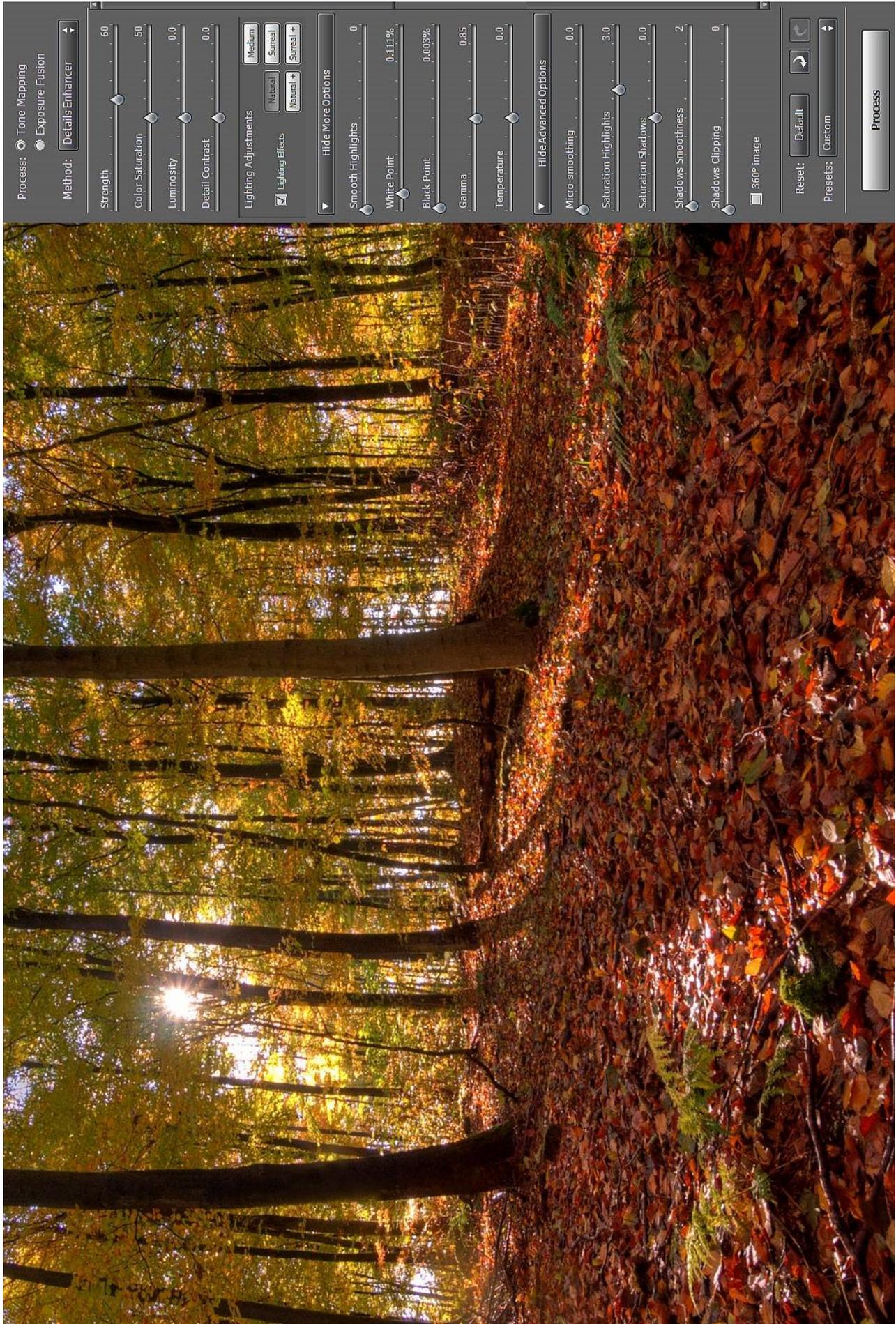
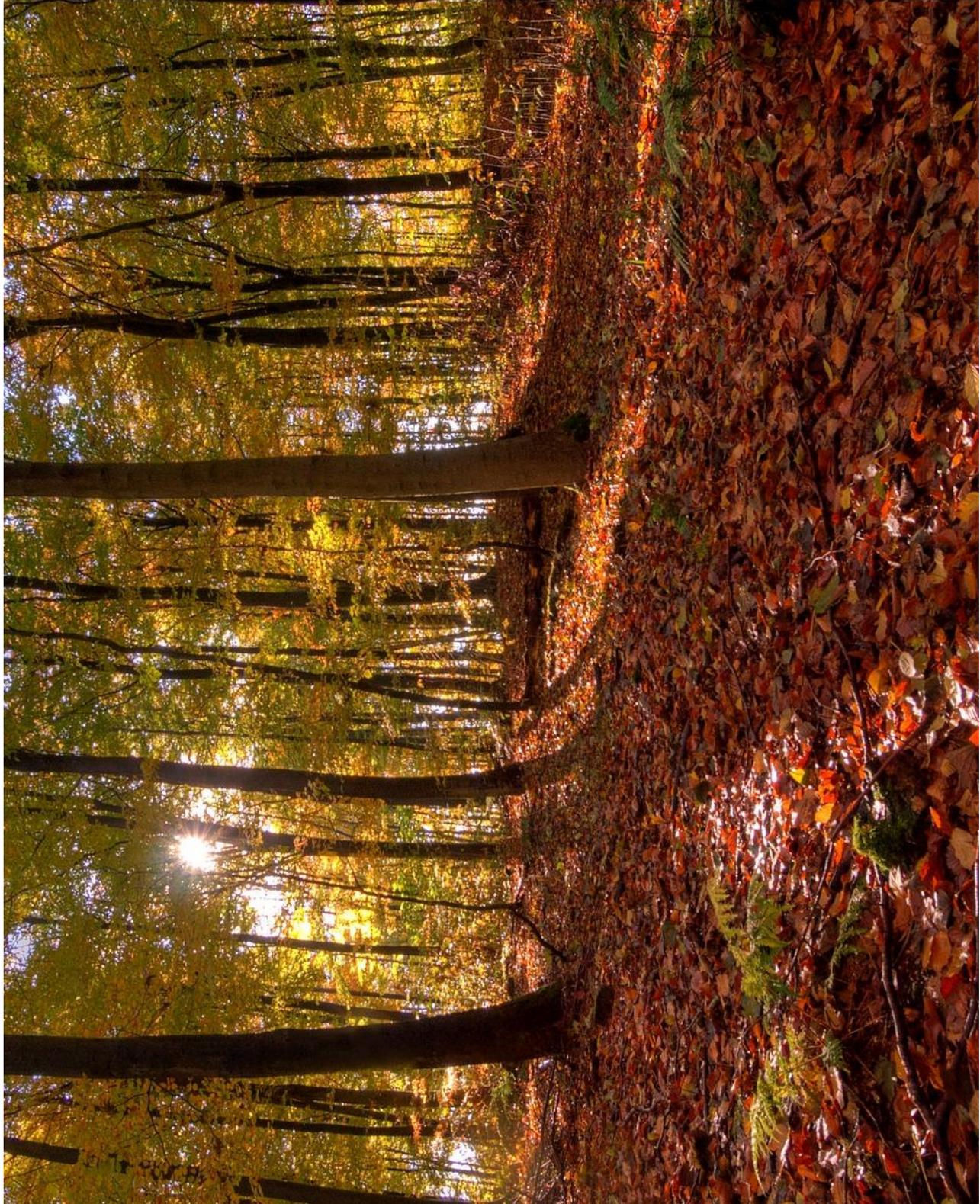


