

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

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### Article 2 - How to increase contrast using Black and White Control Points.

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**Before:** Image contrast is very low.



**After:** Using the Black and White Control points, image contrast is increased

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#### Procedure:

**Step 1-** Open an image

**Step 2-** Position a "Black Control point" over a shadow portion, adjust to your preference.

**Step 3-** Position a "White Control point" over a highlight portion, adjust to your preference.

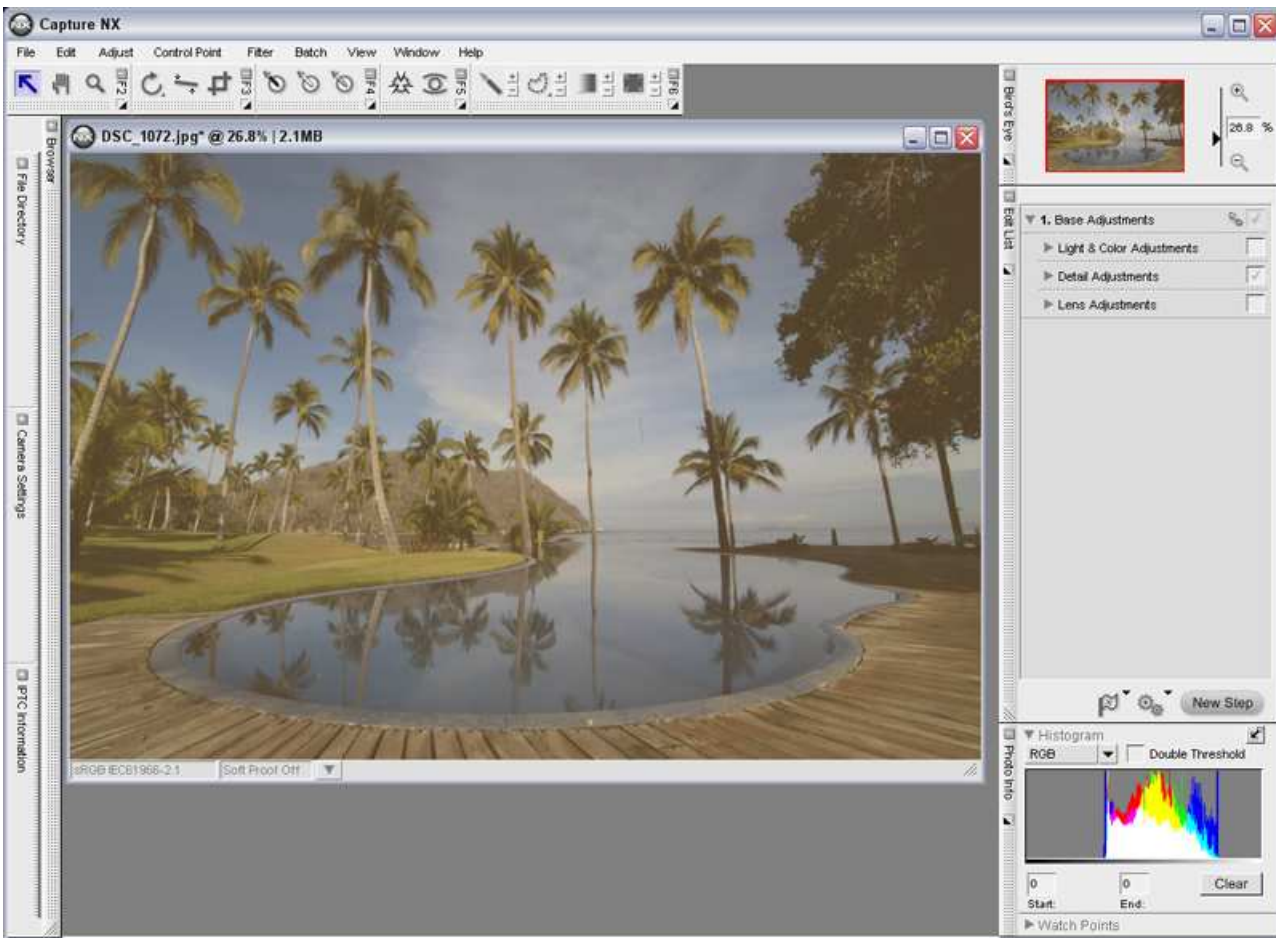
**Step 4-** Enhancement is completed

All images in this article are for demonstration purposes only. Results may be different on your monitor, so adjust everything to your own liking.

