



ISLAND PHOTO GROUP NEWS

S U M M E R 2 0 0 7

W W W . I S L A N D P H O T O G R O U P . O R G

Always in Focus!

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Digital Darkroom: Bougainvillea (BEFORE & AFTER)

by Rich Fiedorowicz

I loved the rhythmic arrangement of the petals and stamen when I saw this little piece of bougainvillea on our club's field trip to the Bronx Botanical Gardens. The background was very busy. A wide open shot couldn't help because the background was so close and because I didn't want to sacrifice detail of the front most petals with shallow depth of field.

Post processing in the digital CS3 darkroom would do the trick, removing the distractions and enhancing the contours and textures I wanted.

Basic steps:

- Crop to tighten the image in the frame
- Clone out small petal pieces in

lower right.

- Clone to simplify the top center area to prep for blurring.
- Apply Gaussian blur to background
- Duplicate the layer, set to multiply mode, 75% opacity to darken and intensify colors.
- Create a white layer mask on this multiply layer and paint on the mask with black to lighten the highlight contours of the central petals.
- Make a burn-and-dodge layer and use different brush sizes to further enhance those petal's contours, to darken veins, and to define stamen details.
- Sharpen central petals.
- Add a curves adjustment layer to boost contrast.



Bougainvillea As Shot



Bougainvillea After Digital Darkroom

Message from the President



**President
Joe McGahan**

While our photo year is coming to an end, we have many exciting things to look forward to over the Summer. Be sure to take advantage of the programs and workshops being run by our own Rich Fiedorowicz! Check the web calendar for news and events, they are constantly updating!

I want to thank you all for allowing me to be your president. I have found it to be fun and challenging!

I would also like to thank Charlie and Glenn for putting together an outstanding end of year dinner, I really enjoyed being there with all of you and everyone seemed to have a great time!

Finally congratulations to the new IPG Officers, I wish them luck throughout the year and would like them to know my assistance is available should they need it.

THINKTANK PHOTO GEAR

If you're looking for well thought out bags and luggage for your photo equipment, the products that should immediately come to mind are those from ThinkTank! The sample bag that I received from them is called

the Glass Taxi and is a easily convertible backpack. The Glass Taxi comes with extra padding and inserts that allows you to switch between two configurations. The Glass Taxi was shipped configured to carry one BIG lens,

hence the name, but with the included extra accessories, I easily changed the inserts to hold a camera body (with lens on), several extra lenses, a flash, batteries, chargers,

and some other accessories.

Everything that you might need for a day of shooting.

What you will immediately notice, is that the Glass Taxi is considerably slimmer than just about every other photo backpack on the market. Even so, it is certainly capable of carrying what you need.

What I really like is that because of it's size and simplicity, it's easy to carry and is not nearly as cumbersome as some other backpacks on the market. The zipper opens and allows easy access to everything in the bag. Clean, neat and well thought out.

If you are in the market for any photo travel gear you should definitely consider checking out <http://thinktankphoto.com/>



RED SKY
Submitted by
Jeff Breiman

nik Color Efex Pro 2.0 Complete Edition

When the folks at NIK named this program “Complete Edition” they weren’t kidding! There are 80 filters stuffed into this great plug-in for Photoshop, Elements or any other photo editing program that will accept Photoshop compatible plug-ins. But that’s not all! Every one of those 80 filters is completely customizable allowing you to create an endless amount of variations to your filter set. If that’s not good enough for you, there is even room for 6 user customizable filters that you can save and reuse. I literally sat at my computer for hours playing with the different effects. Simply said, they are amazing!

