

USING STATISTICS IN PHOTOSHOP

Three kinds of lies.

There are three kinds of Lies.

Lies, damned lies & statistics.

The phrase was popularised in the United States by Mark Twain (among others), in the 1900's when commenting on the abuse of statistics in the manipulation of public opinion. He originally attributed it to the British Prime Minister Benjamin Disraeli:

There is now a fourth – Photoshop Statistics....

In Photoshop we are going to use Stack Mode & Statistics. This part of Photoshop is more commonly used for Forensics, Medical or Astro photographic uses.

It can be done in RAW or JPEG.

Take about a dozen images about 20 seconds apart, preferably on a tripod, but it can be done hand held.

If the light is changeable, turn off auto white balance, set it to daylight... or....

Use aperture priority, set aperture – f8 should be OK.

Pick a spot to Manual Focus on – which includes all the scene...

Take pictures.

Put the images in their own folder.

We will use St. Peters 1 (RAW or JPEG)

Before going to statistics, we can adjust the images collectively in Bridge or Lightroom.

In Bridge, select all the images, double click in one of them, to open them all in Camera RAW.

In top LH corner drop down menu > Select All. Make any adjustments in Camera RAW ie Exposure, contrast, lightening, lifting shadows, clarity etc. It will make the same adjustments to all images, then click DONE (not OPEN IMAGES).

Check back in Bridge & you will see all the images have been adjusted.

Open Photoshop. Go to... File > Scripts > Statistics

This dialog box has a Stack Mode – chose MEDIAN (this is the important choice – no other one will do)

Then go to USE & chose folder, the Browse for the folder, the files in that folder will then be loaded.

Make sure that the box “Attempt to automatically align source images” is ticked.

Click OK.

Photoshop will then load the images into the Layers palette, align them & then apply the MEDIAN stack mode, & converted it to one layer as a Smart Object. Clicking on the down arrow on that layer confirms that the MEDIAN stack mode has been used.

With luck – all the people will have disappeared....

Note; It is still a RAW file.

You will note that because the clouds were moving when I took the pictures, the sky has come out a bit weird. So, we need to replace this weird sky with the sky from one of the original pictures.

To do this we need to open the original pictures, but in register.

We do this by double clicking on the layer thumbnail & it opens a new psb file which contains all the individual layers.

Look through them to find one with the best sky – DSC_3804 looks OK.

Make a selection using the rectangular marquee tool including all the sky.

Edit > Copy Merged.

Go back to your RAW (or JPEG) file – the one that has the median stack mode.

Edit > Paste Special > Paste in Place...

He presto – the selected sky appears in a new layer – exactly in register with the new RAW file.

If you want to you can select one person to put back in your new picture using the same commands as above but using – say the Polygonal Lasso Tool & Hey Presto he appears on a new layer – exactly in register.

You can watch this tutorial on the following YouTube links....

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TloTudr76l4>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?reload=9&v=-lkBMVYH8Fw>

Show St Peters 2

Note the reflections also disappear....!

It also works with cars – see Motorway Shifnal – note the broken-down car...!
