



SILVER EFX

COLOUR FILTER



The **COLOUR FILTER** in Silver Efex 8 is the equivalent of the Channel Mixer or black and white conversion tools in other programs. It replicates the black and white 'contrast' filters you would use with analog film. It works by lightening specific colours during the conversion and darkening others. The difference here is that you are dealing with colour filters as photographers would understand them. You can use the Colour Filter on its own or in combination with other filters as required.

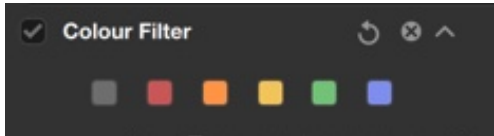


1 COLOUR FILTER



The **Colour Filter** is one of the optional filters in Silver Efex 8. You can add it manually when building your own effects or you will often find it included if you choose one of the preset effects. It's used to control the way different colours translate into shades of grey.

2 FILTER COLOURS



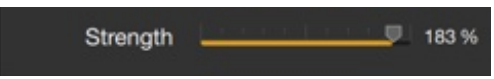
At first glance, there's not much to see in the **Colour Filter** panel, but this is a tool with a lot of depth and control. At the same time, this row of colour presets offers a very simple way to add an effect. These colours correspond to classic black and white 'contrast' filters, so you might use a red filter to darken blue skies dramatically and lighten red and yellow objects, while an orange filter traditionally applies a similar but less dramatic effect. You might use a yellow filter to achieve similar darkening of blue skies but with a foliage lightening effect too. Yellow filters have long been popular for black and white landscape photography. Green filters are sometime popular for portraits, while the blue/violet filter can give the look of an old orthochromatic film especially sensitive to blue light. You can just click the swatches to instantly see how they affect your photo, then manually adjust the Hue and Strength.

3 HUE



With the **Hue** slider you can start taking manual control over the colour range you're working on. If you simply click on a colour swatch above, the Hue value will be set automatically – but you can then move the slider to see how the black and white tones change with different filter colours. Effectively, this enables you to choose any black and white filter effect you like. This is different to regular black and white tools because it doesn't require you to manually adjust a series of colour range sliders. It's not essential to modify the hue manually, but it can be useful if you are trying to achieve a subtler effect or reduce any edge artefacts. These will normally go unnoticed, but can become apparent if you use the **Strength** slider below to really exaggerate the effect.

4 STRENGTH



If you like a filter effect but just want it stronger, the **Strength** slider will oblige – it goes right up to 200%. You do need to look out for edge effects and other image artefacts, though, if you go much past 100%. It's because of how digital sensors work. The colour filter array over the sensor (typically a 'bayer' array) means that only one photosite in four records red light, so that if you do apply a strong red filter effect, for example, effectively the image is being generated, or interpolated, from just one photosite in four.