



Snapseed notes

Looks - these are the filters. 'Pop' is probably the most subtle. Avoid using B&W on here as you can convert within the app itself, giving you much more control over contrast, etc.

Rotate - (Get into the habit of doing this first) Automatically straightens the image first of all. If it still isn't straight enough, pick up the image and move it. Press the tick. Then, if you need the image rotated (eg it may be upside down), press the icon next to the tick - an arrow in a circle. This will rotate the whole image.

Tune image - makes whole image either lighter or darker (swipe left for darker, right for lighter). You can see how much you have done by the scale at the top. Touch on the 3 lines at the bottom (next to the X) or swipe down to get other options (contrast, saturation, etc). Remember, this covers the whole image. If you want to just choose where you want the effects to be, use the brush tool (see below). This is recommended, especially if you have exposed correctly to start with.

Details - Bring out the details in the image, and can help if you photo is a bit dark. I wouldn't go past 25 strength as it can look a bit too over-processed.

Curves - There are pre-set actions you can use, or you can pick the curve up and change it yourself.

White balance - can make the image either cooler (left) or warmer (right). Great for when artificial light has made the image either too orange/blue. AW is Auto White balance (but this can be a bit hit or miss).

Crop - Crop your image. I tend to do 'Free', as it gives a bit more flexibility, but you can choose a certain size of you want. Explore which one you prefer.

Perspective - Straighten out building's top lines - use the 'magic wand' to do it automatically (again VERY hit or miss!!!), or manually do it (swipe up or down). Be careful to check the edges in case extra 'bits' have been added - you may have to re-crop to get rid of it. If you touch on the 'square with a square' icon (bottom row), you will see that it is automatically on 'smart'. I change this to either white or black, and this shows you where the image has moved. Smart will automatically fill in where it needs to, but with varying degrees of success!!!

Expand - Use this when you have, for example, blue sky, sand, etc - pull up to elongate/widen your image. Will only work on very plain canvases.

Selective - This takes a bit of practice, but is pretty good. If you want to, say, make the background of your photo lighter, you can use this. Touch on the photo where you would like it to take it's reading from, and move it to where you want it to be. Then pinch and expand and you will see it turns red - this is the area it will cover. You can then either swipe left (darker) or right (lighter) and only the bits in red will be affected. If you swipe down, you then have the option to do the same with contrast, saturation and structure. You can have multiple dots on your photo. Have a practice!!!

Brush - This is my 'go to' action, and will use this over any other on here. Pinpoint what you want changed, e.g. lighter or darker.

Dodge & Burn - does what the camera thinks it needs doing.

Exposure - pinpoints what you want made lighter or darker. (use the arrows to go lighter (+) or darker (-). I stick to +0.3 (to make lighter), or -0.3 (to make darker).

Temperature (white balance) - + makes it warmer, - makes it cooler

Saturation - Makes colours stand out (or, if you want, you can pinpoint what you want in colour and the rest in B&W).

Healing - Erases things from the picture. Top Tip - zoom in first to make it smaller, and navigate round the image via the square on the left. Touch on what you want to erase - you may have to do it a few times to get it right. Worth practicing so you know what can and can't be done. It won't work on big things (eg getting rid of a car in front of a building), but pretty good for small stuff.

Black and White/Noir - Various black and white filters. Touch on the 3 lines at the bottom to change brightness, contrast and grain. You can also change the tonal colour by touching on the circle to the left of this (next to the X).

Portrait - Excellent if you have a photo showing people's faces. This will find (if easy to identify) any faces and highlight them, as if a flash had been used. Worth experimenting again so you can see which one you like.

Lens blur - Everything inside the inner circle is in focus, then gradually fades to out of focus. Gives a 'depth of field' effect. Change the shape of the 'circle' by pinching it and move it to where you want it to be. Change the intensity of the blur by running your finger left or right (but be careful it doesn't look too artificial. The more subtle it is, the better).

Text - Text option - don't forget to try and photograph leaving the 'negative space' so you can put the text on it so it is clear to see. Change the text options by pressing the 'book' icon (bottom, next to the tick), opacity (ie how dark you want the text - next to the book), and colour of the text (painter's palette).

To save your image, press Export. Save your image (avoid 'Export'). If you get the option 'Allow "Snapseed" to modify this photo', press Modify (only on iPhones).

Top Tips when taking photos

1. Keep your grid lines on. Use them to line up straight lines and check your Rule of Thirds.
2. If doing a wide shot, expose for the brightest part of the image (ie touch on the screen on the brightest part). Then slide the 'Sun' down (iPhone) or 'Lightbulb' left (android) to underexpose a bit (if necessary). Most of the time your camera will do it for you as soon as you touch on the area, but occasionally it will need some help.
3. If doing a macro shot (close up), then touch on the screen where you would like to focus on. Once you are in focus, you can then zoom in to get an even closer shot. Unfortunately the Huawei is the only phone at the moment where you can expose on one part and focus on another. check you haven't over exposed though (blown out).
4. Only zoom in if you absolutely have to (apart from macro shots above). The quality will reduce every time you zoom.
5. Turn the camera upside down for a more artistic shot, especially puddles. Try to avoid exposing as you may 'blow out' the background.
6. Long exposure (iPhone only). Shoot on 'Live' (keep still while the word 'live' is visible - 2 seconds). Then go to the photo, swipe up and scroll to the end to see 'Long Exposure'.
7. To get moving shots, pan the camera to follow the subject. Tap on what you want to follow (eg skateboarder). Then move with the subject, taking the photo as you move. Twist at the hips to ensure a smooth motion. Move at the same speed as the subject, e.g. you would move quicker with a sports car than you would with a runner.
8. When photographing buildings, keep your camera flat to the subject and line up your grid lines so the lines of the building are straight. Ignore your Rule of Thirds here - the most important thing is to get as straight lines as possible and crop afterwards. Keep a clear border around the subject in case you need to edit it with 'perspective' in Snapseed
9. Try to get the shot right to start with and use Snapseed to enhance your photo, rather than totally change it.
10. Have fun!!!!