

Milky Way Processing



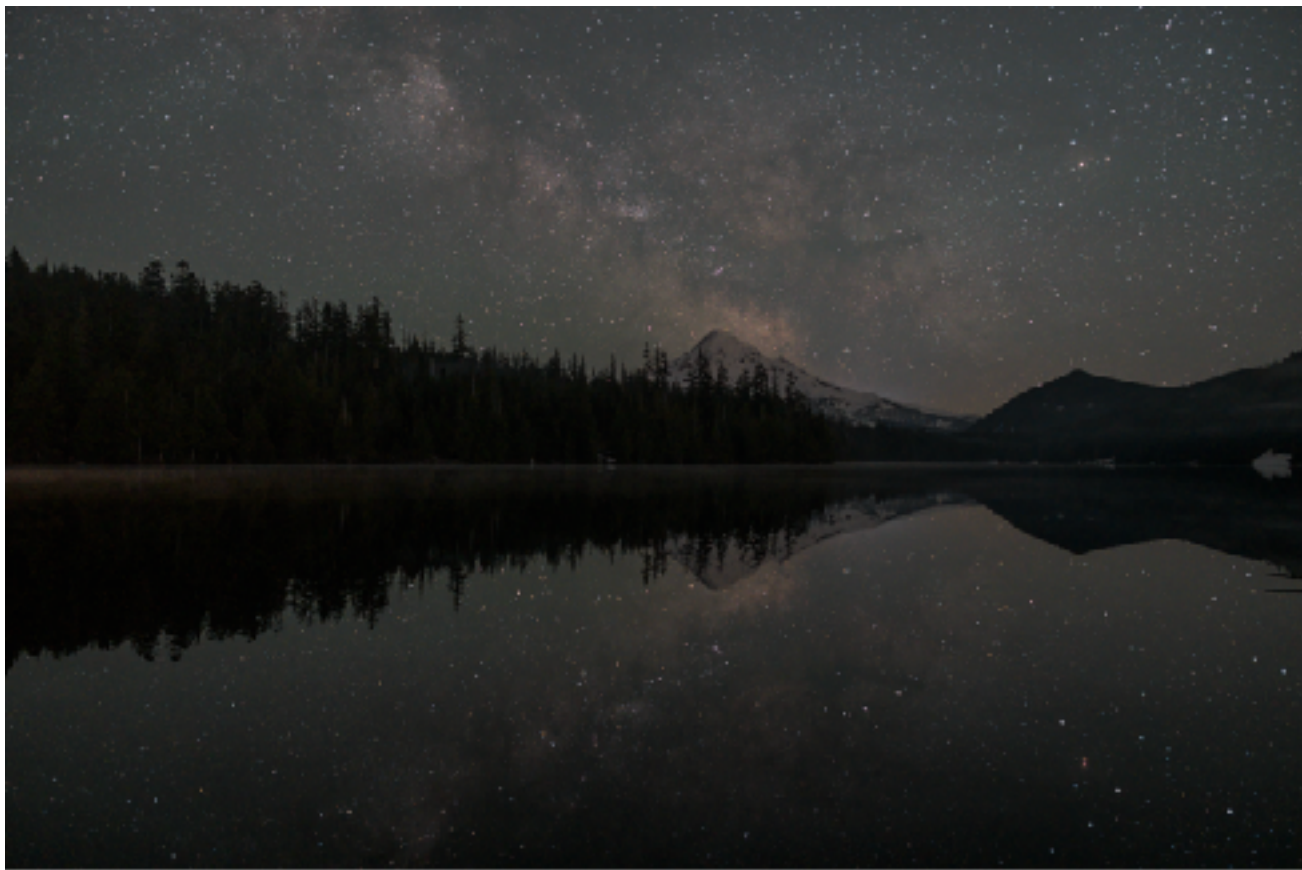
DISCOVER THE LIGHT
PHOTOGRAPHY

Northwest
APERTURE

- ✓ Before vs. after
- ✓ Camera settings
- ✓ Lightroom edits for stacking
- ✓ Stacking with Starry Landscape Stacker
- ✓ Sync Lightroom folder
- ✓ Send to Photoshop as Smart Object
- ✓ Edit in Photoshop
- ✓ Topaz DeNoise vs Stacking

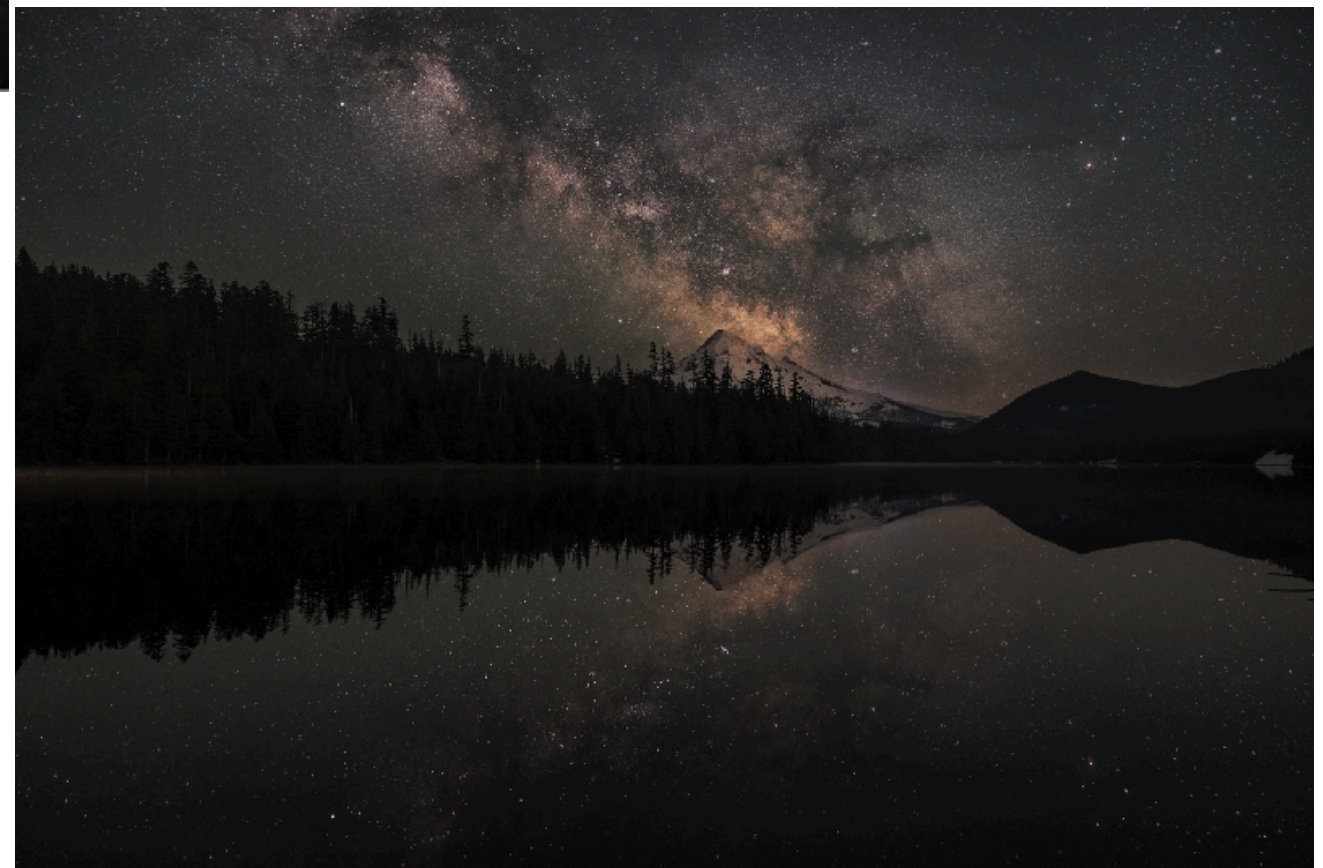
Original vs Final Edit

DISCOVER THE LIGHT
PHOTOGRAPHY



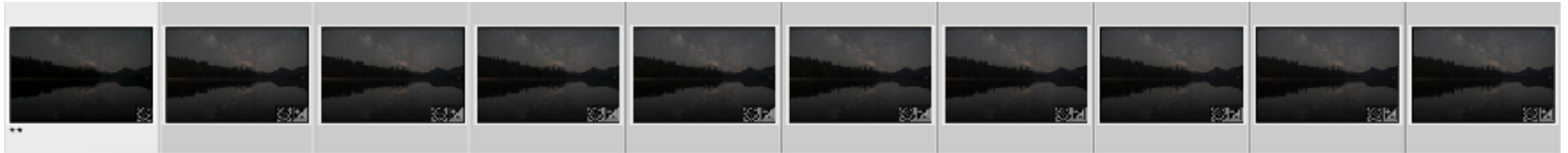
Unedited Raw

Final Edit



- ✓ Sony a7III
- ✓ Rokinon 24mm f/1.4
- ✓ ISO: 5000
- ✓ Aperture: f/2
- ✓ Shutter speed: 15 s
- ✓ 10 images taken in succession using the built-in intervalometer on the Sony a7III.
- ✓ In-camera high ISO and long exposure noise reduction turned OFF.

