# Nikon Capture NX "How To..." Series

**Article 9 - How to use the Plus and Minus Brush for localized enhancement.**



**Before Enhancement:**

The brightness of the sky is perfect, but the building and lawn are too dark.

**After Enhancement:**

The building and lawn area are brightened without affecting the sky.



**Process:**

**Step 1 - Open an image**

**Step 2 - Brighten the entire image**
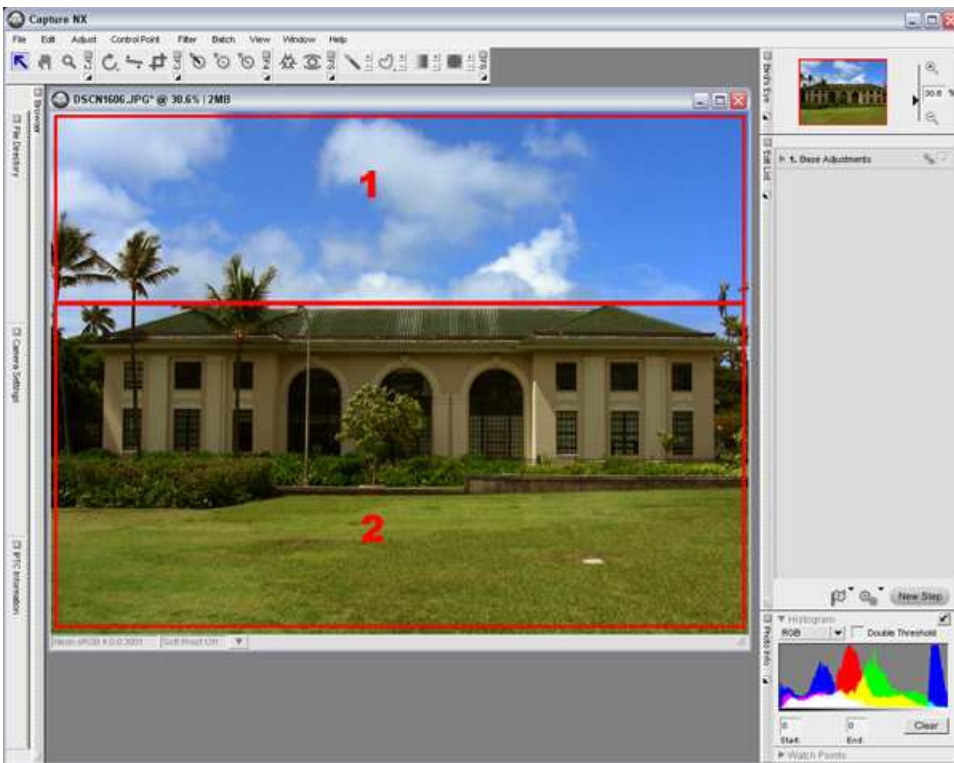
**Step 3 - Select the Plus Brush (Minus Brush)**

