

Intro to HDR Photography

From Trey Ratcliff¹: “HDR is short for High Dynamic Range. It is a post-processing task of taking either one image or a series of images, combining them, and adjusting the contrast ratios to do things that are virtually impossible with a single aperture and shutter speed.

“An HDR image is commonly made by taking three photos of the same scene, each at different shutter speeds. The result is a bright, medium, and dark photo, based on the amount of light that got through the lens. A software process then combines all the photos to bring details to the shadows and highlights both. This helps to achieve the same task in the final photograph that the human eye can accomplish on the scene.”

What kind of camera do I need?

You can create HDR photos with any camera that has adjustable settings. The photos we'll be processing today were taken with...

- iPhone 5
- a point & shoot Sony DSC-P100 (~\$150, discontinued)
- Canon Rebel T2i and a Canon Rebel T3i (~\$700, discontinued)
- Nikon D7000 (~\$900)
- Canon EOS 5D Mark III (~\$3500)

Some HDR & Other Photo Resources

- Trey's free, text-based HDR Tutorial: www.stuckincustoms.com/hdr-tutorial
- Trey's Complete HDR Tutorial (10+ hours of video, \$99): www.stuckincustoms.com/complete-hdr-tutorial
- Photomatix HDR Software (use coupon code TREYRATCLIFF to save 15%): Essentials, \$39; Pro: \$99. www.hdrsoft.com
- Lesa Snider, or PhotoLes: www.photolesa.com. You can get her "missing manual" books from O'Reilly (e.g., "Photoshop CC, The Missing Manual") for 40-50% off. Use code AUTHD at oreilly.com.

¹ Trey Ratcliff's blog, StuckInCustoms.com, is the #1 travel blog on the internet, with Google having logged nearly 7 billion (that's no misprint) views. One of his distinctions is that one of his photos was the first HDR photo to hang in the Smithsonian.



Photoshop: Practical Keyboard Shortcuts

from the ebook: *Making the Most of Adobe's Creative Cloud*

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Action	Shortcut
Hide Photoshop	Command + Control + H (PC: Ctrl + Alt + H)
Zoom in or out of a document	Command +/- (PC: Ctrl +/-)
Move to different area while you're zoomed in	Hold down the Spacebar and the cursor morphs into a little hand. Click and drag to move around.
Pick a brush and change its size	Press B to activate the Brush tool. Left bracket ([) cycles down in size; right bracket (]) cycles up.
Adjust the kerning	Kerning adjusts space between letters: Option + left/right arrows (PC: Alt + left/right arrows)
Add new layer below the currently active layer	Command-click (PC: Ctrl-click) the new layer icon at the bottom of your Layers panel.
Add Layer mask filled with black (hides everything on that layer)	Option-click (PC: Alt-click) click the layer mask icon at the bottom of the Layers panel (circle within a square icon).
Summon a contextual menu	I do this when I've made a selection or when I'm using Free Transform tool. Control click (PC: right click) within the selection or bounding box to summon a fabulous list of tasks.
Enter QuickMask mode	Press Q to go in, and Q to get out. This is terrific for tweaking selections and masks using the Brush tool.
Enter full screen mode	Press F twice then hit tab. This hides everything (panels and menu bar) and puts your image on a solid black background for serious reflection. (Press F and tab to bring everything back.)
Deselect	Command + D (PC: Ctrl + D)
Set the color chips to default	Press D to set the color chips to the default of black and white.
Swap color chips from foreground to background	Press X to flip-flop them. Handy when editing layer masks.
Duplicate an entire layer or what you have selected	Press Command + J (PC: Ctrl + J)
Select the contents of a layer	Command click the layer thumbnail (PC: Ctrl click the thumbnail).
Show/hide rulers	Press Command + R (PC: Ctrl + R) to show or hide the rulers.
Drag a layer into another document and have it appear perfectly centered	Hold the Shift key while dragging. Crazy simple.



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Photoshop Lightroom 5: Essential Keyboard Shortcuts

from the ebook: *The Skinny on Photoshop Lightroom 5*

PhotoLesa.com/books

Action	Shortcut
Zoom in/out	Command-+ / - (PC: Ctrl-+ / -)
Reposition a zoomed-in image while retouching	Spacebar-drag
Undo the last thing you did	Command-Z (PC: Ctrl-Z)
Full-screen view	F
Go to Library & view thumbnails as a grid	G
Activate multiple images in the Library	Shift or Command-click (PC: Ctrl-click)
Compare two active images in the Library	C
Flag photo as a pick or rejection	P or X key
Rating photos with 0-5 stars	0-5 numeric keys
Color code photos	6-9 numeric keys
Auto advance to next photo (for rating, flagging, & color coding)	Caps Lock key
Copy settings from a photo	Shift-Command-C (PC: Shift-Ctrl-C)
Paste settings to a photo	Shift-Command-V (PC: Shift-Ctrl-V)
Paste settings from previous active photo (skips copy settings step)	Command-Option-V (PC: Ctrl-Alt-V)
Reset settings of a photo(s)	Shift-Command-R (PC: Shift-Ctrl-R)
Save settings as a preset	Shift-Command-B (PC: Shift-Ctrl-B)
Make panels auto-collapse (called Solo Mode, useful in Develop Module)	Option-click any panel header (PC: Alt-click)
White Balance tool	W
Enter Crop mode	R
In Crop mode, switch between horizontal & vertical crop	X
On-image straightening in Crop mode	R, then Command-drag (PC: Ctrl-drag) to draw line across what should be straight
Spot Removal tool	Q
Adjustment Brush	K
Adjustment Brush eraser mode	Option-drag (PC: Alt-drag)
Decrease/increase brush size (Spot Removal or Adjustments Brush)	[(left bracket key) /] (right bracket key)
Graduated Filter (for fixing skies)	M
Radial Filter (for custom vignettes)	Shift-M
Flip-flop the Radial Filter (to invert it)	' (apostrophe key)

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