

An Introduction to

SILKYPPIX[®] Developer Studio 3.0

eBook

(An excerpt)

By John Nevill MBA, LRPS

Visit:

<http://www.eos-images.com/silkypix-resources/ebook-an-introduction-to-silkypix/>

For more information



Table of Contents

<i>Introduction</i> _____	3
About the Author _____	3
Background _____	3
<i>What is SilkyPix?</i> _____	5
SilkyPix's Controls and Dialogues _____	7
SilkyPix Menus _____	8
Main Interface _____	10
Image Information and Comments _____	12
Image Navigation _____	13
<i>Using SilkyPix to Mark and Sort Images</i> _____	14
Marking Images _____	15
Sorting Images _____	18
<i>Image Editing in SilkyPix</i> _____	22
Tastes _____	22
Development Functions and Sub Functions _____	24
An Approach to Editing in SilkyPix _____	25
Cropping Images _____	25
Adjusting Exposure _____	30
Adjusting White Balance _____	32
Display Warnings _____	36
Controlling Highlights _____	38
Lens Correction _____	42
Rotation / Digital Shift _____	45
Fine Colour Adjustment _____	47
Tone Curves _____	51
Colour Modes _____	53
Noise Reduction and Sharpening _____	58
The Cloakroom _____	63
<i>Outputting Images</i> _____	66
Exporting to Tiff and JPG _____	67
Batch Processing _____	73
Printing Images _____	78
<i>Shortcut Keys</i> _____	81
<i>Supported Cameras</i> _____	83

Introduction

About the Author

I've been a passionate wildlife / landscape photographer for over 20 years. In 2000, I went digital and five years later I decided to start my own photography business. I have recently sold images to Canon-Europe and stock agencies, while also dabbling with ICC profiles for Canon EOS dSLRs. I actively promote digital photography at levels and have owned and developed two websites since 2004; [EOSpix](#) and [EOS-Images](#). I also moderate at [OpenPhotographyForums](#).

Background

During February 2007, I was fortunate to grab a short fly-drive to California and Nevada with my family. I decided to photograph the excursion and returned with ~1500 raw images taken with my Canon EOS 1DmkIIN.

My wife (Anne) wanted a "best of" set of 5x7" prints to show to friends and family, while I sought to ponder on my images and take more time squeezing every ounce of colour, tonality and quality out of them.

In the past, I would have used Pixmante's Rawshooter, it was fast, it had an intuitive workflow and it was underwritten by some big names in industry, although some criticised it for its variable and sometimes "murky" output.

Since the demise of the RSP product I have felt reluctant to continue using it, for fear becoming too attached to a product that has no support or future. Anyhow I digress!

About 18 months ago a new Japanese product hit the market which went under the name of SilkyPix. Wow, what a strange product!

SilkyPix was met with mixed opinions; many advocates liked the way it rendered colour, but turned their noses up at the interface. While others picked up the product's originally translated manual, only to put it down again, none the wiser.

SilkyPix has since gone through a few changes. The interface now looks and feels similar to the revolutionary Rawshooter, but its inherent quirks and poor early documentation left users bewildered.

Personally, I have persevered and consider it a superb tool for fast post processing and detailed editing of raw images. It has some superb functions (highlight controller and fine colour adjustment) which other raw

converter are only just starting to introduce. Furthermore its colour engine does indeed provide some of the nicest colour renderings I've seen to date.

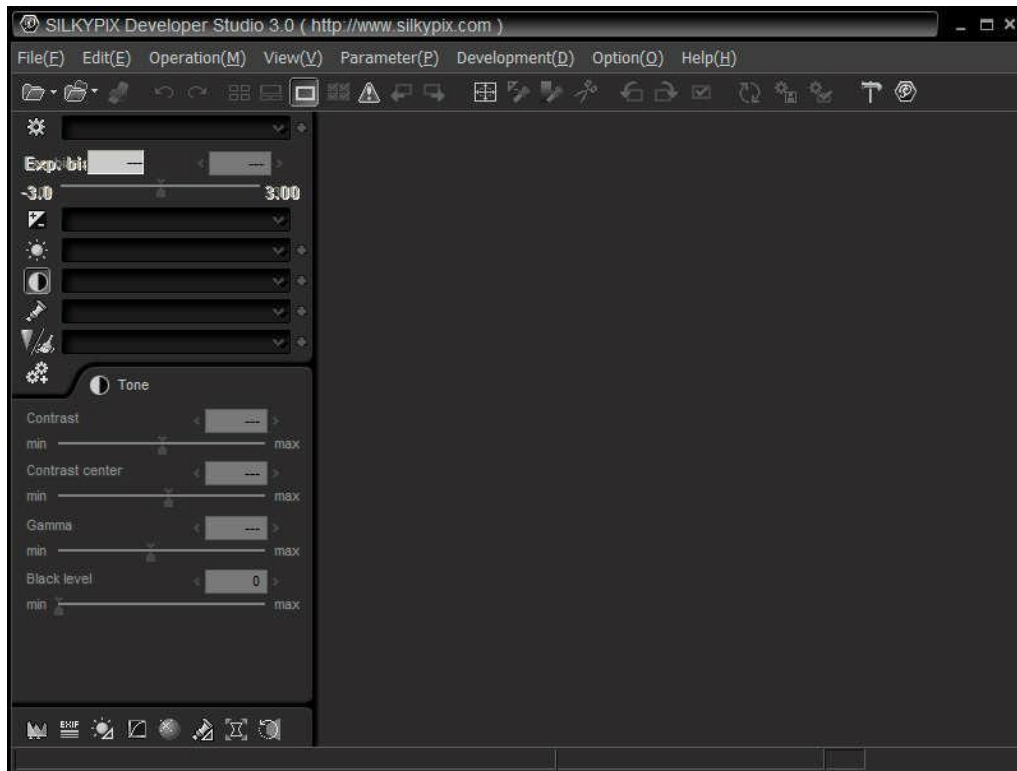
Hence, I've decide to write an introduction to SilkyPix that not only provides an overview and "hands on" approach, but also paths the way for some dynamic input and feedback through various web sites, to help finance and develop an advanced guide tackling more detailed and specific subjects.

