

Nikon Capture NX "How To..." Series

Article 7 - How to enhance a dull blue sky.



Before Enhancement: The color of the sky is rather dull. We'll adjust it to appear more clear and more blue.

After Enhancement: The dull blue sky has become clearer, and a more vibrant blue.



Process:

Step 1 - Position a "Color Control" point over the sky portion of the image.

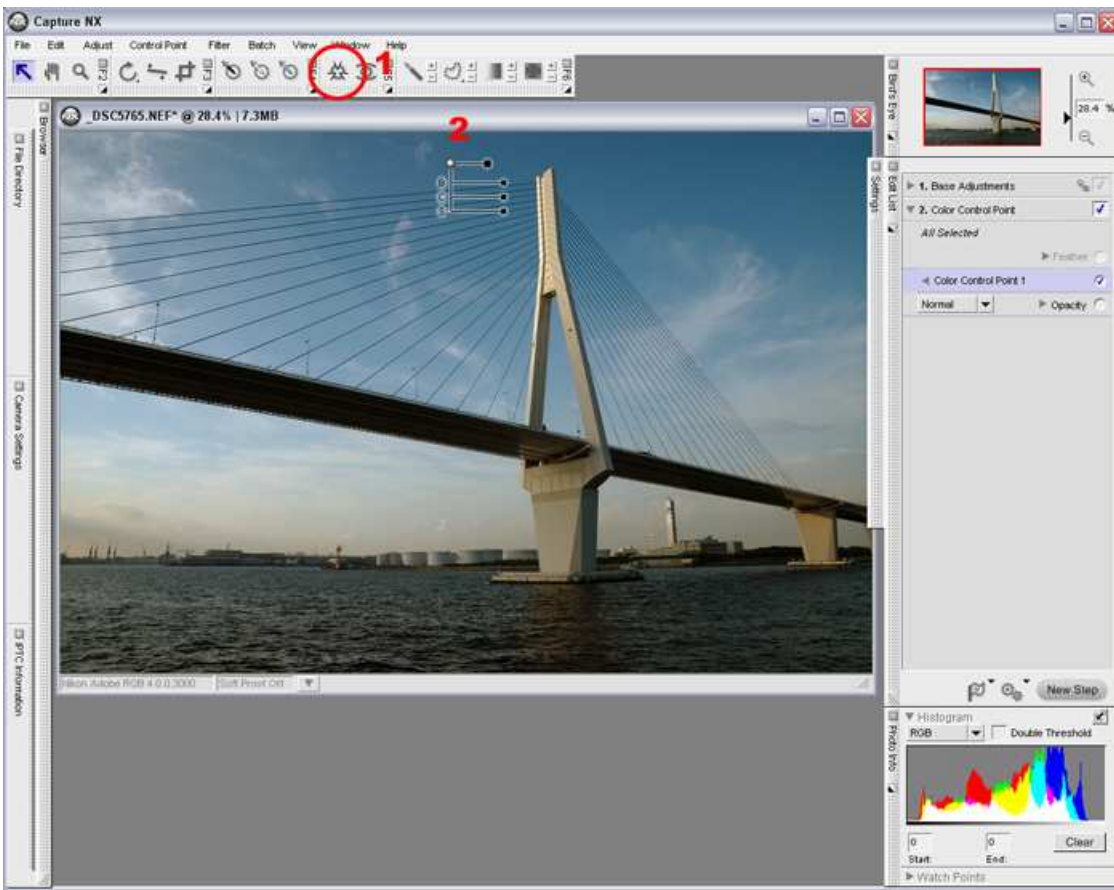
Step 2 - Choose a sky blue color from the "Color Picker"

Step 3 - Adjust the size of the "Color Control Point"

Step 4 - Verify results and enhancement is complete.

