

HDRsoft further propels High Dynamic Range Photography with Photomatix Pro 6

June 8, 2017

PHOTOMATIX PRO VERSION 6 ADDS A NEW RENDERING STYLE OPTION, CORRECTS PERSPECTIVE PROBLEMS, AND GIVES MORE CONTROL OVER COLOR.

Brighton, United Kingdom – HDRsoft announces the release of Photomatix Pro version 6. The latest version of their software application that helps photography pros and enthusiasts create HDR (High Dynamic Range) photos in a large range of styles, from realistic to artistic.

Key benefits in the new release include:

- **More style choice for realistic results.** A new HDR rendering method called Tone Balancer adds more options and presets for realistic looking results. It is well-suited to real estate and natural style landscapes.
- **Refining with more control over color.** With the new interactive brush tool, users can make color changes to just parts of the image, by painting over those areas. They can also fine-tune the saturation, hue, and brightness of individual colors in a photo. This control is especially useful for removing color casts and enhancing skies and other image features. Images can also be cropped to easily remove distractions or to improve their composition.
- **Avoiding overdoing it.** For a more realistic look, users can blend an original photo with the rendered image, either globally or by using a brush to select specific areas.
- **Removing distortion from your photos.** A new distortion correction tool makes it easy to straighten photos that aren't level and fix perspective issues where lines don't look parallel when they should. These are particularly helpful features for architectural and landscape photographers.
- **A more intuitive workflow.** Whether working with a single image, or a bracketed set of photos, a more intuitive workflow makes it easier to load and choose images and proceed through to editing.

Photomatix Pro merges photographs taken at different exposure levels into a single HDR image with options for automatically aligning hand-held photos and for

removing ghosts or visual artifacts when moving objects are present in the scene. Merged images can then be adjusted with a range of precise controls and settings or with one-click presets. Photographers can quickly get the look they desire from natural-looking results to painterly images, from surreal and dreamy photos to ultra-realistic images with increased details.

Photomatix Pro can also be used to enhance a single photo to boost its shadows and enhance its highlights. The program includes a plugin for Adobe Lightroom for users who want to integrate Photomatix Pro into their Lightroom workflow.

"What's unique about Photomatix Pro is the full range of styles it offers to render HDR photos, and version 6 makes this even better," said Geraldine Joffre, HDRsoft Managing Director. "Unlike other apps which rely on one HDR rendering algorithm, Photomatix comes with several. Each algorithm can give an entirely different look with enhancing tones and details or fusing multiple exposures together. Photographers will find it useful to have several alternatives for processing HDR photos as things change with different subjects or lighting conditions."

AVAILABILITY

Photomatix Pro 6 is available now for \$99 USD for a single-user license. Customers who purchased Photomatix Pro 5 will receive a free upgrade. Earlier versions of Photomatix Pro can be upgraded for \$29 USD.

For more information please visit www.HDRsoft.com.

ABOUT HDRSOFT

HDRsoft pioneered High Dynamic Range photography with the release of the world's first HDR application in 2003. Since then, HDRsoft has led the industry in evolving the technology to meet the changing needs of photographers. HDRsoft is based in the UK, with members of its team (most of whom are also photographers) working from diverse locations across four continents.

MEDIA CONTACT

Review copies are available to members of the media. Please contact:

Ron Pepper
(415) 534-5039
press@hdrsoft.com

Photomatix Pro Version 6 Reviewer's Guide:

<https://www.hdrsoft.com/press/photomatix-pro-6-reviewer-guide.html>

New Features Walkthrough:

