

hdrff

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Note:

The current version of hdrff is 1.2.0

1. Introduction

hdrff is a modular bash-script supporting the automatic processing of HDR-image-sequences with existing Linux-tools. HDR is an acronym for *high dynamic range*. Normal images have only 8 or 16 bits per color-channel, the dynamic range is therefore limited to $2^{*8}=1024$ or $2^{*16}=65536$. HDR-images have more bits per channel (e.g. 24, 32 or above), the dynamic range is much wider.

Digital cameras can't create HDR-images directly. To increase the dynamic-range, you have to merge multiple images taken with different exposure values. To ensure proper alignment of these images, the standard recipe is to use a tripod. After downloading the images, an existing but complicated toolchain allows you to create HDR-images from your image-sequence. As a last step, you have to use *"tone-mapping"* to reduce the high-dynamic-range back to the standard range, since no affordable monitor or printer can display or print real HDR-images.

That is where hdrff enters the game. HDRFF is an acronym for *"HDR für Faule"*, that is German and *"faul"* means *"lazy"*. With hdrff you don't have to carry a tripod around and you don't have to click menus or enter long commandlines to process your HDR-sequences.

For details about the project, please visit the [main project page](#).

2. History

Hdrff was featured in an article I wrote for the German magazine *"Linux-User"* (issue 09/2010). The current version differs in some minor respects from the version published together with the article. All scripts were translated, a few configuration variables were also renamed and some bugs were fixed.

There is an English translation (*"Easy HDR"*) of the article in the magazine *"Ubuntu User"* (issue 07, available in November 2010).

3. Features

The hdrff-script is a driver program executing so called *"modules"*. Each module is responsible for a task in the HDR-workflow:

- copy your files from your media to hard-disk
- change names to lower-case
- fix the file-date
- set files to readonly

- convert to TIF
- automatically find HDR-image sequences
- remove chromatic aberrations and distortions
- align images
- merge multiple images into a HDR file
- tone-map HDR files
- sharpening
- archive images
- cleanup
- more to come

You will find suitable free software for all these tasks. With hdrff, you don't have to deal with the details, because hdrff knows the necessary parameters. A configuration file (global and per user) allows customization, but normally you only have to set a handful of the configuration parameters.

To learn more, read about [installation](#), [configuration](#) and read the [user's guide](#).

4. License

hdrff is licensed under the GPL3 (see file COPYING in the downloaded packages). Since hdrff is a wrapper script, you should also make sure that you comply to the individual license-statements of all the tools you use indirectly through hdrff.

5. Download

Source packages are available for download. See the [download area](#) of the hdrff-project. The current version is **1.2.0**.

You can find a comprehensive list of changes in the [release notes](#) and all the details in the file *ChangeLog*.

6. Mailing Lists

There is currently no mailing-list. Please use the project-forums for hdrff-related communication.