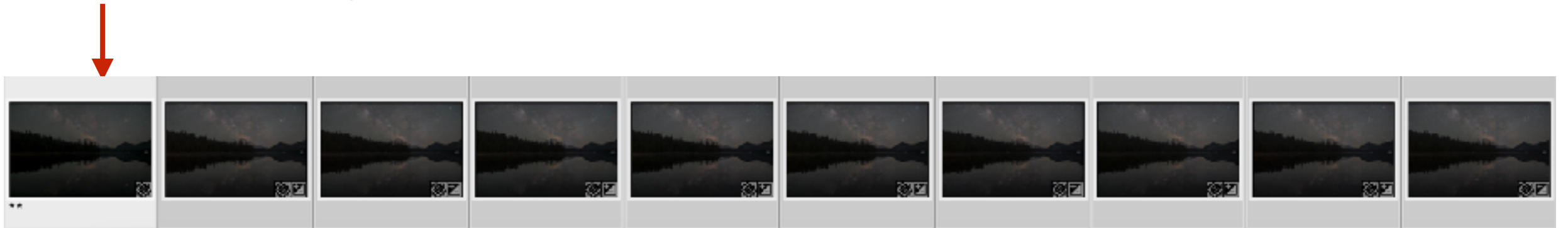
10 Images for Stacking



- ✓ 10 images taken in succession
- ✓ Sony a7III
- ✓ Rokinon 24mm f/1.4
- ✓ ISO 5000
- ✓ f/2
- ✓ 15 s

Lightroom Edits for Stacking

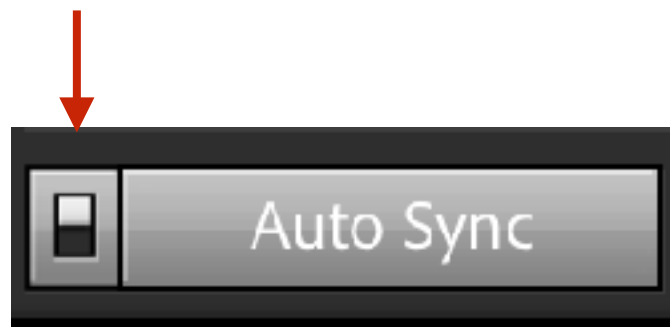
Select first image in stack



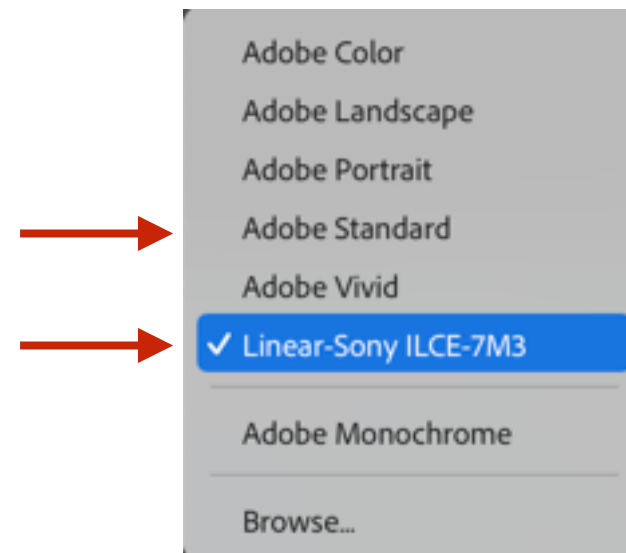
Hold Shift key and select last image in stack
Selects all images in-between

Develop module

Turn *Auto Sync* ON



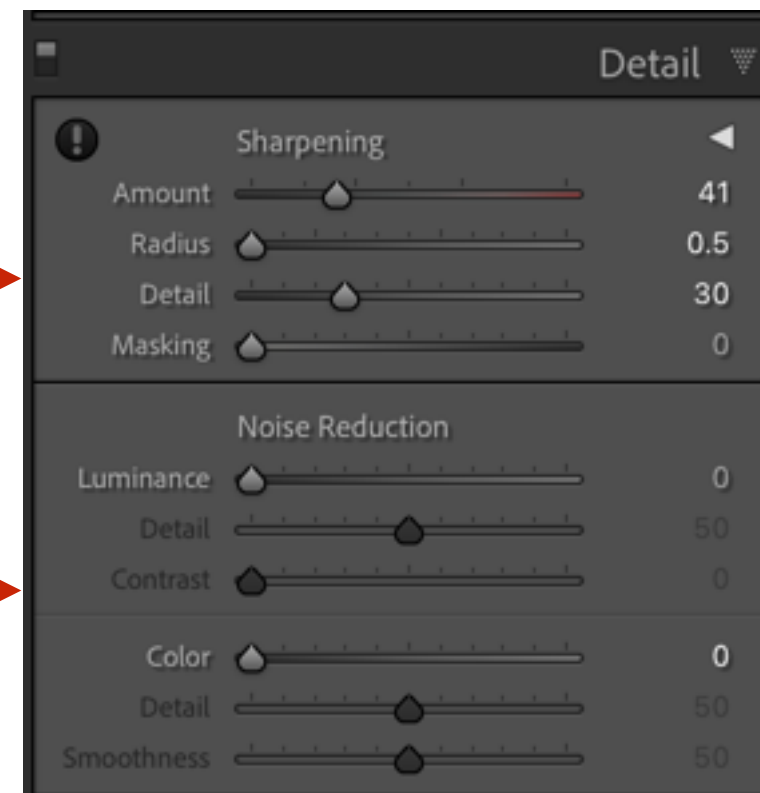
Apply linear profile (or Adobe Standard)