<https://www.hdrsoft.com/press/walkthrough-photomatix-pro-6.pdf>

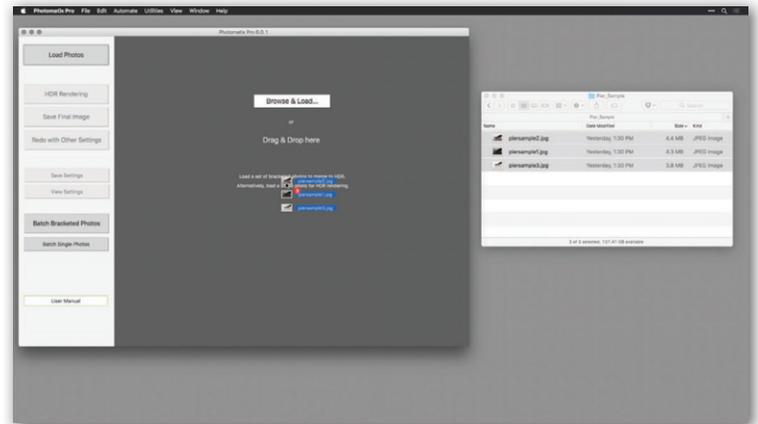


PRODUCT WALKTHROUGH



Photomatix Pro combines multiple images taken at different shutter speeds, called 'bracketed' images. Bracketed images are used to capture the brightest and darkest areas when the camera's sensor cannot capture it with a single image.

You can **download our sample images** used to create the image above (just click the red download link). Then you can follow the illustrated steps below to quickly become familiar with Photomatix Pro.



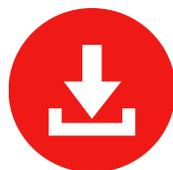
Opening Images

Step 1: [Download Photomatix Pro 6](#) if you haven't done so yet, and install it on your computer.

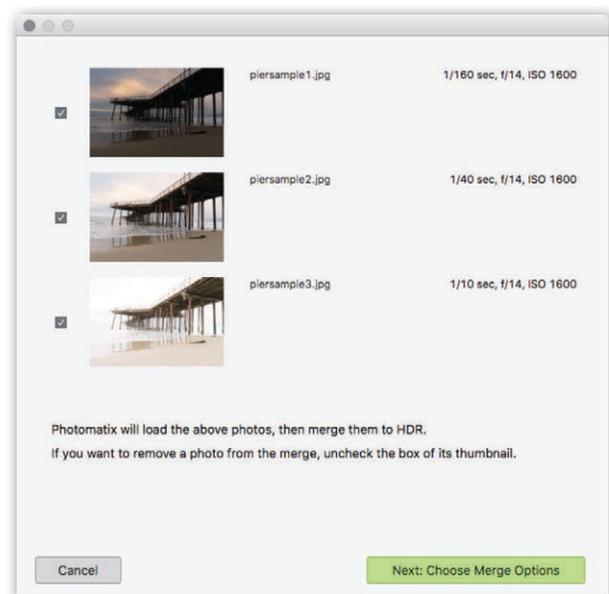
Step 2: Once you have launched Photomatix Pro, drag and drop the files onto the Photomatix Pro application window or click the Browse & Load button to navigate to the desired photos.

Step 3: Review the images in the Load Photos window. Uncheck any image(s) if you don't want to include them.

Step 4: Click the green **Next: Choose Merge Options** button.



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BRACKETED
PHOTOS](#)**





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Choose Merge Options

The Align source images option is checked by default. This takes care of any slight movement of the camera. This can be caused by wind when the camera is on a tripod or if the photographer shot the images handheld (causing slight movement).

