

October, 2020



2020 Assigned Subjects:

October-Doors

November-Pathways

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Lebanon Camera Club

News

- October Meeting: Tuesday, 10/6/20 6:30 pm
- Program: Photo Critique
- Online Digital Competition

Photography Educational Series—HDR Photography

What Is HDR Photography? HDR photography (high dynamic range) is a technique that involves capturing multiple images of the same scene using different exposure values, and then combining those images into a single image that represents the full range of tonal values within the scene you photographed.

Whenever you experience a situation where the tonal range in a scene before your lens is simply too great to contain within a single photograph, HDR imaging provides a solution. Multiple captures with varying exposure values ensure that you have detail for all tonal values in the scene. You can then use special software to process those images, interpreting the result to create an image that contains far more detail than is possible with a normal photographic image.



Watch this video on HDR Photography: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aDZg8vBVYZU>

Why HDR Photography Has a Bad Reputation

HDR was particularly popular among photographers some years ago. Unfortunately, with automated tools, the internet became flooded with bad pictures.

- They show surreal, fake and oversaturated HDR pictures.
- The problem is that it is easy to over-process HDR photos. There are many presets available in automated HDR software. They produce unappealing images.





“A good snapshot keeps a moment from running away.”
- Eudora Welty



HDR Photography cont'd.

- In time, those images became synonymous with HDR mode. But HDR is not a style.
- It's a technical tool. The goal of HDR mode is to expand the dynamic range of your pictures.

Good HDR photos are subtle and keep the natural look of your images. Furthermore, you don't need to remove contrast because it's what keeps things natural. The way you manipulate the picture has little to do with HDR. You can opt for realistic editing, or you can go wild.

When Would You Use HDR Photography? There are a number of situations where HDR photography can come in handy when used well. Some of these include interior photography, nightscapes and dramatic skies.

- Sunrise and sunset make for perfect HDR images.
- Most often than not, your golden hour photo looks nothing like what you can see in real life. Depending on how you set your exposure (manual or auto), you can find that:
 - The sky is very bright and the foreground quite dark with little details
 - Your foreground is well exposed, but your sky looks washed out.
 - The sky is perfect, but the foreground is solid black.

Camera Settings for HDR Photography - Some phone and compact cameras have a built-in HDR mode. But they only work if you save the images in jpeg format. That means you have little to no control over the whole process. So it's always better to do it yourself manually.

Here's a short checklist for HDR camera settings you need to use:

- Set your camera to save the photo in RAW format and to manual mode;
- Use the lowest ISO setting to work for your situation. Increasing the ISO will reduce the DR the sensor can record.
- Keep the same aperture for all the photos, as this will affect your depth of field;
- Note the suggested shutter speed for the 0EV exposure;
- Set the shutter speed to the most underexposed image you need (e.g., 4EV).
- Change the shutter speed in steps of 1EV (double the shutter speed) after each photo. Continue the sequence until you get the brightest image you need.
- Some cameras have automated bracketing functions. These are great if you want to limit yourself to the +/-2EV range in 3 to 5 photos. But it all depends on the settings and the camera.



For an HDR sequence you want to capture a photo that retains full highlight detail, as well as a photo that retains full shadow detail. Of course, in most cases you'll also need additional photos representing exposures in between those two extremes. As a general rule you should capture a series of photos that are each separated by an exposure val-

Cont'd

HDR Photography cont'd.

ue of two stops.

With very few exceptions, you will generally want to keep the lens aperture and the ISO setting fixed, changing the shutter speed from one frame to the next. You can start by capturing a photo that retains full detail in the highlights, with no clipping shown on the right side of the histogram when reviewing the photo.

You can then adjust the shutter speed for the next photo to achieve an exposure that is two stops brighter. For example, let's assume that your exposure settings for the first photo in the sequence included a shutter speed of 1/500th of a second. With the lens aperture and ISO setting fixed, you can adjust the shutter speed by two stops to 1/125th of a second.

You can then capture an exposure with a shutter speed of 1/30th of a second, and continue with this process until you have captured an image that retains full detail in the darkest shadow areas, reviewing the result on the back of your camera to ensure there is no clipping on the left end of the histogram for that final image

HDR Photography Software

Adobe Lightroom and Photoshop

Lightroom and Photoshop have a Photo Merge mode. Doing so allows you to combine different photos into a single HDR image.

