


THE SIMPLE POWER OF HDR EFEX PRO



OVERVIEW

- very basic basics of HDR and its challenges
- camera setup tips
- resources
- HDR Efex Pro 
 - features
 - presets
 - customization
 - U-POINT Technology !!!!!
 - sample images

FIRSTS...

- no affiliation with Nik Software
- all software purchased fair and square
- just a humble enthusiast of Nik Software plug-ins
- Nik Software has no affiliation with Nikon and is camera agnostic
- HDR Efex Pro released in Oct 2010
- 32/64-bit plug-ins available for PS, LR and Aperture
 - Dfine 2, Viveza 2, ColorEfex Pro 2, SilverEfex Pro 2, Sharpener Pro 3

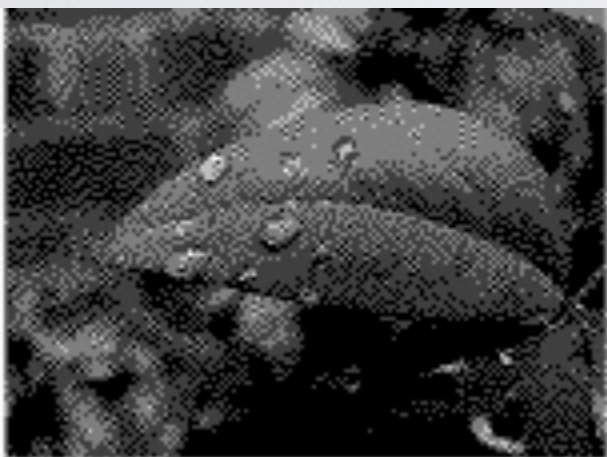
HIGH DYNAMIC RANGE

- range of light and shadows outdoors: 17 EV
- human eyes' ability to see and light adapt: 20 EV
- most DSLRs' limited to 10-12 EV

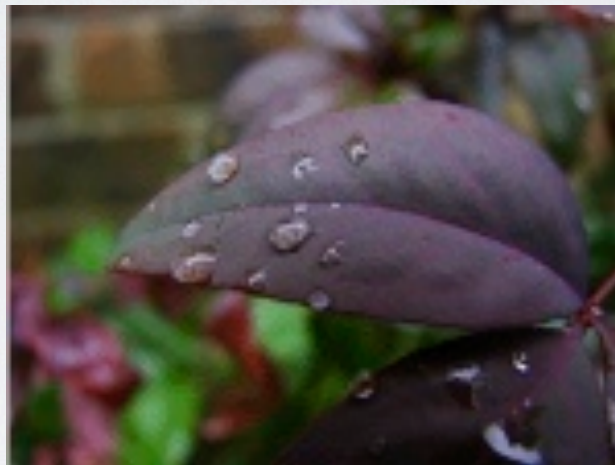
HIGH DYNAMIC RANGE

- sequence of exposures is combined in software
- images are merged into 32-bit per channel space and tone mapped to 16-bit or 8-bit channel space
- tone mapping can vary greatly and produce a wide range of results from the surreal to the realistic

BIT DEPTH



1-Bit



8-Bit



24-Bit





OPTIMAL CAMERA SETUP

- Tripod
- Handheld only with Auto-Exposure-Bracketing
- Cable-release/Remote/Promote/Self-timer
- MLU (optional)
- fixed WB
- ISO fixed
- lowest ISO possible to achieve series
- camera mode where only the exposure varies
- turn off AUTO settings (as much as possible)
- **control your camera for best results!**

CHALLENGES

- Noise
- Movements/ghosting
- Sensor dust

WHAT I DO...

- DEFINITELY ABSOLUTELY ALWAYS SHOOT RAW!
- use fastest possible storage medium (your camera can use) for quickest possible data transfer
- shoot in 1-stop brackets (5, 7 and/or 9 images)
- focus using lens on Auto-Focus, then switch to Manual (if available)
- begin with - 0 +
- check histogram during bracket and after to make sure not to block shadows and highlights
- use automated camera program (assigned buttons for AEB and program bank)
- **whatever you do, do it consistently**

BEFORE HDR EFEX PRO...

- WB
- CA
- sensor dust spots
- distortion correction
- noise correction (if needed and wanted)

A FEW GREAT RESOURCES

- Jason Odell Ph.D., www.luminescentphoto.com , “The Photographers’ Guide To HDR EFEX Pro” (with Tony Sweet)
- Rick Sammon at www.ricksammon.info has a book on HDR
- Trey Ratcliff www.stuckincustoms.com with tutorial, etc.
- Tony Sweet www.tonysweet.com
- www.niksoftware.com for many on demand training and webinars

WHY HDR EFEX PRO?

- very easy to get natural results
- intuitive interface using control sliders (used across all plug-ins)
- 33 tone-mapping algorithm presets
- additional customization presets can be saved
- global and local editing possible using Control Points (!!!)
- not just for tone mapping of HDR images...



Uvas Canyon by
S. Balsbaugh