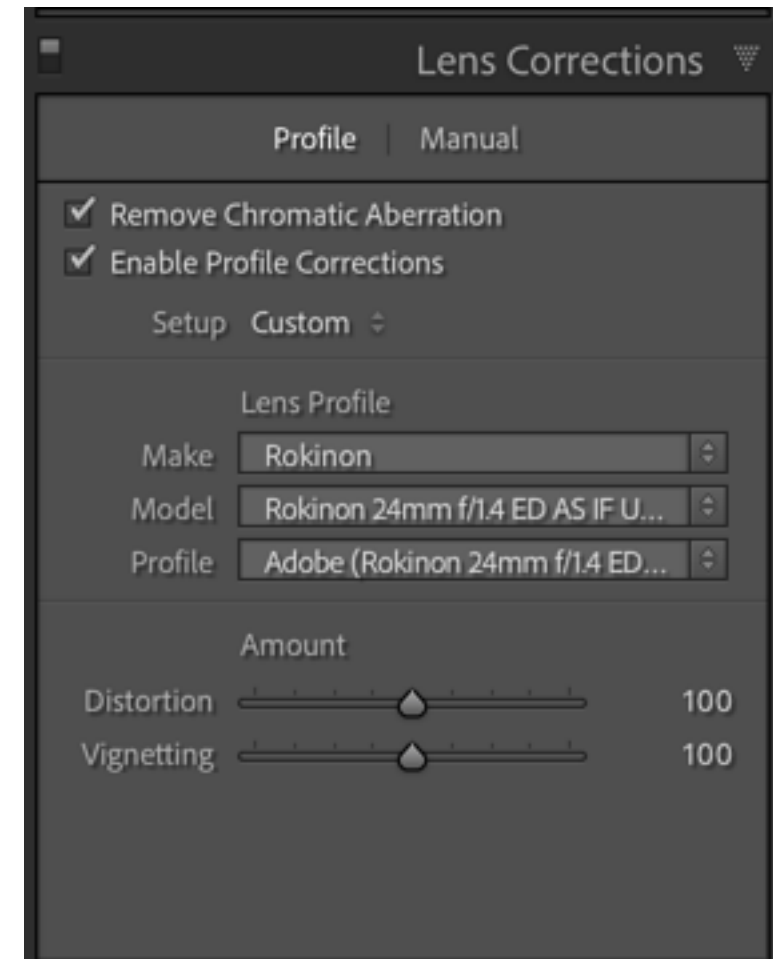
Apply minor sharpening



Reduce all noise reduction to 0

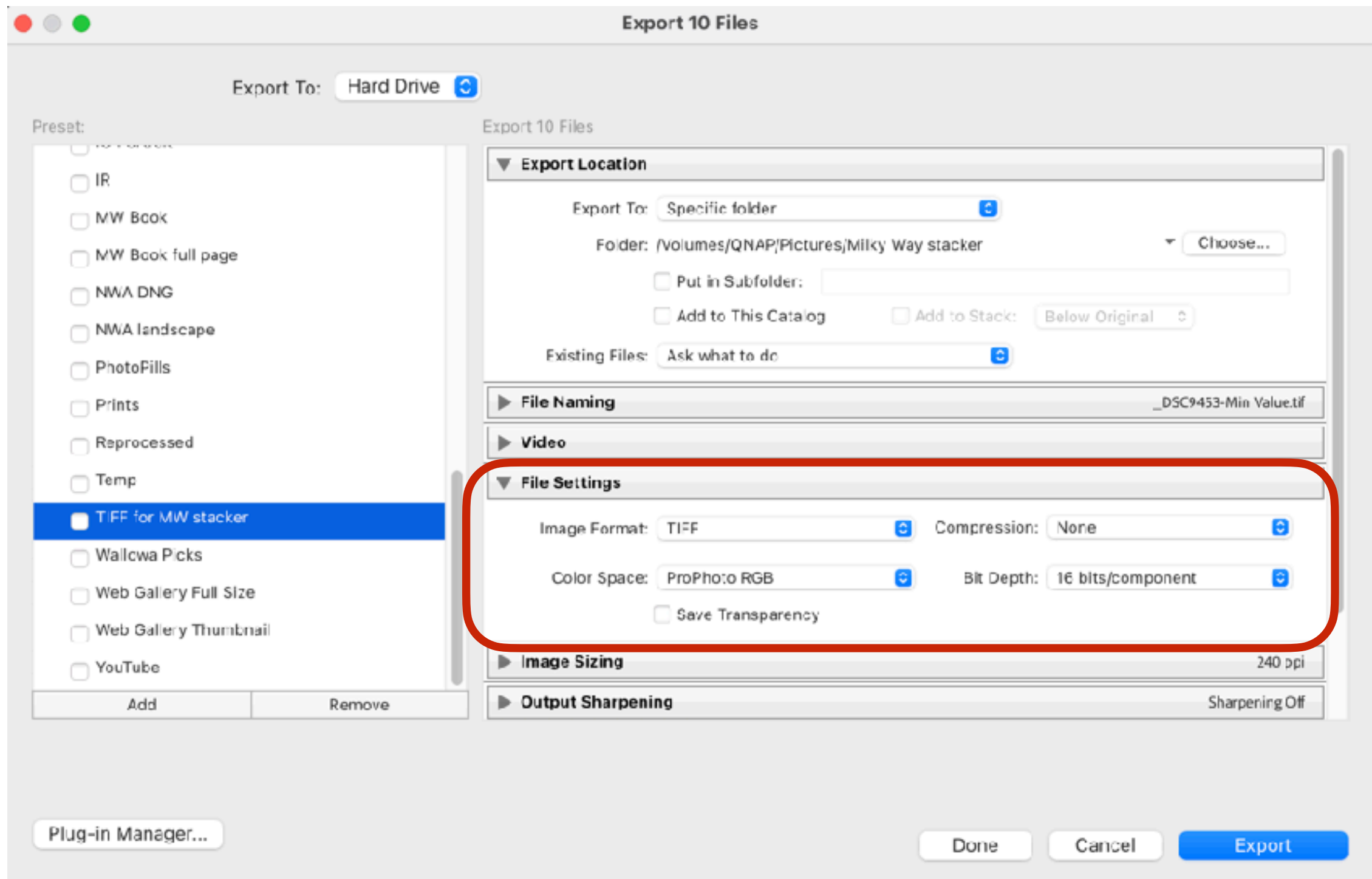


Remove Chromatic Aberrations
Enable Profile Corrections (optional)



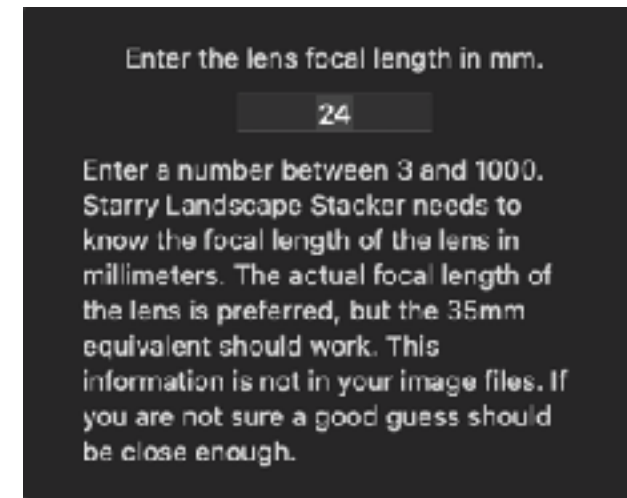
**Stacking TIFF files using
Starry Landscape Stacker
(Mac-only)**

