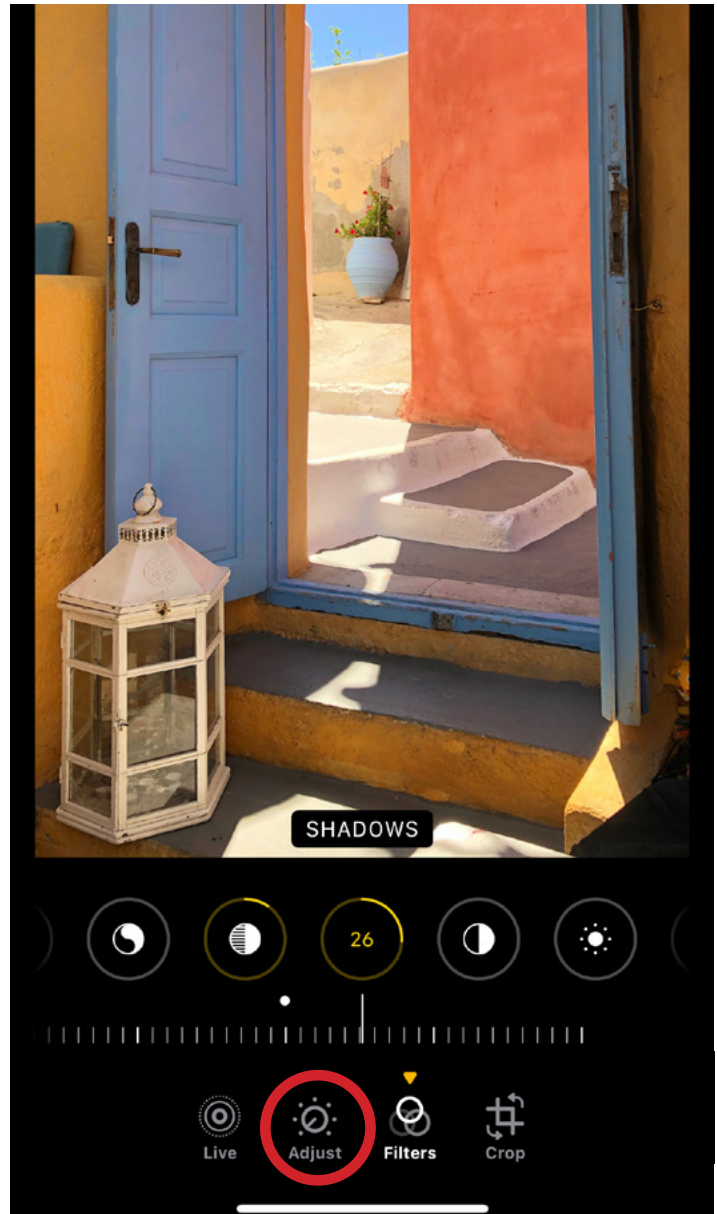
IN-DEPTH ADJUSTMENTS

The Adjust icon looks like a little knob and is located at the bottom of the Edit screen. Tap it and a horizontal menu of adjustment icons will appear. Swipe your finger left and right on these icons in order to choose the adjustment you'd like to make. Once an adjustment is selected (Exposure, for example), drag left and right on the horizontal scrubby bar in order to change the setting.

If you'd ever like to see a before-and-after view, tap and hold your finger down on the image. When your finger is held down, you will see a view of what the image looked like before you made any adjustments.

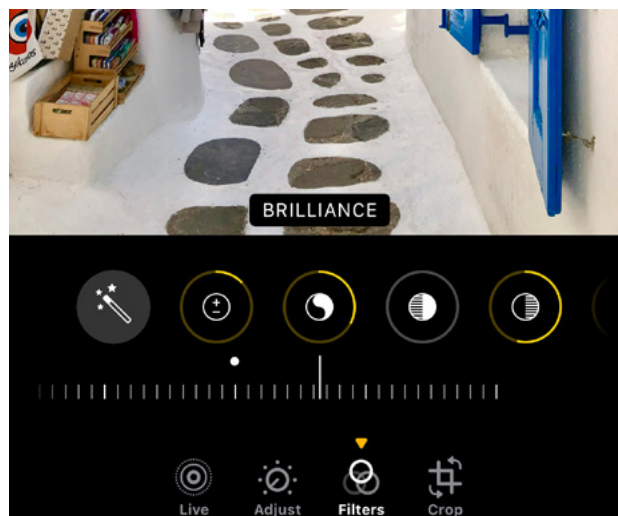You will find the following adjustments in this horizontal menu:

EXPOSURE

This setting changes the brightness of the entire image. It has the tendency to blow out detail in the brightest or darkest areas depending on which direction it is moved.