**Step 4 - Use the Plus Brush to brighten portions of the image. Use the Minus Brush to subtract changes made.**

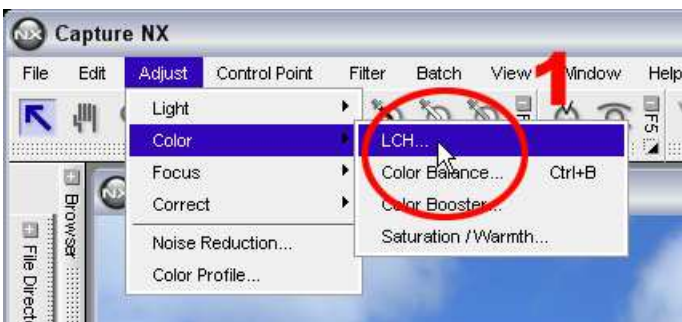**Step 5 - Enhancement is completed**

**Step 1 -** Open an image

This section covers brightening of specific portions of an image with the Plus Brush. Open an image and consider how the image should be enhanced.
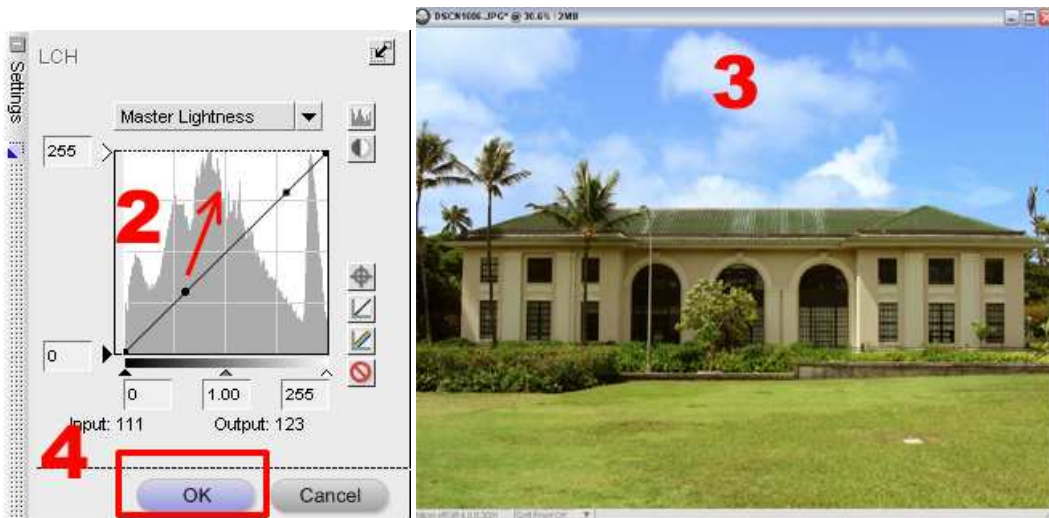
1) The sky section of this image exhibits optimum brightness, and does not need enhancement.

2) The building and lawn sections, however, need to be brightened.
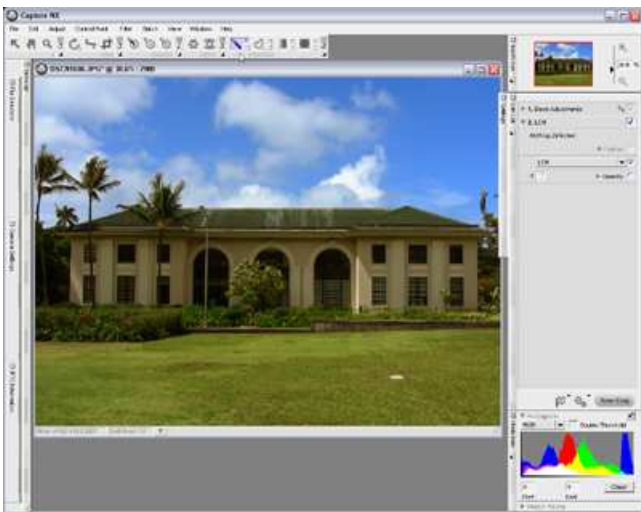
**Step 2 -** Brighten the entire image.

1) Select "LCH..." from the "Color" submenu in the "Adjust" menu.

2) Raise the "Master Lightness" curve in the "LCH..." dialog to increase brightness to the optimum level for the building and lawn areas of the image.

Brightness of the sky area will also be increased, but we will focus only on the building and lawn areas here.

3) The entire image is brightened.

4) Once adjustment is complete, click "OK".

**Step 3 -** Select the Plus Brush

(1) Select the Plus Brush and the enhancement applied in step 2 is temporarily removed.