Sun Rays in the forest



The image displays a photo editing software interface with a forest scene as the background. The interface includes several adjustment panels and controls:

- Process:** Tone Mapping (selected), Exposure Fusion
- Method:** Details Enhancer
- Strength:** 60
- Color Saturation:** 50
- Luminosity:** 0.0
- Detail Contrast:** 0.0
- Lighting Adjustments:** Medium, Natural, Surreal, Surreal+
- Lighting Effects:** Lighting Effects, Natural, Natural+
- Hide More Options:** Smooth Highlights (0), White Point (0.111%), Black Point (0.003%), Gamma (0.85), Temperature (0.0)
- Hide Advanced Options:** Micro-smoothing (0.0), Saturation Highlights (3.0), Saturation Shadows (0.0), Shadows Smoothness (2), Shadows Clipping (0)
- 360° image** icon
- Reset:** Default, Custom
- Presets:** Default, Custom
- Process** button



Sunrays in the forest



You are free to copy and share this brief guide; but you are not free to place it in your own website etc. and offer download from there. Link to my site instead. This brief guide will tell you something about my thoughts before taking the pictures that will be merged and tone mapped.

The guide will also give you all the setting in Photomatix and I will comment on the most significant ones.

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I love to stand in the autumn colored forest and see how the sunrays beam through the roof of leaves. Well, it works in the spring, in the summer and in the autumn – I just love it the most, in the autumn.

The challenge for you and your camera is that the sunrays make some very very bright areas and spots, and the shadows leaves other areas and spot with only little light. You want keep all those fantastic details in both (very) high light and in the shadows.

For HDR images like those I use at least five pictures spacing one EV-step each. But often I use seven or nine pictures – or keep the five picture series and increase the EV-steps between each picture to two EV-steps. Furthermore I take very good care in keeping my histogram clean in the left and the right side when taking the most overexposed and the most underexposed picture.

The image presented here is merged from five pictures spacing two EV-steps each. The weather was spot on fantastic for HDRphotography – no wind at all. I can able to skip “Remove ghostlines”.

I has set “strength” to 60 in order to enhance details a little.

“Lighting adjustments” is set to “natural”. It is important that you can see the difference between the areas and spots with sunrays hitting, and the areas and spots without direct sunlight. Choosing a setting like “surreal” will enhance shadows too much and will produce a surreal look.

“White point” is adjusted to allow a small “burn out” of the sun itself. But the burn out must be controlled to the area close to the sun. “Gamma” is set at 85 to shift the balance of the light and to make the areas and spots with direct sun a little more apparent.

“Saturation highlights” is turned up a little. This is to save the blue color(s) in the sky and the red(ish) colors in the leafs in direct sunlight.

John Nyberg has written several books about photography and offer workshops and seminars about HDR and photography in general. His images are used all over the world.

Visit hdrfoto.dk for more information and to find reviews, guides and much more About photography in general and HDRphotography.

John Nyberg uses Photomatix to merge and to tone map his images.