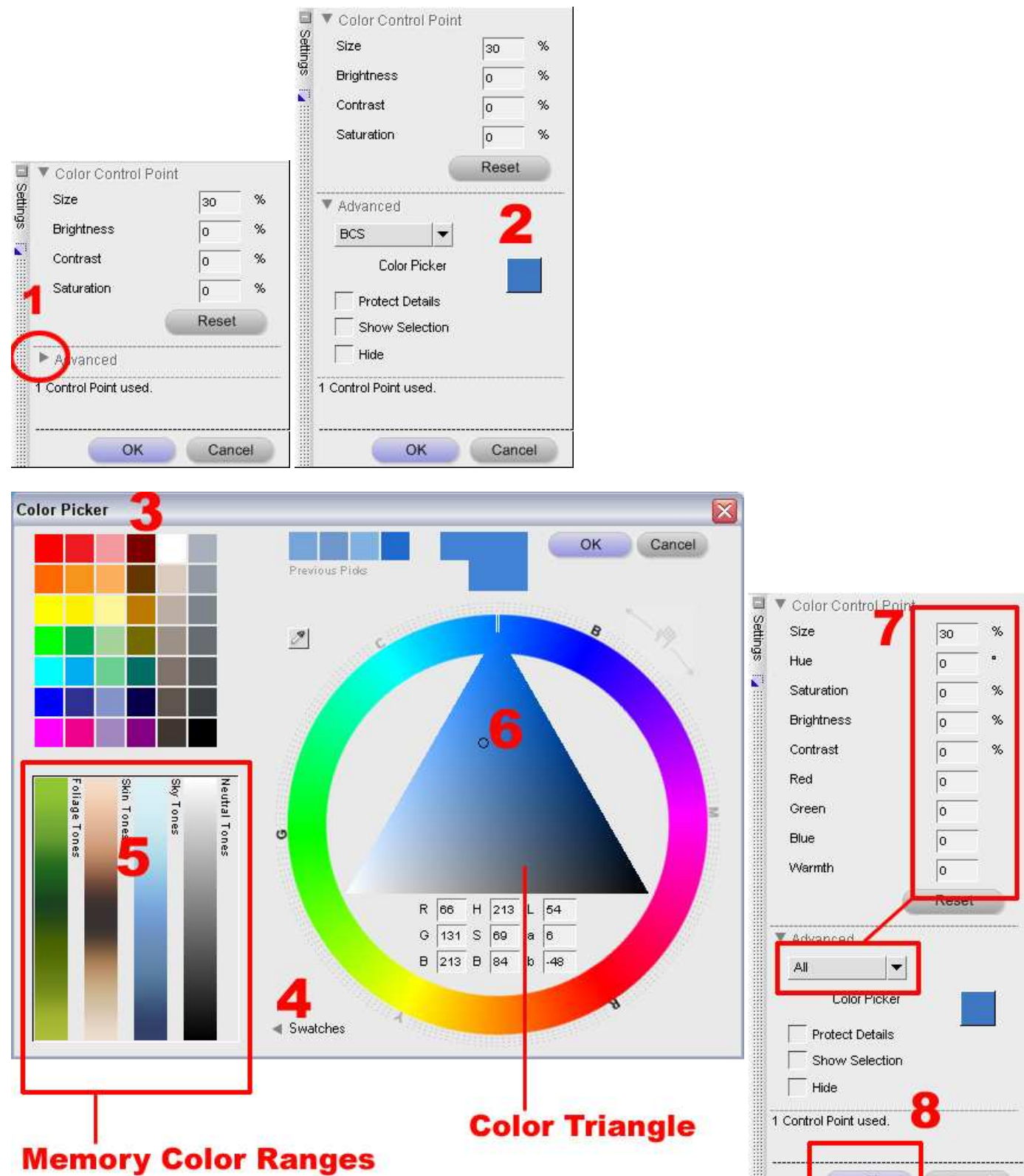
Step 1 - Position a Color Control Point over the sky

- 1) Select the "Color Control Point Tool".
- 2) Position the "Color Control Point" over the blue sky portion to be enhanced.



Step 2 - Choose a sky blue color from the Color Picker

- 1) Click the "Advanced" triangle in the "Color Control Point" dialog
- 2) Click the "Color Picker"'s color swatch.
- 3) The "Color Picker" is displayed.
- 4) Click the "Swatches" triangle.
- 5) Select the desired blue color from the "Memory Color Ranges" 'Sky Tones'.
- 6) The color selected from the "Memory Color Range" is indicated in the "Color Triangle".
- 7) The selected color will be reflected in the "Color Control" dialog.
- 8) Click "OK".