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**Step 1-** Open an image.

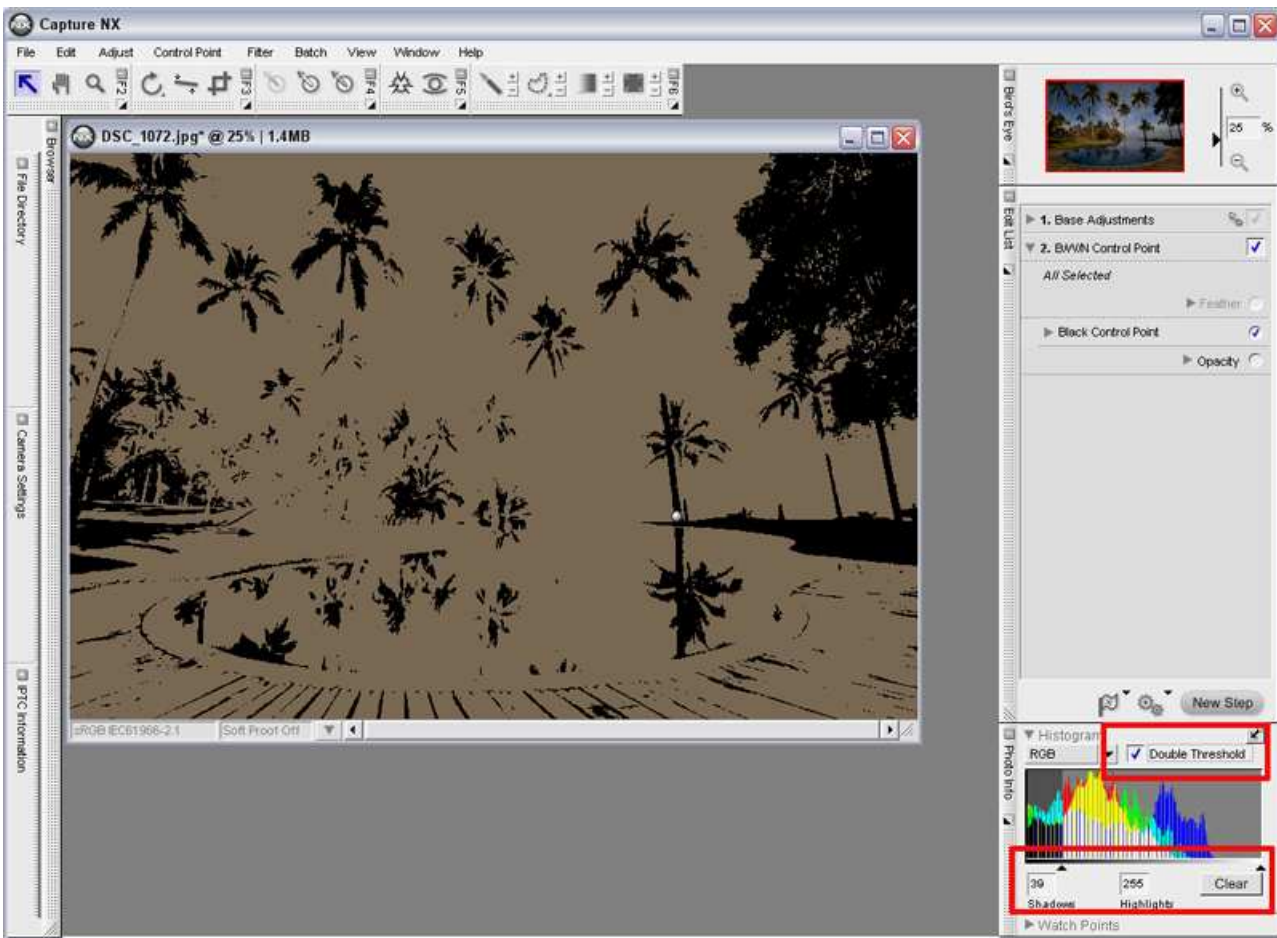
The Black and White Control Points we will use here are especially effective for enhancing dull and lifeless images.