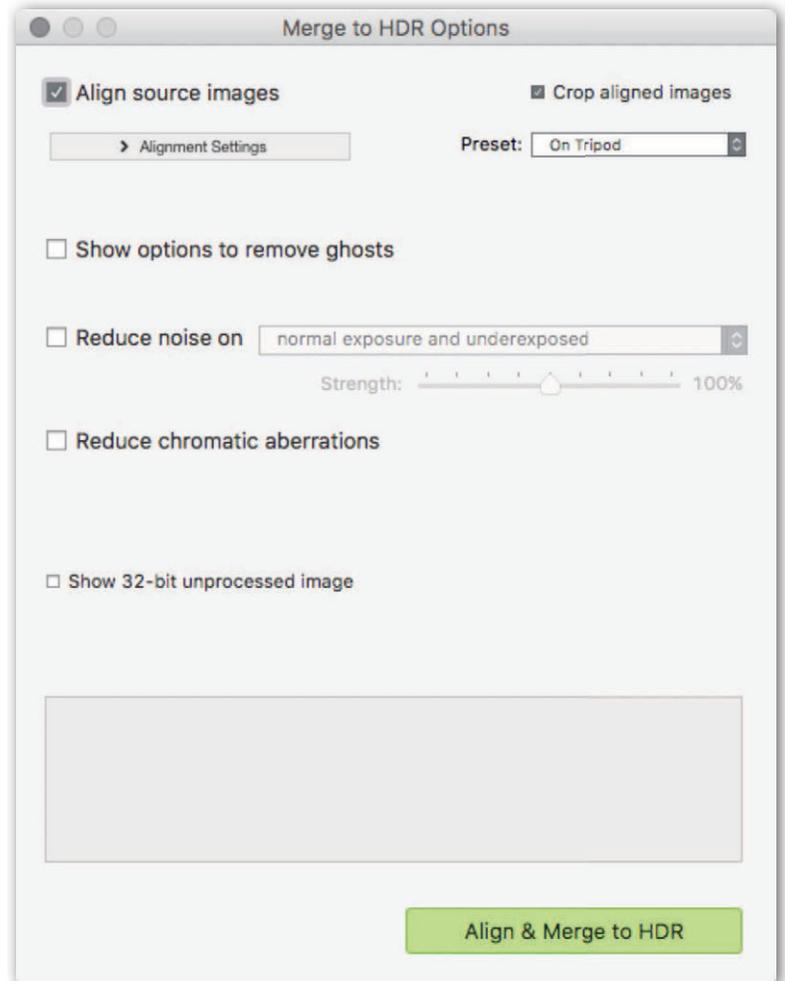
The option **Show options to remove ghosts** takes care of movement of elements in the scene such as people. This is optional for our example images.

Step 1: Select the **Crop aligned images** option to remove unneeded borders that result from shifting images during alignment.

Step 2: From the **Alignment Preset** drop-down menu choose the appropriate option based on how you captured the images. For these images choose the **On Tripod** option.

For our sample images, only alignment is needed as shown here.

Step 3: Click the **Align & Merge to HDR** button to proceed further.





