

CREATION OF TWISTED TIME

TAKEN ON 3rd MARCH 2008

CANON EOS 5D 24-105 F4 L @ 82mm

I am almost embarrassed to show the original starting point for Twisted Time. It was a grab shot on a day trip to the big smoke and I was rushing to catch up with the rest of my party, which is my excuse as to why it is so badly exposed! I had my exposure compensation set at -2/3 stop from a previous shot (note to self - always reset as soon as shot taken!) and the matrix metering of the camera based its assessment of the scene on the sky, which left the foreground hopelessly underexposed. However this is a good example of what can be done if the data is captured using the camera's RAW format rather than allowing the camera to do any processing and compression for you! there is no way I could have done this if I had been shooting in Jpeg.

Although I liked the overall composition, in assessing the shot there are a number of things I wanted to do to make the final shot I originally envisioned:

- 1 - Fix exposure on Dali statue and Houses of Parliament (most important - if I couldn't do this the rest was pointless!)
- 2 - remove the fairy lights that were strung from the lamposts
- 3 - Change the time showing on the Westminster Clock tower to match that on the statue
- 4 - slight reframing to remove some of the foreground.



_MG_4896.CR2 1/80sec F10 ISO 200

Exposure Correction: 3 separate RAW conversions were created from the original _MG_4896.CR2 file;

- one that brought out the drama of the sky, (by reducing exposure and increase contrast settings); 'sky' layer
- second that corrected the exposure for the clock tower and Houses of Parliament; 'big ben' layer and finally
- the third that pushed the recovery from the shadows to the max to bring out the detail in the stature; 'dali clock' layer



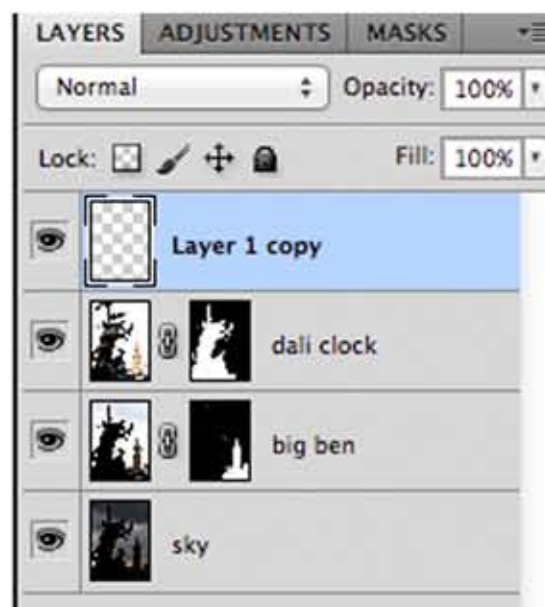
The 3 layers were then manually blended in Photoshop as shown in the screenshot of the layers pallet to the right.

The white areas of the layer masks show the parts of each layer that are used in the final image. As the sky area in the dali and 'big ben' layers are masked out in black, the bottom layer is used for the sky.

The image was then cropped slightly to remove the river, the bottom of the statues plinth and Westminster Abbey.

The cloning out of the fairly lights was only needed on the bottom layer and across the face of the clock tower on the 'big ben' layer.

The faces of the clock on the 'big ben' layer were also removed to allow the new hands I created on the 'layer1copy' (which mimic the time on the statue) to show up.



Final Image - 'Twisted Time'