### Easily locating shadows and highlights:

The following step requires locating the darkest and lightest portions of an image. If locating these points is difficult with normal image display, the double-threshold effect displays the image as a monochrome illustration, making it easy to locate the darkest (shown in black) and lightest (shown in white) portions of the image. (The shadow detail is shown below.)

If shadows and highlights are not immediately displayed, adjust the triangle sliders, positioned just under the histogram display when the "Double Threshold" box is checked.

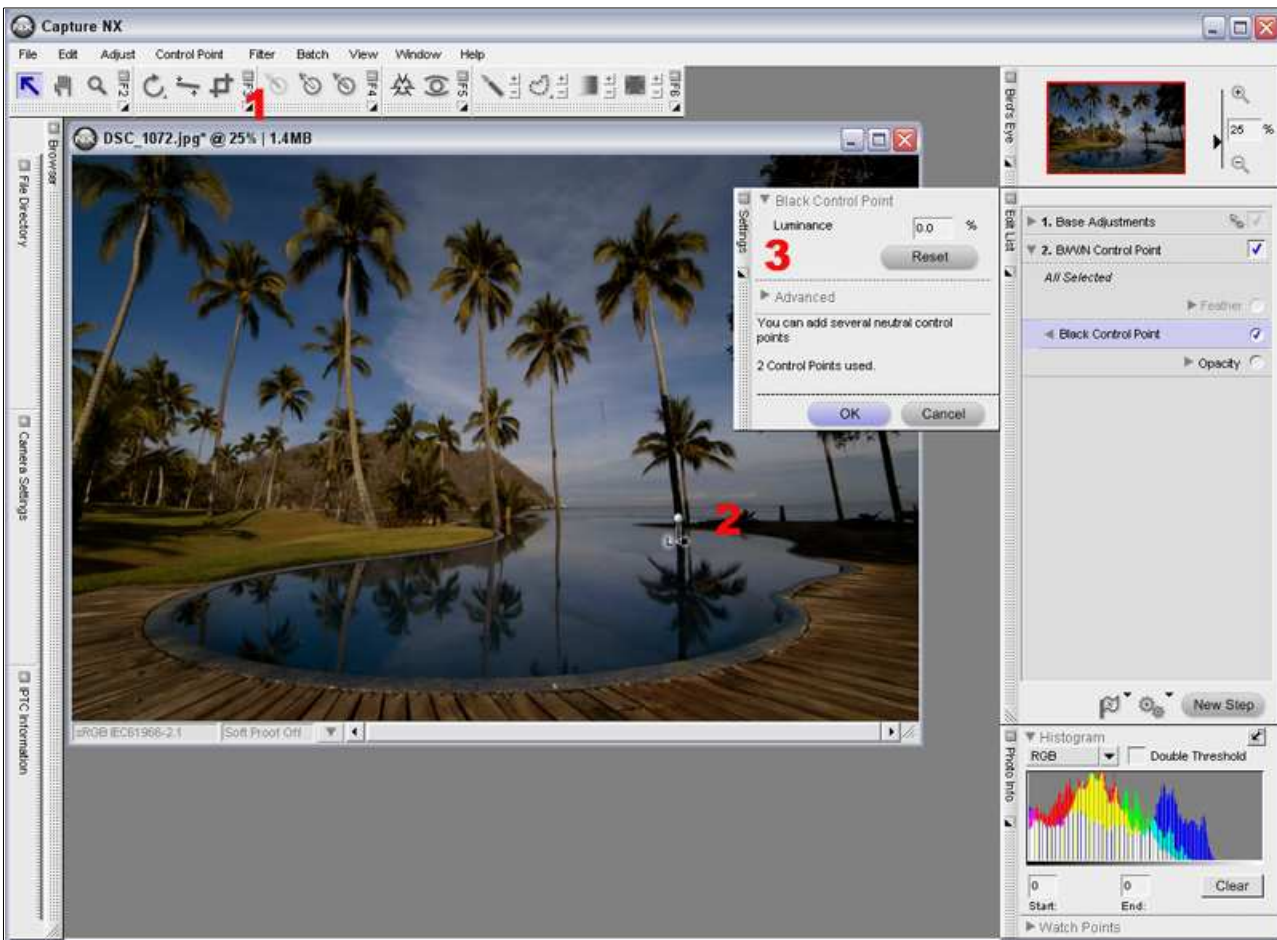


**Step 2-** Position a Black Control point over a shadow area.

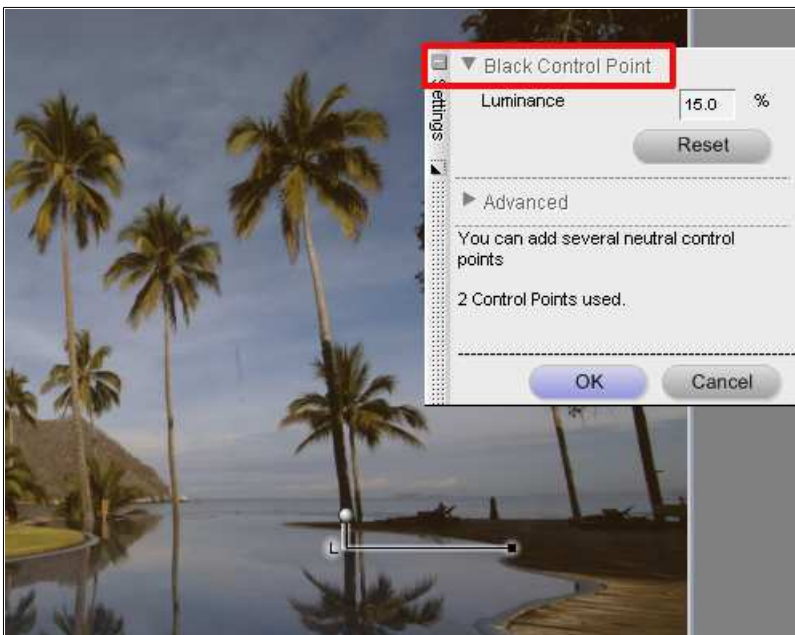
1) Select the "Black Control Point".

2) Place a "Black Control Point" over the darkest portion of the image (shadow area). This enhances dark areas throughout the image.

3) The "Black Point" dialog box is displayed when a "Black Control Point" is placed over the image, but we will not adjust the settings here.

