

JAMES FOX

PROCESSING A
LANDSCAPE PHOTOGRAPH

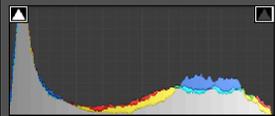
PROCESSING A RAW IMAGE

- The following images show how I have processed a RAW landscape file, starting with Lightroom and finishing with Luminar Flex. There are many ways of doing this. I usually start with Lightroom and then go onto either Luminar Flex or Nik and finish with Affinity Photo.

JWF-5DIII--14.CR2
1/30 sec at f / 14, ISO 100
21 mm (EF17-40mm f/4L USM)



Histogram



ISO 100 21 mm f / 14 1/30 sec

Original Photo

Adjustment icons: crop, crop and straighten, crop and straighten with grid, crop and straighten with grid and crop, crop and straighten with grid and crop and straighten with grid.

Whites: 0
Blacks: 0

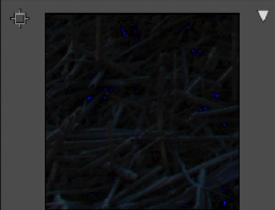
Presence
Texture: 0
Clarity: 0
Dehaze: 0
Vibrance: 0
Saturation: 0

Tone Curve

HSL/Color

Split Toning

Detail



Sharpening
Amount: 0
Radius: 1.0
Detail: 25
Masking: 0

Noise Reduction
Luminance: 0
Detail: 50
Contrast: 0

Color
Detail: 50
Smoothness: 50

Lens Corrections

Profile Manual

Previous Reset

The image shown was taken on a tripod and an aperture chosen f14 to give a depth of field to include the hay bail and the distant scene.

You will see that the foreground is dark but the remaining scene is well exposed. The histogram shows that there is sufficient information available in the file to process the information to produce a good image.

I begin my process in Lightroom Develop. The camera was carefully levelled on the tripod so although the horizon has a slope I know it is natural and will leave it alone.

JWF-5DIII--14.CR2
1/30 sec at f / 14, ISO 100
21 mm (EF17-40mm f/4L USM)



The Basic adjustments



Histogram

ISO 100 21 mm f / 14 1/30 sec

Original Photo

Basic

Treatment: Color Black & White

Profile: Adobe Color

WB: Custom

Temp 6,000

Tint +10

Tone Auto

Exposure +0.15

Contrast 0

Highlights -36

Shadows +36

Whites +12

Blacks +16

Presence

Texture 0

Clarity +12

Dehaze 0

Vibrance +17

Saturation 0

Tone Curve

HSL/Color

Split Toning

Detail

Sharpening

Amount 40

Previous Reset

I start with the Basic Panel and make all my adjustments by eye. I could use the Auto setting but I find that I often do not agree with Lightroom's interpretation and prefer to use my own.

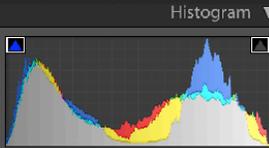
I start with the exposure and then with the Highlight and shadow clipping indicators on I move my highlights, whites and blacks. Then go to shadows and lift these. On the next panel I nearly always boost my clarity and vibrance. I rarely touch saturation and in this case I do not need any dehaze because I want to keep that look. I have gone back to the colour temperature and lifted it to 6000. You will finally see that I have lifted sharpening a little. Final sharpening is always done after sizing for printing.

