Blending Techniques

Tips on Camera Set-up

Exposure Bracketing (Blending)

Autobracketing

- Use a tripod if possible
- Use Aperture Priority or Manual Mode
- Set ISO to 100
- Focus
- Set your base exposure to optimize highlights and shadows (will probably have a bit of clipping of both)
- If camera has autobracketing, set for 3 exposures at -2, 0, +2 (some scenes with wide dynamic range may require more exposures – e.g. 5 exposures set to -4, -2, 0, +2, +4)
- Set camera to burst mode and press shutter – camera should take all exposures in one burst

Exposure Bracketing (Blending)

Manual Bracketing

- Use a tripod
- Set exposure so you have good detail in shadows (no clipping on left side of histogram), take shot
- Decrease exposure and take another shot
- Keep repeating until you have good detail in the highlights (no clipping on right side of histogram)

Panorama

- Use tripod if possible
- Get head of tripod as level as possible
- Camera can be tilted up or down as long as level from side to side
- Orient camera – portrait for horizontal pano
- Use manual mode
- Set exposure for brightest part of scene
- Set focus
- Position camera for left side of scene, take shot
- Turn camera slightly (30% to 50% overlap) and take another shot
- Repeat until reach right side of scene
- For best results shoot scene wider than what you want to allow for cropping later

Focus Stacking

- Use tripod
- Use manual mode
- Set appropriate aperture
- Set your exposure
- Focus on front of object and take shot
- Move focus ring very small amount to focus slightly further away, take shot
- Repeat, focusing through the object until you get to rear of what you want in focus

Focus Stacking

Using Live View

- Use tripod
- Use manual mode
- Set appropriate aperture
- Set your exposure
- In live view, touch screen at front of what you want in focus, focus and take shot
- Sequentially touch screen further into image, refocusing each time, and take shots

Focus Stacking

Using focusing rail

- Use tripod
- Use manual mode
- Set appropriate aperture
- Set your exposure
- Set camera position and focus on front of object, take shot
- Move camera forward a tiny distance, take another shot
- Repeat until farthest desired point is in focus