



# Learn the Best Practices for Shooting HDR Photos





# HDR Photography

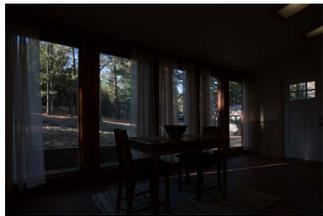
HDR photography is a common style used by many real estate photographers. HDR stands for High Dynamic Range and the basic principle of the style is to capture an image that has pixels in all points of brightness on the histogram's dynamic range.



## The Art of Shooting HDR

In order to achieve high dynamic range many photographers find it beneficial to shoot bracketed images and then combine the images using a program like [Photomatix](#) or [LR-enfuse](#).





## What are bracketed images?

The most common type of photography that most practice is shooting a single frame and then either leaving that frame as is or editing it in order to enhance the image before printing or posting online. Shooting a bracket of images means composing your photo. Then shooting 3, 5, 7 or more images at different brightness settings and combining these images together to create a composite image that will be the photo you'll print or share. The most common type of bracketing is either -2, -1, 0, +1, +2 or

-2, 0, +2. In this case 0 represents the most neutral exposure possible - it would be what the camera gives you if you're shooting in an automatic or aperture priority mode or what you feel to be the best possible exposure for the frame if you're shooting manually. -2 represents two "stops" darker exposure from your "best" exposure and +2 represents two "stops" brighter. You can of course bracket any way you want, but this typically gives you a good range.



## Blending your images

The reason you are shooting these extra darker and lighter frames is to provide more detail in the highlight and shadow areas than one frame is able to provide. In the darker frames, the areas that were too bright in the middle/best exposure are often more properly exposed, bringing back detail to an otherwise all white area. In order to bring back that detail in your final image, you'll need to blend together these darker and lighter

exposures with your middle exposure. The most common way to blend bracketed images is using an HDR program such as [Photomatix](#) or [LR-enfuse](#). Although these programs operate differently and have different things you can adjust in your final blend, the basic idea of both is to produce a final image that has high dynamic range with good detail in both the shadow and highlight areas.



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