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This is a set of tutorials based on my current workflow.

Hugh's Advanced Workflow

[01 LR2 CS4 PreProcessing](#)

[02a HDR Photomatix](#)

[02b HDR Bridge CS4](#)

[03 Using NeatImage](#)

[04 Level Horizon](#)

[05 100 Percent Review](#)

06 Creative_Process (available at the [SF Store](#))

[07 EZPrint](#)

[08 Nameplate Signature](#)

Steps 01-05 and 07, 08 are somewhat detailed, but simple and pretty much the same for every image, or set of images. The indicated tutorials are free of charge, although if you find them of value, we hope you will visit the [SHUTTERFREAKS DONATION PAGE](#).

The referenced actions and tools are not free. In the Addendum below I have indicated where they may be obtained.

My intention in “06 Creative_Process” is to assist you in breaking out of the ‘chainsaw’ methods of image processing - those using only the global processing tools applied directly to the source image. Layers, Masks, Selections, and third party tools are used and described extensively. The several third party tools used are documented in Addendum A, below. Any of the documented results can probably be obtained using only Photoshop, but life is too short to reinvent all those wheels.

Step 06_Creative_Process is different for each image/image set. It is completely subjective, and, in my opinion, what digital photography is all about – is my attempt to create digital art from basic images. Documenting the process to produce the tutorials is difficult, tedious, and time consuming. If you decide to avail yourself of the detailed application techniques, a modest donation would be appreciated although, of course, participation is voluntary ☺. The techniques shown in the ‘Be Creative’ tutorials include, but are not limited to:

- I. Specific Photomatix Tone Mapping Settings
- II. Clone Tool and Healing Brush use
- III. Processing in Layers
 - a. Curves
 - b. Photo Filters
 - c. Managing adjustment effects with the Opacity slider
 - d. Vibrance adjustment – partially masked

- e. Motion Blur – partially masked
- f. Selective Color
- g. Levels
- IV. Producing and Applying Layer Masks
 - a. Using the Tony Kuyper Luminance Masks and Actions
 - i. Selecting the masks as channels
 - ii. Dodge and Burn Action
 - b. Select Color Range Masks
- V. Masking in a Background Copy
- VI. Tony Kuyper ‘Make It Glow’
- VII. Ron Bigelow – Selective Sharpening in a Layer

Note that not every listed technique is used in every available image.

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ADDENDUM

A. Third Party software – The main program used in these tutorials is Photoshop CS4. I also make extensive use of the following programs, plug-ins, and actions. Their use is covered in detail in the linked tutorials.

1. LightRoom 2 (LR2) - [Adobe LightRoom 2](#) – LR2 is used as an image management tool, to open RAW images, and for basic processing before opening in CS4.

2. Bridge CS4 – included with Photoshop CS4, is similar to LightRoom, but not as full featured.

3. PhotoMatix (Px) – www.hdrsoft.com – Px is used to stack bracketed images creating a High Dynamic Range (HDR) image, and to Tone Map that image into a TIFF file for processing in CS4. Although a CS4 plug-in is available, I use the stand-alone version. See the '[Producing Bracketed Image Sets](#)' tutorial for a discussion of producing bracketed images.

4. NeatImage – www.neatimage.com – NeatImage is a noise management tool. Just about every digital image contains some noise. Running NeatImage at default settings will reduce or remove most noise without compromising sharpness. I use the plug-in version.

5. AC's Flexible Frames, AC's Title Plates, Watermark/Signatures, EZPrint – these and other actions developed by my business partner, Adrienne Cleveland, are available at our website www.shutterfreaks.com/Store/Store.html. These actions are also available for Elements in PC and Mac versions.

6. TK-LumMasks, TK-Make It Glow, TK_Saturation_Masks, Burn Dodge Layer – these and other actions developed by Tony Kuyper are available at his website www.goodlight.us. The Luminance actions provide the ability to make subtle changes to specific areas of the images without producing visible artifacts. His site is easily worth a visit even if you are not interested in the actions.

7. Selective sharpening in a layer – I don't sharpen many images, but when I do I use a technique developed by Ron Bigelow. It is available at no cost in his sharpening articles at www.ronbigelow.com.

You might also find this information on installing and using Actions interesting. [Some Basic Photoshop Information](#)

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