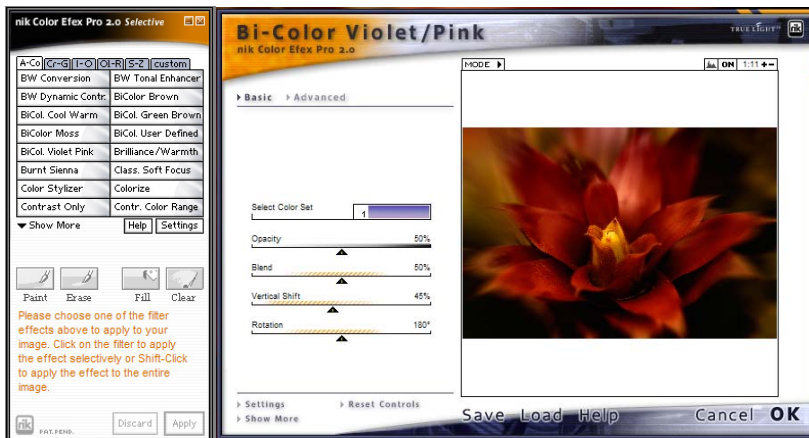
As you can see from the Nik menu below, there are six tabs that bring up the different pages of filters. In this example selecting the BiColor Violet/Pink filter brings up the dialog box that allows you to change the slider settings to your liking. You can customize the settings so that the filter is applied and flattened or is applied as a new layer. I chose the latter. Once you apply the filter, a mask is automatically added to the layer. You can fill the mask or paint on it then ap-

ply the settings. Nik creates the new layer which is still editable through the layer mask.

The photo below was created using the Midnight Violet filter with only a few clicks of my mouse and just a bit of burning to darken the edges.

The Nik filters create very dramatic effects with little effort. Experimenting with sev-

eral filters and overlaying them, gives you even more unique effects and endless possibilities! In my opinion this nik software plugin is worth its weight in gold! No where else will you be able to be so creative with the push of a button. For more information or to purchase, check out www.niksoftware.com



Point of View

Is there a difference between GRAPHIC DESIGN and PHOTOGRAPHY? The following explains it better than I could:

GRAPHIC DESIGN: "Graphic design is the process of communicating visually using text and/or images to present information, or promote a message. Graphic design practice embraces a range of cognitive and aesthetic skills and crafts, including typography, image development and page layout. Graphic design is applied in communication design and fine art. Like other forms of communication, graphic design often refers to both the process (designing) by which the communication is created, and the products (designs) such as creative solutions, imagery and multimedia compositions."

PHOTOGRAPHY:

"Photography is the process of making pictures by means of capturing light on a light-

sensitive medium, such as a sensor or film. Light patterns reflected or emitted from objects are recorded onto a sensi-



Submitted by Michael Ginex
 tive medium or storage chip through a timed exposure. The most common process is done through mechanical, chemical or digital devices known as cameras."

Photoshop, along with other digital manipulation programs, was initially embraced by the graphic design industry, and subsequently has made the distinction between the two art forms, graphic design and pho-

tography, cloudy to many of us. It has also made graphic design effortless because of the speed and range of selective style when composing an "image". This has opened a "creative door" to many who had yearned to be creative before, but were unable to because of the learning curve required in graphic design techniques before the digital revolution changed it all.....and the higher level of creative talent it demanded. Now all that is needed to "create" an image is a computer, an idea, possibly a photograph, and enough buttons to press that affords one the ability to instantly and painlessly change the motif, content and meaning of the composition. To me, a true photograph is one camera, one place, one moment and the capture of one emotion.

Just one man's point of view.

Mike Ginex

Have you ever tried to look at your LCD Screen on a bright sunny day? Well if you have you already know that it is almost impossible to see your picture let alone seeing any detail. Well as necessity is the mother of many inventions here comes HOOD-MAN to the rescue with the new HoodLoupe!

Now Hoodman is not new to this type of product, in fact they have a long line of accessories for digital cameras and computers.

Their previous creations include collapsible shades for your LCD that attached to your camera either by a strap or Velcro. They also created custom Flip Up shades that are custom made for your specific camera, when open they provide shade and when closed they protect your LCD Screen. I actually bought one of these for my D100.

The HoodLoupe however is a completely different product. Instead of attaching it to your camera, you wear it around your neck like you would a jewelry loupe. Then when you want to view a photo on your screen you simply hold it up against the back of your camera. It's big enough to cover a 3" LCD Screen.

The real beauty of this is that

when you place your eye on it, there is absolutely NO extraneous light coming in and you can



really see your LCD screen even in the brightest light.

The idea is simple yet it works perfectly.

As you can see by the photo, the eyecup is a good size and the unit is comfortable to work with.