Export all 10 images as uncompressed TIFF



Open TIFF files in SLS

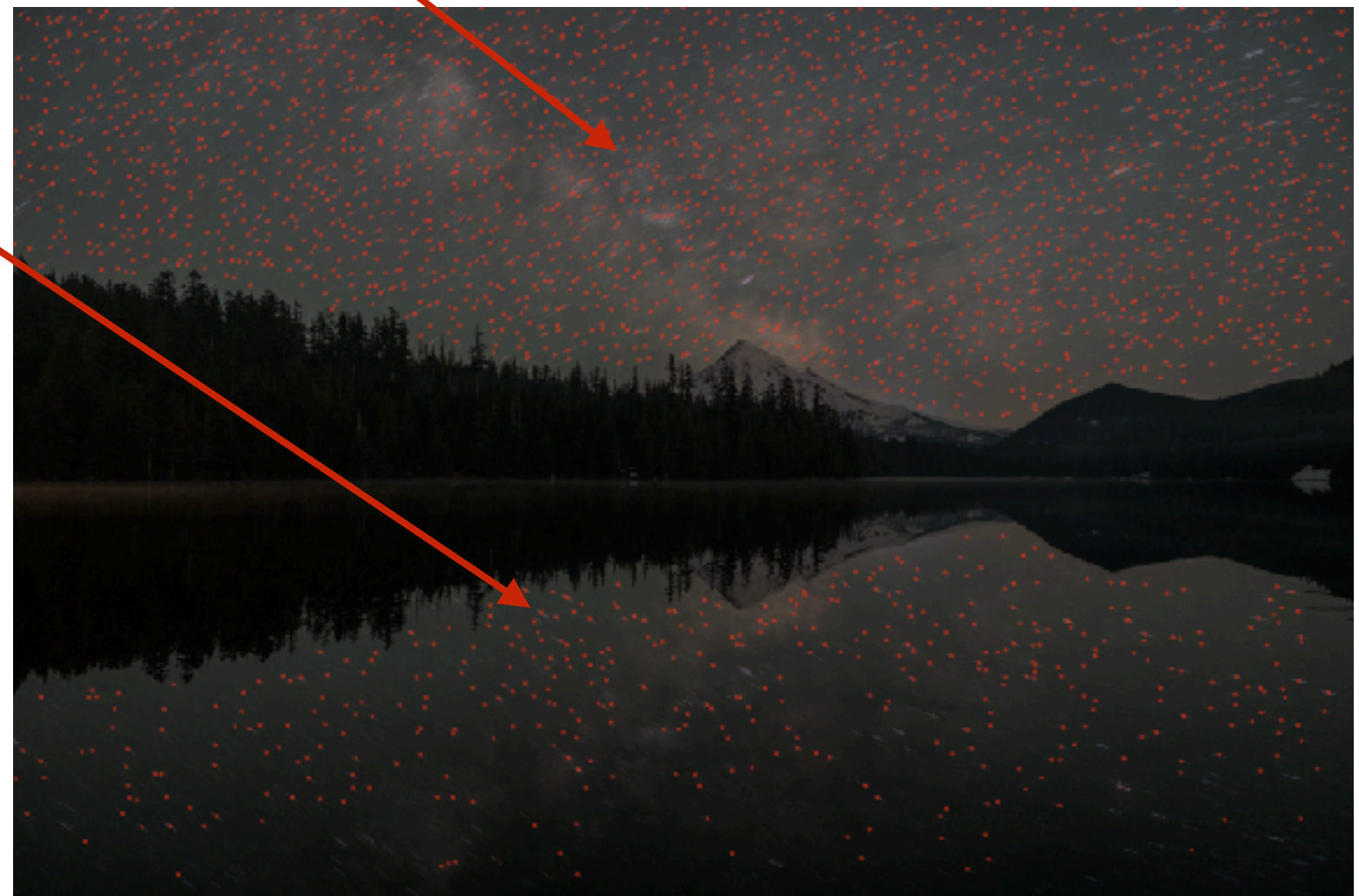
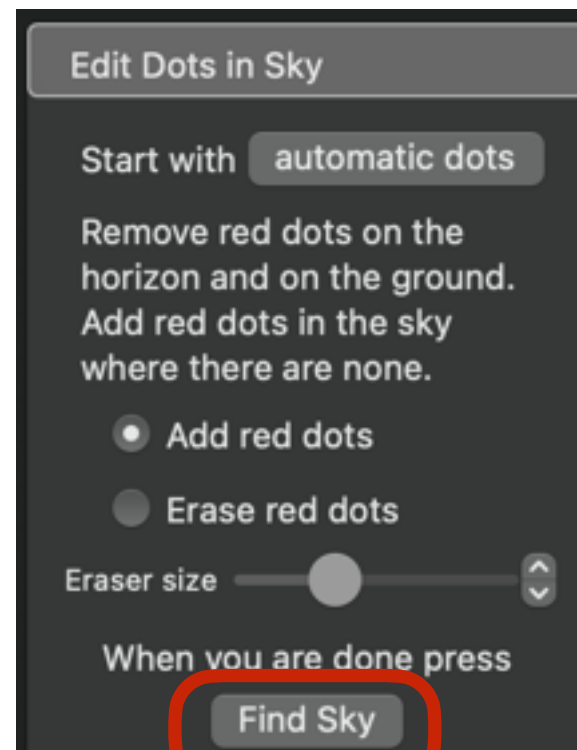
Enter the focal length



Edit red dots to define sky (if needed)

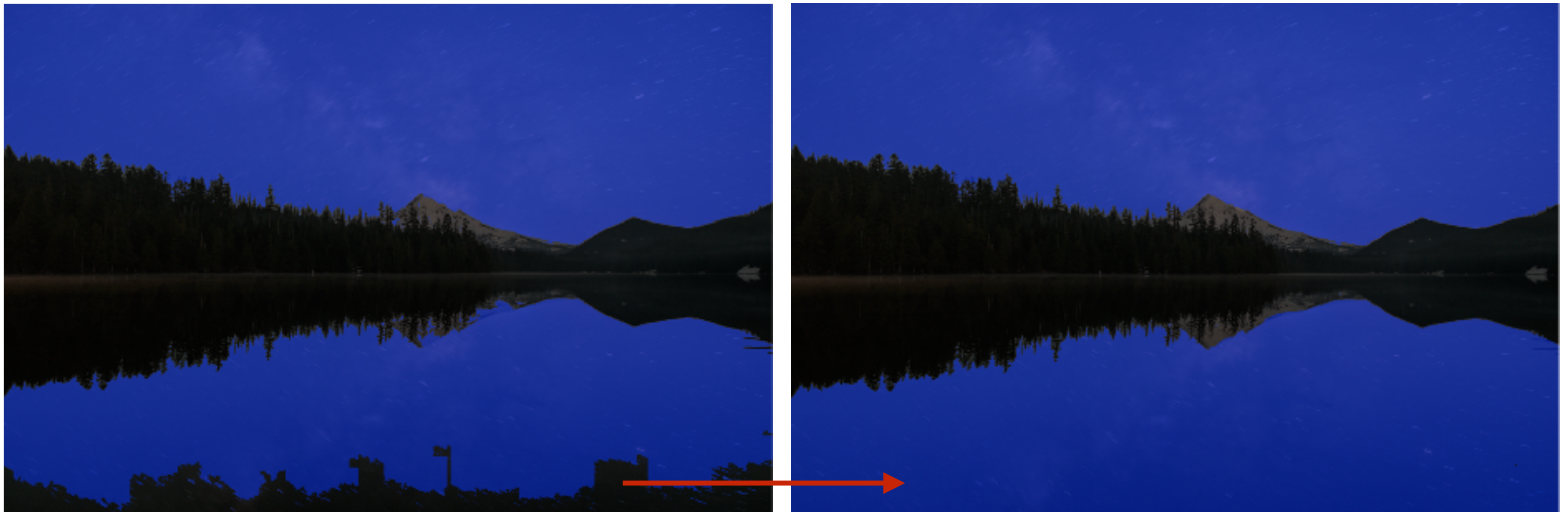
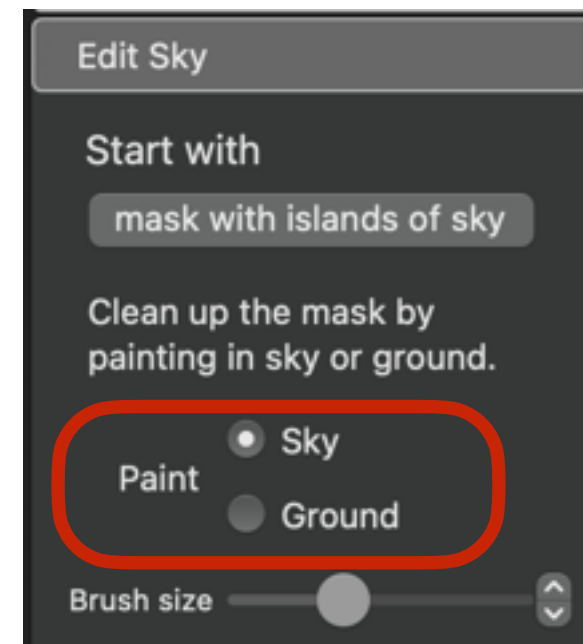
Note red dots in lake are included

