

Vivid-Pix

by Phil Rudin

Every day more than 1.8 Billion, yes that is Billion with a “B” photos are posted to FaceBook, Instagram, Snapchat, Flickr and WhatsApp. That is approximately one photo for every man, woman and child on the planet. One thing all of these photos have in common is that they are posted in the universal JPEG format.

Many of our loyal Underwater Photography Magazine readers have spent countless hours in front of their computers, in classrooms, in on-line training sessions or simply flying by the seat of their pants in an effort to become skilled at programs like LightRoom, PhotoShop, Capture One Pro and more. These programs have a relatively steep learning curve and have caused most of use more than a little bit of frustration.

While I fully understand the underwater photographers passion for wanting to make their photos near flawless I would like to direct this review to the over eighty percent of photographers who are taking snapshots both around and below water everyday. Most underwater photos are taken with cell phones, water restraint consumer compacts and housed compact camera systems costing under \$400.00USD. These are the photographers Vivid-Pix is targeting with the Vivid-Pix Scuba Picture-Fix software.

I first had a chance to play with the Vivid-Pix software during a demonstration at DEMA 2015 and was immediately able to grasp the potential for the eighty percent of underwater photographers not wishing to learn a complicated editing software.





Vivid-Pix software can be downloaded directly from the Vivid-Pix.com web site to Windows and Mac operating systems allowing you to be up and running in less than fifteen minutes. The web site also has video tutorials for the software and for how it should be used.

Software updates are FREE at this time and since Vivid-Pix supports JPEG rather than RAW file format any new camera will be compatible without need for propriety file updates. This software works equally well with ambient light or strobe lighted images.

Once the Vivid-Pix Picture-Fix for Scuba software has been downloaded to your computer it boots-up in just a few seconds and you are ready to begin fixing your images. Simply click on the select image icon at the top left of your screen and chose a JPEG from your photo collection, click to open and the image appears in nine different processed versions on your screen.

Pick the version that you think looks the best and click on that image. This opens the original image in a side by side screen with the selected

processed image on the right. Directly below these two images you will see seven sliders which control the correction parameters and are used to make additional manual corrections to your image. First is the depth removal slider which appears on the left side of the screen and deals with color and light loss at depth.

Next is the lightness slider which adjusts exposure followed by the contrast slider. On the right are three sliders for the red, green and blue color channels followed by a vertical vividness slider. If you want to crop an image during processing just put your cursor at the top corner where you would like to begin, hold down the mouse button as you drag the cursor until you get the desired crop you are looking for.

Check the before and after crop example of the Nauticam I-phone housing included with this article. To the right of the select image icon in the toolbar at the top of the window you also find icons for rotating images, skip one image, skip all images and the preference pulldown menu.

In the preference pulldown menu you can set



your own sharpening intensity, sharpening radius, lightness spread and contrast spread. Once you have corrected your image just click the save Vivid-pic icon on the lower right of the window and the corrected image is placed in the image file along with the uncorrupted original image file. The same file number will be attached to the processed image with, _Vivid at the end of the original file number so you can distinguish between the two files.

Each of the images corrected for this article took me less than thirty seconds to complete and the



results are noticeable in every image. I would of course like to see additional features like spot removal added in future software updates.

My biggest concern with the current software is that when you open an image in the correction parameters window you can't stretch the corrected image to a larger size. This means that currently you will only be able to see your image at about 14cm (5.5 inches) on the long side. Vivid-Pix are working to address and hopefully the issue will be resolved in future software updates.

A fully licensed version of Vivid-Pix Picture-Fix for Scuba retails on-line in the vivid-pix store for \$49.99USD for both Mac and Windows. Vivid-Pix also offer Land & Sea software for Windows (Mac version coming) at \$24.99USD which corrects land and snorkeling images using different proprietary image science for each. Be aware

that this version does not work well with images taken below about three meters (10 feet). Vivid-Pix Restore for Windows corrects scanned color slides and prints including sepia. Vivid-Pix print store allows you to upload your images for printing, photo books, calendars, posters, mugs and much more. Print media includes quality papers, acrylic, metals, canvas, tiles and more.

Vivid-Pix is offering UWPMAG readers a 10% discount during UWPMAG.com's May/June issue run. Simply select the software version you wish to purchase, click on the purchase now button and enter code, 3PRPhotoSave10 in the coupon box at the lower left on your screen, click apply and receive your discount.

Phil Rudin

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