You won't have a lot of options to tweak the HDR. But you can auto-align the images. This feature is useful for handheld sequences. You can also apply auto settings to the final exposure. Furthermore, you can adjust the level for the deghost.

Photomatix/Photomatix Pro

Photomatix is the big guy in the HDR world. You can reimport the images from Lightroom automatically. It has many options and presets. You can choose different methods to create HDR. Some of the tools you can use include detail enhancer, tone mapping, tone, and more. Photomatix Pro comes with a plugin for Lightroom called "merge 32 bit". This feature creates a basic 32-bit HDR image you can edit in Lightroom.

Common HDR Issues:

- **Flattening Your Image**—An HDR image contains a huge amount of data that can be extracted, and dark areas can be brightened up quite a lot to reveal the smallest details. But this does not mean you should do it. The amount of details you show across the scene is only one aspect of a good photograph: contrast is the other part. Flattening the image by reducing the contrast between the original bright and dark areas is often bad practice. It makes the image look less natural, difficult to understand and not really appealing.



"To me, photography is an art of observation. It's about finding something interesting in an ordinary place... I've found it has little to do with the things you see and everything to do with the way you see them."— Elliott Erwitt



HDR Photography cont'd.

- **Black Clouds**—Another common HDR mistake in landscape photography is to allow the clouds to go black. For sure, black clouds are real in bad weather, but the puffy clouds scattered in a blue sky are mostly white. You should keep them as such in your HDR image.
- **Halos**—Halos around highly contrasted edges are the first indicator that you have over-processed your image by boosting the contrast and clarity too much. Those halos are typical of too many HDR images posted online and are, simply put, rubbish. A more gentle approach to editing will make for a more pleasant image, with no halos.
- **Use De-Ghosting to Correct Movement**—It is also best to photograph a scene without fast-moving clouds, people, or traffic. A certain degree of movement among the different exposures is OK. You can correct it with a de-ghosting procedure, available in any HDR software.
- **Pro Tip:** Before starting a new sequence, take a photo with your hand in the frame. Doing so will help you separate one group of sequences from another.
- You will be combining different images. Thus, you should have as little movement as possible between the frames. Set up your camera on a tripod. Use a remote shutter to avoid camera shake.



Conclusion—You should learn to use high dynamic range because you'll find it useful in so many situations. Just remember that you don't need to create unrealistic HDR images. Instead, use these tips to help create natural results.

Sources: <https://expertphotography.com/hdr-photography-tips-improve-photography/> and <https://www.naturettl.com/a-beginners-guide-to-hdr-photography/>

Photo Contests

- **Rennen Photography 2020 Contest**
<https://photocontest-guru.com>
- **Great American Photo Contest Monthly Baby Photo**
www.greatamericanphotocontest.com

Various Photo Contests (Many Different Topics)

- <https://www.photocontestinsider.com/>
- <http://www.voubs.com>
- www.viewbug.com/photo-contests
- www.photocrowd.com/photo-competition
- <https://www.outdoorphotographer.com/photo-contests/>
- <http://www.photocrowd.com>
- www.life-framer.com/
- <https://www.fanartreview.com>

Landscape and Nature Forum Photography Challenge—monthly theme and critique: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/creativeraw/>

[utm_source=ActiveCampaign&utm_medium=email&utm_content=March%20Photo%20Challenge%3A%20Color%20in%20Nature&utm_campaign=Facebook%20Group%20Contest](https://www.facebook.com/groups/creativeraw/?utm_source=ActiveCampaign&utm_medium=email&utm_content=March%20Photo%20Challenge%3A%20Color%20in%20Nature&utm_campaign=Facebook%20Group%20Contest)

Photo Opportunities

October 10-11, Hay Creek Apple Festival, Morgantown, PA,
www.haycreek.org

Eastern State Penitentiary Tours, Philadelphia, PA 9/18-11/9 <https://easternstate.org/nighttours>

Weekends 10/2-11/1—
Creatures of the Night
<http://www.zooamerica.com/index.php>

Ghosts and Goblins Tours at Lincoln Caverns, Weekends Oct, 9 to Nov 1
<https://lincolncaverns.com/events/>