The initial format for this tutorial will be a PDF document with embedded screenshots based on using SilkyPix Developer Studio version 3.0.11.3 for Windows XP. I will use my Californian trip shoot as the underlying image library in order to develop and narrate this tutorial.

What is SilkyPix?

SilkyPix is a light-box stylised raw converter solely distributed by Shortcut Software. It has a wealthy mixture of both unique and comparable processing functions akin to many other raw converters, yet the terminology used to describe some of these functions and their parameters, can be a little cryptic.

Once SilkyPix is executed, one is presented with the following screen:



Nothing really enlightening here, a menu bar, some sliders and lots of icons, all looking rather dull and grey!

Before I delve deeper, first and foremost, I must state that SilkyPix is not a Digital Asset Management application.

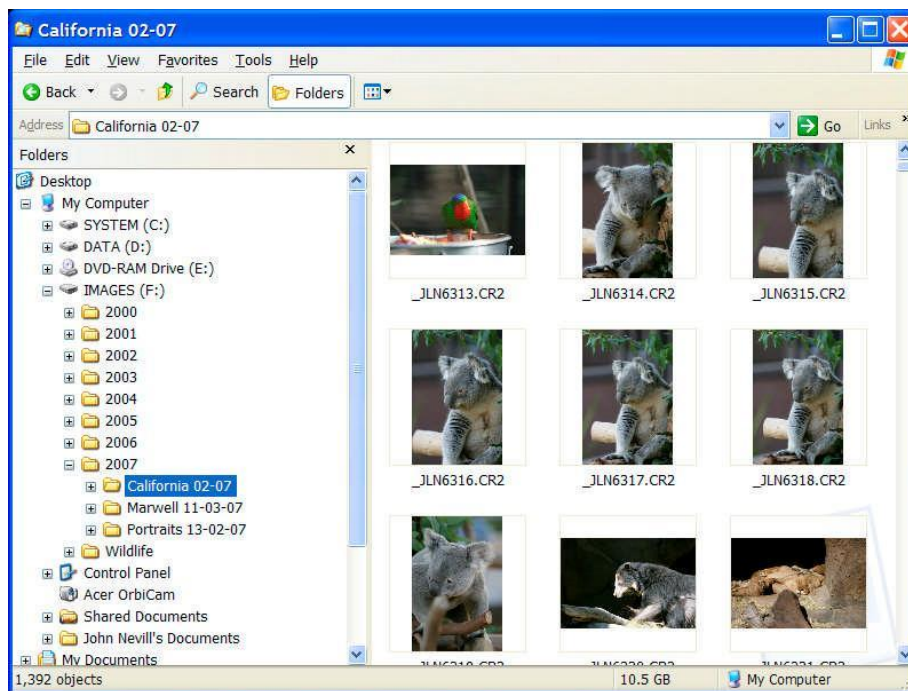
Ok, one can mark and sort images (later topic), but it should not be considered similar to Adobe's Lightroom and Bridge or Iview's Mediapro. However given this limitation it does provide an almost "end to end" workflow for the digital photographer.

At the outset one needs to have an underlying strategy for image organisation and storage, outside of SilkyPix. This is similar to how one may have approached and used Rawshooter.

I have always used the operating system's file management facilities for file organisation and storage. After all that's what it was designed for and it's much faster at moving files around than many 3rd party applications. My immediate step in any image workflow process is to copy all the raw files off the media cards and into a new directory. In this instance, I would use a year, shoot name and date folder format. Conversely, I organise my wildlife images by species.

So before using SilkyPix, I get into this mode of thought and try and make it habitual.

Here's a screenshot of the Californian Trip shoot on my external hard drive. All images were copied directly into one folder.



Before I actually open up the folder in SilkyPix and start sorting and editing, I'll briefly review SilkyPix's main controls and menus.

