

LR to HDR Efx Pro 2

Overview of my Workflow

1. Take the photo with at least 3 exposures (-1, 0, +1) but I prefer to take 5 exposures (-2, -1, 0, +1, +2) to cover a better dynamic range. These images are taken on a tripod, image stabilization turned off, ISO 100 to reduce the noise, set the timer to 2 seconds and let the camera take the shots. On Canon cameras, they will automatically take all 5 exposures without you pressing the shutter numerous times.
2. I import all of my photos from the shoot into Lightroom organized in folders designated by the date and a description
3. I use the stacking function to group my HDR images. Depending on the approximate duration of the 5 exposures, I will use the Auto Stack by time to create the groups. I use a setting of 6-10 seconds for daytime shots but this will be longer with night shots (depending on exposure times).
4. I collapse all the stacked images and select all of them.
5. I create a subfolder called HDR and move these images into it.
6. Now I go through my favorite shots and start processing the HDR final images. I select the 5 images, right click the image and select Export to HDR Efx Pro 2.
7. In HDR Efx, I go through the presets and find one that fits the image to give me a baseline to further refine the image.
8. After I am done. I just select done and this image will be saved and imported back into my Lightroom library.

This workflow is quick and the combination of using Lightroom and HDR Efx Pro 2 makes it quite easy to use and stay organized.