Find sky

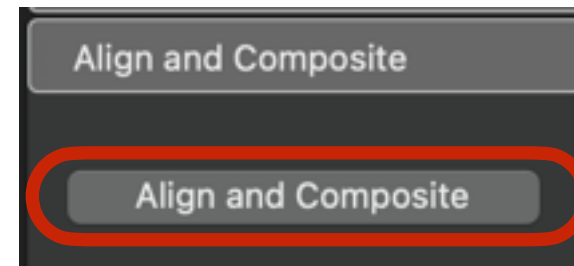


Clean up mask (shown in blue) as needed
with Paint > Sky brush

NOTE: Reflection in water included with sky

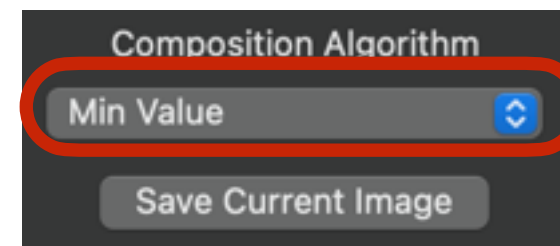
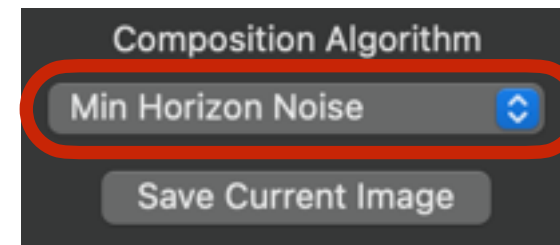


Align and Composite

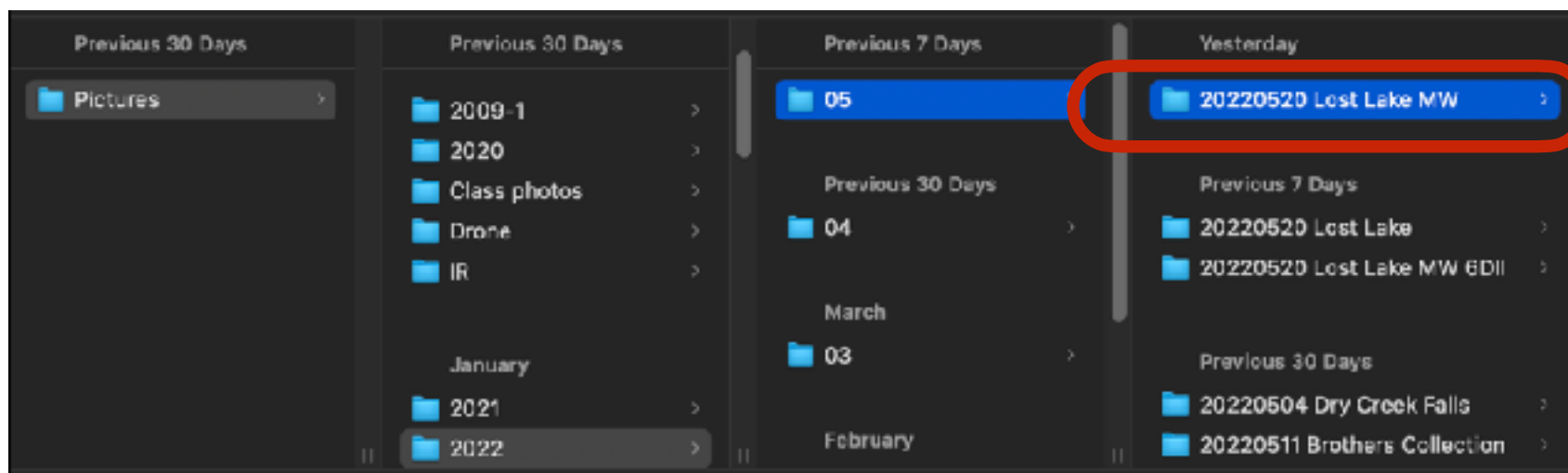


Save stacked result as:

