

HDR Photography Photo Workshop

By Peter Carr, Robert Correll

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Learn the intricacies of High Dynamic Range photography from experts and get feedback on your work

High Dynamic Range (HDR) photography offers a new range of creative possibilities to the photographer who is skilled in the technique. HDR requires specific camera skills as well as the use of specialized software, and the photographers who wrote this book are experts in both. They explain the process of shooting the same subject at different exposures, combining those shots into a single HDR image, fine-tuning brightness and contrast, minimizing noise, layering images, and more, including creative techniques with Photoshop and Lightroom.

You can submit your HDR images for feedback at photoworkshop.com.

- High Dynamic Range (HDR) photography offers creative possibilities through specific camera and software techniques that produce highly detailed and imaginative images
- Two professional photographers team up to provide expert instruction in HDR camera and software techniques for those new to HDR
- Covers the latest software and concepts, a comprehensive exploration of HDR basics, various techniques for shooting and merging images, and creative tricks with Photoshop and Lightroom
- Lavishly illustrated with new examples and full of suggestions for developing a personal HDR style
- Students can upload their own images for feedback at photoworkshop.com

Any photographer who is new to HDR will find this guide loaded with helpful instructions and encouraging advice.

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HDR Photography Photo Workshop By Peter Carr, Robert Correll Bibliography

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

Sample Photos from the Authors (Click on images to enlarge)

The Echo Wheel of Liverpool

Liverpool has plenty of fun architecture to play with and always looks stunning at dusk. The Echo Wheel of Liverpool makes for an interesting photo here with Pizza Express on the left. You may look at the scene and wonder why it needed HDR so I'm going to explain.



Neon lighting can often come out over-exposed in photos. Looking at the original image straight out of camera and you can see a couple of issues. The base of the wheel is a little over-exposed while the ground around Pizza Express is under-exposed. The neon on the wheel and the sign are both over-exposed just barely hinting at the blue colour.

To get the material needed for a decent HDR image I used a tripod, auto bracket exposure mode (AEB) and took 9 photographs at various settings. The string of exposures were -4/-3/-2/-1/0/+1/+2/+3/+4. That gave me plenty of material to work with. You can see the original out of camera image below.



I loaded the images into Photomatix and selected my starting point preset. This increases the luminosity a bit to flatten the contrast of the image, bringing clarity to over-exposed and under-exposed areas. I boosted the

gamma a little for overall brightness and tweaked the black and white points for contrast, being careful not to blow the highlights. I almost always keep lighting adjustments at maximum for a realistic look (Natural+). You can see the result of tone mapping in Photomatix below.



Going back to the first image you can see that there's more colour in the sunset and the neons. It may be a small thing but HDR helps you nail those small details to tidy up a shot.

Exposure Info:

16mm lens setting

f/8, ISO 200, 1 second

exposure compensation +/- 0

Tools Used:

Nikon D700

Nikon 14-24mm f/2.8

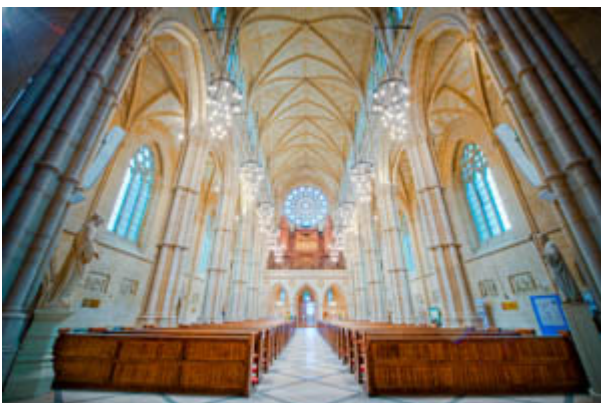
Tripod

Remote shutter button

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Arundel Cathedral, West Sussex.

I've yet to visit a boring and dull cathedral. They're always amazing and breathtaking to behold. God knows his architecture.



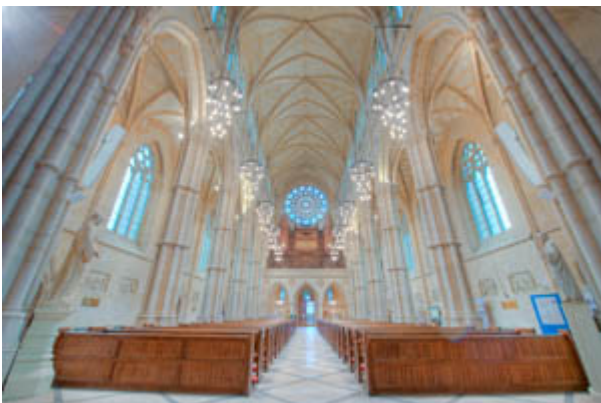
I've been in larger cathedrals that seem to disappear off into the shadows. Arundel isn't that big but has a few hoops to jump through. The issue I had here was the large windows. I didn't want them to lose too much detail and I also wanted to get a bit more detail in the pews and impressive organ at the far end of the

cathedral. As a perfectionist I simply refused to lose any detail.

To get the material needed for a decent HDR image I used a tripod, auto bracket exposure mode (AEB) and took 9 photographs at various settings. The string of exposures were -4/-3/-2/-1/0/+1/+2/+3/+4. That gave me plenty of material to work with. You can see the original out of camera image below.



I loaded the images into Photomatix and selected my starting point preset. This increases the luminosity a bit to flatten the contrast of the image, bringing clarity to over-exposed and under-exposed areas. The detail was nicely retained in the windows and brought out more in the pews and organ. I tweaked the black and white points for contrast, being careful not to blow the highlights. I almost always keep lighting adjustments at maximum for a realistic look (Natural+). You can see the result of tone mapping in Photomatix below.



Afterwards I put the image into Lightroom for some tweaking. I added a bit of a vignette to darken the edge, tweaked the white balance and increased the contrast a little. The idea was to make the centre of the image come to life. That's where the eye is drawn, down the aisle to the grand window and organ.

Exposure Info:

14mm lens setting

f/13, ISO 200, 0.6 seconds

exposure compensation +/- 0

Tools Used:

Nikon D700

Nikon 14-24mm f/2.

8 Tripod

Remote shutter button

From the Back Cover

Learn to create your own HDR masterpiece

HDR photography opens a new vista of possibilities to any photographer. It doesn't require the most expensive gear or a PhD in physics — only your creative vision, a bit of software, and the guidance you'll find in this book. Learn the technique, how to set up your camera for bracketing exposures to create HDR images, and how to work the magic that creates your final HDR photo. Explore, experiment, and enjoy.

- Learn to identify excellent HDR subjects— landscapes, cityscapes, interior settings, natural surroundings, and more
- Understand the process and purpose of tone mapping
- Explore HDR equipment and learn how you can make the most of your camera
- Use Photomatix Pro and learn to evaluate other HDR software
- Share your images and interact with other HDR students at photoworkshop.com

About the Author

PETE CARR is a freelance photographer whose work has been widely exhibited throughout the UK. He publishes his photographs on his award-winning daily photo blog, www.littletimemachine.com.

ROBERT CORRELL has written numerous books about photography, including *Digital SLR Photography All-in-One For Dummies*. He is also a talented musician and music producer.

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