Nik Software

COLOR EFEX PRO™ 4

The Photographer's Choice for Photographic Filters
for Photoshop®, Lightroom®, and Aperture®

U POINT®
TECHNOLOGY

COLOR EFEX PRO™ 4

Table of contents

Welcome to **Color Efex Pro 4**, the most powerful, fun and creative set of photographic filters available to amateur and pro photographers. Color Efex Pro will let you quickly solve image challenges, retouch portraits with ease, and extend your creativity in never-imagined directions. With unmatched versatility, quality and time savings, it offers something for everyone. Color Efex Pro is an absolutely essential part of any serious photographer's toolkit. This Getting Started Guide will help you get the most out of your new software.

What's new

- Filter Combinations
- Visual Presets and Recipes
- 8 Brand New Filters
- 10 Significantly Updated Filters

- History Browser
- GPU Processing
- Multi-Core Support
- Improved interface and interaction controls

Installing Color Efex Pro 4

Windows:

1. Close all open applications.
2. Insert the Color Efex Pro 4 CD, or locate and double-click on the downloaded installer.
3. Select the appropriate language to continue.
4. When the installer window appears, click the Next button within the installer interface.
5. Accept the license agreement.
6. Click the Next button to accept the installation path. It is recommended to install the software to the default path, as the software will automatically create the appropriate folders and links for each of the host applications found in the next step.
7. A list of the found compatible host applications will be displayed, click Install to complete the installation process.
8. Click Finish to close the installer window.

Macintosh:

1. Close all open applications.
2. Insert the Color Efex Pro 4 CD and double-click on the installer icon and select the appropriate language, or double-click on the downloaded DMG file and then double-click on the installer.
3. When the installer window appears, click the Continue button within the installer interface.
4. Click Agree to accept the license agreement.
5. The installer will display all compatible host applications that were located. Click Continue and then Install on the following screen to begin installation.
6. Click Close to close the installer window.

Accessing Color Efex Pro 4

Photoshop

1. Launch Photoshop.
2. Open an image that you would like to convert to enhance.
3. Navigate to Filter › Nik Software › Color Efex Pro 4.

Lightroom

1. Launch Lightroom.
2. Select the image(s) that you would like to convert to enhance.
3. Navigate to Photo › Edit In › Color Efex Pro 4.

Aperture

1. Launch Aperture.
2. Select the image(s) that you would like to convert to enhance.
3. Navigate to Photo › Edit with Plug-in › Color Efex Pro 4.

Filters Categories

Filters List

Highlight & Shadow Protection

Control Points

Add Filter

Loupe & Histogram

Recipes

History Browser

Photograph © 2011 Bill Pekala

Color Efex Pro 4 provides an unprecedented range of control contained within 55 unique filters. Each filter is designed to provide you a multitude of possibilities to enhance your photos. With the new presets found within Color Efex Pro 4, it's now easier than ever to experiment and find the perfect look for your photo.

In this image, the new **Dark Contrasts** filter can be used to add depth and interest into this image, drawing even more attention to the bride.
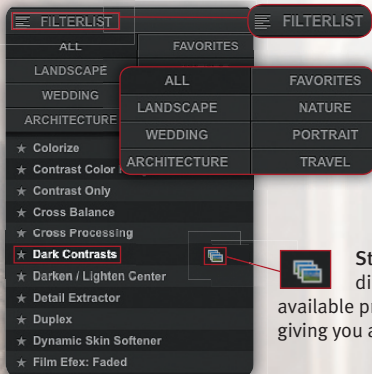
Before

After

Photograph © 2011 Tom Muñoz

Step 1. Immediately after opening the image in Color Efex Pro 4, ensure the filter list is displayed after clicking on the **FILTERLIST** header on the left-hand side.

Step 2. To help you find a filter more quickly, Color Efex Pro 4 has eight different filter categories based on photographic style. Select a category to display filters recommended for that particular photographic style. You can add filters into the Favorites category by clicking on the star next to your favorite filter's name. This way, you can make your own category of your most frequently used filters.
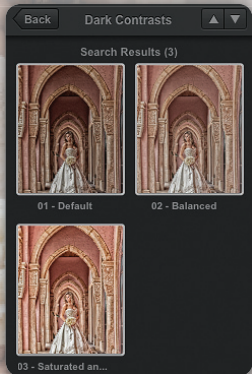
Step 3. To see the available presets for any given filter, click on the View Presets button displayed while hovering over a filter's name. The Filter List will slide to the left and the available presets will slide into view. You'll see your photo with different settings applied to it, giving you an idea of the range of possibilities found within that filter.