Things To Do During COVID:

- Pennsylvania Waterfalls
- Corn Maze
- Fall Foliage
- Apple Picking
- Covered Bridges (<https://uncoveringpa.com/visiting-covered-bridges-northwestern-columbia-county-pennsylvania>)

Photo Editing Feature of the Month-Remove an Object

How to remove an object in Photoshop: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wAXIqtxGf2A&feature=youtu.be>



How to remove small objects in Lightroom: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vi9JKMlb7Vw>



Product of the Month-Vlog Photography

Cambridge Dictionary Online defines a **vlog** as “a video blog” that is a “record of your thoughts, opinions, experiences that you film and publish on the internet.” It is important to note that “several types of **vlog** are available on the web including instructional videos, travel updates, and personal commentaries”

How to Vlog: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0aWvkw8Wqps> and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CU8VP6eIzFI>

Equipment: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KoUhieU_P6E (bear with it for the first 2 minutes, it gets better!) and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JjqUQP-S8AQ>



Workshops and Tours

Apogee Photo Magazine

For more information log on to
[http://www.apogeephoto.com/
photography_workshops.shtml](http://www.apogeephoto.com/photography_workshops.shtml)

Wildlife and Nature Travel

www.wildlifeandnaturetravel.com

Art Wolfe Photography Workshops

www.artwolfeworkshops.com

Don Smith Photography

www.donsmithphotography.com

Brenda Tharp

www.brendatharp.com/

M&M Photo Tours

<http://www.mmphototours.com/>

Arizona Highway Photo Workshops

<http://www.friendsofhighways.com/>

John Shaw 2-Day Nature & Digital Photography Seminar

<http://www.photosafaris.com/>

Jack Graham Photography

<http://jackgrahamphoto.com/>

Rocky Mountain Reflections

www.rockymtnrefl.com/photographyworkshops.html

Slonina Photography—Explore Wild America

<http://www.sphotography.com>

Darwin Wiggett Tours & Workshops

<http://oopoomoo.com/workshopsandtours/>

Outdoor Photo Workshops

<http://www.outdoorphotoworkshops.com>

Photo Workshop Adventures

www.photoworkshopadventures.com

Michael Francis Photo Shoots

www.michaelfrancisphoto.com

Osprey Photo Workshops & Tours

www.ospreyphoto.com

Tom Dwyer Tours & Workshops

www.tomdwyerphoto.com

Horizon Photography Workshops

www.horizonworkshops.com

Below is a link of online pdf files from
past monthly meeting presentations:

[http://www.bellalum.kotay.net/public/
program/LebanonCameraClub/](http://www.bellalum.kotay.net/public/program/LebanonCameraClub/)

2020 Officers

President: Paul Hess
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Competition: Melodie Bechtel,
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Meetings are the first Tuesday of each month!

If you would like to do a program on anything digital related or know someone who would, please let us know.

Or

If you have something of interest for our members, please email them to the Newsletter Editor, Connie at lebanoncamera@gmail.com.

MONTHLY MEETING
Be Connected. Be Heard. Be Informed.

Everyone is invited to attend our regular monthly meetings.

Unless otherwise noted we meet the first Tuesday at 6:30PM in St. Stephen's Christian Fellowship Church, 1100 Hunter Chase Lane, Lebanon PA.

Directions: From Rt 72 N of Lebanon where N 12th St becomes Jonestown Road at the McDonalds, follow Jonestown Road north past the Turkey Hill. Jonestown

Road will become Sandhill Road. Keep on Sandhill road until it branches to the left into Grace Avenue. Church is on the left 3/10 of a mile from the split *before* you pass Youth for Christ and Fisher Bus..

The club is a member of the Photographic Society of American (PSA).

Cancellation or last minute changes of events will normally be sent to members via email and broadcast on radio station WLBR, AM 1270.

Only members may enter competitions. Dues are \$25 per year and include the newsletter and monthly meeting minutes.

Digital Competition entries are due at least one day prior to the scheduled competition.

Competition Committee will keep winning Print entries for the end of year competition unless the member requests return of entries before then. In that case, the member would be responsible for re-submitting them for the end of year competition.

Products and services of interest to photographers are presented as a service without review or endorsement.

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Dates and times of events may change. Please check local listings.