JWF-5DIII--14.CR2
1/30 sec at f / 14, ISO 100
21 mm (EF17-40mm f/4L USM)



Brush

Mask overlay indicator



ISO 100 21 mm f / 14 1/30 sec

Original Photo

Mask: New Edit

Effects Custom

Temp 0

Tint 0

Exposure 0.00

Contrast 0

Highlights 0

Shadows 0

Whites 0

Blacks 0

Texture 0

Clarity 0

Dehaze 0

Saturation 0

Sharpness 0

Noise 0

Moiré 0

Defringe 0

Color

Brush: A B Erase

Size 2.0

Feather 100

Flow 100

Auto Mask

Density 100

Range Mask: Off

Reset Close

Basic

Treatment: Color Black & White

Profile: Adobe Color

WB: Custom

Temp 6,000

Tint +11

Tone Auto

Previous Reset

Show Edit Pins: Always Show Selected Mask Overlay

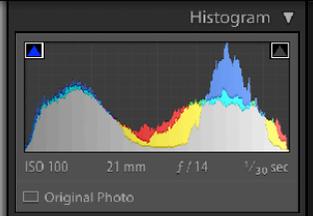
Done

The previous slide shows the areas in which I want to increase exposure. I have chosen a brush and I have ticked the mask indicator so that I can see where I am painting my mask.

JWF-5DIII--14.CR2
1/30 sec at f / 14, ISO 100
21 mm (EF17-40mm f/4L USM)



Drop down panel when brush is selected



Mask: New Edit

Effect: Custom ▾

Temp 0

Tint 0

Exposure 0.75

Contrast 0

Highlights 0

Shadows 0

Whites 0

Blacks 0

Texture 12

Clarity 24

Dehaze 0

Saturation 0

Sharpness 0

Noise 0

Moiré 0

Defringe 0

Color ⊞

Brush: A B Erase ▾

Size 2.0

Feather 100

Flow 100

Auto Mask

Density 100

Range Mask: Off ▾

Reset Close

Basic ▾

Treatment: Color Black & White

Profile: Adobe Color ⊞ ⊞

WB: Custom ▾

Temp 6,000

Tint +11

Tone Auto

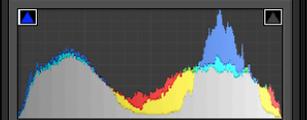
Done Previous Reset

In the previous slide I have switched off the mask indicator and in the panel that has dropped down on the right I have increased the exposure to 0.75 and added texture 12 and clarity 24 to the hay.

JWF-5DIII--14.CR2
1/30 sec at f / 14, ISO 100
21 mm (EF17-40mm f/4L USM)



Histogram



ISO 100 21 mm f / 14 1/30 sec

Original Photo

Mask: New Edit

Effect: Custom

Temp 0
Tint 0

Exposure 0.00
Contrast 0
Highlights 0
Shadows 0
Whites 0
Blacks 0

Texture 0
Clarity 0
Dehaze 0
Saturation 0

Sharpness 0
Noise 0
Moire 0
Defringe 0

Color

Brush: A B Erase

Size 7.0
Feather 100
Flow 100
Auto Mask
Density 100

Range Mask: Off

Reset Close

Basic

Treatment: Color Black & White

Profile: Adobe Color

WB: Custom

Temp 6,000
Tint +11

Tone Auto

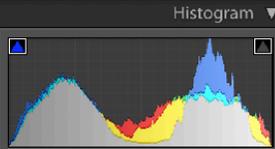
Previous Reset

Show Edit Pins: Always Show Selected Mask Overlay

Done

In the previous slide I have chosen a new brush and masked another area for which I want to increase the exposure by a different amount. You will see in the following slide that this has been increased by 0.5.

JWF-5DIII--14.CR2
1/30 sec at f / 14, ISO 100
21 mm (EF17-40mm f/4L USM)



ISO 100 21 mm f / 14 1/30 sec

Original Photo



Mask: New Edit

Effect: Custom

Temp 0
Tint 0

Exposure 0.50
Contrast 0
Highlights 0
Shadows 0
Whites 0
Blacks 0

Texture 11
Clarity 0
Dehaze 0
Saturation 0

Sharpness 0
Noise 0
Moiré 0
Defringe 0

Color

Brush: A B Erase

Size 7.0
Feather 100
Flow 100
 Auto Mask
Density 100

Range Mask: Off

Reset Close

Basic

Treatment: Color Black & White

Profile: Adobe Color

WB: Custom

Temp 6,000
Tint +11

Tone: Auto

Previous Reset

Show Edit Pins: Always Show Selected Mask Overlay

Done

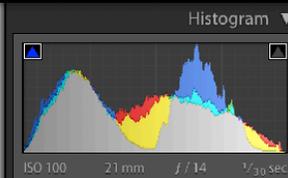
The following slide shows where I have chosen a graduated filter in order to darken the sky.

