

Teton Photography Group

TPG POST-PROCESSING WORKSHOP

The Google / DxO Nik Suite

TPGed
Photography Education in the Tetons

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Agenda

- ▶ Welcome and introductions
- ▶ Overview of Google / DxO Nik software suite functions
 - ▶ Define Sharpen
 - ▶ HDR Efex Viveza
 - ▶ Silver Efex Color Efex
 - ▶ (Analog Efex)
- ▶ Pros & cons summary of Nik software
- ▶ Wrap-up by ~4P

2018 TPG Program Theme

"Creating compelling images"

- Technically precise
- Composed with intent
- Elicit emotion / engaging
- **Pops** in the viewers mind

Learning Objectives

At the end of this workshop, you will be able to:

- ▶ List the plug-ins available in the Nik suite
- ▶ Explain the difference between the plug-ins
- ▶ Understand and use local control points
- ▶ Use and create pre-sets and recipes in Nik software
- ▶ Create unique and dynamic images
- ▶ Improve your digital post-processing skills

Pre-sets, plug-ins & pop

Repeat after me...

- ▶ There is no one, single workflow
- ▶ My workflow is not the only way
- ▶ Workflow changes with images / outputs
- ▶ There are lots of ways to skin a cat
- ▶ Find what is best for you

Always have a workflow in mind

LightRoom Modules

- ▶ Library – organize your images
 - ▶ Import, export, publish images
- ▶ Develop – process your images
- ▶ Map – geo-tag your images
- ▶ Book – create a photo book
- ▶ Slide show – create a slideshows
- ▶ Print – print your images
- ▶ Web – create a web objects
- ▶ **“Edit In” function**

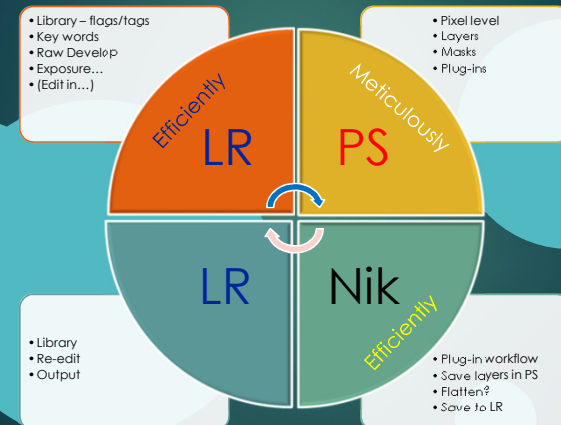
Workflow...

Why consider Nik plug-ins?

- ▶ The price is right!
- ▶ Compatible with Photoshop & Lightroom in Mac or PC
- ▶ Highly automated processing
 - ▶ Customizable
 - ▶ Presets
 - ▶ Recipes

Efficiency

Plug-ins and Workflow



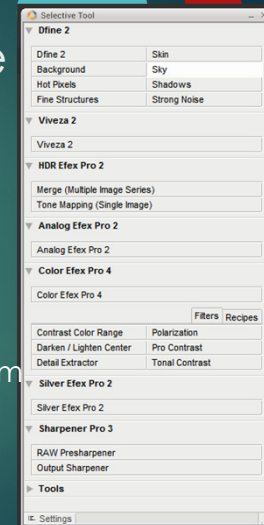
The Nik Suite

7 tools
 3-8 functions / tool
 5-55 presets / function
 3-10 settings / preset

The Nik Tool Suite

Common Characteristics

- Presets / filters
 - Adjustments
 - Recipes
 - Control points
- ### Free-standing Operation?
- HDR Efex Pro
 - Also directly from Lightroom



How to get started

- ▶ Update your operating system
- ▶ Update Adobe Lightroom Classic and Photoshop CC
- ▶ Download Nik Suite from Google or DxO
- ▶ Unzip the folder into your Adobe Plug-ins folder
- ▶ Use Adobe Plug-ins Manager to active menu
- ▶ (Note: You might need to re-load the plug-ins after some major Adobe updates – so keep your download folder available)

Let's get to work

Define 2

- ▶ Noise reduction (luminance/contrast and color)
- ▶ All RGB channels or isolated
- ▶ Analyzes multiple regions and smooths noise
- ▶ Auto vs manual (auto is fast & powerful)
- ▶ Local control points
- ▶ **First** step in most advanced workflow
- ▶ Creates new layer in Photoshop

Raw Pre-sharpener (Sharpener Pro 3)

- ▶ Pre-sharpening raw files when other tools are **not** used
- ▶ General and local pre-sharpening tool
- ▶ Many recommend sharpening at end of workflow
- ▶ Creates new layer in Photoshop

