

Advanced: D-Lighting control

Capture NX offers a unique tool for recovering shadow detail. This is an especially useful tool if you had to lower the exposure in the Base Adjustments to recover highlight detail in your image.

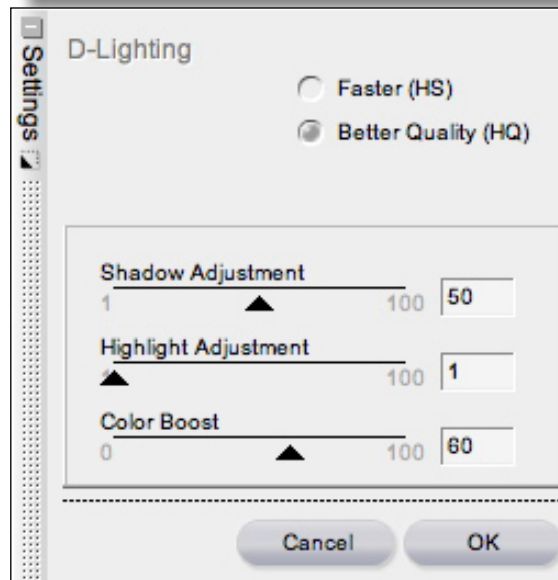
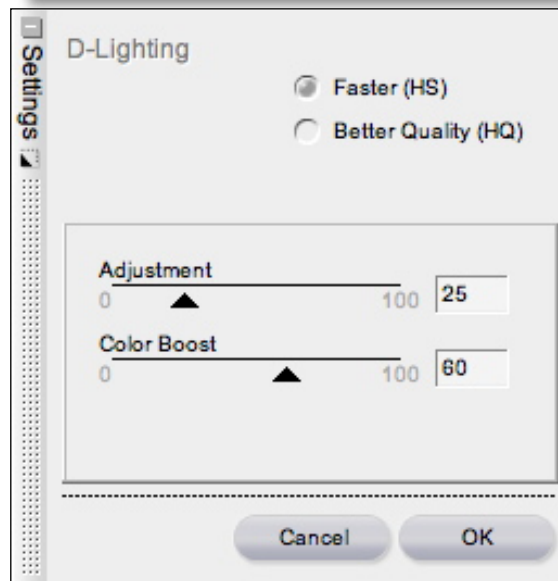
From the Adjust menu, choose Light--> D-Lighting. A new Edit Step is created, and the D-Lighting dialog box opens.

In the D-lighting controls, you can choose from either the "Faster" mode or the "Better Quality" mode.

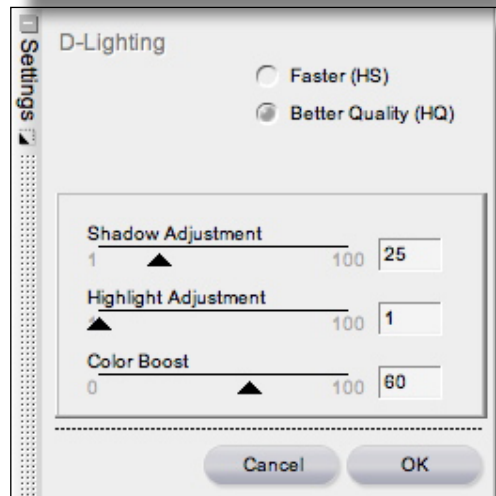
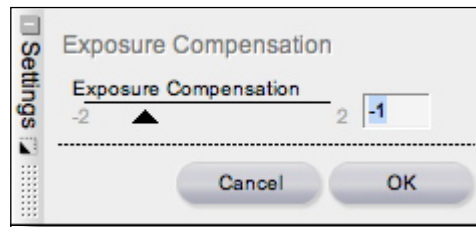
In "Faster" mode, you use the "Adjustment" slider to brighten shadows.

In "Better Quality" Mode, you can control Shadows and Highlights. The shadow control makes dark areas lighter, while highlight control makes bright areas darker.

The settings you use are really dependent on the image you have. If you are unable to get a good shadow correction with D-Lighting, don't worry; there are other tools you can use to correct your image, which we'll discuss later on.



Highlight recovery using D-Lighting



Open the “highlights1.nef” file from your “Extras” folder. In the RAW Adjustments menu, apply an exposure compensation setting of -1 EV. Notice that highlight details are returning in the clouds, but the foreground is now too dark.

From the main toolbar menu, choose Adjust--> Light--> D-Lighting.

Click the “Better Quality” button.

Set the Shadow Adjustment to 25.

Click OK to close the D-Lighting dialog box.

Note: I prefer to use this technique *before* I set the global white and black points.

