

## How-To Colored Wave Highlights -- by Rich Poitras

Early in my investigation of photography, I read a lot of photography magazines. One of the photos that I thought was very clever was done with multiple exposures, using color filters which would, when combined, produce white. I don't remember the photographer's name (it was a really long time ago). When I was shooting film, I always wanted to try the technique, but I never got to it.

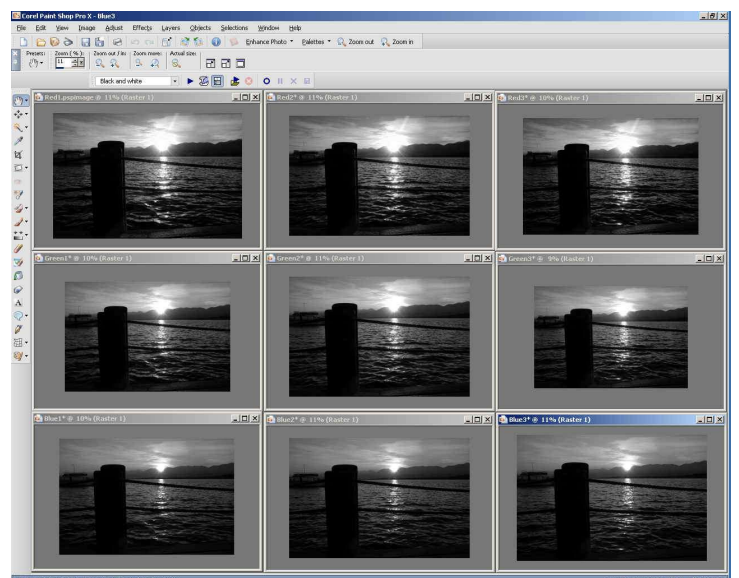
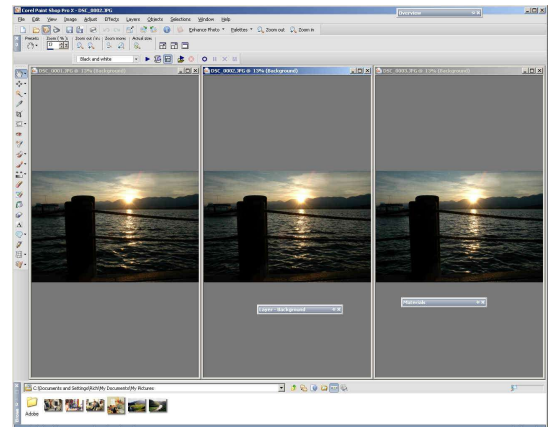
Now I shoot almost everything digitally and I began thinking about that photo from so long ago. I thought this might be the opportunity to finally try the technique, without film this time.

I am using PaintShop Pro 10 software, from Corel. Other photo editors will work if they have the capability of separating color channels.

The picture to the right is the result of the effort. Start by mounting the camera on a tripod and shooting three shots of the lake waves with about a one second interval. The interval is not critical, although a long interval can change the result considerably. This is because other things in the picture will move sufficiently to cause other color changes. You will see why in a minute. The important thing is that there is something moving that is a highlight. In this case, the waves of the lake are moving and the backlight from the setting Sun produces good highlights, different from one second to the next. The three shots are shown as they appear initially in PaintShop Pro. The images look nearly identical, as they should. Be sure the tripod is solid because movement of the tripod or camera will cause color changes, too.

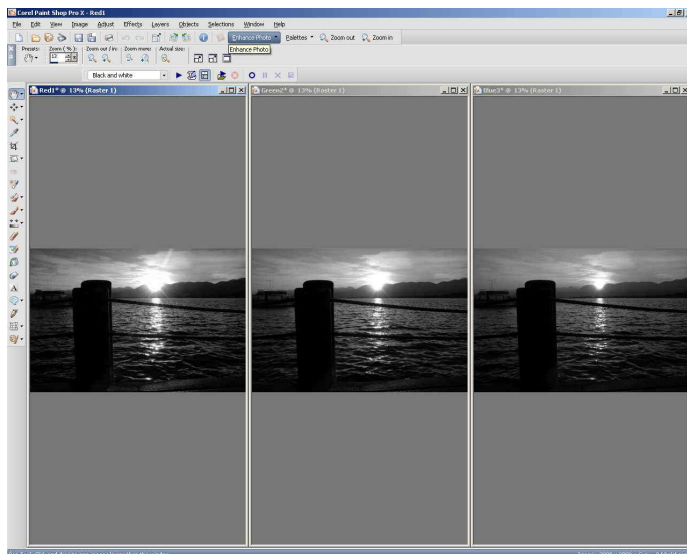
Once you have the images, use the editing tools to separate the color channels for each image into red, green and blue channels. You will produce three black and white images from each color picture. Shown are all the color channels from the three pictures I shot.

From the three sets of black and white images, keep the red channel from the first image, the green channel from the second image and the blue channel from the third image. You can close all the other images. You don't need to save the images you won't use.



You now have three images which contain the proper values for recombining and producing the original photographs...almost! While the channels have all the proper densities, the highlights have moved so the densities that would have added up to white now will be colored. The three images you keep will look like the set of images below.

With the three images which remain, use the tool to combine the red, green and blue channels. In PaintShop Pro, the selection will look like the the item below.



Once you have completed the combining of the channels, you will have the picture you want!