Step 4. Click on one of the available presets to apply that effect to your image. If you don't like any of the options displayed within the current filter, click on the Up or Down arrows to go to the previous or next filter in the selected category.

Nik Software
COLOR EFEX PRO™ 4

√ DARK CONTRASTS

Dark Detail Extractor	50 %
Brightness	-5 %
Contrast	-40 %
Saturation	-40 %

Shadows   Highlights

▸ Control Points

+ Add Filter   Save Recipe

▸ LOUPE & HISTOGRAM

USH   CANCEL   OK

OK

Step 5. After selecting a preset, adjust the sliders to your preference. For this particular image, a high Dark Detail Extractor value was used to enhance the details as much as possible. The Dark Detail Extractor control within **Dark Contrasts** not only enhances details throughout the image, but also amplifies the dark contrasts.

Step 6. After you've created the result that you want, click OK or SAVE to process your image and return to your image editor.

Applying a filter selectively ensures that you can balance the right color, light, and texture within an image to draw the eye exactly where you want it to go. With Color Efex Pro 4, these powerful edits are easy to perform using control points powered by U Point technology.

U Point makes it possible for you to click on an object or area and automatically create a powerful and precise selection, almost instantly. Multiple control points can be used in concert with one-another to create complex selections with only a few clicks.
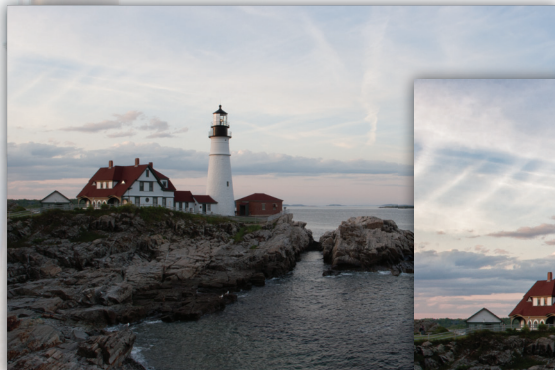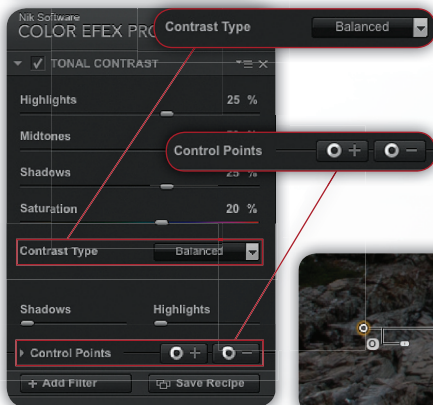

Before

After

Photograph © 2011 Janice Wendt
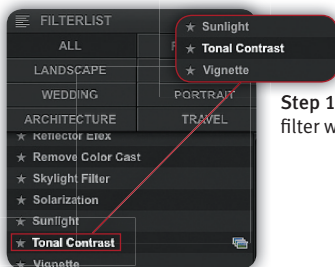
Step 1. Select the filter to be applied to your photo. In this photo, the updated **Tonal Contrast** filter was used to bring out the details in the sky, shoreline, and water.

Step 2. To achieve this effect, the **Balanced Contrast Type** was used with a high level of the effect applied to the Highlights and Midtones, and a medium amount of the effect applied to the Shadows.

Step 3. When working with **Control Points,** you should first determine if you want to add the effect to only a part of the image, or if you want to remove the effect from only a part of the image. If you want to add the effect to only a part of the image, start with the + Control Point. If you want to remove the effect from only a part of the image, start with the – Control Point.

In this image, the effect is too strong on the dark rocks on the shoreline. Therefore, a – Control Point is used to remove the effect only from the dark rocks. To ensure a uniform selection, a second – Control Point is added.

After adding a control point, the opacity of that control point can be adjusted to bring a portion of the effect back to the selected area.

One of the biggest improvements to Color Efex Pro 4 is the ability to add multiple filters to an image. Many times, an image can benefit from a series of filters being applied to it, and doing this within a single filter session not only provides a more efficient workflow, but also provides more control and experimentation possibilities.

