

Shooting RAW offers more control over the final result in any situation especially when shooting weddings. RAW files captured with today's DSLR cameras capture 4096 steps of data in every pixel. A JPEG capture holds only 256 steps of data or one eighth of the information the camera's sensor saw.

RAW captures record fully half of the tones in the brightest f/stop. That means over two thousand tones in the highlights. The upshot is that a bride's gown whose highlights are too bright are easily recovered in a RAW converter like Adobe Camera RAW 4 that comes with Photoshop CS3 something not possible with an over-exposed JPEG.

The RAW Fix:

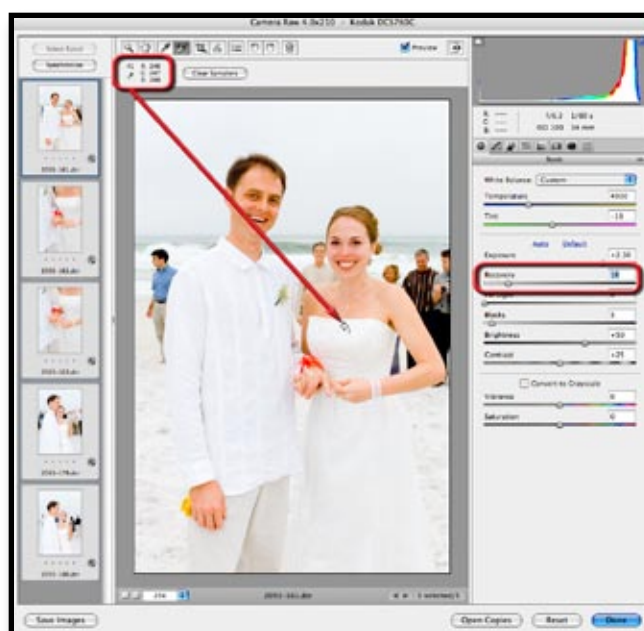
Open a folder of RAW files from a wedding in Adobe Bridge 2.0 (also part of CS3). Click on the first too-bright bridal gown, hold down the shift key and click on the last one in the series. Non-consecutive images can be selected

by Command (PC: Control) clicking. Open them up in ACR4 by choosing File > Open in Camera RAW [Command (PC: Control) + R]. Either click the Select All button at the top left of the Camera Raw dialog or press

Command (PC: Control) + A to highlight all of the thumbnails in the Film... er-Thumbstrip. Now choose the Color Sampler tool in the Camera Raw dialog. Click on an over-exposed part of the gown (It's usually just below the neckline.) In the example above the gown reads RGB: 255—pure white with no detail at all.



There's a new tool in town in ACR4 called *Recovery*. Its job is to bring back those highlight details. To correct all of the blown-out areas in all of the selected thumbnails, simply drag the Recovery pointer to the right and watch the detail appear. The numbers are now R:246, G:247 and B:248. The best part is that all of the selected thumbnails are fixed at the same time. Your work here is done. So click Done and be done.



Quick Tip:

This technique works in Adobe Photoshop Lightroom the Library module's Quick Develop settings and in the Develop module as well. www.adobe.com

Photoshop World Boston

Kevin Ames presents classes on *Lighting Without Lights*, *Professional Workflow for Digital Photographers* and the *Art of Retouching Women* at Photoshop World in Boston. Learn more at www.photoshopworld.com.

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Kevin Ames is a commercial photographer, author, columnist and nationally known speaker. His passion is light, capturing it well in the camera and playing with it incessantly in Photoshop. Email him with your comments. kevin@amesphoto.com