**Step 4 -** Use the Plus Brush to brighten portions of your image.

Drag the mouse over the building and lawn areas that require brightening. the image below shows the effect when the mouse is dragged over the lawn area.
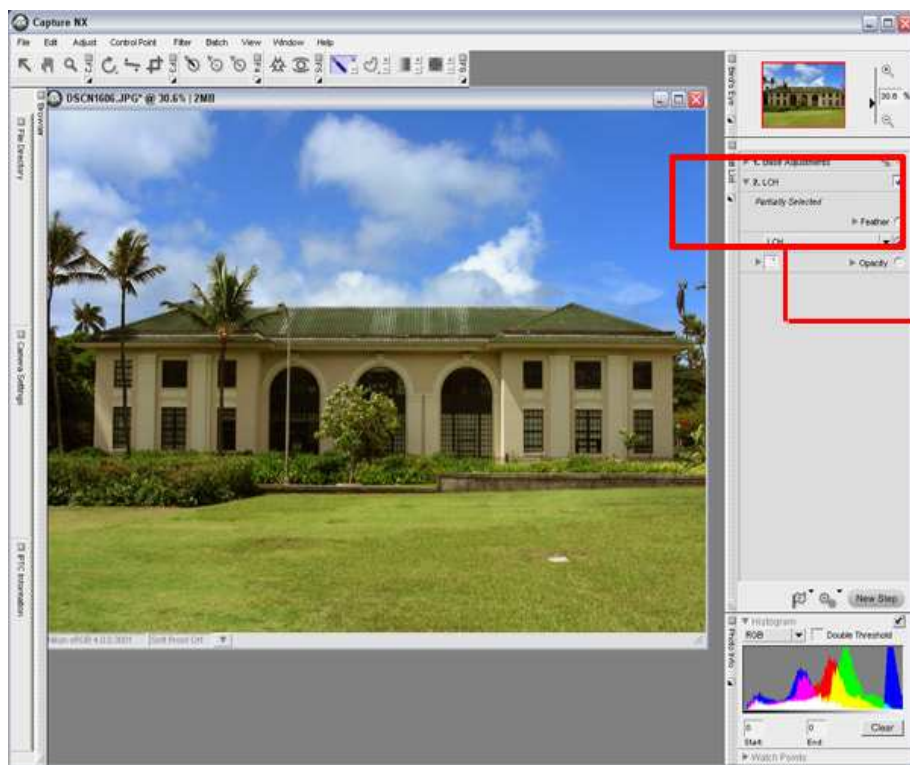
When the Plus Brush or Minus Brush is selected, right-clicking the mouse over the image (or clicking while holding down the CTRL key in Windows or CONTROL key on a Macintosh) will display the Selection Brush Options dialog. The size of the brush, brush hardness, and brush opacity may be adjusted.



**Step 5 -** Enhancement is completed.

The image below reflects brightening applied to the entire building and lawn areas of the image. An "LCH..." step, reflecting brightness enhancement, has been added to the "Edit List". Please take note of the "Partially Selected" text displayed with the step. This is displayed when the "Plus Brush" or the "Minus Brush" is used to apply enhancements to one or more areas of an image rather than to the entire image.

When enhancements are applied to the entire image (no selection tools are used), "All Selected" is displayed here instead of "Partially Selected".
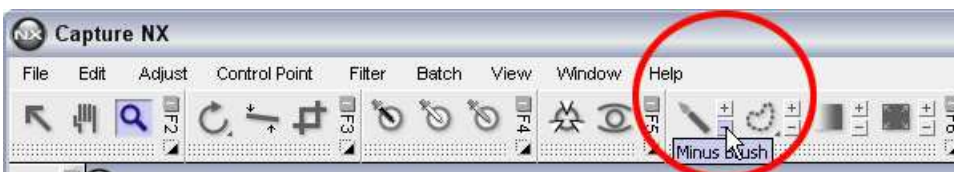
**Brightening areas of an image using the Minus Brush.**

