

# CAMERA RAW ASSIGNMENT

Digital Imaging II  
Columbia College Chicago  
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*Revised, Spring 2012*

Using raw file formats with digital SLR cameras not only yields higher quality images but also creates a more flexible file in terms of color correction, tonal correction and upsampling/interpolating your image. The adjustments made with the Camera Raw converter from Adobe result in little to no loss of image quality compared to similar adjustments made to a TIFF, PSD or jpeg file in Photoshop. **From this point on, all images captured with a digital camera for this class must be made in raw format.**

This assignment is designed to familiarize you with the preparation of raw files for editing in Photoshop and the use of the metadata features available to you in Adobe Bridge. It is important that you follow these instructions carefully. If you meet all the requirements listed below, you will get a good grade for this assignment.

## LEARNING OUTCOMES

This assignment will familiarize the student with:

- The proper exposure of RAW image files.
- Importation and organization of image files using Adobe Bridge.
- Converting proprietary RAW files to DNG files using Adobe Bridge and Camera Raw.
- Using Adobe Bridge to batch rename and apply metadata to groups of image files.
- The differences between IPTC, EXIF and RAW metadata.
- The use of image adjustment tools in Adobe Camera Raw.
- Targeting histograms for import into Adobe Photoshop.

## ASSIGNMENT GUIDELINES

### 1. IMAGE CAPTURE

Capture fifteen or more properly exposed digital image files in their native raw format. If you do not have a digital camera with RAW capabilities, you can check out a digital camera with RAW capabilities from the digital lab. The subject of your photographs is completely up to you, but you must make new images for this assignment. It will make your life a lot easier if you look for scenes that do not have extreme or mixed lighting conditions.

You will not be graded on the subject matter of your photographs.

### 2. FILE ORGANIZATION

Open the fifteen files in Adobe Bridge and create three job folders. Title each folder with a job title. Use Batch Rename to assign a different naming system to the files in each job folder. **In other words, the file naming system should be different for each job folder!** Use a naming system that makes sense to you. You will have to use Batch Rename three times to do the assignment properly.

### 3. ADD METADATA

Add **three different sets** of metadata to your files **based on the job folders you've created**. Your metadata must include your name, date, contact info, copyright info, and job title (as it corresponds with your job folders). You may add more metadata if you wish but this is the minimum. **MAKE SURE THAT THE METADATA IS DIFFERENT FOR EACH JOB FOLDER AND THAT YOU INCLUDE THE JOB TITLE SOMEWHERE IN THE METADATA.** You will need to make three different metadata templates to do the assignment properly.

### 4. ADJUST FILES IN CAMERA RAW FOR IMPORT INTO PHOTOSHOP

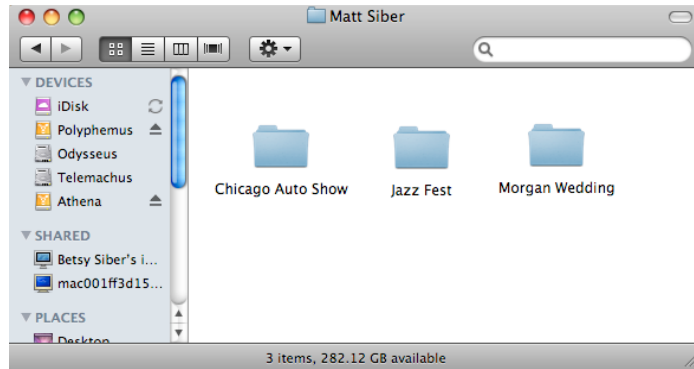
Open your files in the Adobe Camera Raw Converter by double clicking on them in the Bridge application. Make the necessary corrections in the converter to (a) make the image look as good as possible and (b) ensure that you do not lose any highlight or shadow information as you import into Photoshop. This means you will need to keep a close eye on your histograms as you make corrections. Be sure to convert into the Adobe RGB (1998) color space at 16 bit. You may choose to upsample your image file at this point. **YOUR GRADE WILL BE HEAVILY AFFECTED IF I SEE CLIPPING IN YOUR HISTOGRAMS.**

**5. SAVE FILES WITH RAW CORRECTIONS**

Do not open your files in Photoshop. Save them as a DNG files so the metadata is included within the file and not in an .xmp sidecar file.

**6. BRING FILES TO CLASS (NO PRINTS)**

Put your three folders into one folder titled with your name. Bring this folder to class on week four and you will place it in our class's drop box on the shared server. When I open your folder, I should see three folders inside titled with the job names you used in your metadata:



Your grade will depend on your ability to follow these directions to the letter. I will grade you on your file organization as well as your image correction. I will be looking for clipping in your histograms and for obvious color casts in your images. Pay very close attention to your histograms as you are making your corrections.