

# The HDRI Handbook 2.0: High Dynamic Range Imaging for Photographers and CG Artists

*By Christian Bloch*

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## The HDRI Handbook 2.0: High Dynamic Range Imaging for Photographers and CG Artists By Christian Bloch

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In 2007, The HDRI Handbook was the first book to present this revolutionary new field to a larger audience. These days HDRI is a fully mature technology available to everyone. Real estate and landscape photographers have adopted it as part of their regular workflow, it has become one of the hottest trends for ambitious amateurs and creative professionals alike, and the modern movie industry would be completely dysfunctional without it.

Now The HDRI Handbook 2.0 redefines its own gold standard. It has been completely rewritten and is packed with practical hints and tips, background knowledge, reference tools, breathtaking artist portfolios, and inspiring interviews. The book includes dozens of new step-by-step tutorials. Beginners will get a methodically solid introduction and advanced readers will be able to refine their technique to perfection.

Topics include:- Understanding the foundation of HDRI- HDR software comparisons and evaluations- Capturing HDR images: today and tomorrow- Tonemapping for creating superior prints- HDR image processing and compositing- Shooting and stitching HDR panoramas- Image-based lighting and CG rendering

2.0 updates include:- New cameras, sensors, and HDR beamsplitter rigs- Open Camera Controller for endless auto-bracketing- Correct RAW pre-processing and ghost removal- Dozens of practical, easy-to-follow tutorials- A structured approach to tonemapping, inspired by Ansel Adams- Set etiquette and tips for capturing HDR panos for visual effects- Seven artist spotlights showing unique perspectives on HDRI- Seven crossword puzzles: a fun way to test yourself

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### **Editorial Review**

#### About the Author

Christian Bloch is a visual effects artist by trade and a photographer by passion. He lives and works in Hollywood, California. During the 11 years of his professional career he has created effects for the television shows Star Trek Enterprise, Firefly, Lost, 24, NCIS, and Chuck, as well as several theatrical movies. His work has been rewarded with an Emmy Award as well as a nomination for the Visual Effects Society Award.

Bloch also holds an engineer's degree in multimedia technology. Years of research went into his diploma thesis about HDRI, which was honored in 2003 with the achievement award of the University of Applied Sciences Leipzig. The HDRI Handbook was the successor to Bloch's diploma thesis, rewritten from the ground up and heavily expanded, and now available in six languages. Bloch has rewritten the book once more to produce The HDRI Handbook 2.0, incorporating so many updates that it has doubled in volume.

Many hints and tips in this book originated from Uwe Steinmueller, Dieter Bethke, and Bernhard Vogel. As respected digital photography experts they contributed tutorials to the first edition, and their personal roads to HDRI left heavy footprints all over this book. The HDRI Handbook 2.0 also features up-close interviews with seven exceptional photographers, each one spearheading a different frontier of HDR imaging:

- Shooting star Trey Ratcliff from [stuckincustoms.com](http://stuckincustoms.com)
- Jazz producer and portraitist Luke Kaven from New York
- Real estate photographer Michael James from Florida
- Flickr phenomenon Anthony Gelot, a.k.a. AntoXIII, from Paris
- Professor Kirt Witte from the Savannah College of Art and Design
- Gigapixel pioneers Greg Downing and Eric Hanson from XRez
- Visionary researcher Paul Debevec, founding father of HDRI

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#### **Roberta Petty:**

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