

HDR from one Exposure.atn - User manual

General purpose

This is an action that creates an HDR look out of two differently processed versions of one original raw file. Starting point is a two-layered Photoshop file where:

- the bottom layer contains a light version of the image, showing detail and color in the dark areas while light areas being very light or white;
- the top layer contains a dark version of the same image, showing detail and color in the light areas while dark areas being very dark or black.

The action can be started with focus on either of the two layers. Neither of the layers must have a layer mask. The action will then do the following:

- create a layer mask for the top layer that reveals details of both layers as well as possible, while trying to retain a natural look of the edges between dark and light areas
- create two extra layers that together try to restore color where it might have suffered in the process

Layer structure

The original top layer is renamed to *HDR dark layer* and the two extra color layers are called *HDR light color* and *HDR dark color* resp. The three layers are then put together in a group called *HDR Group*.

Compatibility

The action runs on any (not too old) Photoshop version.

Limitations, drawbacks and pitfalls

- When used on an original that does not have a high dynamic range (a non-typical HDR image), the result of the action is a very flat rendition of the image.

History

- October 2024: Original version

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