

Nikon Capture NX "How To..." Series

Article 25 - How to eliminate or reduce dust spots visible in some images.

Purpose: Using the "Plus Brush", combined with the "Add Grain / Noise" feature, you can enhance images so that dust spots are not visible.



Before: Dust is visible in the sky.

After: The dust is no longer visible.

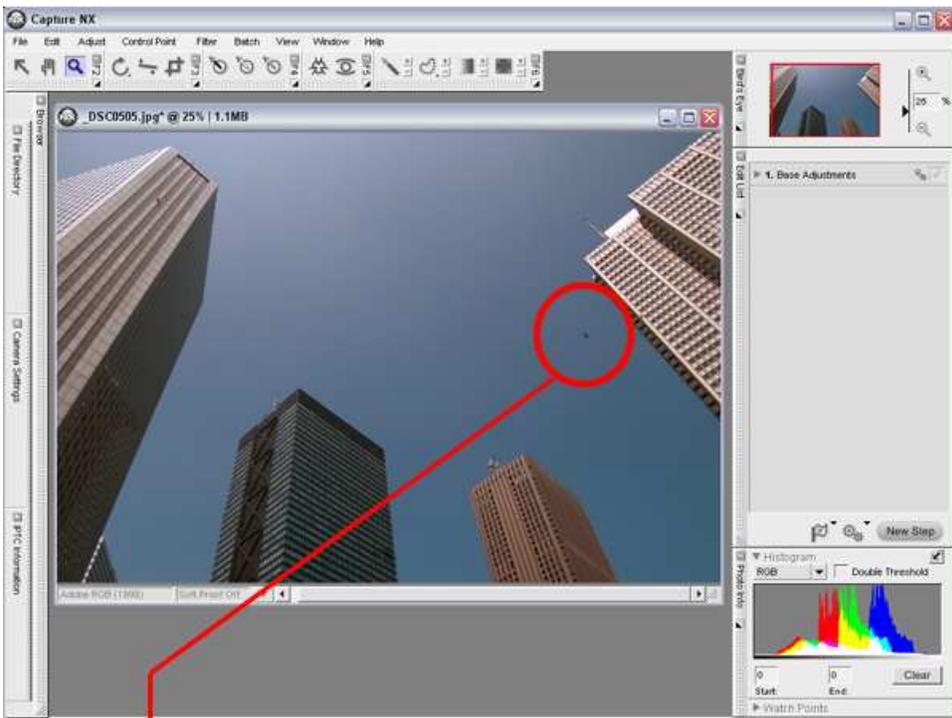


Process:

- Step 1** - Open an image.
 - Step 2** - Enlarge image display for easier viewing of the effected area.
 - Step 3** - Drag the "Plus Brush" over the area of the image containing dust.
 - Step 4** - Change the "Colorize" color to one that blends with the surrounding color.
 - Step 5** - Add a "grainy" effect.
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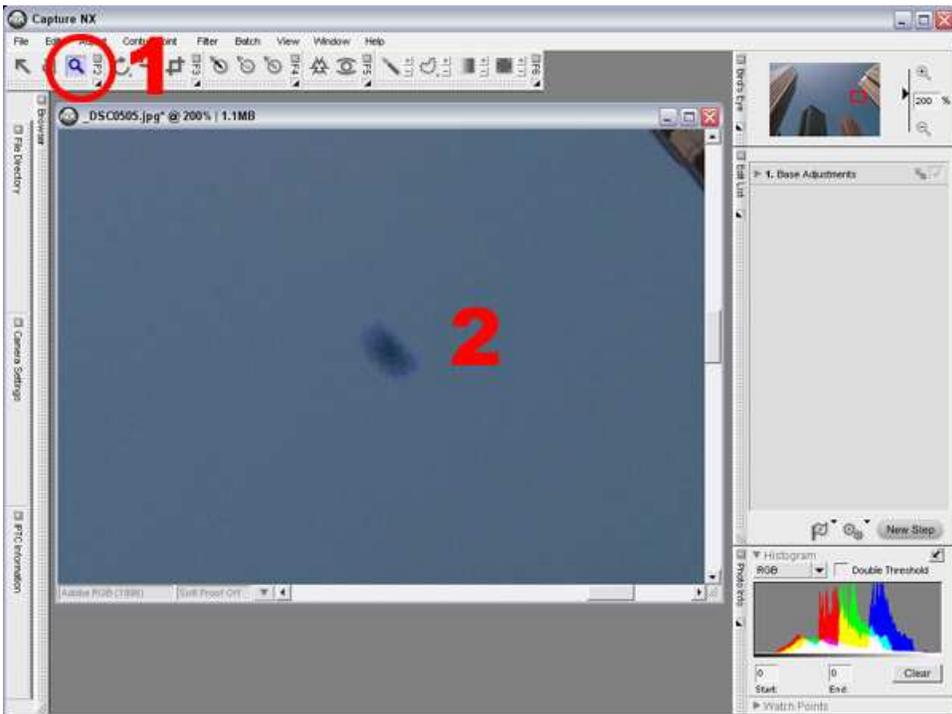
Step 1 - Open an image.