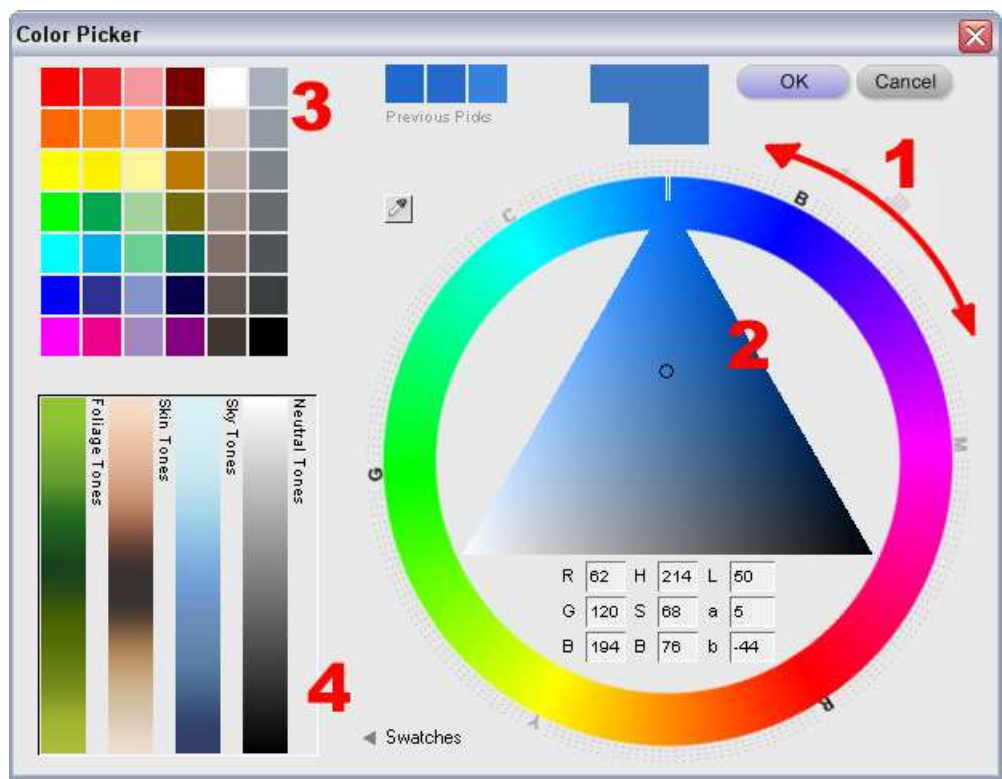
Selecting colors with the Color Picker

There are a number of ways to select colors in the Color Picker.

- 1) The Color Wheel adjusts HUE. Select a color by clicking on the color on the Color Wheel, or click on the wheel, hold, and rotate the wheel.
- 2) The Color Triangle offers selection from the saturation and lightness range for a particular hue.

- 3) Frequently used colors are displayed in the Swatches. Click on a color to select a frequently used color.
- 4) These preset color options are developed from what is called "Memory Color". Memory Color Ranges offer selections from common "memory" colors such as "Sky Tones, Skin Tones, Foliage Tones and also Neutral Tones. The idea behind memory color is simply to remember 'how blue the sky was that day', or 'how green the grass was...', and choose a preset option to best illustrate what you see in your mind.

Colors selected using features 1-4 can be fine tuned by clicking anywhere in the Color Triangle.



Step 3 - Adjust the size of the Color Control Point.

- 1) Adjust the effective range of enhancement by sliding the Color Control Point's uppermost "Size" slider.
- 2) The illustration below indicates Size adjustment for enhancement all over the sky portion of the image.



The range in which the blue intensity is increased has been enlarged.



Step 4 - Verify results and enhancement is completed.

The image below shows the results of enhancement. (Results may vary on different monitors, and you can always adjust according to your own preferences.)