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HDR Rendering

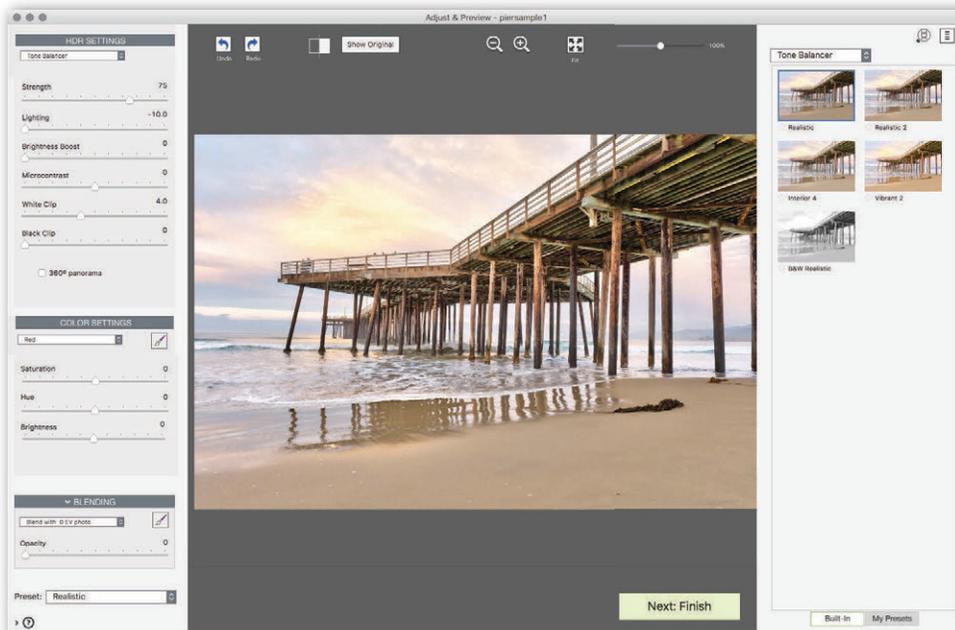
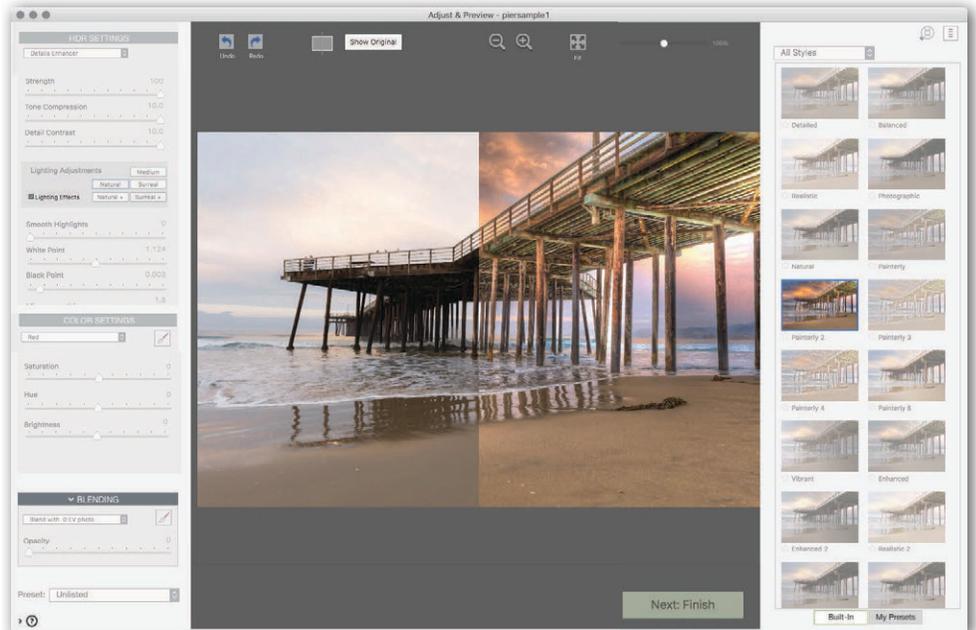
You can now explore the various styles that Photomatix Pro offers to render the HDR merged image.

Step 1: Click on various Preset Thumbnails on the right of the screen. Many different styles are achievable from realistic to artistic.

Note that you can choose categories of presets using the pop-up menu.

Step 2: Compare any preset with the original image by clicking the **Show Original** button above the image.

Even better, click the **Split-view** button next to **Show Original** to view the difference in dynamic range. Click the same button again to exit split-view.



Next, let's **customize** our settings using the new 'Tone Balancer' Method.

Step 3: Click the **Styles** pop-up list and choose the **Tone Balancer** method. You're now viewing just the Tone Balancer presets.

Step 4: Choose the first thumbnail, **Realistic** to access Tone Balancer.

Step 5: Experiment with the different controls to see their results.

To mimic the sample image, move the **Strength** Slider to the right and the **Lighting** slider to the left.



