

In the past, NAB Tiffen unveiled its DFX Filter Kit Software, a program that simulates the entire range of Tiffen's crystal filters and which can now be downloaded from its website. The program simulates the effects of the filters, organized into different categories that go from lab effects, like the cross without bleach baths, or the 2 and 3 negatives Technicolor, to effects proper to Promist, Glimmerglass or Soft FX filters. It can also simulate the effect on images of lighting with certain gels like Gamcolor, Rosco or Lee. It also includes a complete range of CC correctors and color balance (series 85, 81, etc.). All the preset filters that come with the program can be manipulated with certain parameters that personalize the filter.

The program can run independently or together with After effects, Final Cut Pro and Photoshop and on still images.



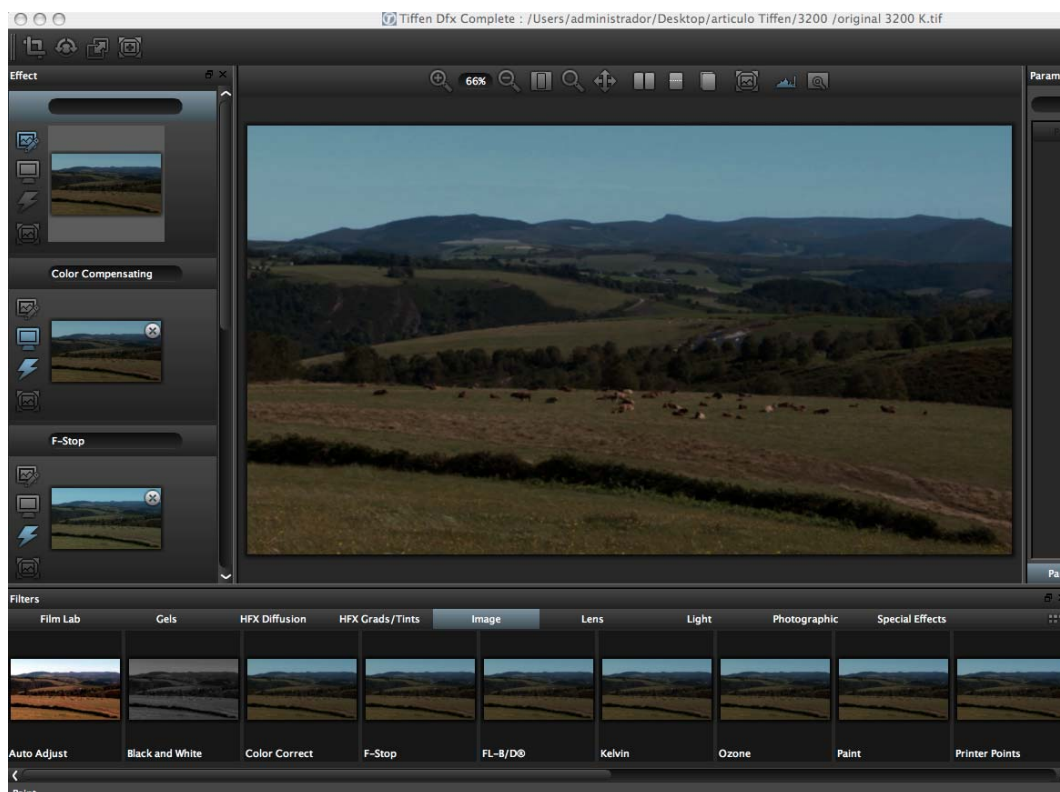
For me, the best thing about the software is that I can preview effects on images so I can discuss them with the director and then send the lab clear references as to how an image should look. Likewise, when shooting for FX with chroma where you can't filter in-camera, now you can digitally filter with truly amazing results.

The program is user-friendly, allowing you to cut, rescale and rotate images. You can also create different types of masks to apply to the filter only in certain areas.

Below are just some of the program's tools.

Color balance and correction

The image below shows the conversion of an exterior shot, exposed with the camera in preset 3200K°. The first correction was to apply an 85B filter, correcting the F stop by 0.8, then applying a CC 10Y and a CC 20R filter, and then correcting again the F stop by 0.6. As shown below, the result was very satisfactory, giving a very natural effect.





