



Nik Software  
**Silver Efex Pro™**  
Quick Start Guide

**Welcome to Silver Efex Pro™**

Welcome to Silver Efex Pro, the most powerful tool for creating dynamic black and white images. Silver Efex Pro offers the traditional tools of the darkroom while utilizing the flexibility and precision offered with digital photography.

By combining unique algorithms, patented U Point® technology, and a full range of black and white specific tools, Silver Efex Pro provides the power and precision for creating stunning digital black and white photographs.

# Installation

## Windows

1. Close all open applications.
2. Insert the Silver Efex Pro CD.
3. Specify whether to install into Photoshop or Lightroom.
4. When the auto-run installer appears, click Next to begin installing Silver Efex Pro.
5. After reading the Read Me and accepting the License Agreement, review the suggested installation location. For example, the appropriate location for Adobe Photoshop CS4 is: C:\Program Files\Adobe\Adobe Photoshop CS4\Plug-Ins\*
6. Specify whether the Nik Selective Tool launches automatically when you start Photoshop. Please see the Silver Efex Pro User Guide for more information.
7. When the installation is complete, click the Finish button to close the installer.

\*If you are using an image editing application other than Photoshop or Lightroom, please refer to your application's documentation manual.

## Macintosh

1. Close all open applications.
2. Insert the Silver Efex Pro CD.
3. Open the CD and double-click the Silver Efex Pro Setup file.
4. Specify whether to install Silver Efex Pro into Adobe Photoshop, Lightroom, or Aperture. When the Silver Efex Pro installer appears, click Next to begin installation.
5. After reading the Read Me and accepting the License Agreement, the installer attempts to install into the appropriate location.
6. When installing into Photoshop or Photoshop Elements, check the installation path to ensure the installer located the appropriate folder. The appropriate location for Adobe Photoshop CS4 is: Macintosh HD : Applications : Adobe Photoshop CS4 : Plug-ins Specify whether the Nik Selective Tool launches automatically when you start Photoshop.
7. When the installation is complete, click the Finish button to close the installer.

### Accessing Silver Efex Pro in Photoshop or Photoshop Elements

1. Launch your image editing application.
2. Open an image.
3. Click the **Filters** menu and roll over **Nik Software**. Click **Silver Efex Pro** in the popup to launch the application.

*Tip: To access the Nik Selective Tool, navigate to the File > Automate or File > Automation Tools menu and select **Nik Selective Tool**.*

### Accessing Silver Efex Pro in Aperture

1. Launch Aperture.
2. Highlight the image you wish to enhance with Silver Efex Pro.
3. Click the **Images** menu and roll over **Edit With**. Click **Silver Efex Pro...** to launch the application.

### Accessing Silver Efex Pro in Lightroom

1. Launch Lightroom.
2. Highlight the image(s) you wish to enhance with Silver Efex Pro.
3. Click the **Photo** menu, and roll over **Edit In**. Click **Silver Efex Pro** to launch the application.

# Workflow Suggestions

The order of steps involved in enhancing an image varies, depending on the image. In general, there are only a few guidelines to consider:

Apply noise reduction, such as with Nik Software Dfine<sup>®</sup> 2.0, as early as possible in the process.

Start with distractions and color and light enhancements using Nik Software Viveza<sup>™</sup> (global, then local), and end with creative enhancements, such as with Nik Software Silver Efex Pro<sup>™</sup>.

Apply output sharpening, such as with Nik Sharpener Pro<sup>™</sup> 2.0, as late as possible in the process.

Start by exploring the Style Browser and select a potential style to apply to the image. Then adjust the overall brightness, contrast, and structure of the image. Apply any specific brightness, contrast, and structure enhancements to local areas or objects using U Point powered control points. Finally, stylize your image with the Film Types and Stylizing sections. In other words, move from the general to the specific, and then finish with a stylization to create a mood or feeling.

For best results, perform the tasks below in the given order:

1. Explore the Style Browser and if you like, choose a style to apply to your image.
2. Adjust the overall image with the Brightness, Contrast, and Structure tonality controls.
3. Add control points to objects in the image that you would like to selectively control brightness, contrast, and structure.
4. Select a color filter to adjust the base tonal conversion and contrast.
5. Explore and apply a film type preset if desired.
6. Browse and apply a stylization to your image if desired.
7. Review the image in the Loupe.
8. Apply the filter's effect by clicking OK (Photoshop) or Save (Aperture).



## Contact

To contact Nik Software, please visit [www.niksoftware.com/contact](http://www.niksoftware.com/contact)

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Protected by one or more US Pats. 6,728,421; 6,865,300; 7,031,547; and other patents pending.

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# Filter Display Modes

Silver Efex Pro offers two Filter Display Modes: Image Only and Image + Style Browser. Click on the Image + Style Browser button to display the Style Browser, which provides access to the preset styles available within Silver Efex Pro. Silver Efex Pro comes with over 20 preset styles to help create powerful, dynamic black and white images quickly and easily, and you can create your own styles for easily repeated high quality results.

## Image Only



Click this button to show only the Image Preview.

## Image + Style Browser



Click this button to open a new palette next to the preview area displaying a view of the available styles, with each style applied to a thumbnail of the current image.



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## Style Browser Controls

- Click on a style to change your image's look with one click.
- Click on the Add Style button to create a custom style based on the current settings.
- Click on the Delete button to remove the selected custom style.
- Click on the Export button to save the selected custom style and share it with friends.
- Click on the Update button to update the settings of the custom style.
- Quickly change the name of a custom style by double-clicking on the name and entering a new name.
- Click the star next to the style's name to add the style to the favorites tab for quick access.
- Click on the Import button to add a style from your hard disk.

Nik Software  
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Filter Display Modes

Preview Checkbox

Select, Zoom and Pan Tools

Style  
Browser



Enhancement  
Controls

U Point  
powered  
control points

Navigator  
Loupe

Resize  
corner



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## The Power of U Point® Technology

U Point technology lets you use control points to isolate objects and areas in an image and selectively apply filter effects to them. Visit [www.upoint.com](http://www.upoint.com) to learn more.

## Add Control Point



Click this button to change the mouse cursor and enable you to add a control point to the image. After selecting this button, click on the object or area in the image to adjust using a control point. After placing the control point on the image, you may control the object or area's tonality, contrast, and structure using the controls provided on the control point.

## Control Point Controls

Each control point has four sliders:

- The top slider, Size, adjusts the control point's size or reach.
- The second slider, Brightness, controls the brightness of the object selected by the control point.
- The third slider, Contrast, controls the contrast of the object selected by the control point.
- The fourth slider, Structure, controls the detail structure of the object selected by the control point.

