

Photographing Woodturning Projects

A Presentation for the Ohio Valley Woodturner's Guild by Jeffrey Fusaro - October 18, 2008

What do we need in order to get from "Point A" to "Point B"?

Proper Equipment, Proper use of Equipment, Sufficient Lighting, Suitable Backdrop, Better Understanding of the Process, More Consistent Process

Camera Settings – The Components of Image Quality:

Exposure / Aperture / Shutter Speed / ISO

Camera Modes:

Auto / Program / Shutter Priority / Aperture Priority / Manual / Others

ISO Settings (Sensor Sensitivity to Light):

Low ISO _____ High ISO
Less sensitivity to light _____ More sensitivity to light
Less grain/noise _____ More grain/noise

Aperture Settings:

Large Aperture _____ Small Aperture
More light (2X) entering lens _____ Less light (1/2) entering lens
Less depth of field _____ More depth of field

Shutter Speed Settings (in seconds):

Slow _____ Fast
More light _____ Less light
Less motion stop _____ More motion stop

White Balance: Removes unrealistic color casts.

Image Quality Settings:

RAW (.NEF) / JPEG Fine / JPEG Normal / JPEG Basic

Image Size Settings:

Large / Medium / Small

Why do we make all of these adjustments?

Control over the process / Reduce Variability / Increase Repeatability / Predictable Result

Studio Set-Up:

Photo Tent / Lighting / Backdrop

Camera Settings for Pen Photography:

Mode: Manual

ISO: 200

Image Quality: RAW

White Balance: Incandescent (0)

Aperture: f16 – f22

Shutter Speed: Nominal exposure, plus/minus six stops

Focal Length: 50mm - 70mm

Shutter Release: IR Remote Control / Timer

Now that I have captured all of my images, what's next?

Picasa Image Management software - Free Download (<http://picasa.google.com/>)

Backing-Up digital photos:

Internal Hard Drive / External Hard Drive / DVD's / On-Line

Initial Editing:

Camera RAW Mode

Temperature: 3000 (auto) (as shot)

Tint: 0 (manual)

Exposure: 0 (manual)

Shadows: 0 (manual)

Brightness: (65-70) (auto or manual)

Contrast: +50 (auto)

Saturation: 0

Final Editing:

Save as .TIF file

Rotate and crop

Adjust Sharpness: Unsharp Mask @ 150 / 2.5 / 5.0

Font: Myriad Web Pro 18pt. (8pt. on cropped images) / 75% grey

Text Box String: Pen Material_Pen Catalog Name_Wood Species_Finish

Export as .jpeg and reduce file size, as needed

Image Printing:

Home Printer / Retail Printing / On-Line / Professional Photo Lab

Processing Instructions for Digital Photos Using the Photo Tent

Photo tent set up as shown.



Camera Settings:

Mode: Manual

ISO: 200

Image Quality: RAW

White Balance: Incandescent (0)

Aperture: f16 - f22

Shutter Speed: 1/20 sec > 1/6 sec (or, nominal exposure, +/- four stops)

Focal Length: 50mm - 70mm

Shutter Release: IR Remote Control

Flash: None

Photoshop Elements Settings:

Camera RAW Mode

Start with best photo

Create copy of original RAW file in original location. DO NOT ALTER ORIGINAL FILE.

Temperature: 3000 (auto) (as shot)

Tint: 0 (or, adjust to preference)

Exposure: 0 (or, adjust to preference)

Shadows: 0 (or, adjust to preference)

Brightness: (65-70) (or, adjust to preference)

Contrast: +50 (or, adjust to preference)

Saturation: 0 (or, adjust to preference)

Click "OPEN"

Final Editing

Save .NEF file as .TIFF file (accept all default TIFF options)

View > Grid

Image > Rotate and Crop (as needed)

Adjust Sharpness: Filter > Unsharp Mask @ 150 / 2.5 / 5.0

Clone Stamp Tool – Dust Removal

Verify Black and White Point Pixels in the Info Palette (eye dropper tool)

Font: Text Tool > Myriad Web Pro / 18pt. (8pt. on cropped images) / 75% grey

Text Box String: Pen Material_Pen Catalog Name_Wood Species_Wood Finish

Layer > Merge Visible > Save

Make "Save As" Copy (.tiff file)

File Size Reduction Process

Open in Photoshop Elements

Image > Resize > Image Size > 1024 x ??? > Resample Image > Bicubic Sharper

Save As .Jpeg file > Quality 10-12