Original frame from DVCPRO HD HVX200
Preset 3200 F4 ND 1/64

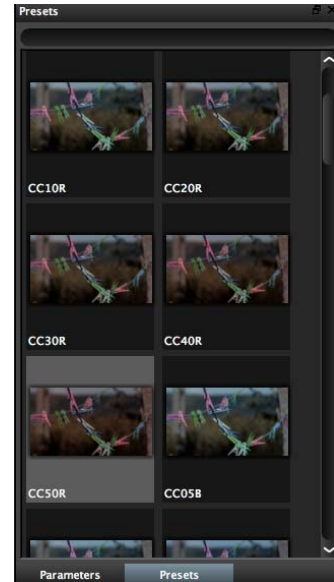


Tiffen correction 85B+CC10Y+CC20R with compensated
exposure

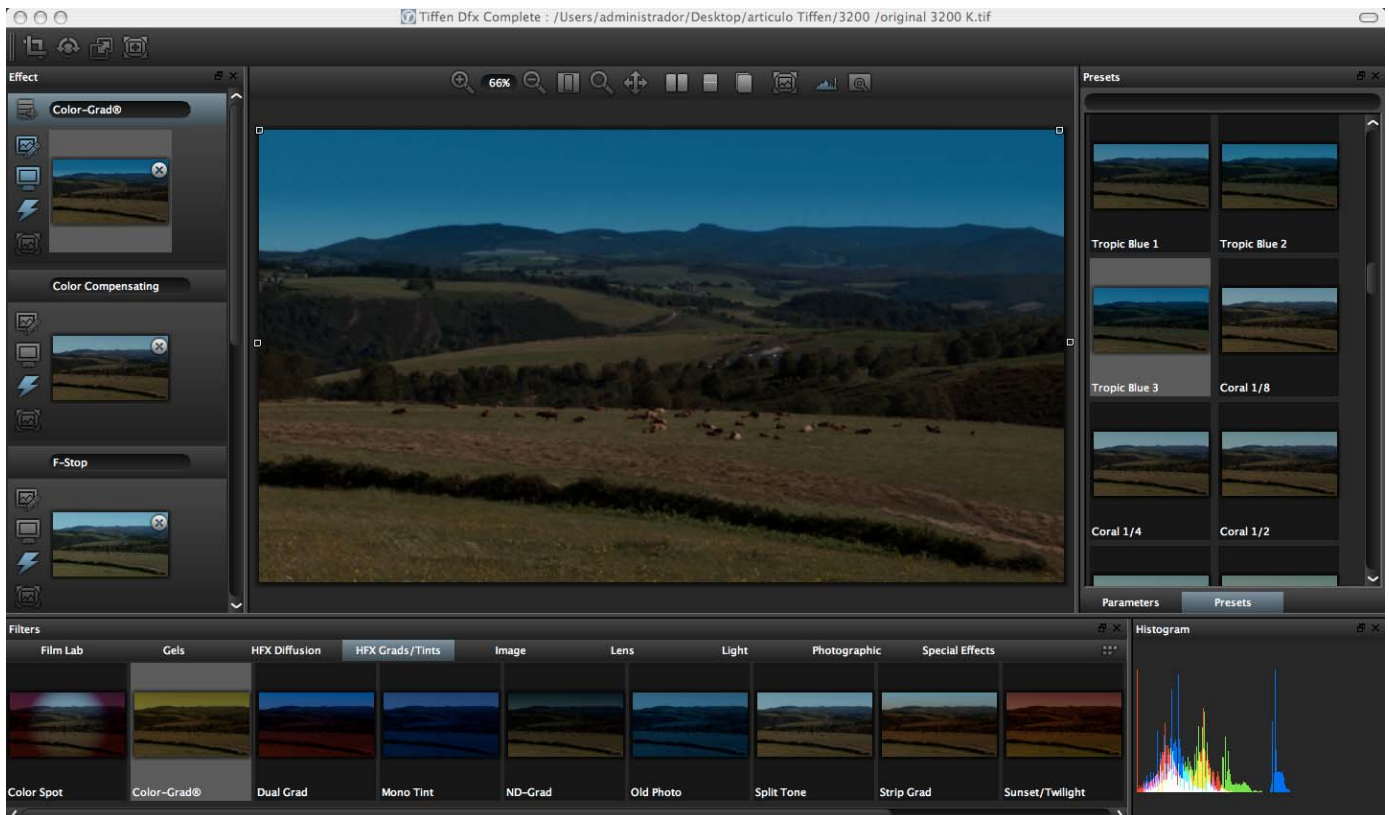
In the “photographic” menu, the color can be balanced and corrected through CC filters, series 80,81,82,85, etc, and primary and secondary colors. The filter can be custom applied or adjusted, making correction very precise and varied.