This section covers brightening of specific areas of an image using the Minus Brush. While the Plus Brush is used to apply enhancements, the Minus Brush is used to disable, or hide enhancements. The same enhancements can be applied using either the Plus Brush or the Minus Brush.
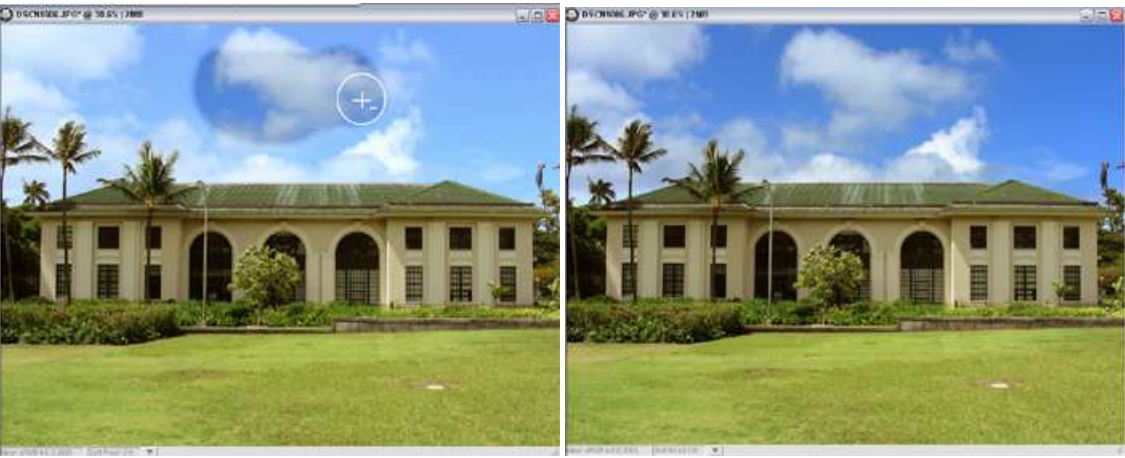
1) Use the LCH... dialog to brighten a dark image. The entire image is brightened.
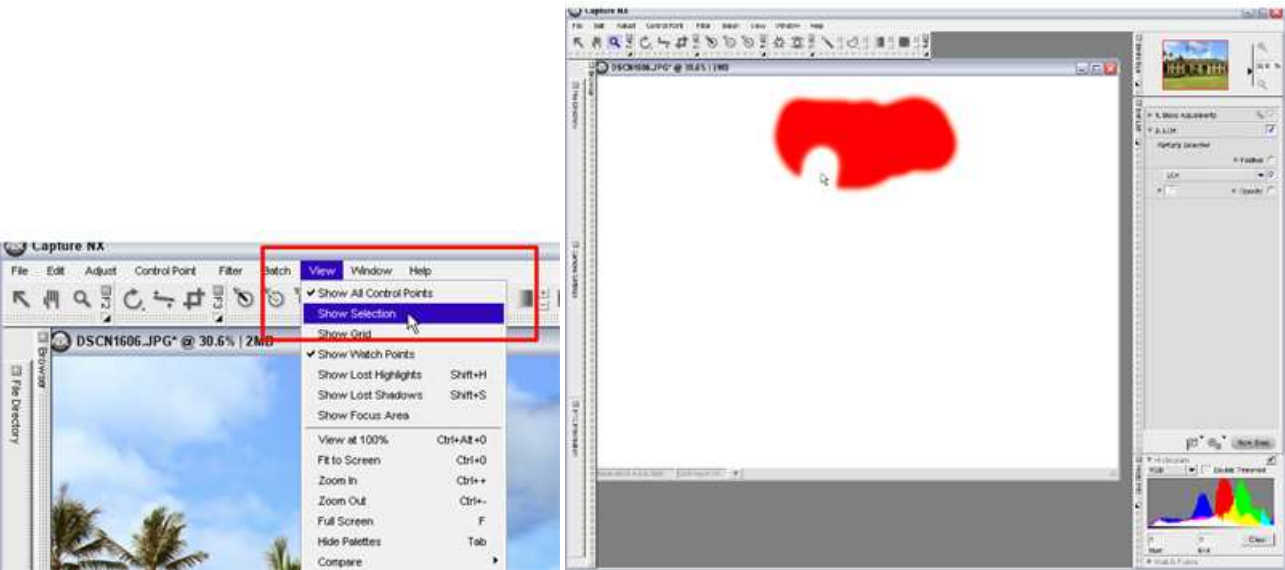