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Refine the Effect

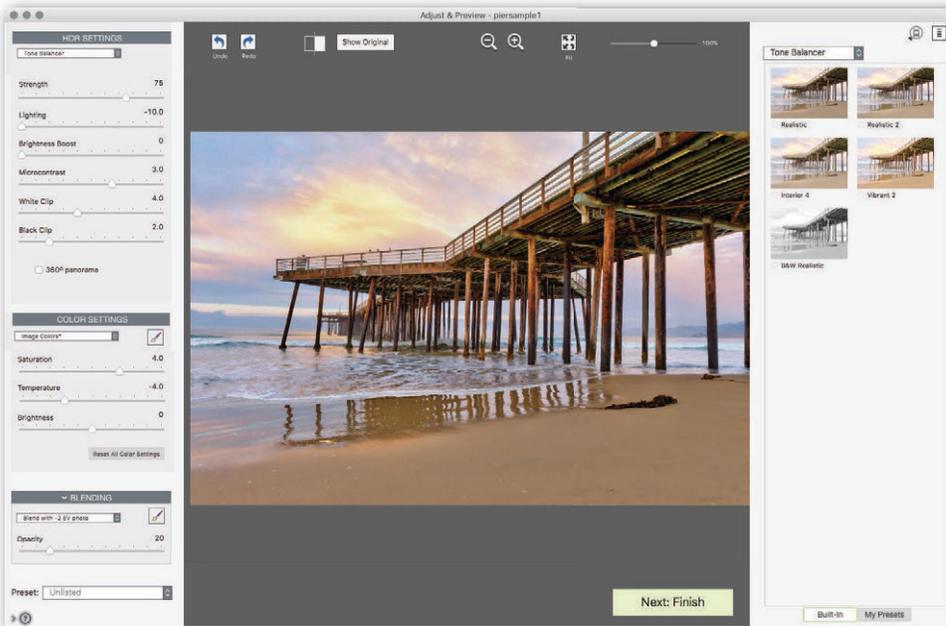
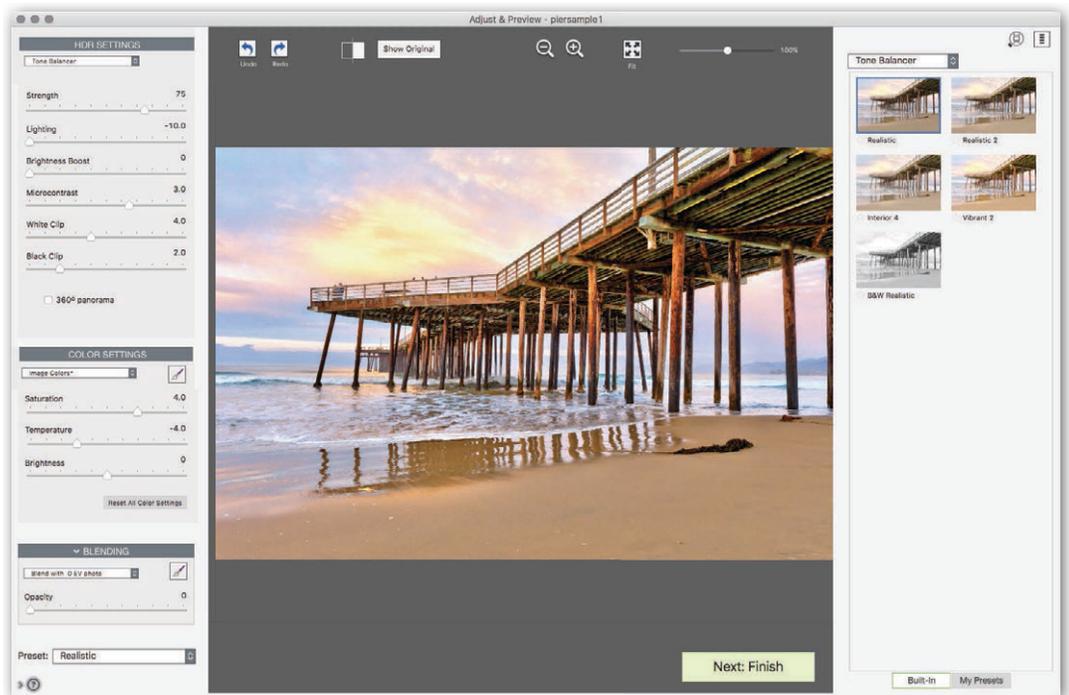
With basic settings chosen, we'll now refine to further enhance the image. You can continue to refine the HDR Settings, Color Setting and Blending. Continuing with our sample, you can do the following:

Step 1: In the HDR Settings section, move **Microcontrast** slider to the right. This adds subtle details to the image.

Step 2: Drag the **Black Clip** slider to the right to increase the richness of the shadows.

Step 3: In the Color Settings section ensure Image Colors is selected. Move the Saturation slider to the right to boost colors.