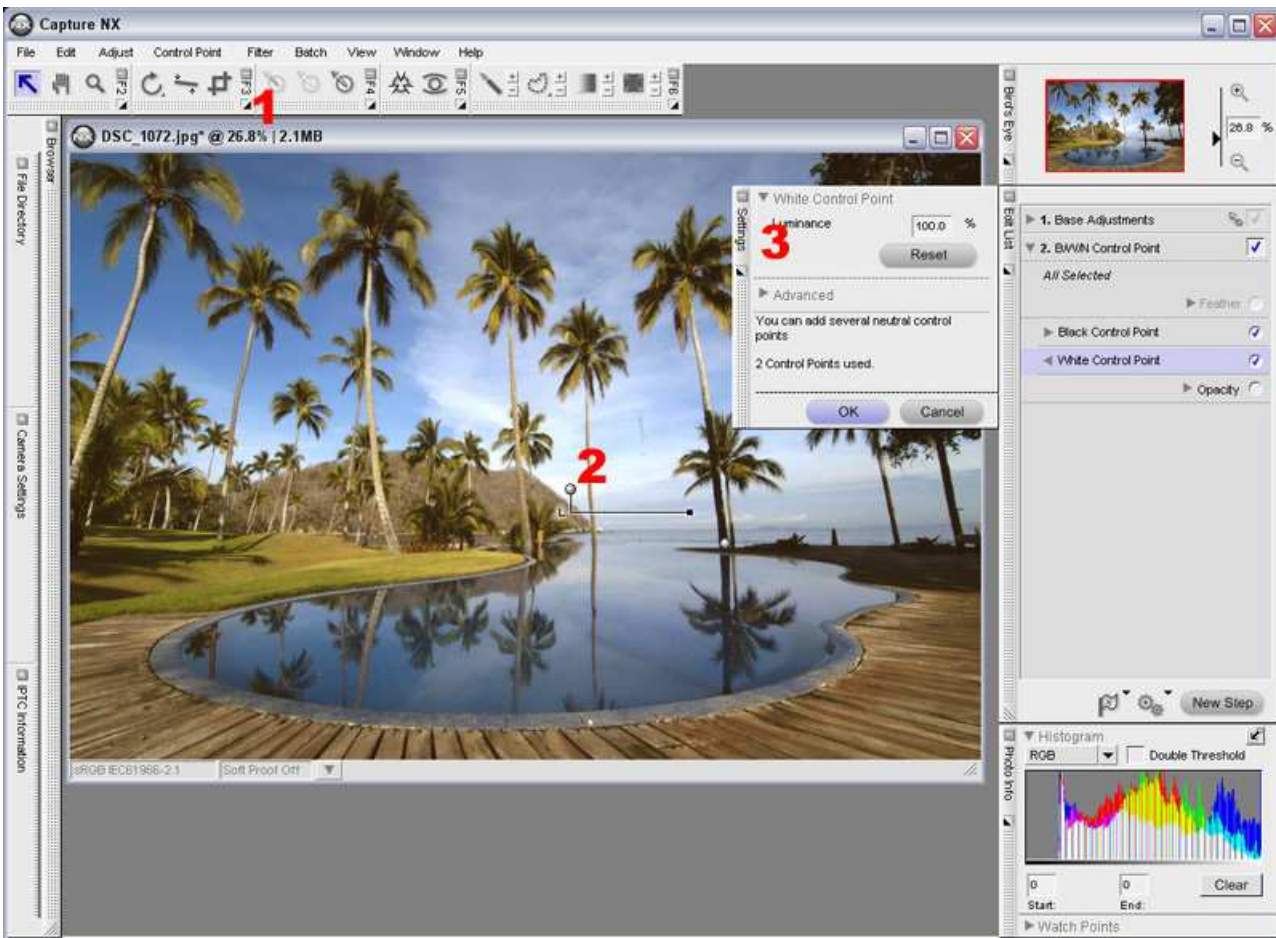


The degree of shadow enhancement can be adjusted using a slider. Click the "Point" and drag to adjust. The same adjustment can also be made entering a luminosity value into the Black point dialog box.