The eyepiece has an adjustable (+/- 3) diopter (like on a binocular), just twist to adjust. This is a nice and welcome touch for people like me who need glasses.

To view your photo in detail, while looking into the HoodLoupe, you simply use the zoom and pan features on your camera.

There are two features that I would like to see on the next generation HoodLoupe. The first is that lanyard should have a better or adjustable fastener, on the

sample unit I received one of the ends of the lanyard pulled out of the fastener. The current design of the fastener makes it impossible to fix by the user. I tied a knot in the end of it to make it usable.

The second is that I would like to see the eyecup have markings indicating the where the focus is

-3 -2 -1 0 +1 +2 +3

I found it annoying that I had to adjust the eyepiece on my eye more than once because I accidentally moved it while putting it in or taking it out of the case.

Having the markings would allow you to immediately focus without looking through it just by adjusting it to the appropriate number.

Now having said all that, the HoodLoupe is a really nice product. For me it works much better than the screen attachments that fold.

If you frequently shoot outdoors, one of these HoodLoupes should be in your bag!

If you would like you can buy them, as well as other Hoodman products right online at this link www.HoodmanUSA.com or you can find them at local Long Island camera dealers like Berger Brothers Camera in Amityville and Koh's Camera in North Bellmore.

WACOM WIDE FORMAT TABLET



Submitted by Mike Ginex

So you say you're serious about your Digital Photography? If you are, you know that having the right tools makes all the difference in the world. In your tool bag, you already have the right camera, computer and software, but once you have tried this tool you will be absolutely amazed and hooked! It might look a bit unusual, but believe me, using this device is absolutely the most natural way to work on your digital photos.

What I'm raving about is the digital Intuos3 tablet made by Wacom, the industry leader in graphic tablets. I know you have seen tablets before but what makes this one different is that it's a WIDESCREEN Format Tablet. It matches the aspect ratio of your wide screen monitor.

Editing photos on this tablet is fast and easy. It works with Photoshop, Corel Painter, and more than 100 other software apps and it's not only for graphic software. While the Intuos3 works on Macs and PCs, it is also compatible with the new enhanced features

available in Windows Vista. You can do cool things like use the pen for personal note taking, signing



your emails, handwriting recognition and much more.

The Intuos3 comes with a stylus that feels like an expensive pen (it even has a fancy little pen stand and some spare tips) and a 5 button mouse. Switching between the pen and the mouse is as simple as putting one down and picking up the other. One thing that really sets the Wacom Tablets apart from the competition is their unique technology. You have to plug the tablet into a USB port but the Pen and the Mouse are both cordless and don't take a battery either! Don't ask me how but they work and they are both accurate beyond belief!

This Intuos3 series of tablets have 1024 levels of pressure sensitivity.



Submitted by Joe Prantil

Wacom Intuos3 Continued

As you push harder, your tools react as if you were using a real brush or pen. The pressure feature allows you to control things like brush size and opacity *while* you are drawing. Wacom conveniently place a two button rocker type button on the stylus that replicate left and right mouse buttons.

You will also notice that the tablet has some strategically placed keys in the upper left and right hand corners. These keys are programmable and can be used like the keys on your keyboard. It makes sense to have these here, working in Photoshop frequently requires the use of a key-click combination.

Along side of each set of keys, you will find two very cool touch strips. using the stylus or even your finger you can use them to ZOOM, SCROLL, CHANGE BRUSH SIZE and more.

While it took me a bit to get used to the keys and touch strip, I have to tell you that using the stylus is just incredible. Working on photos took about half the time it would have using the mouse. The accuracy of the stylus vs the mouse is really something you have to experience to appreciate. I noticed the difference immediately when masking

in photoshop.

I should mention that the installation was a breeze and that Wacom's Tablet Driver allows you to customize your tablet differently for each program. What I mean is that you can set the same key to do different things in different programs. Once you program each to your liking, using the tab-

*For the serious
photographer,
designer, and
artist*

let with your software becomes quick and easy. You just have to remember how you programmed each key. You can also set the stylus to react differently between

programs as well.

I really love this tablet and I highly recommend buying one. Be sure to check out this and all the other Wacom products especially the Wacom's Cintiq 21UX a interactive LCD Display / Monitor that you can draw directly on! I hope to have one to review and demo at one of our meetings soon.