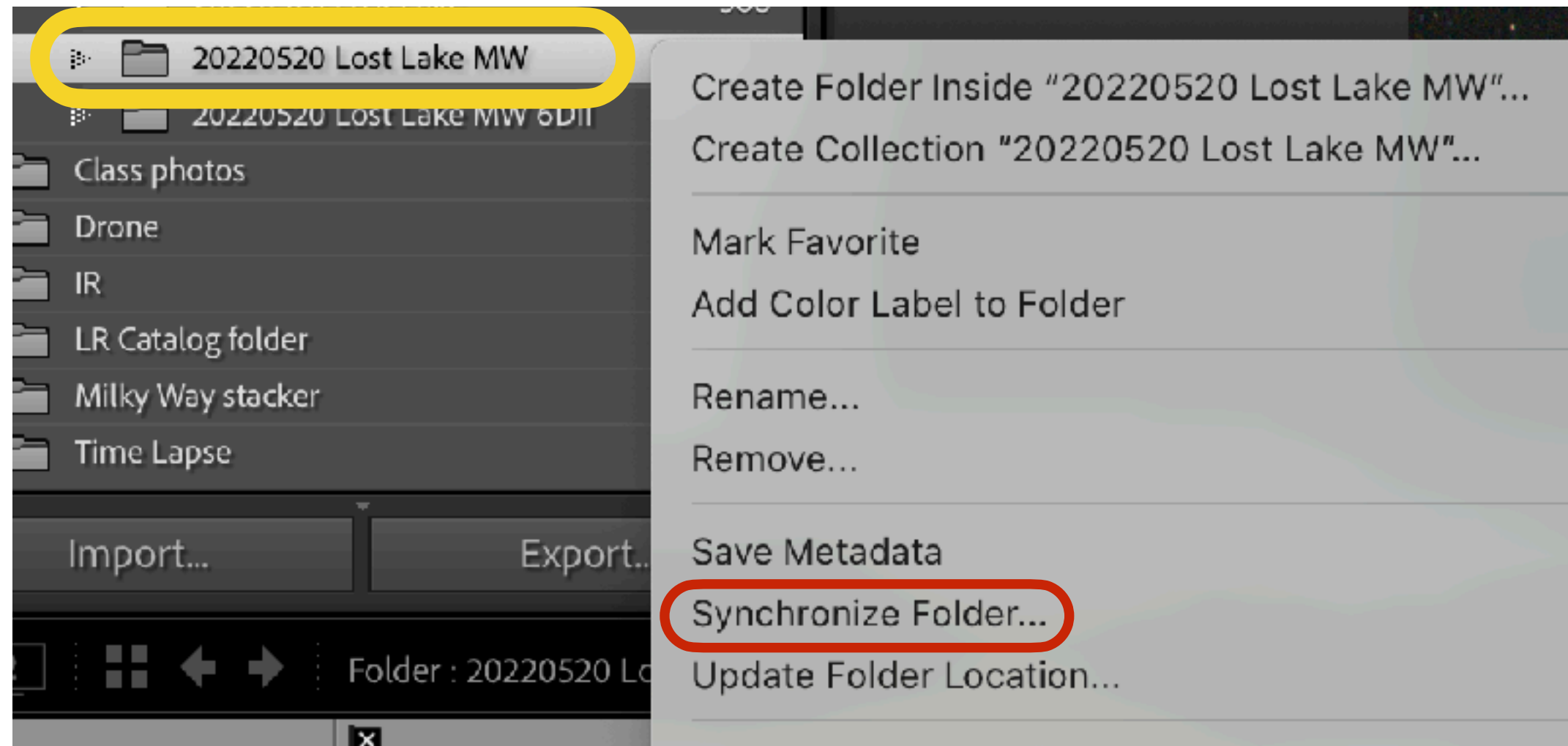
1. Min Horizon Noise
2. Min Value



Save to folder where original images are stored

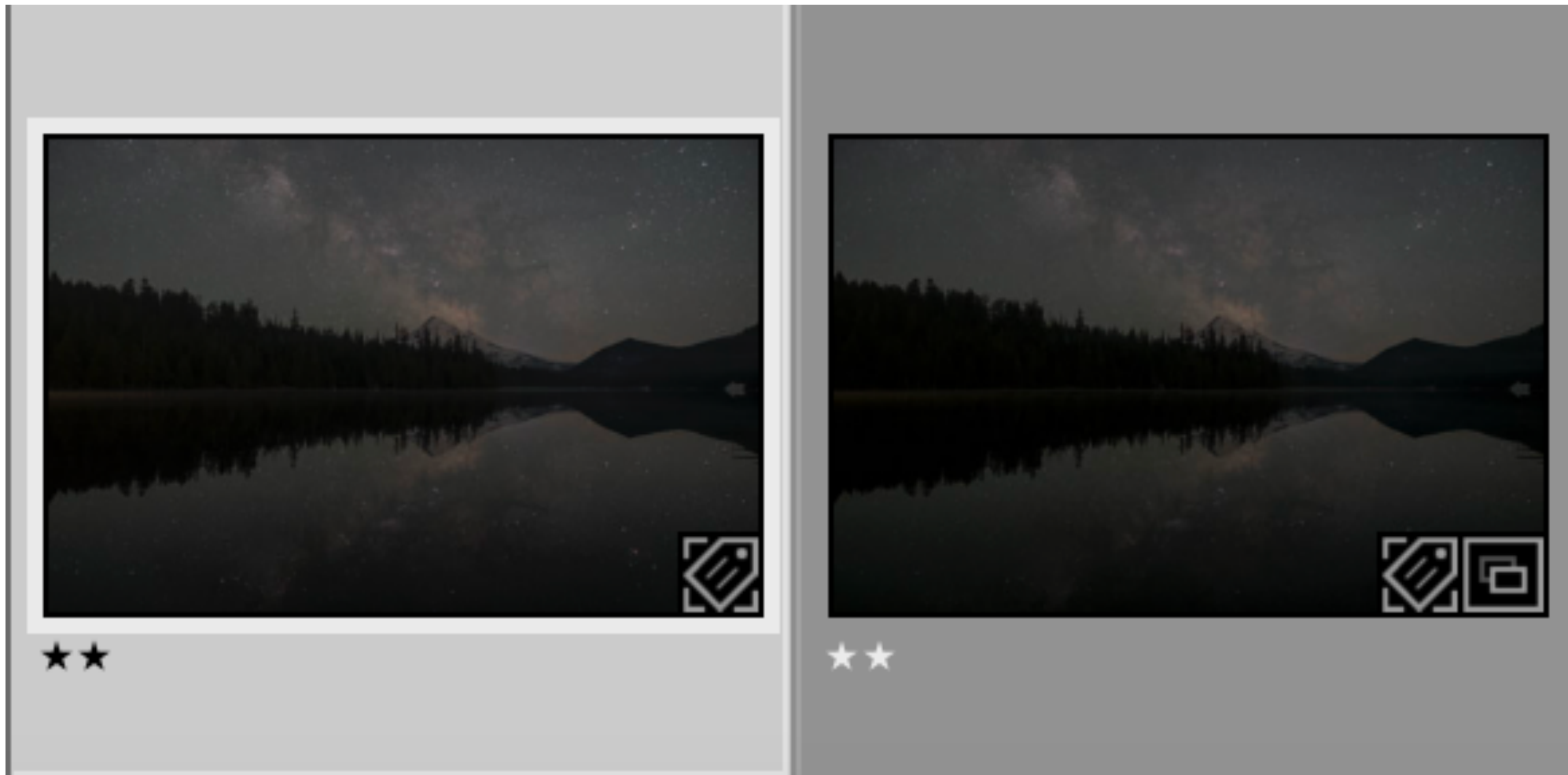


Sync Lightroom Folder



In Lightroom, right-click on folder and select *Synchronize Folder...* to add files saved from SLS

Edit in Photoshop

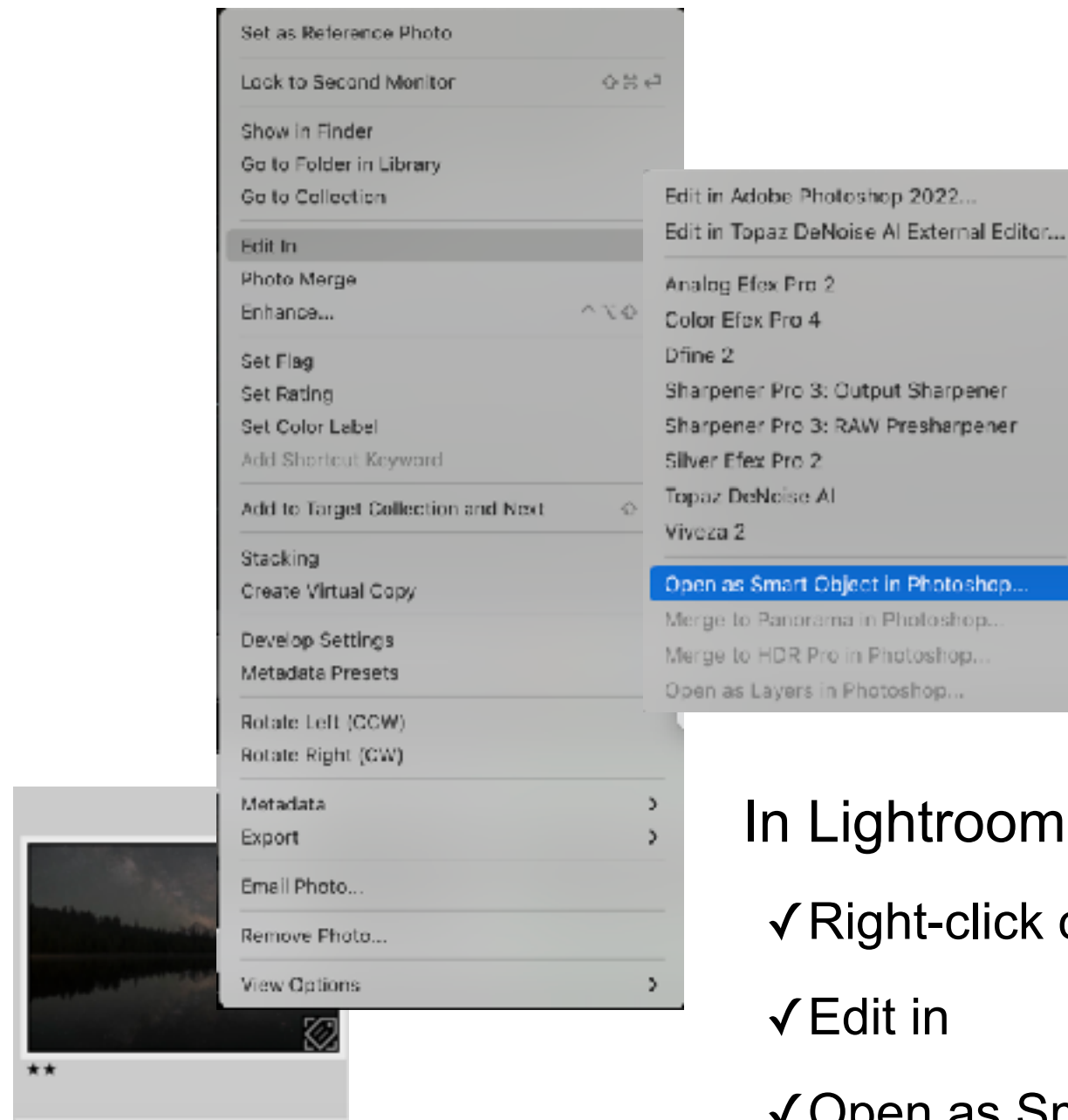


Min Horizon Noise

Min Value

Min Horizon Noise chosen because it's a brighter image with better contrast

Send to Photoshop as Smart Object



In Lightroom:

- ✓ Right-click on Min Horizon Noise image
- ✓ Edit in
- ✓ Open as Smart Object in Photoshop...