JWF-5DIII--14.CR2
1/30 sec at f / 14, ISO 100
21 mm (EF17-40mm f/4L USM)



Exposure reduced by 0.5

Graduated filter pulled down from top to as far as horizon



ISO 100 21 mm f / 14 1/30 sec

Original Photo

Mask: New Edit Brush

Effect: Custom

Temp 0

Tint 0

Exposure -0.50

Contrast 0

Highlights 0

Shadows 0

Whites 0

Blacks 0

Texture 0

Clarity 0

Dehaze 0

Saturation 0

Sharpness 0

Noise 0

Moiré 0

Defringe 0

Color

Range Mask: Off

Reset Close

Basic

Treatment: Color Black & White

Profile: Adobe Color

WB: Custom

Temp 6,000

Tint +11

Tone Auto

Exposure +0.15

Contrast 0

Highlights -36

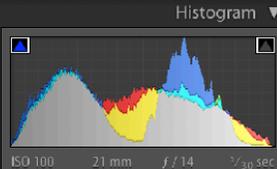
Shadows +36

Whites +12

JWF-5DIII--14.CR2
1/30 sec at f / 14, ISO 100
21 mm (EF17-40mm f/4L USM)



Mask erased over hayrick



ISO 100 21 mm f / 14 1/30 sec

Original Photo

Mask: New Edit Brush

Effect: Custom

Temp 0

Tint 0

Exposure -0.50

Contrast 0

Highlights 0

Shadows 0

Whites 0

Blacks 0

Texture 0

Clarity 0

Dehaze 0

Saturation 0

Sharpness 0

Noise 0

Moiré 0

Defringe 0

Color

Brush: A B Erase

Size 3.0

Feather 100

Flow 100

Auto Mask

Density 100

Range Mask: Off

Reset Close

Basic

Treatment: Color Black & White

Profile: Adobe Color

WB: Custom

Temp 6,000

Tint +11

Tone Auto

Previous Reset

Show Edit Pins: Always Show Selected Mask Overlay

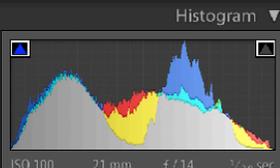
Done

In the previous slide I show the graduated filter mask and where I have erased it in order not to reduce the exposure on the hayrick.

JWF-5DIII--14.CR2
1/30 sec at f / 14, ISO 100
21 mm (EF17-40mm f/4L USM)



Brush mask over clouds with overlay on



ISO 100 21 mm f / 14 1/30 sec

Original Photo

Mask: New Edit

Effect: Custom
Temp 0
Tint 0

Exposure 0.00
Contrast 0
Highlights 0
Shadows 0
Whites 0
Blacks 0

Texture 0
Clarity 0
Dehaze 0
Saturation 0

Sharpness 0
Noise 0
Moiré 0
Defringe 0

Color

Brush: A B Erase
Size 9.0
Feather 100
Flow 100
Auto Mask
Density 100

Range Mask: Off
Reset Close

Whites +12
Blacks +16

Presence
Texture 0
Clarity +12
Dehaze 0
Vibrance +17
Saturation 0

Show Edit Pins: Always Show Selected Mask Overlay

Done

Previous

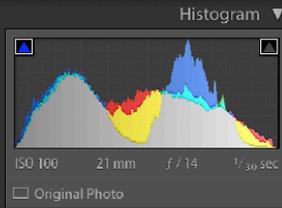
Reset

In the previous slide I have brushed the clouds in order to enable me to reduce the sharpness. This is shown in the following slide.

