WhiBal User Guide

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1   Introduction

This user guide is designed to get you up and running with your new WhiBal G6 White Balance Reference Card. WhiBal Tutorial videos are or will be available on the enclosed CD or online at www. WhiBal.com.

This guide shows RAW post production workflow in both RawShooter | premium 2006 (RSP) and Photoshop CS2 (Adobe Camera Raw). The procedures described in these sections can easily be applied to most RAW converters.

We show JPEG post production workflow in Photoshop CS2 using the WhiBal plug-in, which is included on the CD or can be downloaded free from www.WhiBal.com. The procedures described can easily be applied to most image editors that support Photoshop plug-ins.

2   The Purpose of WhiBal

Very simply, the purpose of WhiBal is to provide you with a fast, easy and cost effective way to obtain accurate color when you shoot with digital cameras. It doesn't matter whether you shoot RAW or JPEG, the WhiBal is still your best assurance that you can reproduce accurate color in any shooting situation.

3   WhiBal™ Card Features

This section under construction

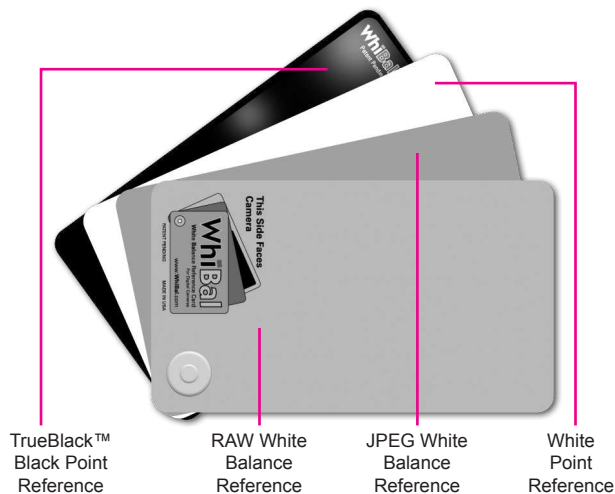## 3.1   Certified White Balance Reference

3.1.1 RAW White Balance Reference

3.1.2 JPEG White Balance Reference
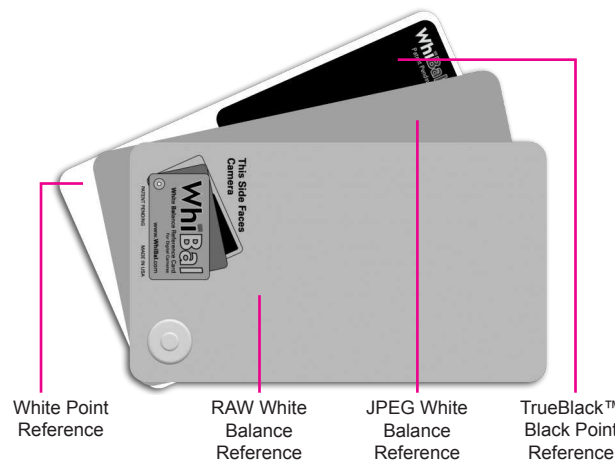
3.2   TrueBlack™ Black Point Reference

3.3   White Point Reference

3.4   Inch and CM Scales (G6 Only)

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TrueBlack™ Black Point Reference — RAW White Balance Reference — JPEG White Balance Reference — White Point Reference

Four Card Generation 4 WhiBal

White Point Reference — RAW White Balance Reference — JPEG White Balance Reference — TrueBlack™ Black Point Reference

Three Card Generation 5 WhiBal

White Point Reference — Inch and CM Scales — RAW and JPEG White Balance Reference — TrueBlack™ Black Point Reference — Focus/ Resolution Target
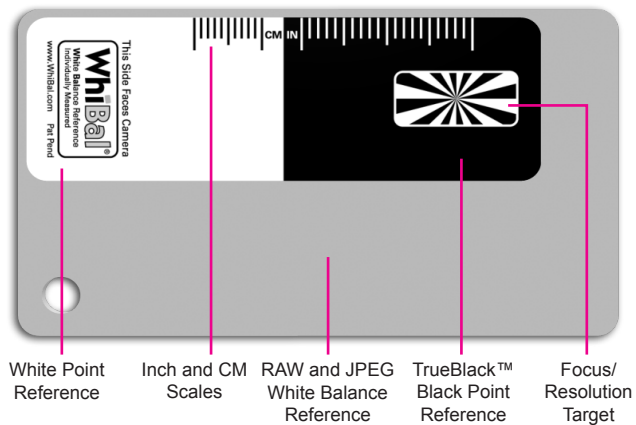
One Card Generation 6 WhiBal