On the right, notice the CC correction window with different presets.

It must be said that the program incorporates different RGB color spaces and two work gammas: 2.2 and 1.8. You can also work at 8 bits or 16 bits per channel.



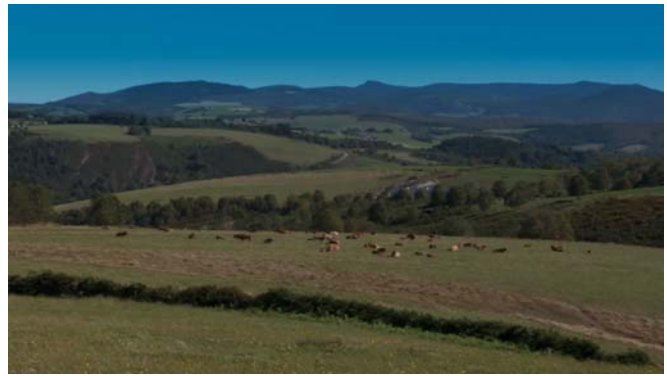
HFX Grad/Tint effects



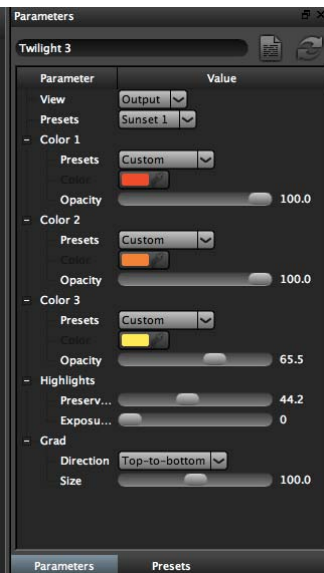
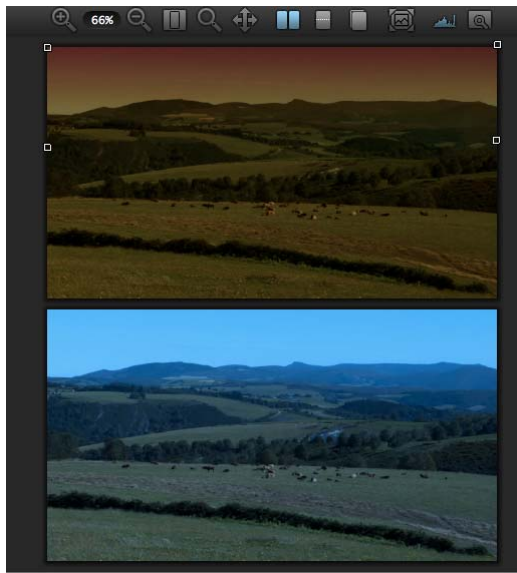
Here you can see the effect created by a Tropic Blue 3 grad filter. Grad filters can be controlled in intensity and their position over the image, both up and down and at the sides.



