

## Processing RAW files through Photoshop's Adobe Camera RAW

When you take a picture with most digital cameras,, the sensor data is usually processed and saved into a jpg at the time a picture is taken. When you shoot RAW, the camera saves an un-compressed file that is as close as possible to what the sensor saw when you shot. The RAW file is specific to each camera manufacturer; that's how you end up with extensions like .NEF (nikon) or .CR2 (canon) which must be interpreted into a viewable/editable file with software like the Photoshop's RAW processor or Lightroom.

1. Be sure that you have shot RAW files (for example, .NEF or .CR2), then Import them from your camera (or card reader) onto your computer.
2. Open a RAW file in photoshop. The RAW import window should appear.
3. While looking at the histogram, use the Blacks slider to bring the dark areas of the image histogram so they nearly touch the left edge of the rectangular area. Be sure that you don't clip any useful shadow details.
4. Again looking at the histogram, use the Whites slider to bring the highlight areas of the image closer to the right edge of the rectangle. Try not to clip any highlight detail.
5. Now looking at the histogram once more, use the Exposure slider to compensate for overall lightness or darkness changes, then use the Highlights & Shadows sliders if necessary to fine tune the relationship between light and dark areas. Try not to clip any highlight detail.
6. Now work with the Temperature slider to color balance the between warm and cool lighting conditions. (The numbers represent the Kelvin scale) Try going too far in both directions (too blue, then too yellow) then find the middle where these two are balanced as you look at the image.
7. Do the same with the Tint slider to balance between green and magenta. Again try going to both extremes first. You may also find that going back and forth between Temperature and Tint may help to find the overall color balance.
8. At the bottom of the window, click the blue text that looks like a link and in the resulting window, check that the following settings are correct for print output:
  - a. Space – Adobe RGB 1998
  - b. Depth – 16 Bits/Channel
  - c. Size – Choose the native Resolution of your camera
  - d. Resolution – 240 ppi
9. Press Open and your file will be converted to an RGB file in Photoshop.
10. Once in Photoshop, check your Image size and histogram to verify that the file is imported correctly before further color correcting. Also check the embedded color profile. If everything is correct, Save your photoshop file.