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Dramatic Black & White Photography Using Nik Silver Efex Pro 2 (The Lightweight Photographer Books)



Synopsis

This book covers Nik Silver Efex Pro 2. Silver Efex Pro 2 has long been a favorite package with photographers who want to convert color images to black and white. Sure you can do this in Photoshop or Elements but the results really don't match what can be achieved with this software. When used properly Silver Efex Pro can reveal dramatic and stunning images concealed within what were previously lackluster color photographs. The secret, as with most things in life is knowing how to do something properly. Do you know how all the sliders and conversion tools work and how to choose the best adjustments for each particular image? What order should you work through the adjustments so as to create the greatest impact? Does it matter? What processing should you apply to images before taking them into Silver Efex Pro? What is the difference between the Structure and Fine Structure Sliders and which could damage your image? Most of all, why do some black and white images work whilst others fall flat? If you want to answer these questions and more, this is the guide you have been looking for. It covers every aspect of the Silver Efex interface, explaining all the adjustment options. The effects of individual sliders are compared so that you are well placed to determine the best approach for converting any image. The first part of the book considers a number of black and white images to identify any rules to help in creating dramatic conversions. Next is a thorough coverage of the software and all its capabilities. Finally there are three examples which detail the workflow and application of the Silver Efex tools. This final section is also supported by image files which can be downloaded from my web site, allowing you to follow along. You will find everything is presented clearly with sufficient detail to allow you to master this powerful package. I do not include filler material; I just want to convey the essential facts. Now if you are wondering about this length of this book I can tell you it is 111 pages in A4, contains 20,000 words and 99 illustrations. This is not a short pamphlet like so many other low priced guides. If you are still not sure, why not download and take a look at the sample. It will even give you the links to my web sites.

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Customer Reviews

This book is the book that Nik Silver EfexPro should have produced. I am a little more than half way through and I've already got more than I paid for. I recommend this book to all users of this tool. I brought silver EfexPro 1 and have since upgraded to Pro2 a great software that will be even better as a result of Ms Whalleys effort. My thanks to her. P.S. if someone will please write one on Sharpner I'd really be a happy camper. I've completed the book and would further recommend the readers completion of the work through projects offered from ms Whalley's website as they aid in cementing the techniques expressed in the written material .

This presents an essential, logical, succinct workflow in developing B&W images. Robin Whalley doesn't waste time with the waffling and weak jokes you find in other photography guides. The writer obviously is a highly experienced photographer and I'd like to hear of more guides like this that cut straight to the action. I'd suggest using an editor - check the spelling of 'border'. And let's see a few more high-art images from Robin - although it is very helpful to follow the same image through the workflows. Excellent value and highly suggested for all who work in B&W in Lightroom. If you thought you knew Silver Efex before, you're in for a pleasant surprise with this guide. There's scope for Robin to follow this terrific guide with a workflow series on styles of B&W development in IR, long-exposure, using Silver Efex to make medium-distance and foreground forms 'pop' in nature photography, misty fine-art landscape, textures and so on. - From Ross in Queanbeyan.

This is essential reading if you use Nik Silver Efex. I've been using Silver Efex for 6 months and I knew my way around the program, but there is nothing quite like seeing how another photographer

does things! I picked up many practical tips and ideas. Well worth the time and money. (Hint: read it on your computer in the Kindle Cloud Reader while you are working alongside in the software).

This book was what I chose to help inspire me to use Silver Efex in a more artful manner, rather than just creating black and white images from my color originals. I really think that it helped me, because I feel like I'm getting the punch from the images I make with this software, than I had previously.

If you could spend about \$3 to significantly improve the look and impact of your black and white photos, what's not to like! This book is a very good handbook for the excellent Silver Efex2 software from Nik. I can't compare it to other books on the same subject, since I don't have any, but I do think it has helped me significantly improve the utility I get from Nik's software (however, I do intend to purchase 'Plug-in with Nik' by John Batdorff for a second author's perspective as I use all of Nik's products extensively and another \$7-8 will not hurt if I learn something new. If and when I do, I will publish an edit with the comparative usefulness of the approaches of the two authors). Again, as with other books by the author, the approach to teaching by way of worked examples (you are encouraged to download the sample pictures from the author's website and carry out the modifications described in the book) is very effective and clearly conveys the exact effect of using certain sliders and options with utmost economy of words. It is a relatively short book (though not as short as his book on Viveza2 which I also own since Silver Efex2 is a much more complex plug-in than Viveza2) and is filled with great black and white conversions by the author himself, which can be quite inspiring. The teaching approach is direct and practical without a lot of theory. The author briefly discusses the artistic considerations and principles involved without overly concentrating on them. I find this appropriate since it keeps the book focused on the software itself and there are many great books on the larger artistic principles of post editing. I found the book quite useful but be sure to try out the different sliders and effects by yourself side by side with reading about them in the book to get full advantage of the insights.

A refreshing short informative course on how the author uses Silver Efex Pro 2. I have been using this program lately but my workflow always seemed to put the control points in earlier than Robin's. I like his approach much more and have changed mine. This is a very concise approach and can be read in one sitting, as long as you are not playing with images along the way. It works well in Kindle on my iPad 2 as is. I love the fact that it is as cheap in price as it is. I always thought that little

monographs or teaching papers like this would be a great addition to a photographers web site... Giving them something more to offer than just images to sell. It is a lot better than just explaining the details behind particular photographs, like location, equipment and historical story line of an images content. Very well done. I have a few images that I just could not get what I wanted out of them. Now I feel I can!

I've been using Nik Silver Efex Pro 2 for a couple of years now and I felt pretty comfortable with it, so I wasn't sure if I'd gain anything from this book. I definitely did. Mr Whalley gives you a complete walk-thru the program and all the tools within it. I've learned a new more efficient workflow and won't be relying on the presets as much. Everything is explained simply with screenshots to match (they are a little difficult to see on the older Kindle like mine, but should be very clear on the Kindle Fire). He also gives you three photos to work on for a little hands-on learning. It only took me about 2 hours to get through the whole book and projects. After I finished with this book I decided to spend a little time on Mr Whalley's website enjoying his photographs, they are amazing! I then had to come back to for his book on photoshop. If you're on the fence about buying this book, check out the website-you'll definitely be back for this one (and probably his other e-books, too!).

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