Without filter

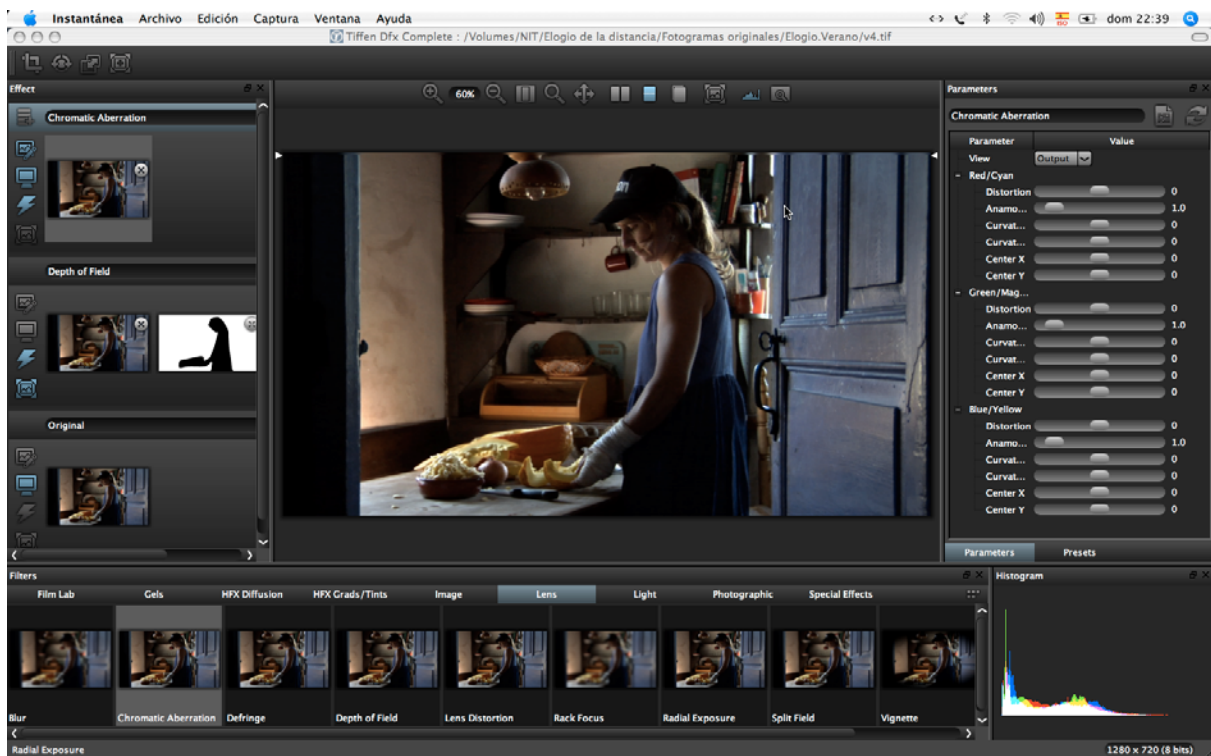


With Tiffen Tropic Blue 3 digital filter



The images show the effect of the filter compared to the original image in different ways. You can also adjust the filter to your needs using the "parameters" tool.

Lens effect





Original camera image



Horizontal soft focus and mask for lighting



With this option you can simulate the effects of geometric aberrations (Barrel, pincushion), depth of field, vignettes, soft focus, and corrections of chromatic aberrations.

Lab effects

This tool gives you the possibility of simulating analogical lab processes like skip bleach bath, flashing, overexposures and Technicolor effects, among others.



