

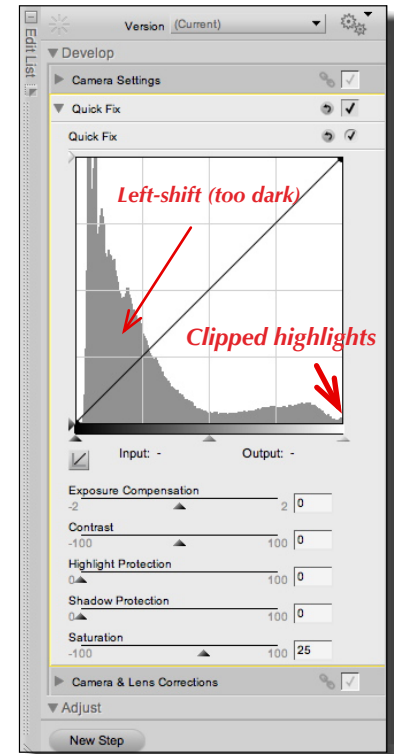
Highlight Protection

Use this slider to recover mild to moderate blown highlights without adjusting overall exposure

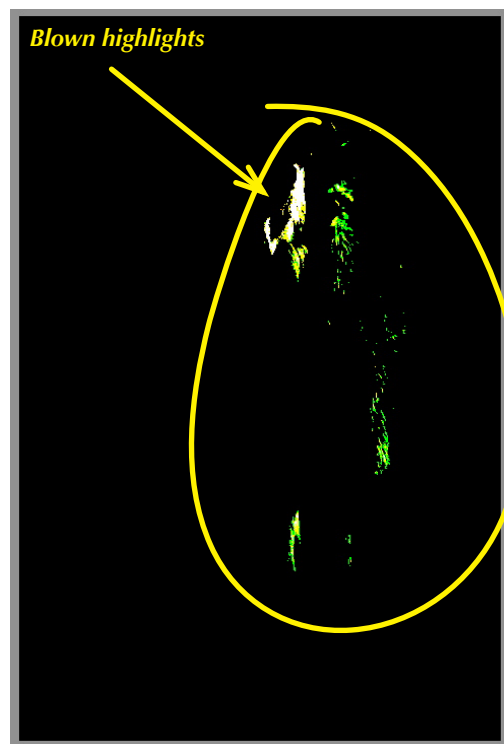
Sometimes, you will come across an image where the overall exposure is good, but some of the highlights are starting to clip. Or worse, you might have an image where highlights are pushing the right-hand edge of the histogram, but the image is a little bit underexposed. If you move the exposure slider to the right to get the right exposure, you'll lose even more highlight data.

The Highlight Protection tool in Capture NX2 comes to the rescue. Here's how to recover lost highlights.

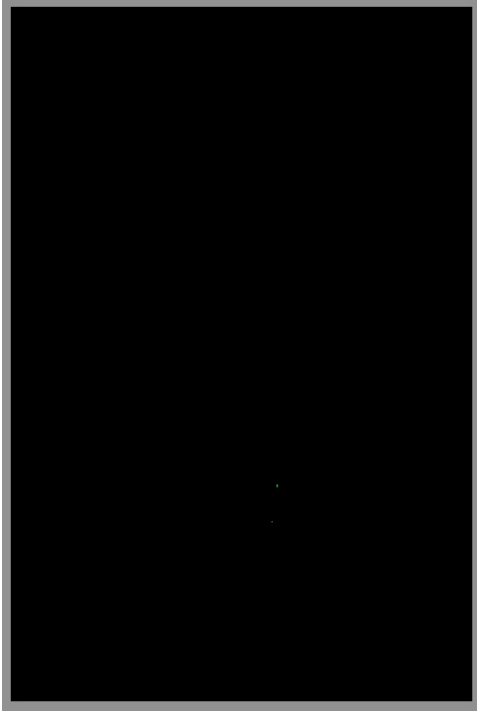
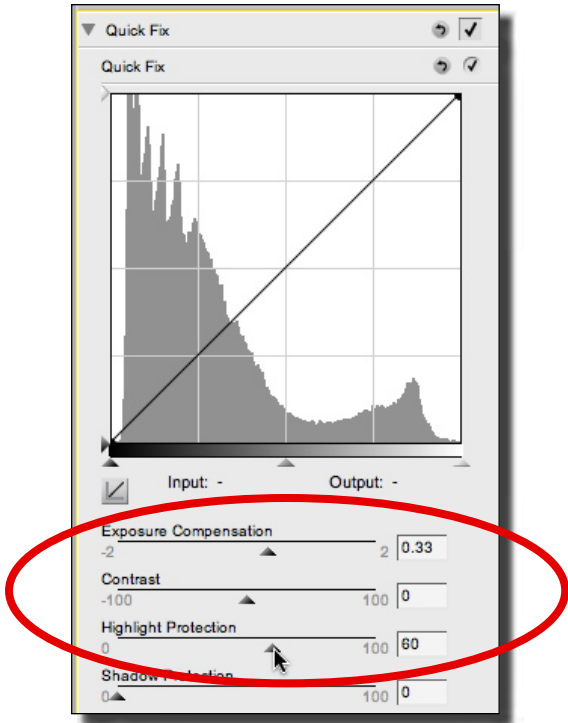
- 1) Open a NEF and view the Quick Fix palette in the Edit List.
- 2) Click the shift and "H" keys on the keyboard simultaneously. The image will turn black, and blown highlights will be in color (the color represents the channel that is clipping-- Red, Green or Blue).
- 3) Move the Highlight Protection slider to the right until most of the clipped highlights have turned black.
- 4) Click Shift-H to return to the normal view.



In this example (left), not only are there blown highlights, but the overall image is slightly underexposed. The image histogram (right) confirms this.



Click Shift-H to show the lost (clipped) highlights.



Fixing this image required two steps. First, exposure was increased by 0.33EV using the Exposure Compensation slider. Then, Highlight Protection was dialed in until the clipped highlights disappeared (right). The corrected image (below) is ready for further processing. Strong amounts of highlight protection can sometimes cause color saturation to decrease. This effect can be fixed with the Saturation slider in Quick Fix.