Dust is visible in the sky on the right. This image will be enhanced so dust is no longer visible.



This dust will be removed. Step 2 - Enlarge the image display for easier operation.

- 1) Click the "Zoom" tool.
- 2) Click or drag the "Zoom Tool" over the portion of the image to be enhanced to eliminate the effects of dust.

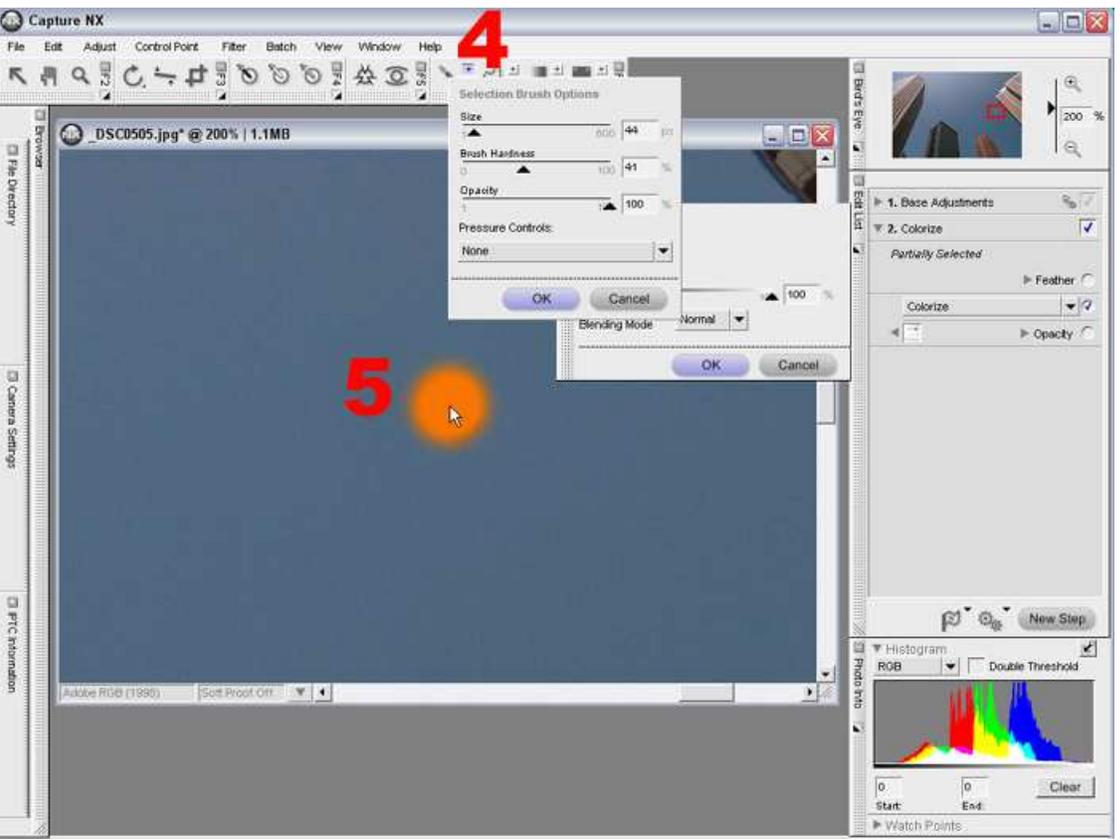
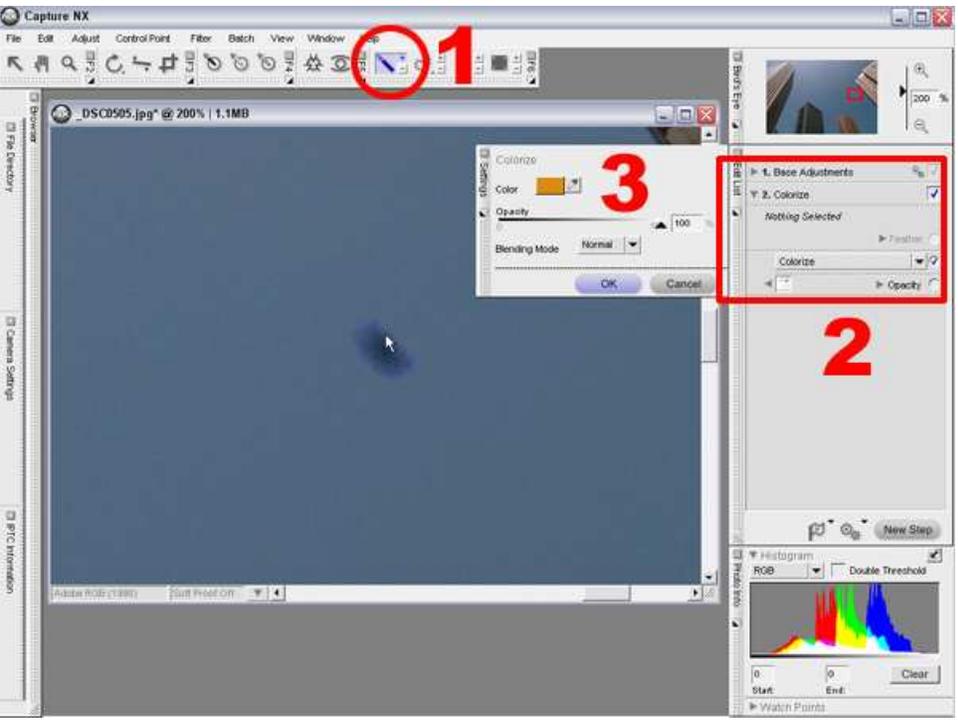


Step 3 - Drag the "Plus Brush" over the area of the image showing a dust spot.

- 1) Click the "Plus Brush" (+).
- 2) A "Colorize" step will be added to the "Edit List".
- 3) At the same time, the "Colorize" dialog will be displayed. Do NOT click "OK" in the "Colorize" dialog yet.
- 4) Double-Click the "Selection Brush" icon to the left of the "Plus Brush" and apply brush settings in the "Selection Brush Options" dialog. Use the "Size"

slider to adjust the brush size so that it is bigger than the dust in the image. Set "Brush Hardness" to 0 and "Opacity" to 100% for simplest operation.

5) Drag the mouse over the dust area to "paint" over it.

