

East Side Camera Club – HDR Demonstration

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HDR - what is HDR? High dynamic range (HDR), also known as wide dynamic range, extended dynamic range, or expanded dynamic range, is a dynamic range higher than usual. The term is often used in discussing the dynamic range of various signals such as images, videos, audio or radio. It may apply to the means of recording, processing, and reproducing such signals including analog and digitized signals.

The average digital camera will record 10-11 stops of exposure. The problem as I see it is that what we see with the human eye is not accurately recorded on a digital sensor. My sample demonstration image used in this presentation shows how an average exposure may create an accurate representation of what the camera saw, it does not show the subtle details in the shadow areas that our eyes see. The dynamic range of an image sensor can't yet match that of the human eye (or rather, the brain's processing of light). While we can look at a scene and see detail in both deepest shadows and brightest highlights, the camera restricts this somewhat and the result is overexposed whites and underexposed blacks.

Many people object to HDR Images because of the "Grunge Look." All software is capable of rendering a natural look. I reserve the Grunge Look for old rusted cars and similar subjects for added impact.

Here's a list of available software to create HDR Images.

HRD Images can be created with Photoshop, Lightroom and Affinity

My favorite image processing software are the following:

Aurora 2019 - \$99.00

Photomatix Pro 7.0 - \$ 99.00, or Photomatix Essentials, \$39.99

NIK 6 Collection HDR Efex, NIK 6.0 Collection Suite. \$149.00

Luminar Neo Pro - \$99.00 annually

My favorite is Photomatix Pro 7.0

Second is Aurora 2019. Great presets for interiors.

You will soon discover each image processing software performs slightly differently on a variety of images and subjects. I prefer the natural look opposed to the Grunge Look.

A recent article in Digital Camera World had an outstanding article on HDR image editing software:

<https://www.digitalcameraworld.com/buying-guides/best-hdr-software>