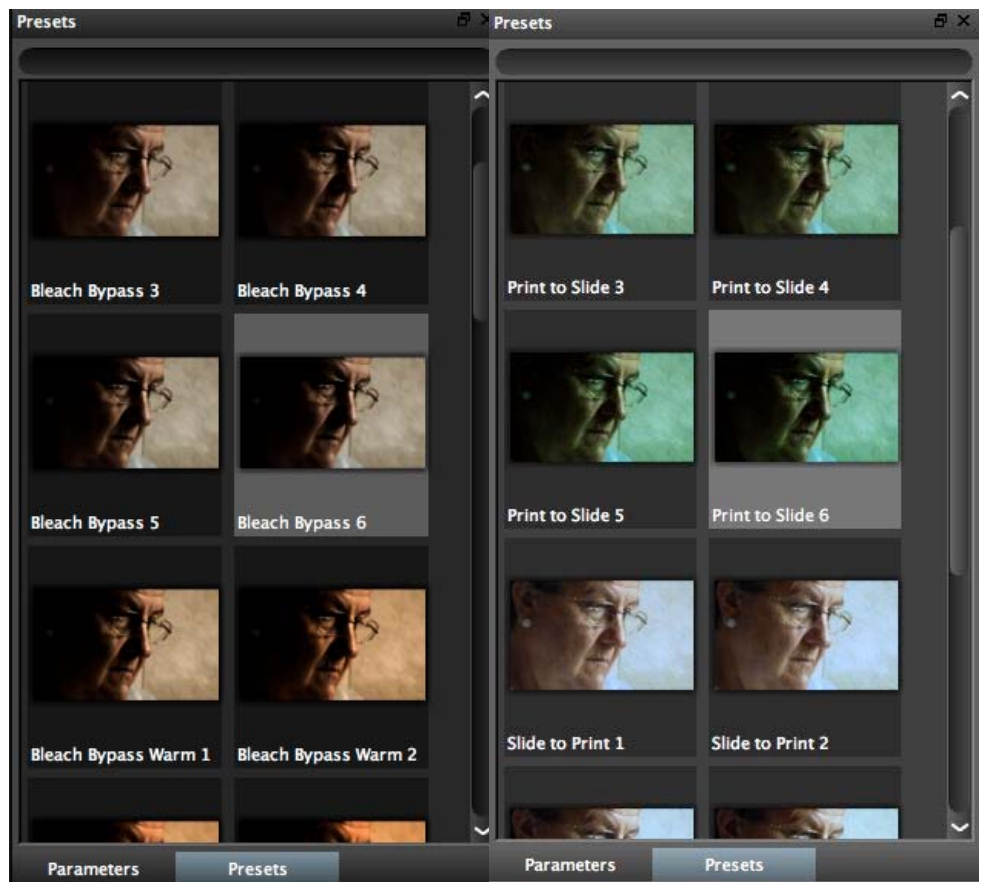
Original camera image



Cross processing slide to print 6



Without bleach bath preset 6



Program Preset for lab effects

HFX/ diffusion

This tool creates the effects of Tiffen diffusers like Promist, Glimmer Glass, low-contrast, etc. You can analyze a low-contrast effect on a split screen.



Original camera image



Black Promist preset 10



Original camera image



Warm soft FX preset 10

Special effects:

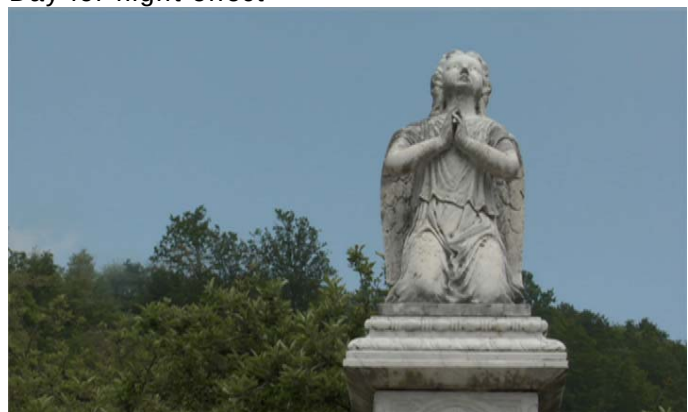
The special effects option includes, among others, Day for night, black and white, polarizer, X-ray, fog and double fog filters.



Day for night effect



Polarizing effect viewed on split screen



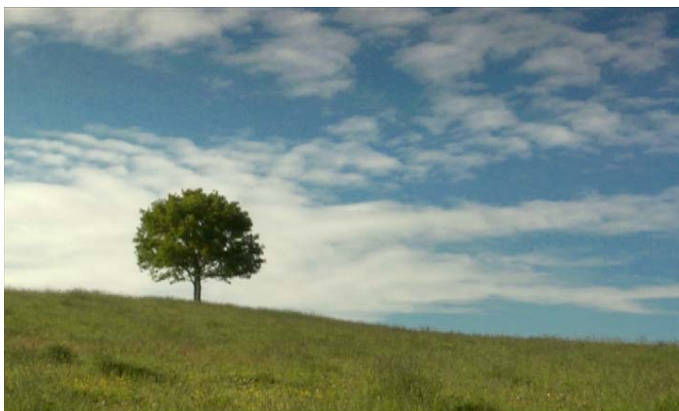
Original camera image



Day for night filter plus a soft grad ND 1.2 and a mask for the angel



Original camera image



Polarizing effect adjusted with "parameters"

The program can be downloaded as a demo at Tiffen's website http://www.tiffen.com/dfx_downloads.html



Alfonso Parra, Freelance Director of Photography AEC, works both with analog and digital systems. He is a regular contributor to specialized magazines, publications and websites from different countries. www.alfonsoparra.com