4   Using WhiBal in a Shooting Session

Please Note: The following examples use the one card Generation 6 (G6) WhiBal. The procedures are the same regardless of which generation WhiBal you own. Always use the lighter gray RAW white balance reference when white balancing using the examples shown in this user guide.

Except as noted in the next section, shooting with a WhiBal is the same whether you shoot in RAW or JPEG mode. While shooting, the 3 most important considerations are: a) set your exposure as accurately as possible, b) check that the WhiBal shot is glare free (see Section 4.1), and c) use your WhiBal to take White Balance "reference shots" periodically during your shooting session.

4.1 Special Considerations When Shooting JPEG

When shooting in JPEG mode, it is best to set the camera's White Balance setting to closely match the scene's lighting conditions. It will rarely be perfect, but the closer it is, the better that the WhiBal plug-in can adjust for the proper White Balance.

Setting the camera's White Balance to AUTO is not recommended, as each image captured will have a different Scene White Balance, because each shot is based on the cameras "best guess" and will change based on composition and other factors. (When shooting RAW, the White balance in effect at the time of image capture will have NO effect on the WhiBal referenced final image).

4.2 Shooting In a Controlled Environment

In our example session we photographed our model, Elisa, in a studio environment. These were some experimental shots from our session:
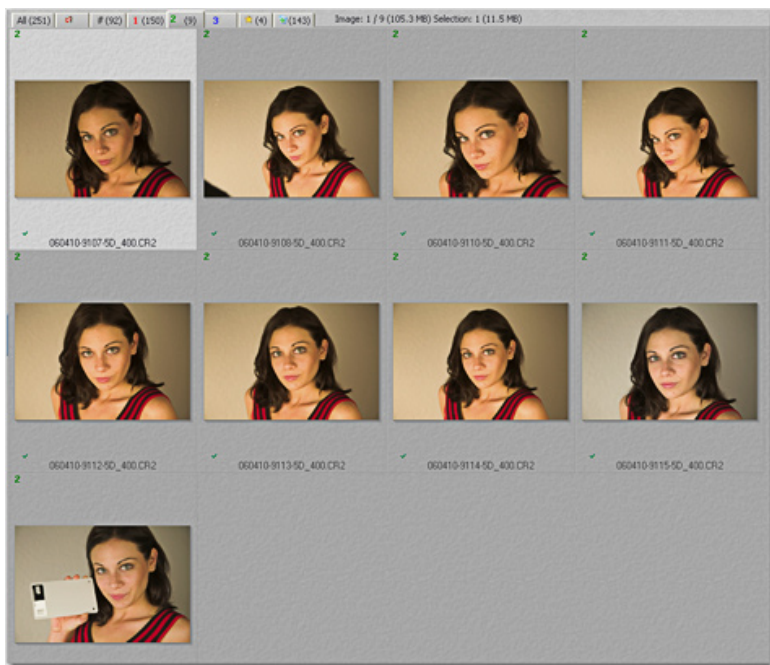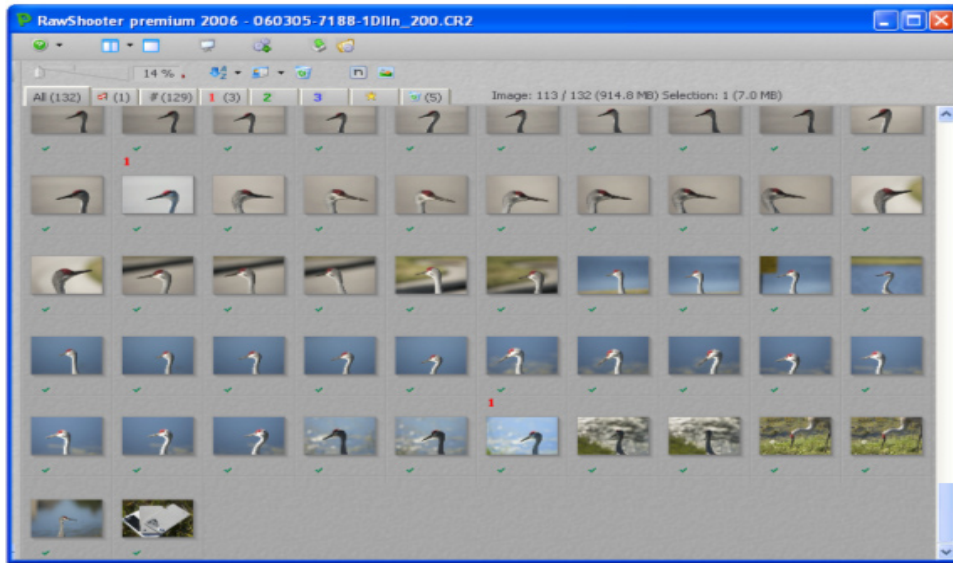