When the Adjust icon (circled) is selected, a horizontal menu of adjustments will appear.

BRILLIANCE

This setting applies region-specific adjustments to brighten dark areas, pull in highlights, and add contrast to reveal hidden detail and make your photo look richer and more vibrant. The adjustment is color neutral (no saturation is applied), but there may be a perceived change in color because brighter images with more contrast appear more vibrant.

HIGHLIGHTS

The Highlights setting changes the brightness of the brighter areas while leaving the darker areas unchanged.

If an adjustment has been applied, a yellow ring will appear around the adjustment icon, showing you the strength of the adjustment.

SHADOWS

The Shadows setting changes the brightness of the darker areas while leaving the brighter areas unchanged.

CONTRAST

The Contrast setting changes the brighter and darker areas at the same time to make them more similar or more different from each other. Increasing contrast brightens areas that are already bright while simultaneously darkening areas that are already dark. Decreasing contrast will darken areas that are already bright while simultaneously brightening areas that are dark.

BRIGHTNESS

This changes the brightness of the medium-brightness areas in the image.

BLACK POINT

This sets the point at which the darkest parts of the image become completely black, without any detail. Setting the black point can improve the contrast in a washed-out image.

SATURATION

The Saturation setting increases or decreases the intensity of all the colors in the image. Lowering Saturation moves you closer to a black & white version, while increasing Saturation will make the entire image more colorful.

VIBRANCE

The Vibrance setting looks at what colors are already vibrant in your image and only boosts the colors that are lacking that extra color. It's great when you want to make the dull colors pop more without affecting the rest of the image.

WARMTH

This setting affects the temperature of the image. Increasing the setting will make the image warmer, or more yellow. Lowering the setting will make the image cooler, or more blue.

TINT

The Tint setting shifts the overall color bias of the image toward either yellow/red/orange or blue/green. This can be useful when an image has a color cast that makes it look like there is too much of a particular color throughout the entire image. It's also useful when you want a normal-looking photo to look as if it was taken closer to sunset or under candlelight.

SHARPNESS

This setting attempts to sharpen the smaller, finer details in your image. This would include things like facial whiskers, stone, concrete, fabric and skin.
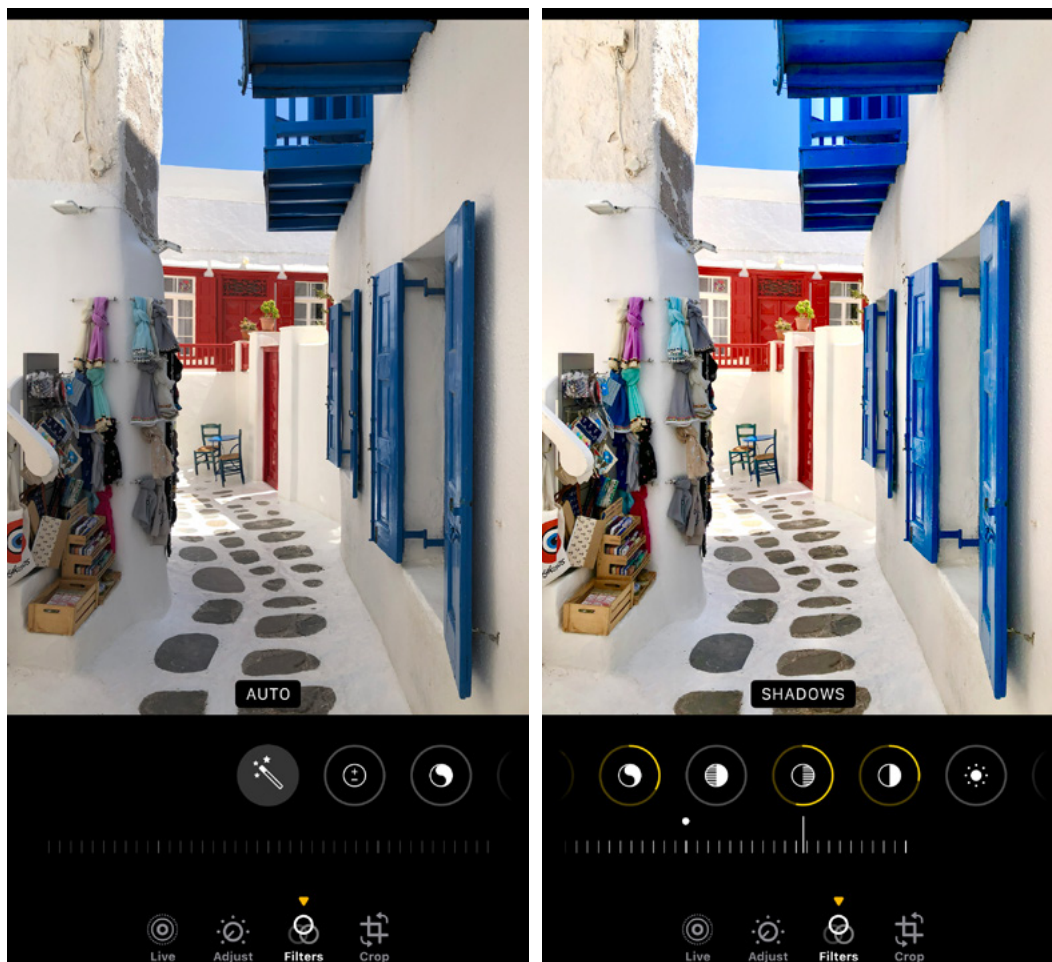
DEFINITION

