

HDR in Photoshop

1. Find a scene with a lot of contrast (sunlight/shadow). If it is overcast or there isn't much contrast in tone, the HDR effect won't be noticeable.

Also, if it has something that *moves* like water or moving cards, it won't work very well.

2. Check your camera settings:

File type: JPG

Exposure mode: Manual

ISO: 100-400

White balance: Manual or pre-set (sunny, cloudy, etc.)

Tripod highly recommended (Photoshop will try to align the photos though)

** Note that you can also attempt HDR from a *single* RAW file, but you have to save it as multiple JPG files at different exposures. **

3. While making the exposure, manipulate the shutter speed. Since you shouldn't have anything moving in the scene to begin with, this will be the easiest way to get different exposures.

Now, make your five exposures without moving the composition: -2, -1, 0, +1, +2

** Note that you can also try just using three exposures, -2, 0, +2, but it's good to err on the side of shooting more than you need **

4. Import photos to your computer.

5. In Bridge, select the exposures and select

Tools -> Photoshop -> Merge to HDR Pro...

(You can also do this in Photoshop with File -> Automate -> Merge to HDR Pro...)

6. Let Photoshop do its thing. You'll have a dialog box come up giving you a preview. Note the Preset drop down menu. Try a few different settings out (I like the Saturated look myself)

7. Click OK and it will take you into regular Photoshop mode.

8. Make any other edits you want, save, and you're done!

There is also software called Photomatix Pro which does a great job as well (some would say even better).