Note that the final shot is the WhiBal Shot (White Balance Reference Shot) to establish the SWB (Scene White Balance) for this session. That is one of the advantages of using the WhiBal. As long as the scene lighting remains the same, the WhiBal shot can be taken before, during or after the session. One does not have to ruin the spontaneity of the session by have the model hold the WhiBal at the beginning of the session. In fact the WhiBal shot can be taken before the model arrives, or after they leave!

This is the WhiBal shot:

4.3 Shooting Outdoors

Our other example sessions are the photographing of Sand Hill Cranes in an outdoor situation. Here are the photos from one of the sessions.

Again, the final shot is a WhiBal Shot to establish the Scene White Balance for this session which was shot in the early morning. While running to keep up with the Cranes, there was no time until after the session to capture the SWB using the WhiBal.

As long as the SWB does not change significantly, the WhiBal shot can be taken before, during or after the session. This session only lasted about 20 minutes and the light would not change significantly over that time to warrant taking intermediate WhiBal shots.

This is the WhiBal shot:

Note that the WhiBal was not photographed along side the Crane, nor did it have to be. Since the light source was a cloudless sky, the lighting was the same regardless of where the pictures were shot, so the placement of the WhiBal was not critical. In this case, just dropping the WhiBal on the grass, checking the sticker for glare and taking a single capture was all that was needed.

If, however, the scene's lighting changed during the session due to clouds or the position of the sun, additional WhiBal shots would be warranted to provide SWB data for photos shot under those conditions.

4.4 Avoiding a False White Balance Reference

Light reflected directly into the camera lens, or "glare", causes an image to appear overexposed or "washed out". If your WhiBal reference shots exhibit glare, they too will appear overexposed and cannot be depended upon to provide an accurate white balance reference during post production.

The highly reflective TrueBlack™ sticker on your WhiBal is an effective indicator of glare in your white balance reference shots, and can easily be seen in the viewfinder before the reference shot is taken.

When capturing a reference shot, tilt the WhiBal or change your shooting position until there is no light reflected in TrueBlack™ sticker. Then take your reference shot.
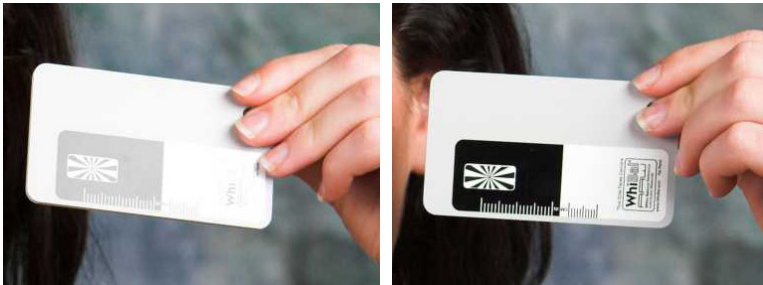
False Reference
(Glare)

True Reference
(No Glare)