In this image, three separate filters were applied to draw attention to the dewdrops on the flower and stylize the image.
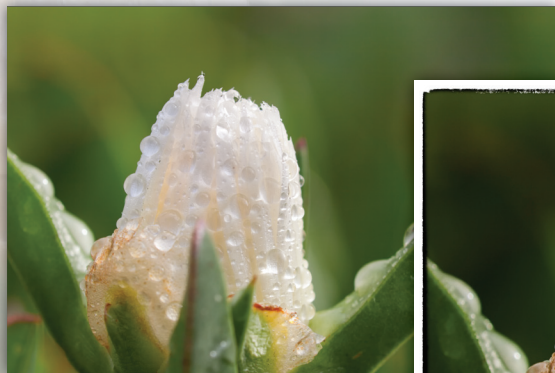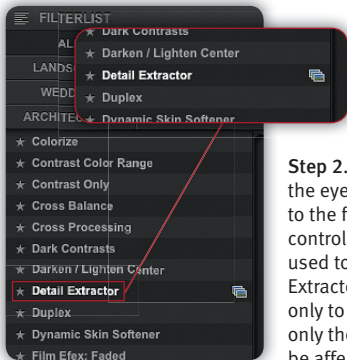

Before

After

Photograph © 2011 Janice Wendt

Step 1. To accentuate the dewdrops on the flower, the **Detail Extractor** filter was used.

Step 2. To ensure that the eye goes straight to the flower, some control points were used to apply the Detail Extractor filter's effect only to the flower. Since only the flower should be affected, **+ Control Points** were used to add the effect only to the flower.
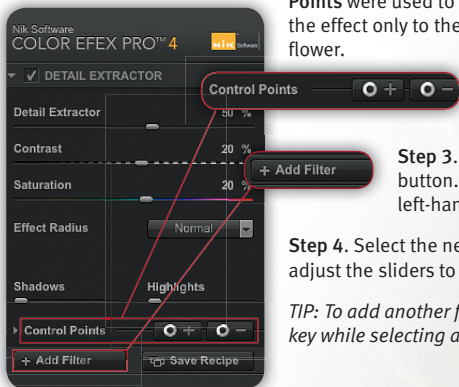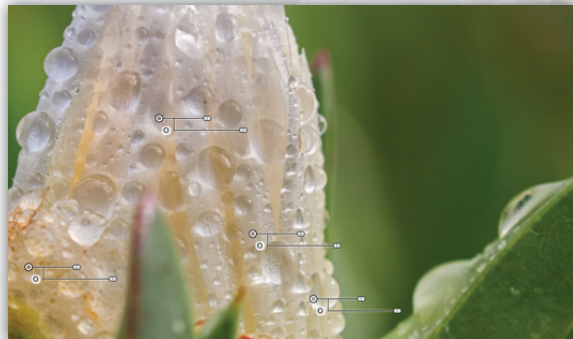
Step 3. To make it possible to add another filter, you need to click on the **Add Filter** button. This adds a new blank filter that you can add to from the Filter List on the left-hand side.

Step 4. Select the next filter from the **Filter List** and either use one of the available presets or adjust the sliders to create the exact look you want.

TIP: To add another filter to an image without first clicking on the Add Filter button, hold the Shift key while selecting a filter from the Filters section.
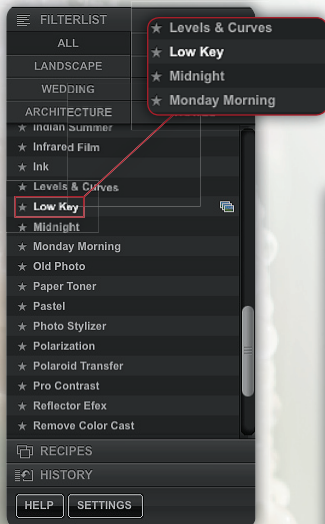
In this image, the **Low Key** filter is added next which will be used to darken the background and further draw the eye to the flower.