The definition adjustment attempts to accentuate the larger things in your image. For example, it would increase separation between the subject's head and the background, or the subject's eyes from the rest of their face.

NOISE REDUCTION

Noise is a grainy artifact that can occur in some images. It's commonly seen in images shot in low light, especially if the shadows have been lightened. The Noise Reduction adjustment will attempt to remove some of this graininess.

VIGNETTE

The Vignette setting can be used to darken the edges of the image. This can help to draw the viewer's eye in toward the center.

Here, you can see a before-and-after view of an image that was adjusted using the iPhone Photos app.

A NOTE ON SAVING

There is no Save option in the Photos app and that's because it automatically saves everything you do. If you tap the Done button in the lower right corner of the screen, the Adjust view will go away, but your settings will be saved. If you enter the Adjust view again, it will remember all of the settings you previously applied and you can continue to make changes to the image as needed.

ADDITIONAL OPTIONS

The icon that looks like three dots in a circle, in the top right corner of the Edit screen, will give you a couple of additional options. You can choose to open the image in another app for additional editing. (Note: You will need to manually add these editing apps to the panel that appears.)
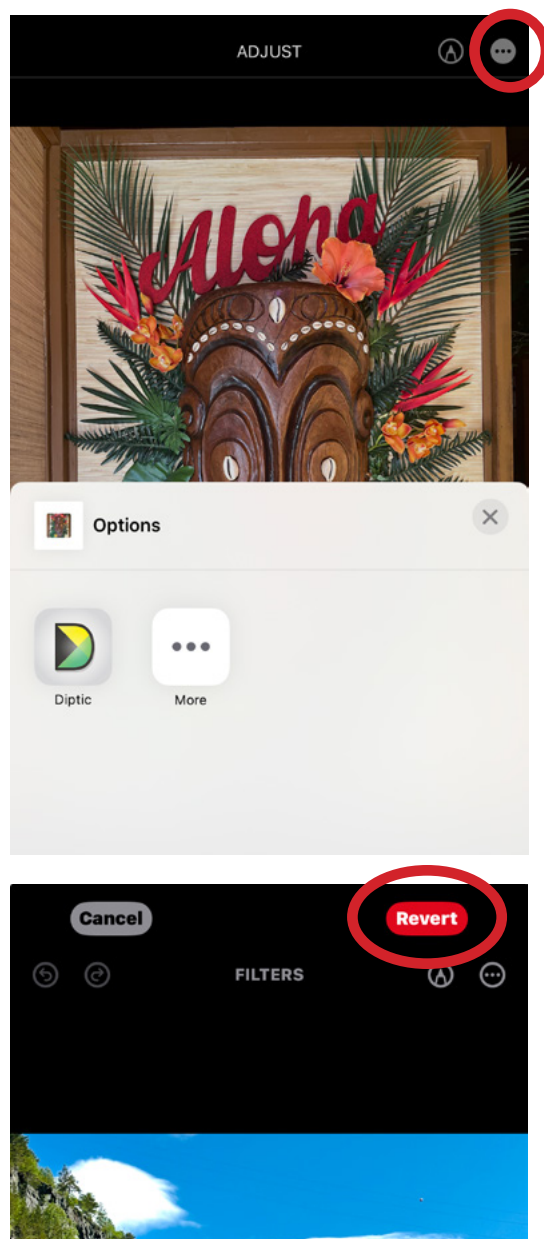
There will also be an icon for "Markup." Markup is a free app from Apple that is installed on most iPhones. It allows you to add text and markings to an image.

