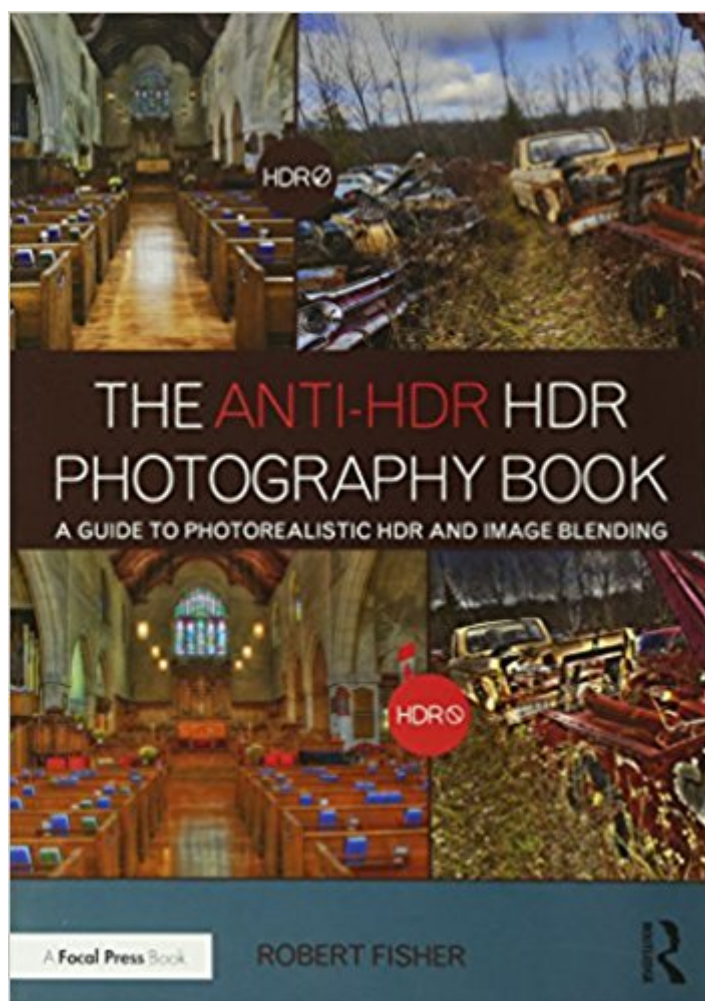


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The Anti-HDR HDR Photography Book: A Guide To Photorealistic HDR And Image Blending



Synopsis

The Anti-HDR HDR Photography Book contains everything you'll need to know in order to get the best results from your High Dynamic Range images. Designed for those who want to extend the dynamic range in their work, but are frustrated by over-processed and hyper-saturated images, this book proves that HDR techniques are capable of producing photographs that are both stunning and realistic. In addition to helping you choose the right equipment and settings to optimize your shoot for HDR, the book explains how to use post-processing software to create natural-looking photographs, blend source images with layer masks, and establish an efficient workflow. By teaching you to effectively use all the most important tools of HDR, it will expand the scope of your portfolio and allow you to create images that you never thought were possible. Key features include:

What to look for when choosing a camera for HDR Description of gear that is important to the HDR photographer How to use the HDR software applications Photomatix and SNS-HDR Pro to achieve natural-looking results Discussion of blending multiple source images using simple masks and techniques An in-depth examination of the use of Luminance Masks for blending and editing bracketed images to a photorealistic composite Guide to workflow, from organizing images on the computer to pre-merge editing of RAW files using both Adobe Lightroom and Adobe Bridge The use of black-and-white in HDR and image-blending, including ways to convert color images to black-and-white

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Robert Fisher is a commercial photographer and freelance writer based just outside of Toronto, Canada. His love of photography began over 15 years ago when he was first exposed to the impressionistic style. As a writer, he has traveled the world to cover topics ranging from politics to concussions, and as a photographer he has exhibited his work in a number of shows and galleries. He is the author of *The Digital Zone System: Taking Control from Capture to Print* and *The Mobile Photographer: A Guide to Using Android® Phones, Tablets and Apps in a Photography Workflow*.

Excellent book covering all aspects of HDR photography.

Hooray for Robert Fisher. He offers some suggestions for those who want to extend the range of light of their photographs without making them look surrealistic. By way of background, cameras do not have the same range of light as the human eye. (I know that some cameras have a so-called built in HDR (High Dynamic Range) capability, but that has its limitations which Fisher doesn't explore.) That means that while the human eye may be able to see detail in certain light or dark areas of a scene, a camera often sees pure white and/or black, depending on settings. HDR is the method of combining images taken at different exposures to increase the range of light of the camera to that of the human eye. However some of the software used for the combining also is able to use the data collected by the camera to make images with strange color effects. Some people enjoy these unrealistic effects but Fisher is interested in avoiding these effects and creating images that look like what the human eye sees. The author tells us the best way to capture the required multiple images and then process them in software, including the very popular Photomatix, and SNS-HDR which claims to be optimized for a natural look. He then goes on to describe blending processes to extend the range of light and allow for controlling the light effects within the zones of light, as first explored by Ansel Adams and Fred Archer. He finishes the book talking about sharpening and black and white conversions. His explanations are good, if a little general, and it would pay the reader to have experience with software like Lightroom, Photoshop and Photomatix. For example in describing his process of blending with luminance masks, one ought to have some familiarity with alpha channels and creating actions. I was once skeptical of blending with luminance masks but I've come to see that they may be useful for some folks. I generally apply the 90/10 rule. Ninety percent of image processing can be done in 10 percent of the time and, in using luminance masks, 10 percent of the processing will take 90 percent

of the time. For me, unless I want to create a hero image, it's not worth the time to follow this procedure, especially since there are other methods of achieving the same goals and since only the keenest viewers will see the difference. Others looking to squeeze out the most from their images may want to explore luminance masks. As my kids tell me, "just sayin'". My big disappointment with the book was that, other than a statement that Lightroom also offers HDR processing, the author totally ignores that software. Before Lightroom HDR, I always processed HDR in Photomatix for realistic, full-range images. Now I use the Lightroom facility and it works well. If it is not as good for preparing photorealistic HDR, I still would have liked Fisher to explore its use and then tell why it was better, or worse, than other HDR software. Note: The publisher provided me with a review copy of this book at no charge.

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