Wacom's website is www.Wacom.com To order you can email sales@wacom.com or call them at 800.922.9348

**Bonus CD
Includes
Adobe
Photoshop
Elements
4, Corel
Painter
Essentials
3, and Nik
Color Efex
Pro 2**



DIVOTS

Submitted by Joe Pellicone

Calendar 2007

Be sure to check the website for exciting new summer programs and workshops. Featuring Photoshop and Lightroom instructions by our very own Rich Fiedorowicz!

July

Mon 2	T.B.A.
Mon 9	Photoshop Techniques Workshop - R.Fiedorowicz
Mon 16	Photoshop Techniques Workshop - R.Fiedorowicz
Mon 23	IPG Board Meeting - Allen Park

August

Mon 6	Photoshop Techniques Workshop - R.Fiedorowicz
Mon 13	T.B.A.
Mon 20	Works-in-Progress Projection Night
Mon 27	IPG Board Meeting - location t.b.a.

September

Mon 3	No Meeting - Labor Day
Mon 10	Program: T.B.A.
Mon 17	Critique Night
Mon 24	IPG Board Meeting - location t.b.a.

QUICK TIP:

If you ever have created a photo slide show using one of the many programs available, you know that the finished product is usually outstanding. What makes it so is the combination of the photos, transitions and music.

For me the most difficult part is choosing the right music! To help, you can listen to samples on iTunes, Amazon and a variety of other places for free.

Be careful when downloading music from the web they can contain viruses

The PHOTO BUDDY at ThePhotoBuddy.com

Sometimes it is the small things that make a difference when your out shooting.

We have all heard that it's easy to take photos in nice weather but that some of the most dramatic photos that photographers take is during foul weather. We'll you say, I'm not taking my expensive camera out in the rain or snow! If your torn between protecting your camera and getting that great shot, go to ThePhotoBuddy.com and check out their new camera and lens RAIN GEAR!

It's made of light weight waterproof* material with velcro openings and draw-strings on both ends. The unit fits the

camera well. It is easy to reach all the controls of the camera with the cover on. The velcro sealed opening at the bottom of the cover is for tripod access, while the draw-string openings mount around the lens hood and back of the camera.

It's a great idea and a inexpensive way to keep your camera and lens dry.

They also have some other unique photo items, so check out their website!

** The instructions note that for extreme conditions you may want to consider sealing the seams with a silicon seam sealer.*

Monster Pod

Last month I reviewed the Gorilla Pod. This month it's a Monster Pod! There seems to be a new trend here for alternative style tripods and camera mounts.

Monster Pod is not really a tripod it's a disc of sorts. At first glance you might confuse it with a mini Frisbee or new toy. But when you take a closer look and see the camera mounting screw on top you start wondering what it does. Well according to the manufacturer what it does is STICK, and stick it does.

The Monster Pod sticks to all kinds of surfaces, even trees. That's because when you remove the replaceable cover you find a sticky, gooey, pliable orange substance that my kids would love to play with. It almost reminds me of Silly Putty.

The unit conforms to just about any surface that you apply it to and stays



MONSTER POD

put for up to 10 minutes depending on conditions. It's pretty unique.

While Monster Pod is not designed to permanently be affixed you can certainly attach any compact camera, long enough to take a few shots with the self timer set. I would however not advise you to leave your camera unattended for long periods of time as gravity will eventually take it's toll.

Additionally, I would also recommend that you do not use this product for a SLR Camera since it is quite a bit heavier than a compact camera and would be more likely to pull away from what ever you fix it to faster.

In closing the Monster Pod is a very handy way to quickly mount your compact camera to an object and will allow you to take photos that you would never be able to get using a conventional tripod.

The unit is compact and will easily slip into your camera bag or a jacket pocket. If you're so inclined you can even buy a travel case that comes with a shoulder strap at an additional charge.

If you like unique photo accessories you'll definitely like Monster Pod. go to www.monsterpod.com to check it out and see the video.

