

Tack Sharp!

Learnings on Sharpening

Westbridge Camera Club

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Interesting thought ...

- Only the plane of focus is tack sharp. Everything else is blur.
- The eyes / brain accepts a certain amount of blur.
- In essence, we are managing blur.

Why we sharpen ...

- Web / Screen What looks good.
- Print Most important reason.

From the beginning....

- Use an appropriate tripod and a solid head
- Use proper “hand held” technique
- Choose the right aperture or shutter speed
- Shoot on “Continuous” in challenging situations
- Watch for un-sharpness from filters
- Know the “sweet spot” of your lenses
- Learn sharpening with software

Sharpening workflow ...

- Capture sharpening
- Creative sharpening
- Output sharpening

Capture sharpening ...

- Initial overall sharpening:
 - In camera: RAW vs. .jpg
 - Camera Raw, Lightroom, Aperture and others

Creative sharpening ...

- Selective sharpening to enhance specific detail in photo
- Camera Raw, Lightroom, Aperture adjustment brushes
- Photoshop:
 - Unsharp Mask – using layers and brushes
 - Smart Sharpen – easy re-edit and auto layer mask
 - Lab sharpening – in color mode, when colors shift
 - High Pass sharpening – filter like, using Blend Modes
- Third Party software: NIK Software Sharpener Pro 3, Topaz InFocus, and others

Output sharpening ...

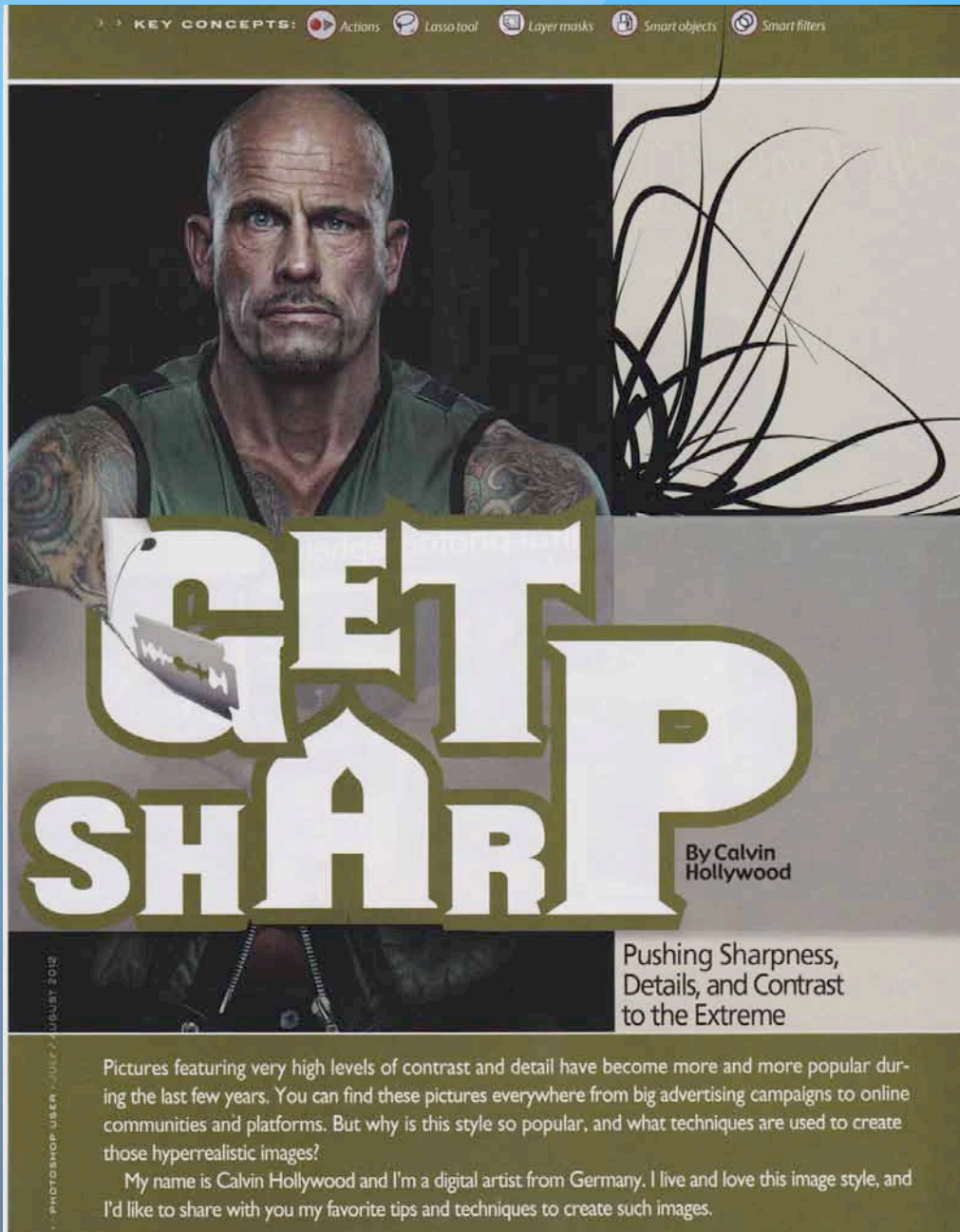
- It helps to sharpen photos to be shown on computer screens, especially if they are resized ... what looks good
- Some over - sharpen for print ... paper soaks up ink
- Some selectively sharpen and save to separate files for web and different print surfaces
- Lightroom has a Print Module that includes sharpening levels Low / Standard / High

Actions that can impact sharpness

- Over-processing noise reduction
- Edit / Transform commands
- Lens correction functions
- Image size changes
- Resolution changes

Myth

- Sharpening has to be the last step in your workflow.
- Today's software has evolved to where you can sharpen at any point in your workflow.



Thank you
for your
attention !