HDR Efex Pro 2

- ▶ Multiple image HRD conversion and presets
- ▶ Single image tone mapping
- ▶ 32 bit conversion
- ▶ Multiple pre-sets
- ▶ Flexible "strength" adjustments
- ▶ Does **NOT** create a new layer in Photoshop
- ▶ Stand alone and Lightroom direct also

Silver Efex Pro 2

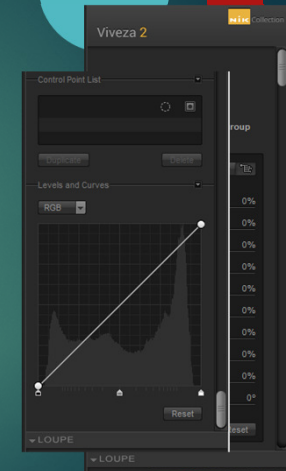
- ▶ Monochrome conversion
- ▶ Many pre-sets for common looks
- ▶ Acclaimed as one of the best monochrome converters
- ▶ Creates new layer in Photoshop

Color Efex Pro 4

- ▶ Color image contrast and sharpening/detail extractor
- ▶ Many presets for each filter
- ▶ Can combine filters in recipes
- ▶ Local +/- control points
- ▶ Can adjust the "strength" of effect
- ▶ Creates new layer in Photoshop

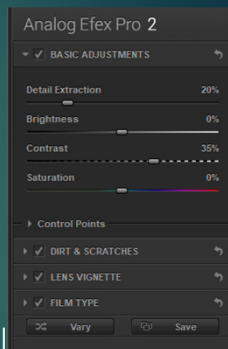
Viveza 2

- ▶ General tone and color adjustments
- ▶ Levels and curves
- ▶ Local adjustments tools
- ▶ Control points



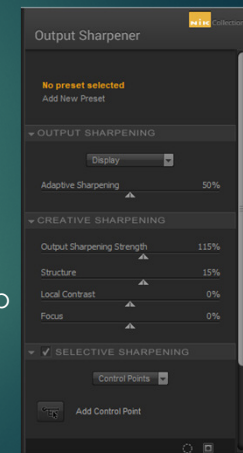
Analog Efex Pro 2

- ▶ Plug-ins for vintage film looks
- ▶ Can make your \$6,000 digital camera produce the film quality of a Brownie or Instamatic
- ▶ Create film technical errors
- ▶ Many presets and tools
- ▶ Not exactly sure why you would use this?

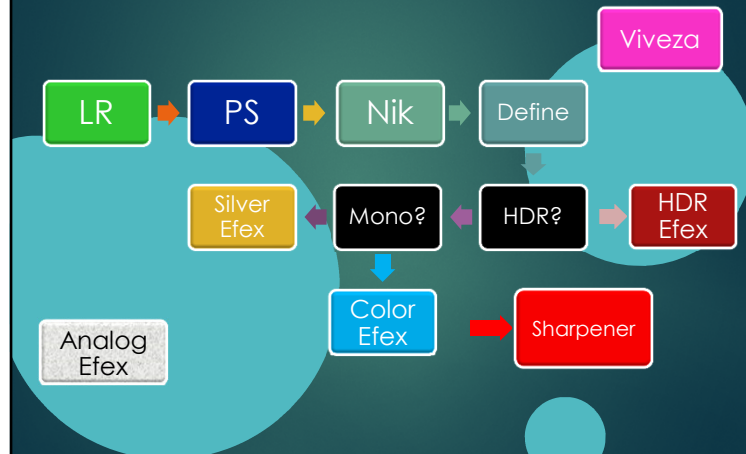


Output Sharpener (Sharpener Pro 3)

- ▶ Post-sharpening TIFF/PSD files
- ▶ General and local sharpening tool
- ▶ Adaptive sharpening
- ▶ Local contrast and focus (blur)
- ▶ Sharpening at end of workflow
- ▶ Creates new layer in Photoshop



Nik Suite Workflow Options



Processing Software Key Points

- ▶ Software is selected according to use
- ▶ Organize images in LR Library module
- ▶ Do image-level edits on raw file (LR)
- ▶ Pixel-level edits in PS (return as PSD or TIF)
- ▶ Nik plug-ins create new PS layers (file size!)
- ▶ Return to LR for final edits, crop, & output



Summary

Lightroom:

- ▶ Powerful database for image organization
- ▶ Non-destructive, image-level edits
- ▶ Integration with other Adobe and third-party products

Photoshop:

- ▶ Pixel level, destructive edits
- ▶ Powerful tool for fine editing
- ▶ Nik Plug-ins:
- ▶ Efficiency / workflow
- ▶ Monochrome conversion
- ▶ HDR conversion
- ▶ Complex pre-sets simplified



TPGed

- ❖ Evening 2h classes
- ❖ Weekend 4h+ workshops
- ❖ Summer visitor programs

Goals: High quality, educationally sound, low cost