TIPS & TRICKS

UNDO EDITS

All of the edits made via the Edit button are not permanent. You can always tap the edit icon on a photo that has already been modified using those features and then click the Revert option (above the image) to get back to the unedited version of the image.
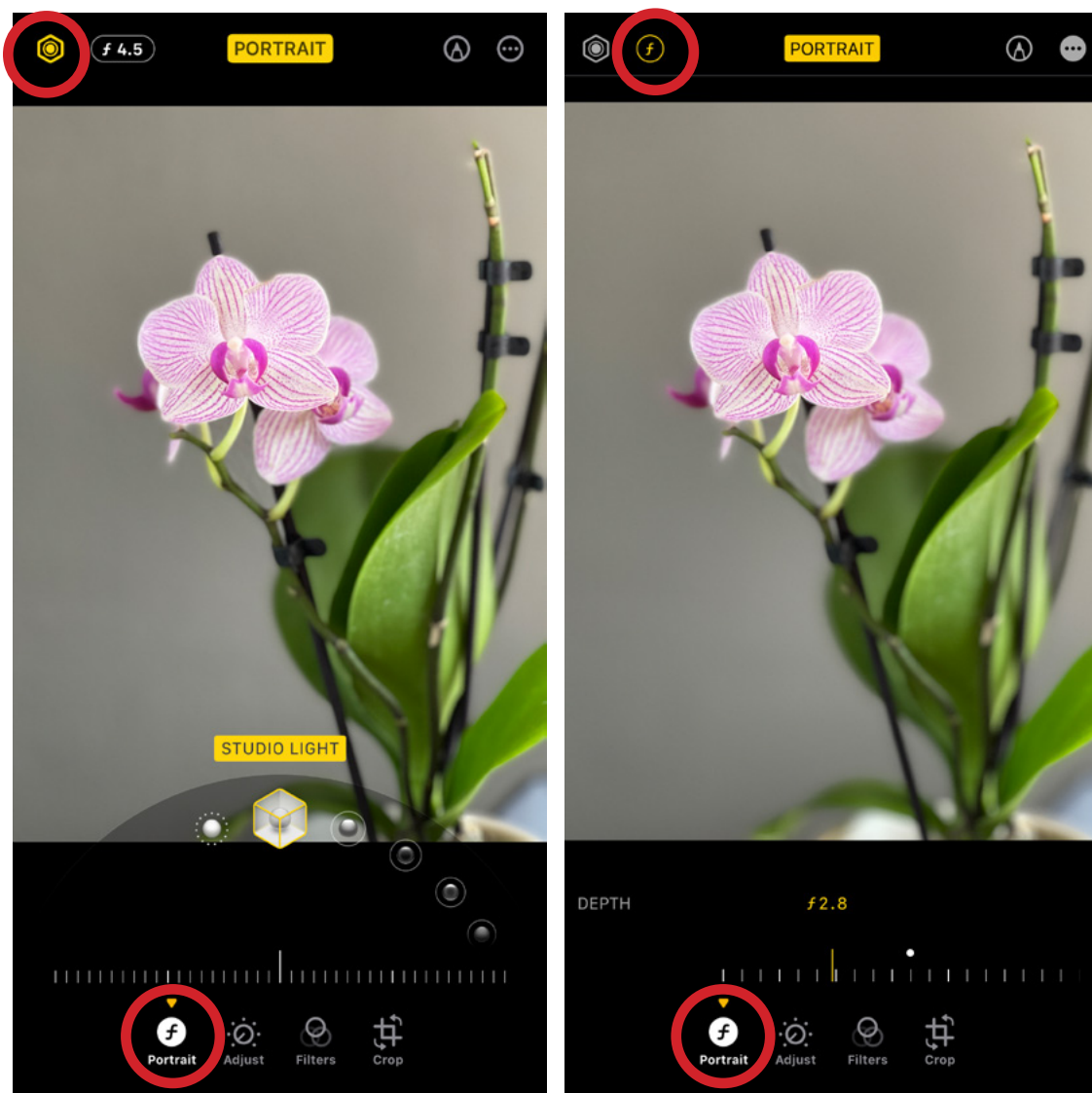
If you'd like both the edited and original versions, then duplicate the image via the share icon before reverting.

