shooting in raw mode

REASONS WHY

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DIGITAL CAPTURE IS ABOUT UNITS OF LIGHT, THE MORE UNITS WE CAPTURE, THE MORE WE CAN WORK THOSE UNITS

YOUR DSLR CAPTURES 12 BITS, SOME CAPTURE 14 BITS OF INFORMATION
THATS 4096 UNITS OF LIGHT INFORMATION FOR 12 BIT DATA CAPTURE
THE MORE INFORMATION YOU HAVE, THE SMOOTHER THE TONAL VARIATIONS
SHOOTING IN RAW MODE KEEPS ALL THAT INFORMATION FOR YOU TO DEAL WITH
AN 8 BIT JPEG HAS 256 UNITS OF LIGHT INFORMATION
A CAMERA PRODUCED JPEG IMAGE IS AN 8 BIT COMPRESSED FILE
FURTHER EDITING CAN NOW START TO DEGRADE THE IMAGE,

ASKING THE CAMERA TO PRODUCE A FINISHED IMAGE THAT REFLECTS YOUR THOUGHTS AT THE TAKING STAGE
IS A BIT LIKE GIVING A SKECTH PAD TO A STRANGER AND ASKING THEM TO DRAW A PICTURE,
YOU GET WHAT THEY WANT TO PRODUCE, NOT WHAT YOU WANT.

IMAGE COMPARISONS ON PC MONITORS CANT TELL THE REAL DIFFERENCE BETWEEN RAW PROCESSED AND A CAMERA JPEG
AS BOTH IMAGES ARE ONLY LOW RESOLUTION, MONITOR RESOLUTION AND PRINT RESOLUTION ARE TOTALLY DIFFERENT
THE OTHER PART OF THE EQUASION PROBLEM IS THE QUALITY AND CALIBRATION OF YOUR MONITOR
THE ONLY WAY TO SEE THE REAL DIFFERENCE IS TO PRODUCE PRINTS OF AT LEAST A3 IN SIZE
IF YOU ONLY WANT TO SEE YOUR IMAGES ON A SCREEN OR AS A4 OR SMALLER PRINTS, BUY A COMPACT.

ON A PRACTICAL NOTE, IF YOUR GOING TO REPROCESS AN 8 BIT CAMERA PRODUCED JPEG IN ANY VERSION OF PHOTOSHOP,
THEN WHY NOT PROCESS THE RAW FILE TO START WITH, ITS NOT ROCKET SCIENCE

ON A STORAGE NOTE, WHO IN THESE DAYS IS WORRIED ABOUT MEMORY SPACE ON A PC OR MAC, HARD DRIVES COME IN
HUNDREDS OF GIGA BITES, PLUG-IN EXTERNAL HARD DRIVES HOLD HUNDREDS OF GIGA BITES.
WHO IN THEIR RIGHT MIND WANTS TO STORE THOUSANDS OF POOR QUALITY LOW RESOLUTION IMAGES

INVESTING IN A HIGH QUALITY DSLR, AN HIGH END COMPUTER, A MONITOR CALIBRATOR
AND THEN CREATING LOW QUALITY COMPRESSED JPEG IMAGES, THAT DONT REALLY REFLECT THE EMOTION
WITHIN THE IMAGE THAT THE PHOTOGRAPHER INTENDED AT THE TAKING STAGE,
IS AS SENSIBLE AS TRYING TO RACE AGAINST A FI RACING CAR USING A PEDAL CAR

PHOTOGRAPHY IS AN ART FORM, THE CAMERA IS A TOOL, PHOTOSHOP IS PART THE CYCLE
BUYING A RACING CAR DOESNT MAKE YOU A FORMULA ONE DRIVER
BUYING AN HIGH END DSLR WONT MAKE YOU A PHOTOGRAPHER

UNDERSTANDING THE DIGITAL PROCESS FROM CAPTURE TO PRINT IS THE FIRST STAGE IN BECOMING A PHOTOGRAPHER
IF YOU DONT WANT TO BE INVOLVED IN THE PROCESS, JUST ASK YOURSELF
DO I WANT TO BECOME A THINKING SEEING PHOTOGRAPHER
WHO TAKES A PRIDE IN PRODUCING HIGH QUALITY WORK
THEN LEARN TO SHOOT AND ENJOY THE BENEFITS OF SHOOTING AND EDITING THE RAW DATA

GATESHEAD QUAYS

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU CHOOSE THE CAMERA TO PRODUCE THE FINISHED IMAGE

All cameras, whether SLR or Compact capture the scene as raw data, the next stage of the camera workflow depends on the settings you choose. If its on full auto, then the camera will process that data to produce an eight bit compressed jpeg file. You have some choices within the camera workflow, it will be possible to select extra contrast, increase colour saturation, select the file size of the image etc. The problem with doing this is that its asking you decide on the output before you have seen the image, yes you can take a test shot, view the LCD screen, then change the settings. The problems with this is the viewing conditions relating to looking at the screen and the screen is only a low resolution screen so it wont match the print. Plus you get a print that the camera has decided is the optimum edited image, not what you have decided, but what the camera has decided as dictated by the programming parameters.

The initial raw capture had at least 4096 levels of light data in each colour channel, RGB. The camera has now decided to process the image according to the programming parameters and has reduced the light values down to 256 light values in each colour channel. You now look at the image on the pc monitor, decide you your not happy with the end result and wish to edit it further. Then the problems begin, you have only a limited amount of data to use, the file when you opened it was a compressed file and so it has to de-compress on opening, you then start to edit the data and lose further information, the image now starts to degrade. When will you actually see the degradation? when you begin to print above A4, you may even see it on an A4 print.

What if you don't print to A4, what if you only viewing images on a screen, then ask yourself why you want an high end DSLR, photography is about using the images, either as prints, in books, wall decoration, etc. If its just going to viewed on a screen then stick to a compact with a good zoom facility, let the camera sort the techie bits out and you concentrate on subject and composition. Yes its a broad bush overview, but if you need any detailed advice then just drop me an email. fotocoursesuk@gmail.com or give me a call, 07841212276