- ✓ Brighten Milky Way with luminosity masks and dodging using TK8 plugin for Photoshop
- ✓ Darken sky with luminosity masks and burning using TK8 plugin for Photoshop
- ✓ Brighten snow on mountain with luminosity masks and dodging using TK8 plugin for Photoshop
- ✓ Add clarity sharpening to Milky Way core with Clarity action in the TK8 plugin for Photoshop
- ✓ Reduce stars on each side of Milky Way with luminosity masks and adjustment layers using the TK8 plugin for Photoshop
- ✓ Make final edits using Camera Raw through the smart object layer

Brighten Milky Way

DISCOVER THE LIGHT
PHOTOGRAPHY

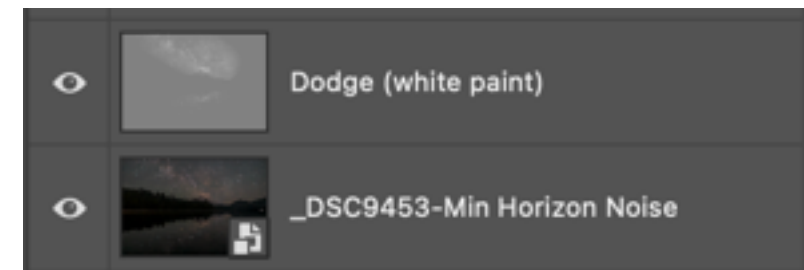
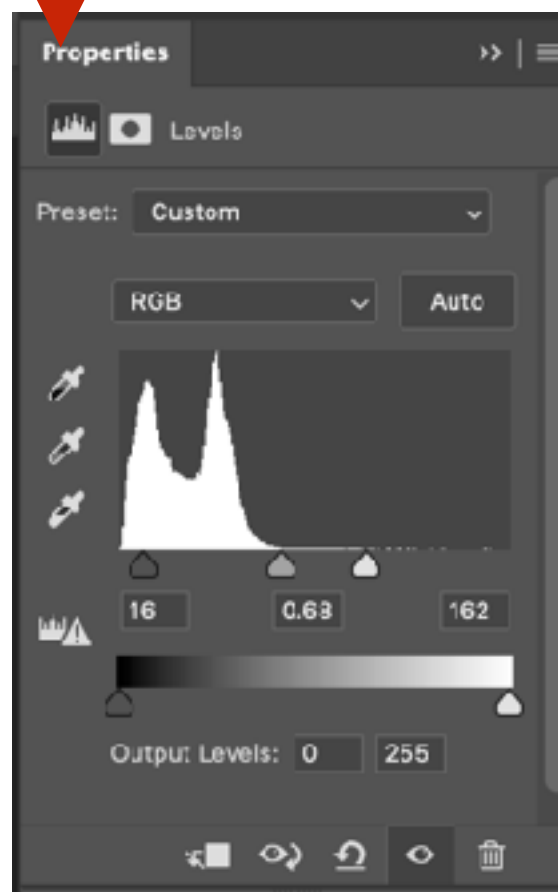
Lights 1 mask

Red channel



Output as 50% gray dodge layer

Modify with levels



Paint over Milky Way with 20% white until finished

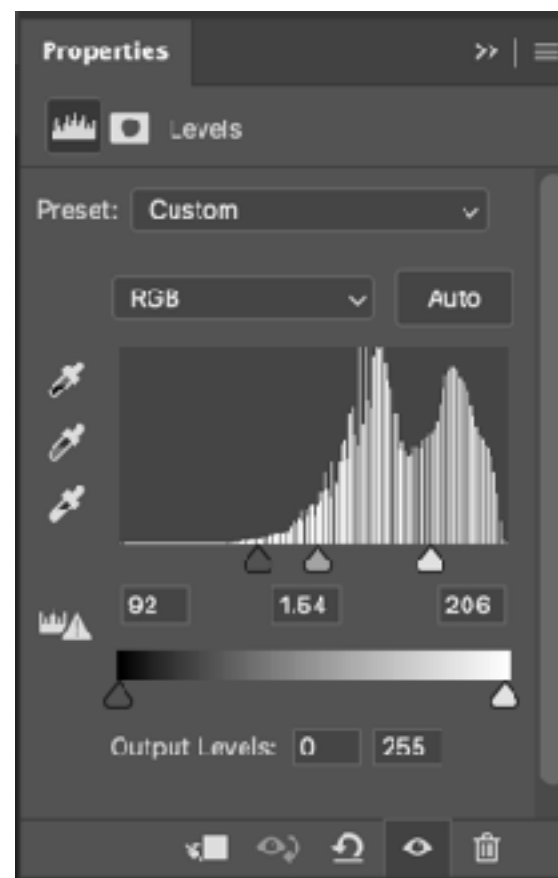
Darks 2 mask

Red channel



Output as 50% gray burn layer

Modify with levels



Paint over sky with 20% black until finished

Select Sky and Add as Mask to Burn Layer



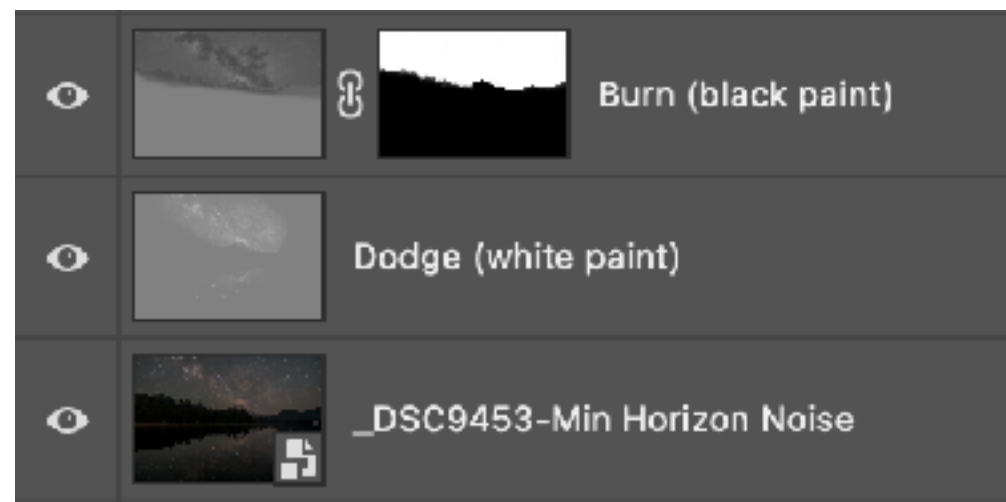
Select sky

Use Quick Selection tool to subtract mountain

Save selection

Modify Channel with dodge and burn tools

Add channel as mask to burn layer



Mids 3 mask

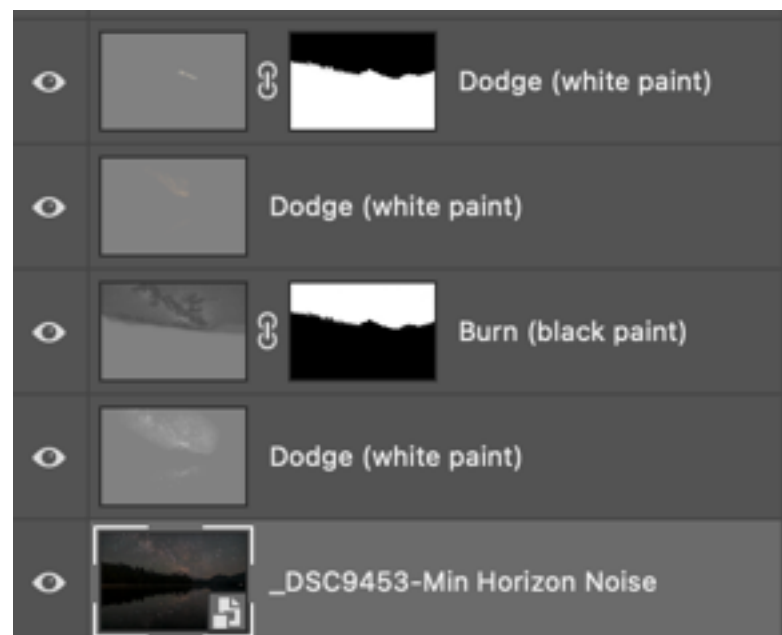
Output as 50% gray dodge layer

Paint 20% white over mountain until finished

Load Sky channel as selection

Apply to dodge layer

Invert mask (CMD + I)