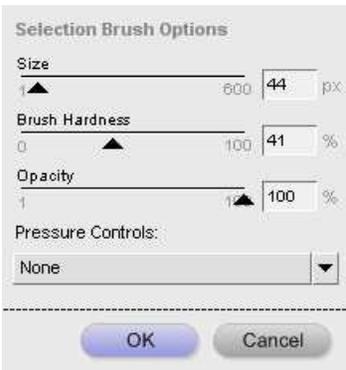


Here, we have applied settings as follows, adjust your own settings as needed:

4

Size: 44px

Brush Hardness: 41%



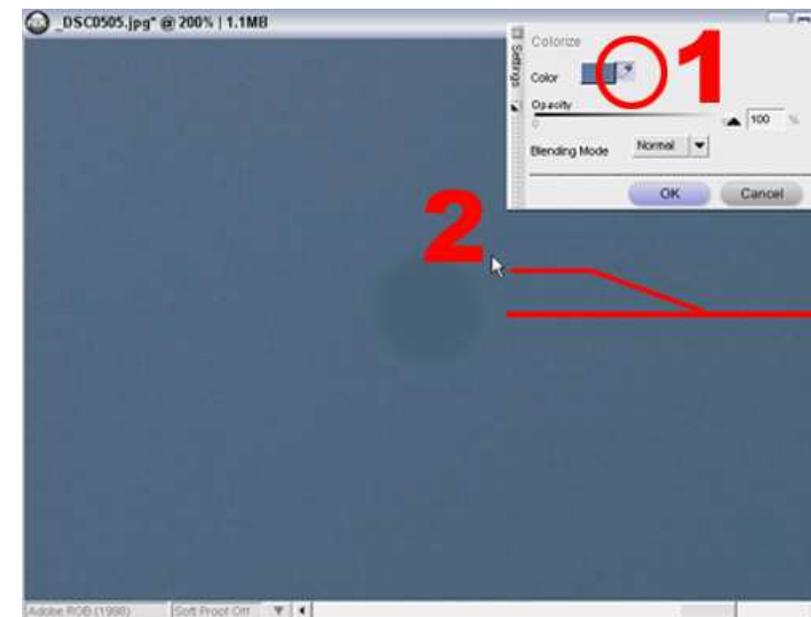
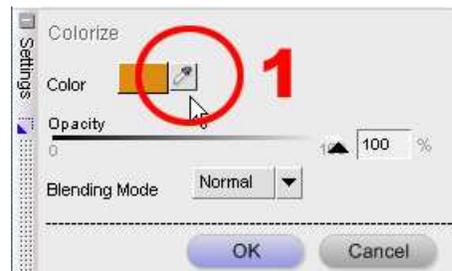
Opacity: 100%

Brush hardness affects the amount of blurring at the brush edges. Smaller values apply less edge blurring.

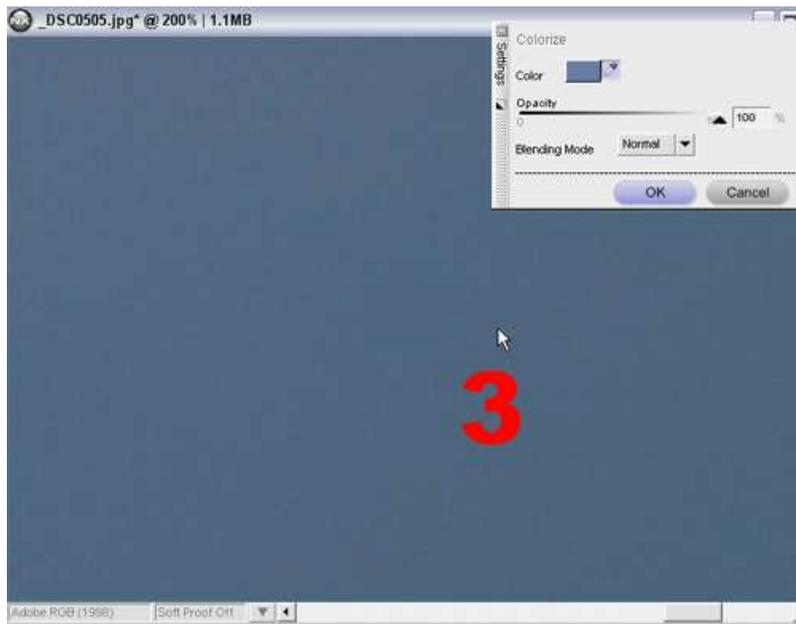
Opacity affects the opacity of brush strokes. Larger values mean the brush strokes will be more opaque, or less transparent, making less of the background visible through the brush strokes.