JWF-5DIII--14.CR2
1/30 sec at f / 14, ISO 100
21 mm (EF17-40mm f/4L USM)



Cloud sharpness reduced



ISO 100 21 mm f / 14 1/30 sec

Original Photo

Mask: New Edit

Effect: Custom

Temp: 0
Tint: 0

Exposure: 0.00
Contrast: 0
Highlights: 0
Shadows: 0
Whites: 0
Blacks: 0

Texture: 0
Clarity: 0
Dehaze: 0
Saturation: 0

Sharpness: -40
Noise: 0
Moiré: 0
Defringe: 0

Color

Brush: A B Erase

Size: 9.0
Feather: 100
Flow: 100
 Auto Mask
Density: 100

Range Mask: Off

Whites: +12
Blacks: +16

Presence

Texture: 0
Clarity: +12
Dehaze: 0
Vibrance: +17
Saturation: 0

I now move to different software by means of the command "Edit In".

I have moved to Luminar Flex which can be seen in the following slide. Luminar Flex has many filters but I have chosen to use only a few and these are shown on the right hand side.

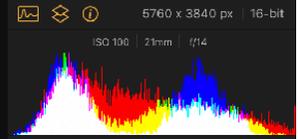
51% ▾ - +



Tools ▾



Cancel Apply



LAYERS ▾

Normal ▾ Opacity: 100% ▾

JWF-5DIII--14-Edit-2.tiff

FILTERS ▾ + Add Filter...

Custom Workspace ▾

AI Sky Enhancer

Amount 0

Golden Hour

Amount 0

Saturation 0

Saturation / Vibrance

Saturation 0

Vibrance 0

Brilliance / Warmth

Vividness 0

Warmth 0

Advanced Contrast

Highlights

Amount 0

Balance 0

Midtones

Amount 0

Balance 0

Shadows

Amount 0

Balance 0

Filters Amount 100

51% - +



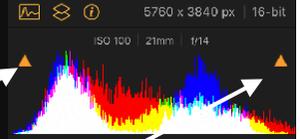
Tools ▾



Cancel Apply



I have switched on the shadow and highlight clipping indicators



LAYERS ▾
Normal 100% Opacity: 100% ▾
JWF-5DIII--14-Edit-2.tiff

FILTERS ▾ + Add Filter...

Custom Workspace ▾

AI Sky Enhancer
Amount 0

Golden Hour
Amount 0
Saturation 0

Saturation / Vibrance
Saturation 0
Vibrance 0

Brilliance / Warmth
Vividness 0
Warmth 0

Advanced Contrast
Highlights
Amount 0
Balance 0

Midtones
Amount 0
Balance 0

Shadows
Amount 0
Balance 0

Filters Amount 100

I do not consider the shadow or highlight clipping a problem so I have not made any adjustments.

My first adjustment was to Advanced Contrast and you will see that I have adjusted all three Highlights, Midtones and Shadows and already this lifts the photograph.

51% - +



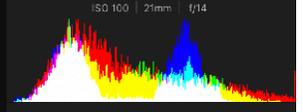
Tools



Cancel Apply



5760 x 3840 px | 16-bit



LAYERS

Normal Opacity: 100%

JWF-5DIII--14-Edit-2.tiff

FILTERS + Add Filter...

Custom Workspace

AI Sky Enhancer Amount 40

Golden Hour Amount 5 Saturation 0

Saturation / Vibrance Saturation 0 Vibrance 0

Brilliance / Warmth Vividness 1 Warmth 0

Advanced Contrast Highlights Amount 45 Balance 0

Midtones Amount 10 Balance 0

Shadows Amount 25 Balance 0

Filters Amount 100

You will now see that I have adjusted Golden Hour 5, Vividness 1, Sky Enhancer 40, and despite the Filter Saturation/Vibrance being open I have not adjusted them.

This is complete. I could always do more and maybe over work it. But I would take it into Affinity Photo to finish it really for either printing or making it into a pdi.

I have placed "before and after" side by side for comparison.