Step 5. To prevent the Low Key filter from darkening the flower, some control points are used to remove the effect from the flower. In this case, - Control Points are used to remove the Low Key effect just from the flower.
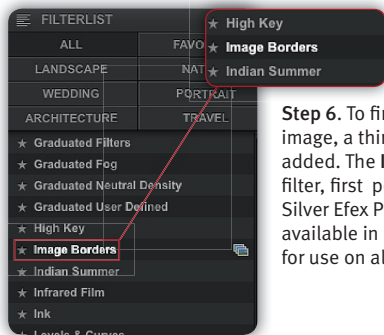
Step 6. To finish off the image, a third filter is added. The **Image Borders** filter, first popularized in Silver Efex Pro 2, is now available in Color Efex Pro 4 for use on all images.
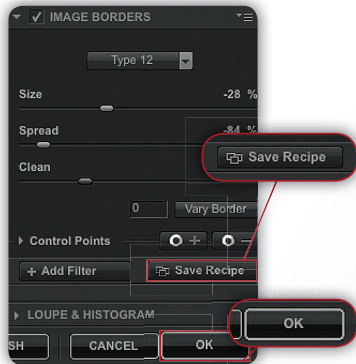
Step 7. If you want to save the stack of filters to be used on a later photo, click on the **Save Recipe** button to create a new custom Recipe. All of the filters and slider values will be saved. Due to their image-specific nature, control points are not saved within a recipe.

Step 8. Click OK to apply the filters to your image.

Getting Additional Help

Before and after examples of all of the filters as well as additional lessons and videos can be found online in the Color Efex Pro 4 help section. To view the Color Efex Pro 4 online help, visit:

www.niksoftware.com/CEPHelp

Getting Additional Recipes

Color Efex Pro 4 utilizes both Presets and Recipes. Presets are created by Nik Software and make it possible to access a variety of results of the same filter quickly and easily. Recipes provide pre-defined results of one or more filters and can be created by anyone, with a certain number of Recipes being installed along with Color Efex Pro 4. You can create your own recipes, share with a friend, or download additional Recipes online.

Visit the Nik Software web page to download additional recipes for Color Efex Pro 4.

Start by visiting **www.niksoftware.com/recipes**

Next, in the Product pull-down menu, select Color Efex Pro 4 to display only Color Efex Pro 4 Recipes.

To install a Recipe follow these steps:

1. Click on the image of the Recipe that you would like to download. You can then see that Recipe applied to the image as well as the original image.

2. Click on the Download This Recipe button to download the Recipe. Place the Recipe in a location that you will be able to easily access.

3. Launch Color Efex Pro 4 in your image-editing application. Importing the Recipe once will make that Recipe available in all image-editing applications into which Color Efex Pro 4 is installed.

4. Within the Color Efex Pro 4 interface, click on the Import button found within the Recipes section, and locate the Recipe download.

The imported Recipes will be available in the Imported category of the Recipes section.

Contact and Support

United States

Contact Nik Software, Inc. by phone at
(619) 725-3150 Monday - Friday from 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM (PST)
or online at **www.niksoftware.com/support**

Nik Software, Inc.
7588 Metropolitan Drive
San Diego, CA 92108, USA

Toll Free (in US) (888) 284-4085
Phone (619) 725-3150
Fax (619) 725-3151

www.niksoftware.com

For more information on Nik Software products, go to:
www.niksoftware.com or www.upoint.com

Sign up for live webinars that range from beginner to
advanced levels at www.niksoftware.com/webinars

Sign up on the Nik Software mailing list at
www.niksoftware.com

Germany

In Europe, contact Nik Software, GmbH at
+49-40-47-11-35-0 Monday - Friday from 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM (CET)
or online at **www.niksoftware.com/support**

Nik Software, GmbH
Hammerbrookstraße 93
D-20097 Hamburg
Germany

Phone +49-40-47-11-35-0
Fax +49-40-47-11-35-35

www.niksoftware.com

Follows us:

http://www.niksoftware.com/radio

http://www.facebook.com/niksoftwareinc

http://twitter.com/niksoftware

http://www.youtube.com/user/NikSoftwareLessons

http://www.flickr.com/groups/niksoftware

Register your Software

Please register your software purchase. Product registration enables you to receive alerts when new versions of your product are available and helps provide you with the highest level of customer support

Benefits of Registration:

- Receive free personal support
- Access free daily webinar training
- Receive email notification and special pricing on product upgrades
- Receive download access for the lifetime of the product
- Protect yourself in case you lose your product key

To register your software visit:

www.niksoftware.com/register

Please have your product key available at the time you register

Software | Photography first.®