ACTIONS

- Vignette
- Freehand Vignette
- Spotlight
- Dehaze
- Clarity
- Clean Dust
- Correct CA
- RGB ↔ LAB
- Frequency Separation
- Fill Transparent
- Lights TP
- Darks TP

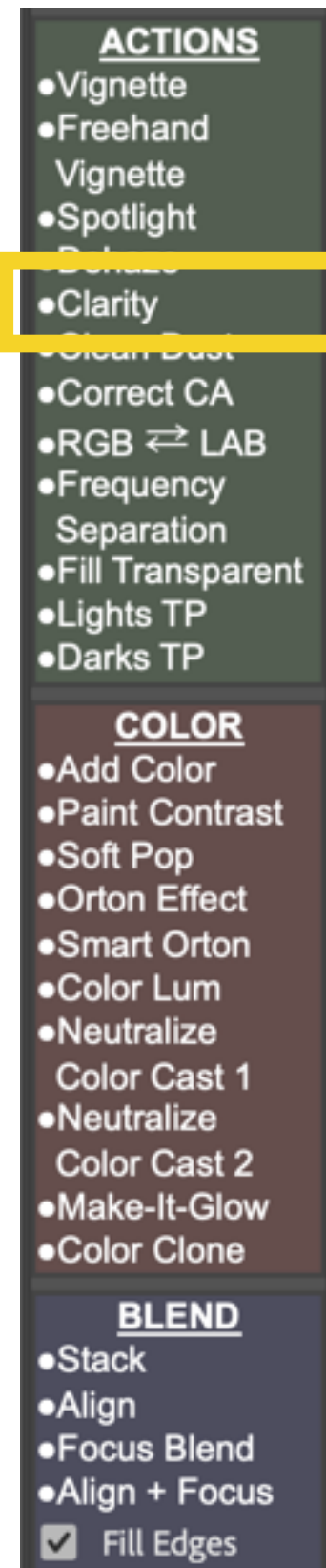
COLOR

- Add Color
- Paint Contrast
- Soft Pop
- Orton Effect
- Smart Orton
- Color Lum
- Neutralize Color Cast 1
- Neutralize Color Cast 2
- Make-It-Glow

BLEND

- Stack
- Align
- Focus Blend
- Align + Focus
- ☒ Fill Edges

		Make-It-Glow
		Dodge (white paint)
		Dodge (white paint)
		Burn (black paint)
		Dodge (white paint)
		_DSC9453-Min Horizon Noise

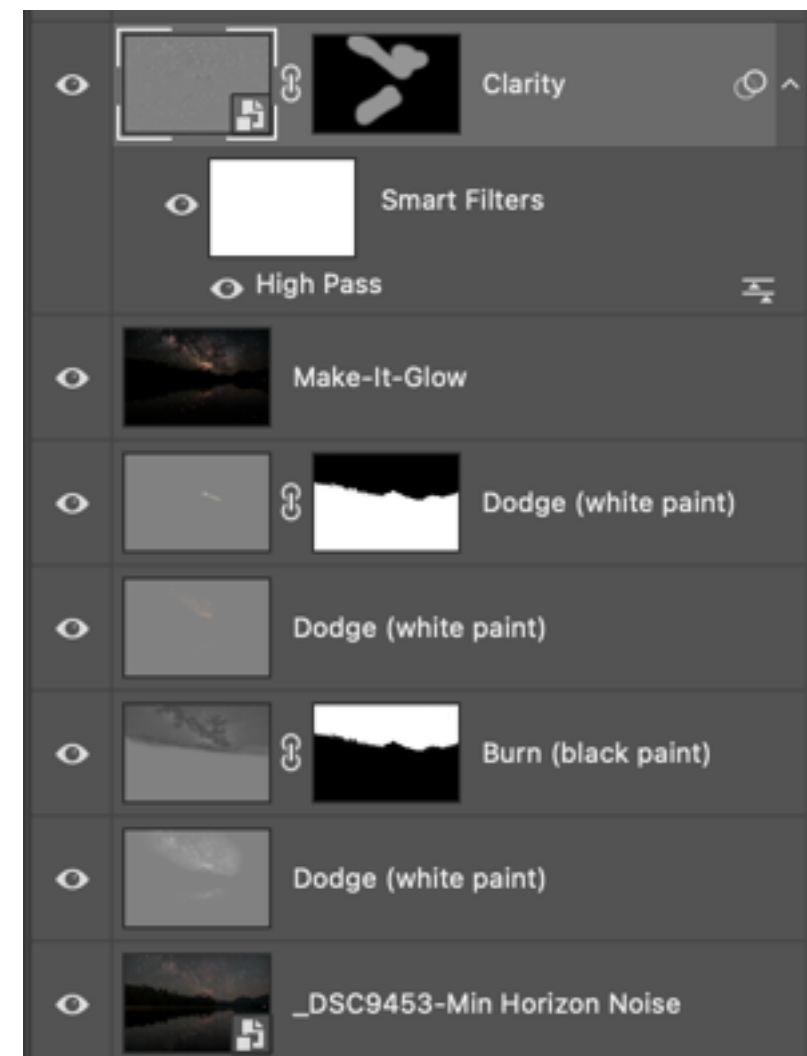


TK8 Clarity action

High Pass radius 10 px

Add black mask to layer

Paint 50% gray paint on mask to bring out clarity sharpening in Milky Way



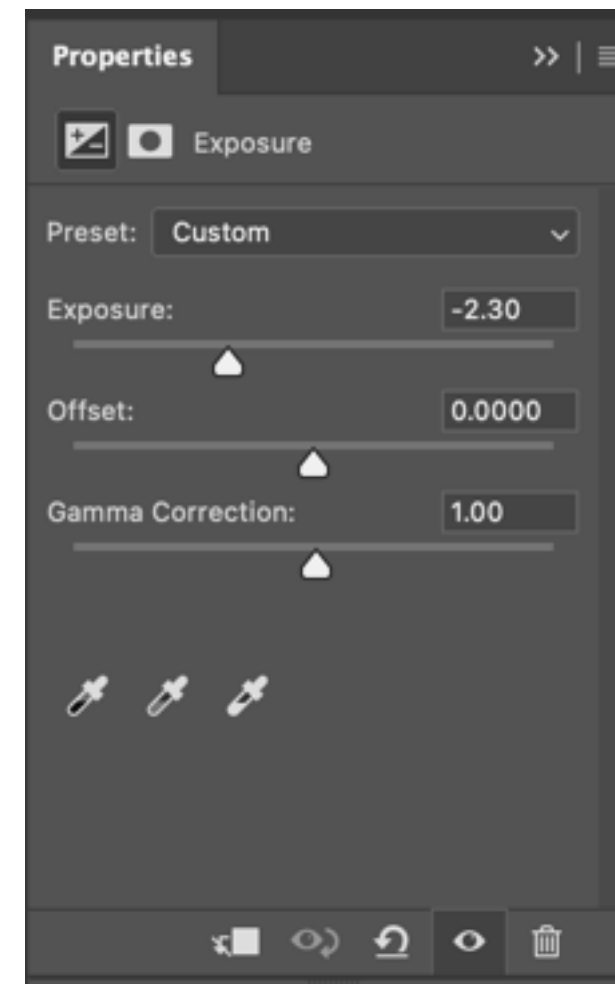
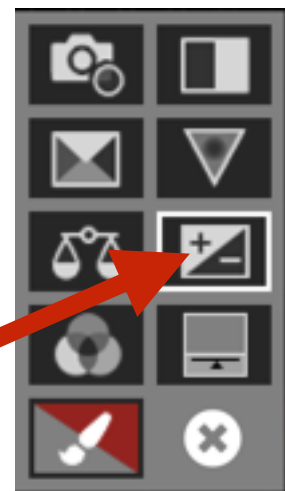
Lights 3 mask

Output as Exposure layer

-2.30 exposure

Deselect selection

Paint 100% black on mask over areas not wanted in exposure layer (Milky Way in sky and water and stars at end of horse nebula leg)



Final Touches - Camera Raw Edits on Original Layer



Temp
Tint

Clarity
Dehaze
Vibrance