OPTIMIZING SHARPNESS

Opportunities for improving sharpness

1. Good camera techniques
2. Raw Processing
3. Additional Plug-ins

Camera Techniques

Minimize motion at both ends of the lens

1. Shoot fast enough to minimize your motion.
   - Minimum shutter speed = 1/focal length
     - Unless you have VR/IS
2. For Action: Shoot fast enough to freeze your subject
   - Birds in flight: 1/1500th
   - Sports: 1/500th
3. For Still Life/Landscapes
   - Mirror up mode
   - Use a remote trigger or timer function

Camera Techniques

Shoot in the "sweet spot" of your lens

1. Typically 2 stops down from wide open (f8 – f10)
2. Fine tune your autofocus (http://www.reikan.co.uk/focalweb/)

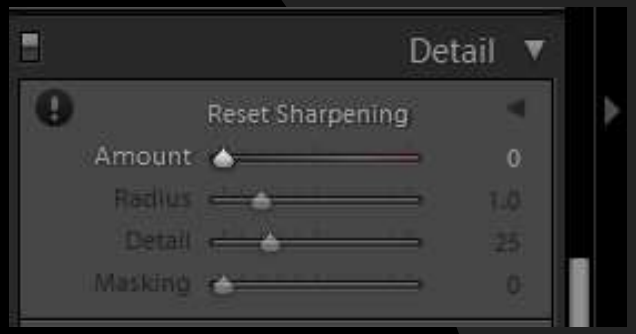
Move your focus point

1. Put your focus point on most important area
2. Aim for areas of contrast to aid autofocus.

Stabilize your rig

1. Tripod/monopod

Raw Processing



Adobe

1. **Amount** –The higher the number, the more sharpening you will see. Keep in mind that sharpening also increases noise. Range = 1 – 150.

1. **Radius** – the size of the sharpening area around the edges. The default value is 1.0 and will apply sharpening over 1 pixel around the edge. Increasing the radius spreads sharpening over more pixels around the edge, producing thicker edges. Optimal value depends on the subject.

1. **Detail** –controls the amount of sharpening on the “details” of the image. A small value only sharpens large edges, while a high value like 100 would sharpen even the smallest edges. Remember that higher numbers increase the noise. So be gentle.

2. **Masking** – Not every part of the image needs sharpening. When used with the “ALT” button, you can greatly limit the sharpening effects and control the noise a bit.

Raw Processing

Photoshop

1. **Use layers and masks to apply sharpening "Locally".**
   - **Sharpen only what needs to be sharp.**

Plugins

1. **Nik Sharpener Pro (Nik Collection: $149,** www.niksoftware.com**)**
2. **Topaz Detail ($39.99, www.Topazlabs.com)**

Comparison