Adobe® Photoshop CS®2

Julieanne Kost & Daniel Brown • www.adobeevangelists.com

HDR Features and Tips

Available features for Editing in HDR

- 90 degree rotations and flips
- Rotate Arbitrary
- Crop (with rotation and resize)
- Free Transform
- Image Size and Canvas Size
- Trim
- Info palette display of floating point values
- Clone Stamp (supported blend modes only)
- History Brush (supported blend modes only)
- Fill and Stroke (no pattern fill, supported blend modes only)
- Blend modes: Normal, Multiply, Difference, Lighten, Darken, Linear Dodge (Add)
- Filters: Average, Radial Blur, Box Blur, Gaussian Blur, Motion Blur, Shape Blur, Fibers, Lens Flare, De-Interlace, NTSC Colors, Add Noise, Unsharp Mask, High Pass, Offset
- Adjustments: Channel Mixer, Photo Filter, Exposure
- Save Selection, Load Selection
- Conversion of RGB to Grayscale, and Grayscale to RGB (still at 32 bits/channel)
- Conversion of 16 bit/channel images to 32 bit/channel (but no creating new 32 bit images)
- File formats: PSD/PSB, TIFF, LogLUV TIFF, Radiance HDR, PFM, OpenEXR

Tips for taking HDR Merge Exposures

- Merge to HDR requires at least 2 images, 1 stop apart. 1 stop is the equivalent of doubling or halving the exposure time. So if your first exposure is 1 second, 1 stop down would be .5 seconds. Using images that are more than 1 stop apart results in posterized output. Start at slightly overexposed and step down until the image is almost completely dark. A minimum of two exposures is required, but more is always better.
- Using multiple outputs from the same Camera Raw image won't work - you physically need to take more than one exposure.
- Shoot the scene on a tripod for best results. The auto align check box (Photoshop: File > Automate > Merge to HDR) can be useful for slight changes but a tripod will really help.
- The scene must be essentially still, differences between images show up as blurs or ghosts in the final output .
- If you point the Merge to HDR open dialog at Camera Raw files, it will open them as shot, with no changes from Adobe Camera Raw. If you open the raw files in Photoshop first or are working from .psd files save from Adobe Camera Raw, you will need to make sure that Adobe Camera Raw has opened them as shot, and not allowed it to apply it's auto settings.
- Images require either EXIF data for exposure or must be named as "name,1!2.ext" (the ! is being used as the fractional divider in the exposure time).