

Increase Contrast and Adjust the Light



In this tutorial we use a water drop shot taken with a professional DSRL using a 90mm macro objective and a ring flash. The picture was captured in RAW and converted to JPEG with all parameters set to 0. Our aim is to improve the original photo's dull colors, flat lighting and low contrast.

Please note that in this tutorial we make rather heavy use of PhotoPerfect's Brightness gradient function. If you encounter problems following the procedures describe below you might find it useful to go through the [Brightness gradient introductory tutorial](#) which takes only 2-3 minutes to complete.

► Load Picture in PhotoPerfect

Double-click on an image or drag it into the PhotoPerfect workspace.

STEP 1



► Increase Contrast

As a first step open up the s-contrast dialogue by choosing "Image" "Contrast" "S-Contrast" from the main menu. Increase the contrast to a value in the range of 0.50 as shown in the example to the left (1) and hit "Accept" to apply your changes (2).

STEP 2



► Brighten up the main subject

Use the Brightness gradient function from the menu "Effects" to brighten up the main subject (the water drop).

Position the arrow as shown with the arrowhead pointing to the lower right corner (1) and increase the values of Brightness to 125 and Saturation to 35 (2).

Hit "Accept" to apply your changes (3).

STEP 3



Give the main subject a little more pep with the s-contrast gradient

► In the dialog box choose "s contrast gradient" from the tabs at the bottom of the box (1). Reposition the arrow with the arrowhead pointing to the upper left corner (2) and increase the value of S-contrast to 0.40 (3). Hit "Accept" to apply your changes.

STEP 4



► Use the brightness gradient to darken the left upper corner

Choose "brightness gradient" from the tabs at the bottom of the dialog-box (1). Re-position the arrow as shown with the arrowhead pointing to the upper left corner of the picture and adjust the value of brightness to -121 and saturation to 64 (3). Hit "Accept" to apply your changes.

STEP 5

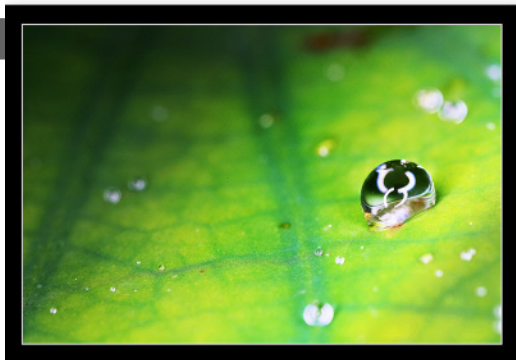


► Use S-contrast gradient from top to bottom to draw the viewer's attention to the main subject and the focus plane

Choose "S-contrast gradient" from the tabs at the bottom of the dialog-box (1). Re-position the arrow as shown with the arrowhead pointing downwards (2) and increase the value of S-contrast to 0.25 (3).

Repeat last step with the lower right corner. Press the "Execute" button to save your work and to close the dialogue. Hit "Accept" to apply your changes.

RESULT



► Add a frame

We have added a frame to the final result using PhotoPerfect's "MasterFramerDeLuxe". Click [here for a tutorial](#) on how to do this.