Step 4: Let's cool the scene a bit. Move the **Temperature** slider slightly left to enhance the blue in the sky.



Note the Help section below the sliders for more details. You can click the ? icon and then hover the mouse to see more details about each control or slider.

Step 5: Use the new **Blending** feature to return part of an original image to your combined image.

Chose the underexposed image (-2 EV photo) and move the **Opacity** slider to 20 in order to preserve the sky and add realism to the pier.



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Make Targeted Adjustments with the Brush Tool

You can make color adjustments to a specific section of the image using a brush. This allows you to have multiple selections which adjust colors in different ways. You can also use a brush to blend in parts of the original photo.



Step 1: If needed, click the triangle next to the **Blending** section to expand its controls.

Step 2: Click the **Brush** icon in the Blending area. A new window opens, the Brush Tool Palette.

Step 3: Use the sliders to adjust the **Brush size**, **Softness** in the floating panel. In the Blending area, you can also adjust the **Opacity**. Try a value of **50** for each to start.

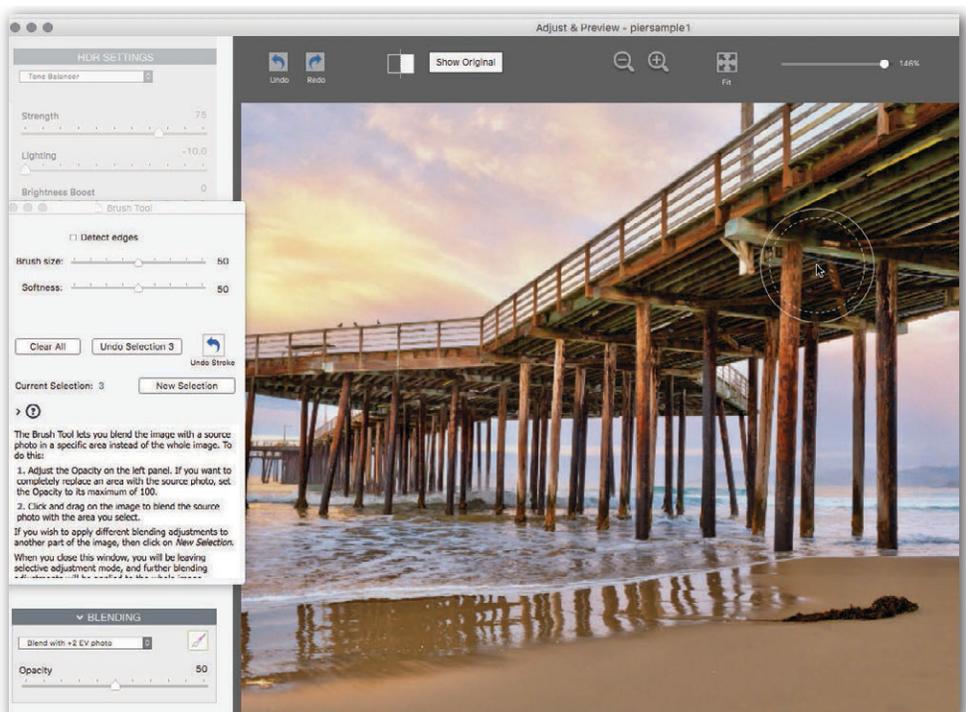
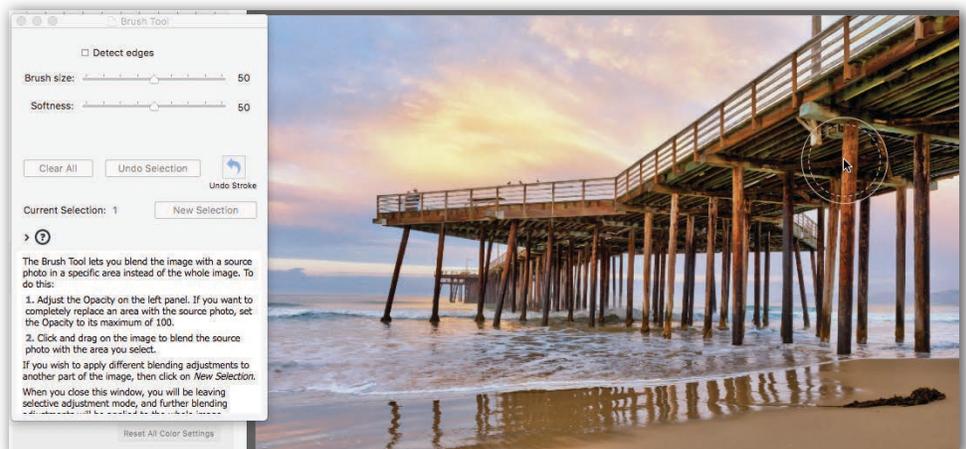
Step 4: Choose one of the source images from the pop-up menu. As an example, you can choose **Blend with +2 EV photo**.

