

PCC Night Sky Post Processing

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Primary Editing Needed For Night Sky

- Noise Reduction – Single Image Or Stacking
- White Balance
- Reducing Light Pollution
- Eliminating Airplanes!
- Emphasizing Stars And Nebula Clouds
- Bringing Out The Color

Noise Reduction – Single Image

- Want to reduce noise in the sky background, but not necessarily in the foreground
- Rocks and desert areas may look better without smoothing
- Consider using AI Noise Reduction tools or masking
- Topaz DeNoise AI, On One, etc
- Nik Dfine +Control Points

Noise Reduction - Stacking

- Sequator (PC) or Starry Landscape Stacker (Mac)
- Achieves significant noise reduction without softening
- Also removes transients such as airplanes & meteorites
- Is sort of a post-processing equivalent of shooting a long exposure with a star tracker (except not for the foreground)
- Requires taking 10-20 identical shots in a row, plus optional dark slides and even flat frames
- Options Will Have a Large Effect (e.g. Reduce Light Pollution, or Auto Brightness)

White Balance

- Creative choice – What Color For the Sky Background?
 - Outer Space Reality – Black
 - Our Common Mental Perception – A Dark Blue Sky
 - Something In-Between
- White Balance versus Color Cast From Light Pollution
 - Can Use the Eye-Dropper to “Neutralize” Some of the Light Pollution and Then Adjust towards Blue if Desired

Reducing Light Pollution

- Using a Light Pollution Filter When Shooting Reduces the Need
- Techniques
 - Eye-Dropper White Balance
 - Remove Color Cast Plug-Ins (e.g. Nik ColorEfex)
 - Graduated Filter Brush With White Balance Change
 - Paint With a Soft Adjustment Brush

Eliminating Airplanes

- Stacking Software Automatically Eliminates Airplanes and Meteors
- For Single Images, Use A Small Spot Healing Brush

Emphasizing Stars and Nebula Clouds

- ! The DeHaze Slider in LR & CameraRaw !
 - Darkens background and brightens stars – Don't over-do it
- Add Clarity
- Saturation and Vibrance Improve Nebulas
- Careful Use of Brushes to Brighten and increase Saturation
Just in the Milky Way