

iPhone Live Photo Long Exposures

This lesson shows how to improve the quality of long exposure photos taken with the iPhone's Live Photo feature using Photoshop. By combining the original still photo with the Live Photo's long exposure effect, you can achieve higher quality results than the iPhone produces on its own.

### **Capture Long Exposure (0:25)**

- 1. Open the Camera app on your iPhone.
- 2. Ensure the Live Photo feature is enabled by tapping on the word "PHOTO" at the bottom of the camera app to access camera settings and choosing LIVE. The icon looks like concentric circles.
- 3. Hold the phone steady before and after pressing the shutter button. The iPhone records a short video (3 seconds) when Live Photo is enabled.
- 4. After taking the photo, open it in the Photos app.
- 5. Tap the "Live" option in the upper left corner.
- 6. Select "Long Exposure" from the list of choices. The iPhone will process the Live Photo to create a long exposure effect.

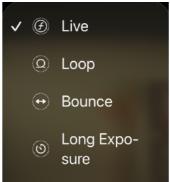
# **Transfer Photos to Your Computer (1:57)**

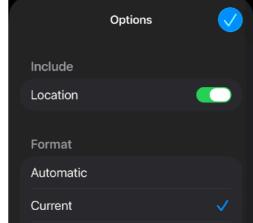
- 1. On your iPhone, select the Live Photo you edited with the long exposure effect.
- 2. Tap the Share icon.
- 3. Tap the Options pop-up which should appear above the image and choose Current. This will transfer both the original still photo and the long exposure version. The long exposure version will have an "E" in the filename.
- 4. Choose AirDrop (or any other method) to transfer the photo to your computer.

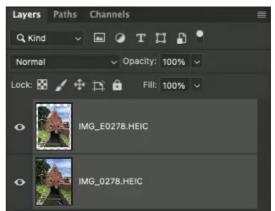
## **Combine Images in Photoshop (3:35)**

- 1. In Lightroom or Bridge choose both the original photo and the long exposure version (the one with the "E" in the filename).
- 2. In Lightroom Classic choose Photo>Edit In>Open as Layers in Photoshop. If using Bridge, choose Tools>Photoshop>Load Files into Photoshop Layers. This will create a new Photoshop document with each photo on a separate layer.









# Align & Crop (4:39)

- In Photoshop, select both layers by clicking on one, then holding the Shift key and clicking on the other then choose Edit > Auto-Align Layers. Use the "Auto" projection option and click "OK". This will align the two layers.
- Identify the layer that is smaller which is the one with the checkerboard pattern around the edges of the layer in the Layers panel. Hold down the Command key (Ctrl on Windows) and click on the thumbnail of the smaller layer in the Layers panel. This will create a selection that matches the boundaries of that layer.



Go to Image > Crop. This will crop the entire image to the size of the smaller layer, ensuring both layers have the same dimensions.

- 3. Select the top layer in the Layers panel (the long exposure version).
- 4. Hold down the Option key (Alt on Windows) and click the Layer Mask icon (circle inside a rectangle icon) at the bottom of the Layers panel. This will add a black layer mask to the top layer, hiding it completely.

#### Reveal the Long Exposure Effect (6:00)

- 1. Select the Brush tool (B) from the toolbar.
- 2. Set the foreground color to white.
- 3. Choose a soft-edged brush for smooth transitions.
- 4. Paint with white on the layer mask in the areas where you want the long exposure effect to be visible (e.g., the water in a stream or ocean).
- 5. For more precise control, use selection tools like the Object Selection tool or the Lasso tool to select the areas where you want the long exposure effect. Then, fill the selection with white (Edit > Fill > White).
- 6. To refine the mask, paint with black to hide the long exposure effect or with white to reveal it. Press 'X' to switch between black and white.

**Lasso Tool Tip:** To create straight lines with the Lasso tool, click and drag to start a freeform selection. Then, hold down the Option key (Alt on Windows) and release the mouse button. This will create a straight line segment. Click to create more straight line segments. Release the Option key to finish selection. Holding Option before clicking can also be used to subtract from a selection, just keep the mouse button pressed and release and press Option a second time to also create straight line segments.