Step 5: Brush an area to combine the HDR image with the source image. Try brushing the underside of the pier to bring out details while increasing realism.

You can adjust the size of the brush as needed as you work on smaller areas of the image. Try using the **Zoom** slider at the top of the panel to magnify the image as needed when painting in smaller areas.

Step 6: Once finished brushing in an area, you can close the Brush Tool Palette or click 'New Selection' and combine a different source image.

The Finish Line: When you're satisfied with what you see in the Preview window, click the **Next: Finish** button at the bottom of the panel. This will apply all the settings and adjustments so the image can be saved.





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Add Finishing Touches

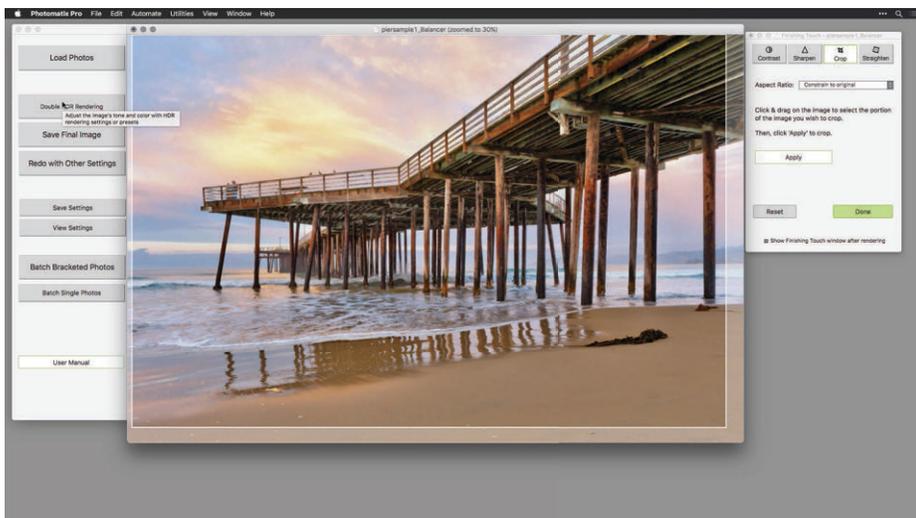
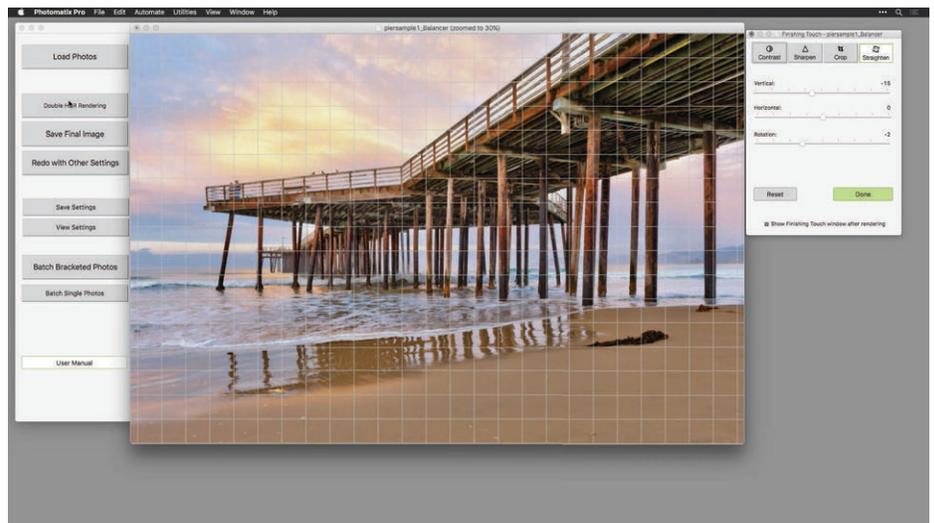
Now that the image is created, you have the option to make “Finishing Touches” before saving it. For this image, we added Moderate Sharpening and the following enhancements:

