

## How Do I Achieve Deep Rich Colors in My Photography

1. I wait for the right light for the subject and scene. For example, I use soft overcast light for macro (small objects) and I use dramatic light for grand landscapes. To do Sunrise at Bear Rocks, it took over thirty trips before I got the right light for that scene. The color of light changes. Starting forty minutes before sunrise the color of light changes from black to purple, to red, to orange, to yellow, and finally white. Many of my photographs are taken in low light at dawn and dusk.
2. I use pro level lenses that accurately record color and provide excellent contrast between different colors.
3. The truly wonderful colors of nature are more accurately recorded by the use of two filters. These filters do not change the actual color.
  - Shine or glare off moisture in the air (haze), the surface of leaves, rocks, water and the like masks the true color in nature. This shine, if not eliminated is recorded as white in the photograph. I use very high quality multi-coated circle polarizing filters almost all the time. This filter reduces or eliminates the shine and glare off surfaces (i.e. water) and allows only the direct light and its actual color to pass through the lens. When the shine on green leaves is eliminated, only the green light passes through the lens and is recorded. The white shine is not recorded.
  - Extreme contrast (i.e. bright sky, dark foreground) ruins photographs if not controlled. I use a series of seven pro quality split neutral density filters. These filters do not change any color (they are neutral grey) rather they lesson the amount of light entering the lens from the sky so that the intensity of light from the sky matches the foreground light. Thus, the sky is not "washed out" (to light) and the foreground is not too dark.

I am a nature photographer, I present to the viewer what my eye sees through the lens. I do not add anything or alter the image to impress the viewer with something that is not real. Natures true colors do not need it if you capture your subject at its "peak"( i.e. fall color), in wonderful light, and you eliminate shine, glare, and extreme contrast.

But, what is most important in capturing compelling images? The art of "seeing" and composing, skills developed over a life time.

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