MONOCHROME

Stan Bormann
snbormann@gmail.com

Photography Color vs B&W

▫ Heinrich van den Berg Outdoor Photographer 8/2011

▫ "Color photography is like a novel that spells everything out in detail, whereas black-and-white photography is like poetry – its strength isn't in what's said: it's in what's left out."

Your Perfect B&W Print

▫ Ming Tshing - Outdoor Photographer 8/2010

▫ "..there is one thing that will never change: the pure aesthetic quality of elegant B&W imagery."

▫ "Contrast is the framework of B&W imagery"

▫ "identify the area…you want to be black and…set the black point. Very often you end up sacrificing unimportant shadow details in other areas"

▫ "Keeping some detail in the lighter areas of the image is important"

Monochrome/Black & White Qualities

▫ Paul Marcellini - Popular Photography 9/2011

▫ "When you drain the color from an image, it allows the eye to focus on form, textures, shapes, and composition."

▫ "You can use monochrome to highlight the patterns of an animal's fur or the textures of its skin"

▫ "..to turn a distracting background into a neutral gray."

▫ "..in monochrome you gain the freedom to choose to render the lion in high-key, or brooding dark or anywhere in between"

Black & White versus Monochrome

A Good Monochrome Image

▫ Composition Principles similar to Color
▫ Tone & Contrast but not Color
▫ Generally all Zones included
▫ Clipped or Unclipped Exposures acceptable
▫ Generally True Black in image
▫ Silhouettes
▫ Drawn to the Bright or High Contrast Areas
▫ Generally Full Tonal Range with Subject Lighter tones
▫ Generally Dark Sky with Clouds works well
▫ Textures work well

Tone & Contrast

▫ *Page from: John Beardsworth – Digital Black & White Photography p19*

The Need for a True Black (near Silhouettes)

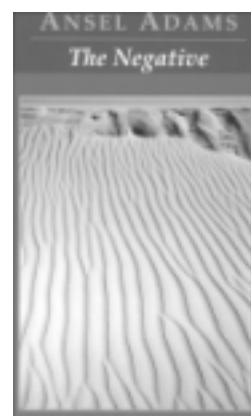▫ *Page from: John Beardsworth – Digital Black & White Photography p19*

Full Tonal Range with Light Subject

Good Contrast between picture elements

ANSEL ADAMS
The Print

Textures

ANSEL ADAMS
The Negative

The Zone System

▫ *Image from: Michael Freeman – mastering black and white digital photography p87*

▫ *Note, the zone system is sometimes described with 11 zones 0 to 10*

Using Monochrome Principles

▫ Clipped (sky with no detail)
▫ Lighter Barn against Darker Background
▫ Drawn to Bright Areas
▫ Zone Zero Sky and Nine Snow
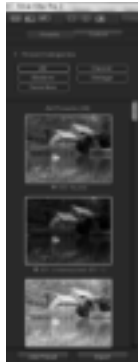▫ Use Contrast to set off subject from Background, Mountains from Sky and Clouds

Using colors to control shades

## NIK Silver Efex Pro 2 Screen Layout

NIK Preset Panel

- Stored under four Categories or All
- 38 with product
- More can be downloaded or you can load your own
- Option to start with a Preset or go to Global Adjustments
- Adjustments are made after selecting a preset

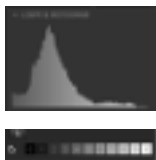## NIK Silver Efex Adjustment Panel

- Adjustment Panel is Closed and includes

  - Global Adjustments
  - Selective Adjustments
  - Color Filter
  - Film types
  - Finishing Adjustments
  - Each of these panels expand to reveal available adjustments
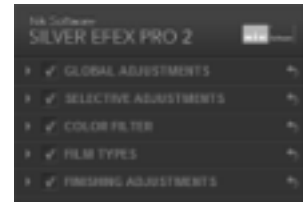
NIK Silver Efex Loup & Histogram

- Histogram
- Loupe
- Zone System Evaluation

NIK Silver Efex Global Adjustments

- Brightness, Contrast, and Structure are all very "course".
- Try Dynamic Brightness, Soft Contrast or Fine Structure for more subtle changes.
- Use the other sliders to control parts of the histogram selectively
- Use course adjustments like Brightness to do things like create "high key" or "low key" images.

NIK Silver Efex Selective Adjustments
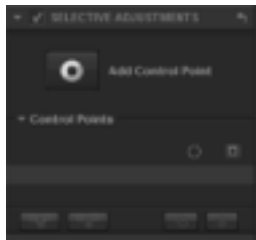
- Selectively adjust Brightness, Contrast, and Structure without the need for selections or masks
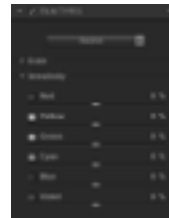
NIK Silver Efex Pro Color Filters
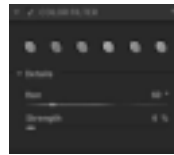
- Preset simulation of placing a color filter on the lens.
- Strength adjusts the strength of the filter
- Hue slider provides filters of the entire color range
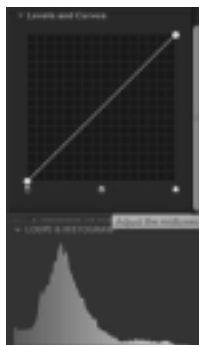- I typically do not use them.

NIK Silver Efex Film Types

- Grain to simulate various commercial films
- Custom grain patterns

NIK Silver Efex 2 Color Sensitivity

- Similar to the adjustments in CS Black & White Adjustment Layer
- Control how bright or dark an object of that color appears.
- I don't use them.

NIK Silver Efex 2 Levels & Curves

- Pointers under the curve work much like Levels in CS with the Histogram below showing the adjustment
- Points can be placed on the curve and adjusted much like in CS Curves
- I use to tune the image after the conversion

NIK Silver Efex 2 Finishing Toning
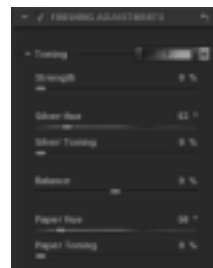
- Silver Hue applies a tone to the darker areas of the image
- Paper Hue applies a tone to the lighter areas of the image
- The Balance slider determines the mix of these hues in the mid-tones
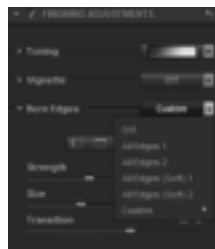
NIK Silver Efex Toning Presets

- There are a variety of Toning Presents that can be selected from a drop-down menu
- They can be adjusted with the Toning sliders after the selection

NIK Silver Efex Pro 2 Vignette
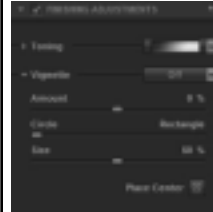
- Vignette the image
  - Adjust the Amount
  - Adjust the Size
  - Select Circle to Rectangle
  - Adjust the Center Point
- I tend to overdo the amount as first step
  - Now you can easily see the effect of the other adjustments
  - After making the other adjustment reset the amount

NIK Silver Efex Pro 2 Burn Edges

- Select Presets of Custom
- Select Some or All Edges
- Select the Strength
- Select the Size
- Select the Transition
- Select Regular or Soft

NIK Silver Efex Pro 2 Borders

- Select from 14 Types
- Adjust the Size
- Adjust the Spread
- Adjust "Clean"

NOW WE WILL REVIEW SOME MONOCHROME IMAGES