

THE WOODLANDS CAMERA CLUB
PROCESSING YOUR PHOTOS SIG
MONDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2020

GREY CARD - FROM
SHOOTING TO
PROCESSING

WHAT IS A GREY CARD?

- A tool used by photographers to support accurate measurement of lighting to improve white balance and exposure accuracy
- Typically 18% Grey in color, but also available in sets with White and Black. 18% Grey is a neutral color that serves as the benchmark for setting white balance and metering in most cameras and post processing software

WHEN SHOULD I USE A GREY CARD?

- When lighting is mixed or difficult to measure (e.g., incandescent plus fluorescent, different LED temps, etc)
- When the true color of the subject is important (e.g, Craft Circle, Product Photography)
- Any time you want to give yourself an extra edge in post processing on the white balance

HOW DO I USE A GREY CARD WHEN SHOOTING?

- Place a grey card in front of the subject and take a reference shot for use in post processing. You can hold it or set it in place . Make sure the lighting on the card is similar to the lighting on the subject - don't cast a shadow on the card with your body
- Optional - Spot meter on the card and lock your exposure based on that reading

POST PROCESSING IN LR CLASSIC USING THE GREY CARD REFERENCE PHOTO

- Open the reference photo in the Develop Module and select the Eye Dropper tool to the left of White Balance in the Basic Panel
- Move the Eye Dropper (cursor) to the grey card in the image and click
- Note change in Temperature and Tint settings and in the colors of the image
- The new WB settings can now be used to adjust the WB on other images in similar lighting conditions

APPLYING REFERENCE PHOTO ADJUSTMENTS TO OTHER IMAGES

- Depending on the number of images to be adjusted, you can choose to create a Preset, use Sync or AutoSync, use Copy and Paste, or simply move to the next image and choose Previous
- For large batches of photos in multiple folders, my preference is using Sync Settings in the Library Module. Select the Reference image, then Select the folders involved. Use Cmd/Ctrl - A to select all of the images in the folders, checking to see that the Reference Image is still the "most selected". Click on Sync Settings (lower right corner), unselect everything except White Balance, Click Synchronize

GREY CARD PROCESSING (CONT'D)

- For smaller batches of photos in a single folder, use Sync in the Develop Module to save time.
- Select all of the photos to be adjusted in the film strip, checking to see that the reference photo is the “most selected”. Click on Sync in the lower right corner. unselect everything except White Balance, Click on Synchronize
- The process in Adobe Camera Raw is similar to this process for those not using LrC