Step 4 - Change the "Colorize" color to one that blends with the surrounding color.

- 1) Click on the eye dropper in the "Colorize" dialog.
- 2) Click on the area of the image close to the colorized area that you have "painted".
- 3) Click on a number of different places until you find the color that best blends with the surrounding area.



The first place we clicked produced a color slightly darker than the surrounding area. Try another sample with the eyedropper.

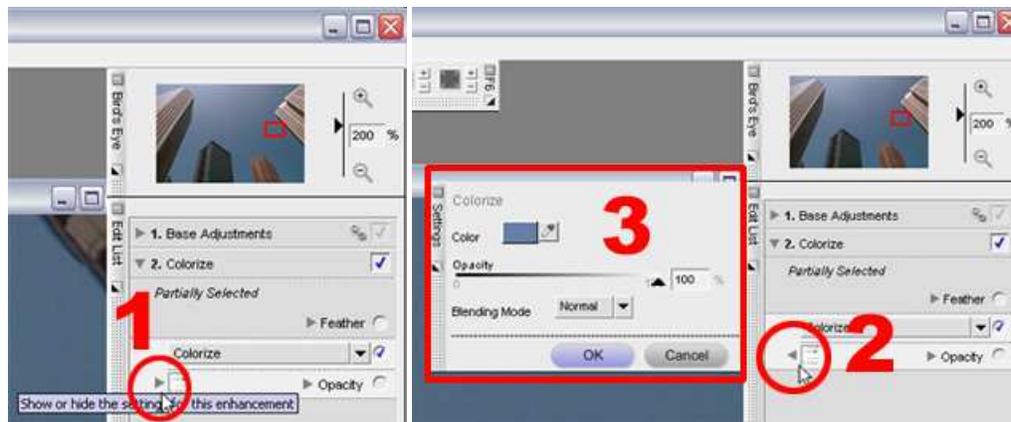


Sample a new color by clicking the eye dropper over the image. Select the color that produces the most natural results by clicking over several different spots on the image.

If the "Colorize" dialog is closed too soon:

If you close the "Colorize" dialog too soon, follow these steps to open it again:

- 1) Click the 'show / hide' triangle at the bottom of the "Colorize" step in the "Edit List".
- 2) The 'show / hide' settings triangle reverses direction.
- 3) At the same time, the "Colorize" dialog will be displayed.



Step 5 - Add a "grainy" effect.

At this stage, the colored area has no texture and may appear inconsistent with the rest of the image. If needed, a grainy effect can be applied for a more natural blending effect with the surrounding area.

- 1) With the "Colorize" dialog still open and the eye dropper tool active, hold down the "SHIFT" key and select "Add Grain / Noise..." from the "Filter" menu. This operation allows you to add grain or noise effects to only the selected (colorized) portion of the image, rather than the entire image.
- 2) The effects of default "Add Grain / Noise" settings will be added to the colorized area of the image. As you can see by this example, the "Grain Strength" is set too high.
- 3) An "Add Grain / Noise" item will be added under "Colorize" in the "Edit List".
- 4) In the "Add / Grain Noise" dialog displayed, modify "Grain Strength", "Grain Color" and "Grain Type" settings to achieve enhancement of the colorized portion that blends most naturally with the surrounding area. While zoomed in, you can easily match the size (type) and strength of the grain value.

5) Click "OK" to finalize "Grain / Noise" enhancement.

6) Zoom out to view the results.