PORTRAIT MODE

This is a camera mode that allows you to choose a simulated f-stop. You can change portrait mode settings after taking the photo by tapping the Portrait icon at the bottom of the Edit view.

Two icons will appear in the upper left corner of the screen. Tap the hexagon icon and you can switch between the different style icons that appear under the image. Tap the f-stop icon (f) and a slider under the image will allow you to choose the f-stop, or how blurry the background should be. The lower the f-stop, the blurrier the background will be.
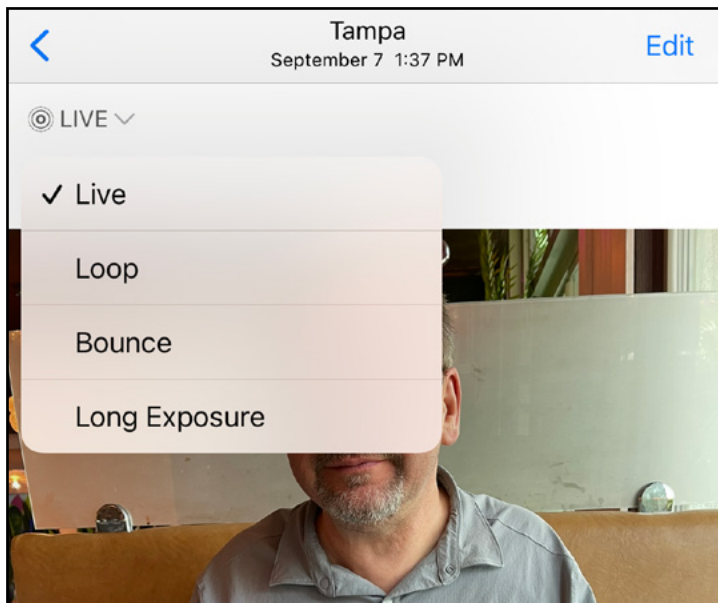

The Portrait icon allows you to change the Portrait Mode settings. You can switch between choosing a style and choosing an f-stop by using the icons in the upper left corner.

LIVE PHOTO ANIMATIONS

There is a special feature that is avail-
able for images that were shot using
the Live Photo Mode. (In the Camera
App, the Live Photo setting looks like
a round icon made up of concentric
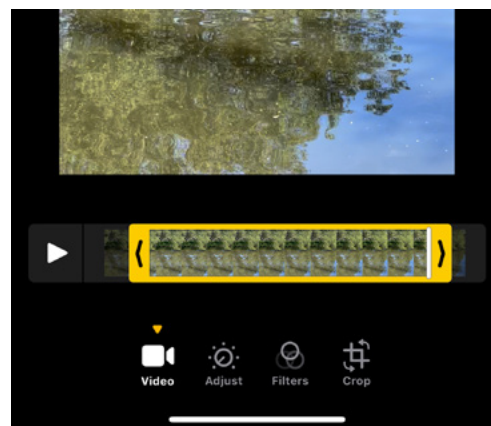circles.) This feature is not found in
the Edit view.

View the image in the Photos app.
If the image was shot in Live Photo
Mode, the word "LIVE" will appear
in the upper left corner of the image
window. Tap on this word and a menu
will appear, giving you a list of motion
effects. The Options are Live, Loop,
Bounce and Long Exposure. It will be set to Live by default. These effects use the short
video captured in the Live Photo to create fun motion in your images.

EDITING VIDEO

You can also adjust videos in the same way that you
would edit your photos. After tapping on the Edit
button, the same icons appear for Adjustments, Fil-
ters and Cropping. Additionally, there is a video cam-
era icon and this will be active by default when you
enter the Edit screen. A horizontal video timeline will
appear below the video preview and you can use
this to trim the video clip. Use your finger to drag the
ends of the clip inward and you will see a preview of
which part of the video will be trimmed.

Tip: Inside the video timeline is a vertical white playhead bar. This shows what part of the video is being previewed in the large image window. If this playhead is positioned at the very beginning of the timeline, it may be difficult to drag the left side to trim the video. Simply drag the playhead away from the end and you'll find it much easier to trim the clip. The same is true if the playhead is positioned at the very end of the timeline.

If you trim the video clip and then tap the Done button, it will ask if you would like to Save Video as a New Clip or just Save Video. If you save it as a new clip, you will end up with two versions of the video in your Camera Roll: One that is not trimmed and one that is trimmed. If you choose the Save Video option, it will just save the trimmed version to your Camera Roll.