**Step 3** - Position a White Control point over a highlight portion.

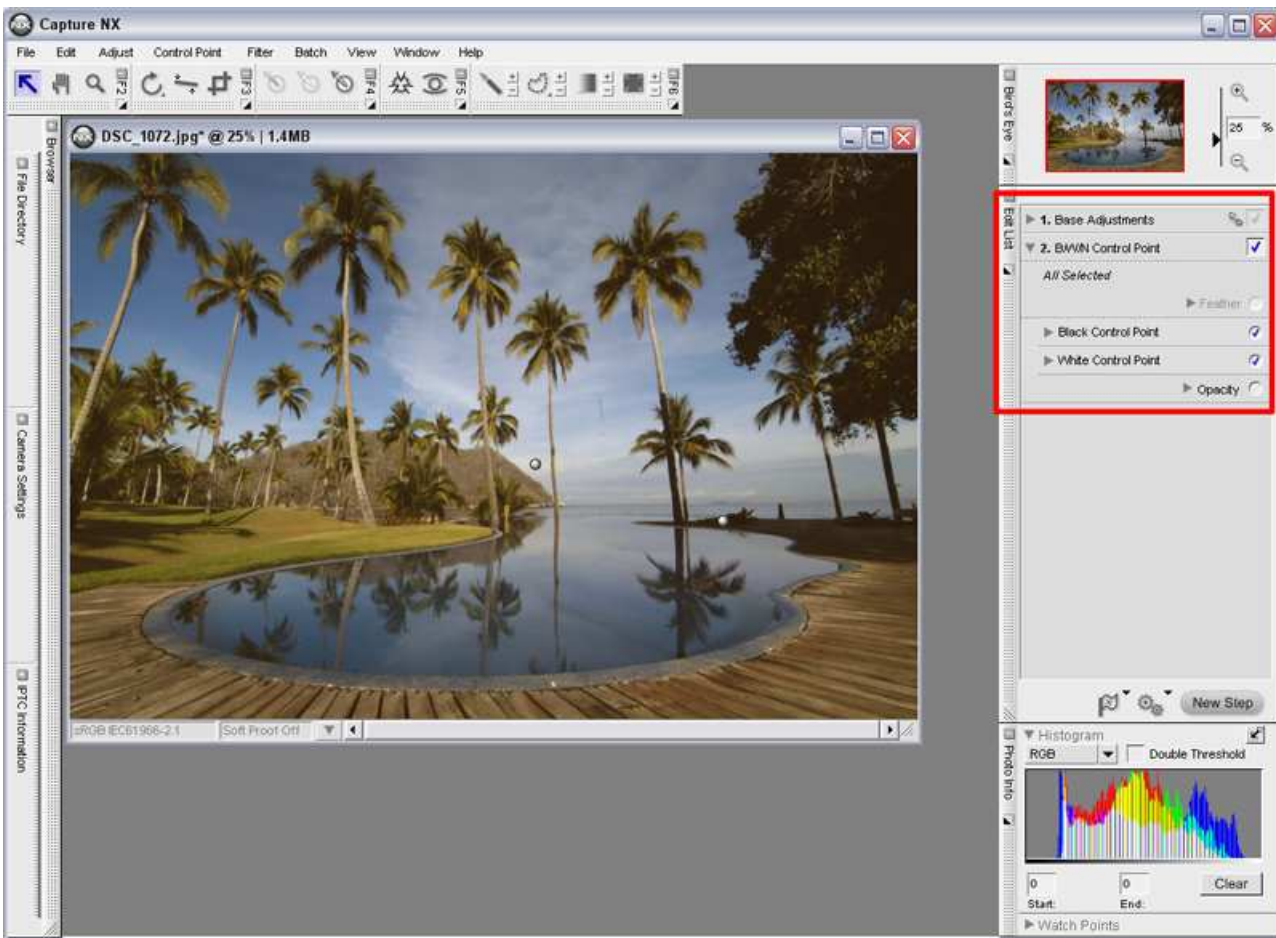
- 1) Select the White point Control Point tool
- 2) Place a White Control Point over the lightest portion of the image ( highlight portion). This restores brightness to the image, making it more dramatic.
- 3) The White Point dialog box is displayed when a White Control point is placed over the image, but we will not adjust any of the settings here.



Just as with the Black Control Point, the degree of highlight enhancement can be adjusted using the slider. The same adjustment can also be made by entering a luminosity value into the White Point dialog box.

#### Step 4- Enhancement Completed

Enhancement is complete. B/W/N Control Point step is added to the Edit list.



### Notes on Control Point placement:

When Black or White Control Points are placed over an image, those points become true black (0 at the default luminance setting) and true white (100 at the default luminance setting), respectively. Therefore, the brightness of the resulting image will vary dramatically depending upon where Control Points are placed.

To achieve optimal brightness enhancement, Black and White Control Points must be positioned over the appropriate shadow and / or highlight portions. More precise positioning of Control Points is possible if the image display is enlarged to 100 - 200%.