By Joe Pellicone

L.I. Photoshop Users Group

NEW MEETING PLACE

**MASSAPEQUA PUBLIC LIBRARY
HARBOUR LANE. MASSAPEQUA PARK**

TUES AUG 7, 2007

6:30 Pm—9:pm

NEW IPG OFFICERS & COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Title/Committee	Chairperson	Assistant Chairperson
President	Joe Pellicone	
Vice President	Lou Cohen	
Second Vice President	Rich Fiedorowicz	
Treasurer	Glenn DeBona	
Secretary	Anne Marie Denese	
Calendar	Rich Fiedorowicz	
Field Trips	Lou Cohen	Anne Marie Denese
Fundraising	Frank DiVittorio	Joe Pellicone
Membership	Charlie Bowman	Jo Edmunson
Newsletter	Joe Pellicone	ASSISTANT WANTED!
PFLI Prints, Slides & Digital	Joe Prantil	Frank DiVittorio
PFLI Representative	Pat Hutcherson	Sherman Paur
Programs	Russ Popeil	Sherman Paur
Publicity/ Information	Joe Pellicone	ASSISTANT WANTED!
Website	Rich Fiedorowicz	
WorkShops	Rich Fiedorowicz	ASSISTANT WANTED!



ISLAND PHOTO GROUP
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

2007-2008

Annual Dues: \$40.00

Make checks payable to: **Island Photo Group**

New Application Renewal

Name: _____ Spouse's Name: _____

ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE: Home: _____ Work: _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

Do you wish to be listed in the published roster? YES NO

CLASSIFICATION: Enter **A** or **B** for each category in which you will be participating.
(A – Advanced, B – Intermediate/Beginner)

Color Prints B/W Prints Slides

Suggestions for Workshops / Programs / Field Trips: _____

Do Not Write Below:

Date Paid: _____

Membership # _____



IPG Voice Mail 516-986-4976

E-mail: IslandPhotoGroup@gmail.com

www.IslandPhotoGroup.org

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Classified Ads

Place an ad HERE, it remains in the TTL until it sells.

NEW - ISLAND PHOTO GROUP TEE SHIRTS! Available in Large, XL and 2XL. Only \$15each! Purchase from IPG contact:

Glen Debona ggdb@optonline.net

Hydrosorbent Dehumidifiers If you read the article in the last issue of TTL you know that moisture can kill your lenses. Protect them with a REUSABLE Silica Gel Dehumidifier pack. Only \$6.00

Purchase from IPG - contact Glen Debona ggdb@optonline.net

16 x 20 Professional Mat Board Black on one side and White on the other. Only \$1.50 ea

Purchase from IPG - contact Glen Debona ggdb@optonline.net

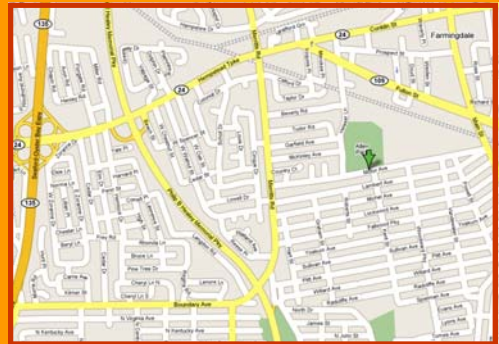
HEWLETT PACKARD 840C INKJET PRINTER. Hardly used, Needs Cartridges. You can have it for a \$10 Donation to IPG. tshrtkng@verizon.net

EPSON 1270 Color Printer, Prints up to 13x19 Excellent Condition, NEW Black & Color Ribbons!

Call Sherman (516) 333-7623

If you're a Novice Photographer, a Professional or anywhere in between, check out our group! We're all about sharing ideas, knowledge, and promoting great photography. If you want to learn or are willing to offer your photo experience then this is the club for you! Some of us still shoot film while others are shooting digital. Come check us out as our guest, no obligation to join.

We meet the first 3 Mondays of Every Month (excluding holidays) In Ellsworth Allen Park, Motor Avenue, Farmingdale, NY



<http://maps.google.com/maps?f=q&hl=en&q=motor+avenue,+farmingdale,+ny&ie=UTF8>

Click or Cut and paste the link above for the Google map

Long Island Photoshop Group

Be sure to check out the Long Island Photoshop Users Group.
Check the Website for Meeting Information!

www.liphotoshop.org