Step 1: In the **Finishing Touches** panel, click the second tab for **Sharpen**.

Step 2: From the pop-up list choose **Mild Sharpening** to enhance edge detail.

Step 3: Since the horizon was not quite level, click the **Straighten** tab and move the **Rotation** Slider to the left (-2)

Step 4: Moving the **Vertical** slider to the left (about -15) makes the pillar on the right more straight and improves the feel of the image.



Straightening can be very useful in architectural photography when walls or elements are at an angle and not completely vertical.

Step 5: Click the **Crop** tab and drag a rectangular shape for the image.

The **Aspect Ratio** menu allows you to constrain your crop to standard aspect ratios if needed. Drag within the rectangle to move its position.

Step 6: Click the **Apply** button when satisfied with the crop selection.

Step 7: Click **Done**.



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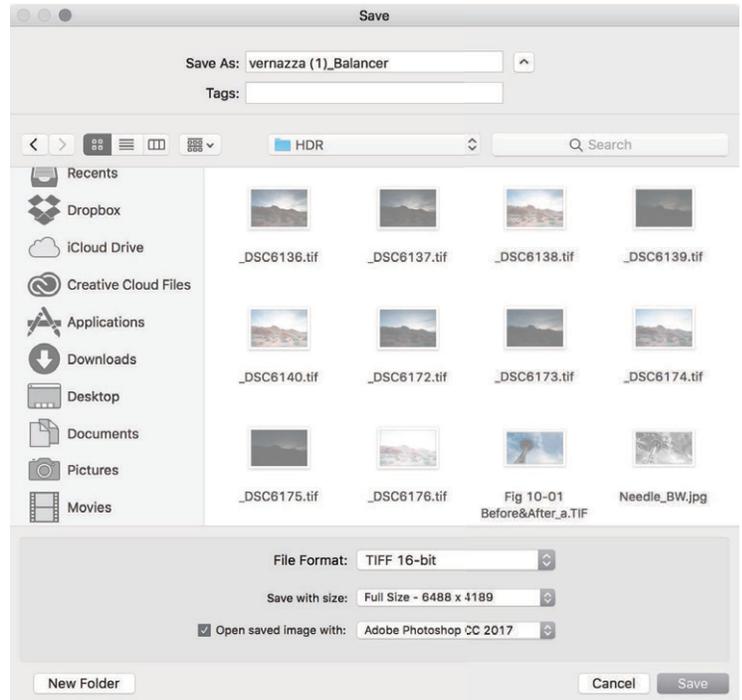
Save the Image

When ready to capture your work, click 'Save Final Image' on the **Workflow Shortcuts** panel to save it as JPEG or 16-bit TIFF file.

Thank you for exploring Photomatix Pro version 6.

You'll find more tutorials and educational resources [on our website](#).

See more samples of HDR images created by Photomatix users on the [User Gallery](#).



MORE SAMPLE IMAGES

If you'd like to try more samples, we offer additional hands-on practice files. Just click the name to download the files.

- [Cove Point Lighthouse \(3.5 MB\)](#)
- [Venice Grand Canal \(10 MB\)](#)
- [Cevennes landscape \(10 MB\)](#)