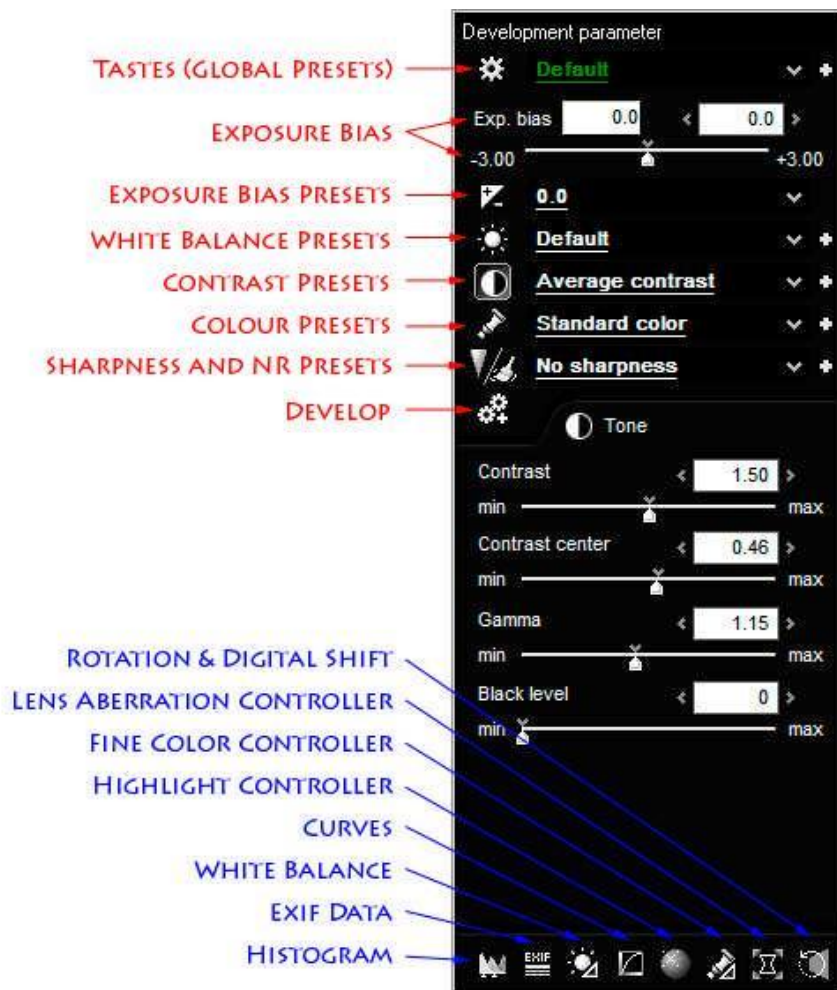
SilkyPix's Controls and Dialogues

SilkyPix's functions dialogues can be docked, tabbed or floating, which in essence is conceptually similar to many other RAW converters. In addition most dialogues can be moved to a second monitor to provide a larger viewing area for image previewing and editing.

The main controls and functions are housed in one dialogue box called **Development parameters** and comprise **Tastes**. These **Tastes** are in effect stored preset parameters (highlighted by the red arrows) and modules (highlighted by the blue arrows).

Any parameter change made to a **Taste** can be saved and named as a new **Taste** by clicking on the + sign next to the **Taste**. **Tastes** can be recalled by selecting them within the relevant drop down box.

The following diagram outlines the key functions available within the **Development parameter** dialogue box.



Clicking on any of the icons either pops up a further dialogue box (for functions) or changes the tab's contents.

For example, the screenshot shows the **Contrast** (tone) tab contents (note, the select outline around the icon).

Author's Other Resources

[SilkyPix Classic Taste Collection](#) - A set of 18 Tastes (presets) to give your images that classic retro-creative look with SilkyPix, to include: 300 Style, Aged Photo, Antique, Antique Light, B&W High Contrast, B&W Solarize, Burnt Sepia, Cold Tone, Copper, Cross Processed Kodak, Cross Processed Agfa, Polachrome, Cyanotype, Golden, Lomo Velvia, Negative, Selenium 1 and Selenium 2. (Priced at £7.50)

[SilkyPix Film Taste Collection](#) - A set of 18 Tastes (presets) that emulate the palettes of colour slide, colour negative and B&W films within SilkyPix, to include: Ektrachrome 100, Kodachrome 25, Kodachrome 64, Kodachrome 200, Fuji Astia 100F, Fuji Provia 100F, Fuji Velvia 50, Kodak Porta 160, Fuji Superia Realia 100, Fuji Superia Xtra 800, Fuji Superia HG 1600, HP5, Tri-X, XP2, Neopan, CP Agfa, CP Fuji and CP Kodak Elite. (Priced at £7.50)

[SilkyPix Classic and Film Collection](#) - A 35 Taste collection provides the SilkyPix user with unique and endless image creativity! What's more, you save 20% when you buy this combined Film and Classic Collection. This collection includes all 18 Tastes from the Film collection and 17 Tastes from the Classic collection. (Priced at £12.00)