

(Approx. 627 words)

The HDR Book, Second Edition by Rafael "RC" Concepcion
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For those of you familiar with Kelby Training and Photoshop User magazine, RC Concepcion is most likely a familiar name. One of the top trainers at Kelby, RC is also an accomplished photographer and instructor. He brings his experience in these fields together in this second edition of his popular book dealing with one of the hottest styles in digital photography, that of HDR (High Dynamic Range) Photography.

High dynamic range photography is a process whereby you can capture the entire range of detail in a shot, from the deepest shadows to the brightest highlights, and exhibit them as a photograph that closely mimics what your eye can see when viewing the actual scene. Your eyes can naturally see a wider contrast range than any film or digital camera can capture in a single exposure. By combining carefully exposed sequences of individual images, you can overcome this limit and more closely capture what your eyes can see.

As an example, think of yourself inside your home. Inside, you have some curtains drawn, so it's subdued lighting inside. But you decide to take a photo of a scene outside one window that is open to the bright sunlight outside. The kicker is, you wish the interior of the room to be visible as well as the outside scene. If you take a photo normally out the window, and expose for the bright sun outside, it will look ok outside, but the interior of the room will be dark. Expose for the room, and the view out the window blows out to almost pure white.

Not what you wanted. So it's now HDR to the rescue. Following the techniques and hints in this volume, you'll learn how to set up and expose a sequence of frames that, when combined in software, will give you exactly what you wanted: a perfect view of both your yard out the window, and the softly lit room inside.

HDR is not a hard process to learn. In fact, most of the book is taken up with screen captures illustrating the text... there is not so much reading to be done as there is learning by example. A very nice change of pace from some of the intensely technical books that use more words than images to get points across.

The book has thirteen chapters, eight of which author RC calls 'Projects'. These are actual projects you can download his files for and follow along and practice with actual HDR sequences, to learn how the processes work. This is a really nice feature that not too many authors consider putting in their books.

Besides the projects, RC gives you basic information on the HDR process, how it works, and what you need to do to make your own, from equipment and software to what

scenes and situations make for great HDR images.

The HDR Book, 2nd edition, runs 240 pages. You can get it in either print format or as an eBook. It's only been on the market since April, so it contains the cutting-edge of information on the subject.

Published by Peachpit, it is available direct from their website, or through resellers like Amazon. Here are links to the web pages for each vendor:

<http://www.peachpit.com/store/hdr-book-unlocking-the-pros-hottest-post-processing-9780321966940>

http://www.amazon.com/The-HDR-Book-Post-Processing-Techniques/dp/0321966945/ref=dp_ob_title_bk

List price on Peachpit is \$44.99, but if your UG is a member of the Peachpit UG discount program, there is a 35% discount. Amazon lists the title at \$26.01.

In any event, if you want to create stunning, unique images like you've always wanted to, this would be the first book to turn to so you can learn how to do it best.