2) Select the Minus Brush

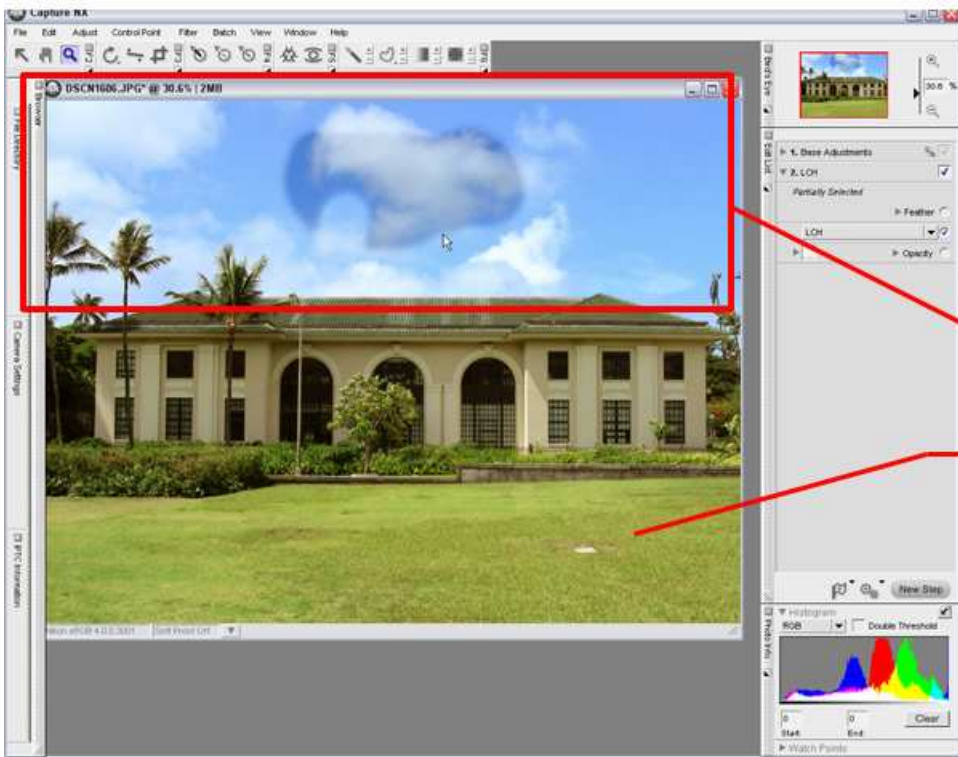

3) Drag the mouse over the sky area

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**Reference: Verifying enhancement range:**

You can verify the areas to which "Plus Brush" or "Minus Brush" have been applied. After applying or removing enhancements from portions of the image, select "Show Selection" from the "View" menu. The image changes to a red-and-white display. Areas shown in red indicate areas that have NOT been enhanced (enhancement removed with "{Minus Brush"), while areas shown in white indicate the areas that HAVE been enhanced (enhancements applied to the entire image before the "Minus Brush" was used, or those applied with the "Plus Brush").

To cancel this display and return to normal image display, select "Show Selection" from the "View" Menu again ( and uncheck the option).

Enhancement has been removed from part of the sky. (removal using Minus Brush).

Enhancement applied to building and lawn areas.(original enhancement step).