

# Editing Images With FastStone

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FastStone is a free application which is primarily an image viewer. Whilst it is free, you can donate if you wish.

I have no affiliation with FastStone, I simply like their product and use it daily. If you wish to download, click the link below.

<http://www.faststone.org/>

As I mentioned, it is primarily an image viewer, however it also has some good editing features and supports Raw files.

Below, I will show some screen-shots of the viewer itself and also some simple editing steps.

*Note : This guide is not meant to be exhaustive It is simply to show some of the features of FastStone, and how they can be used in a practical application of editing an image.*

Image 1 - This first image simply shows FastStone opened and a folder of images being viewed. If you click on Settings/Settings, you can change many of the viewer parameters.

*Note : For viewing Raw files in their native state and to edit them, you need to make sure that Raw/Actual Size is selected in Settings*

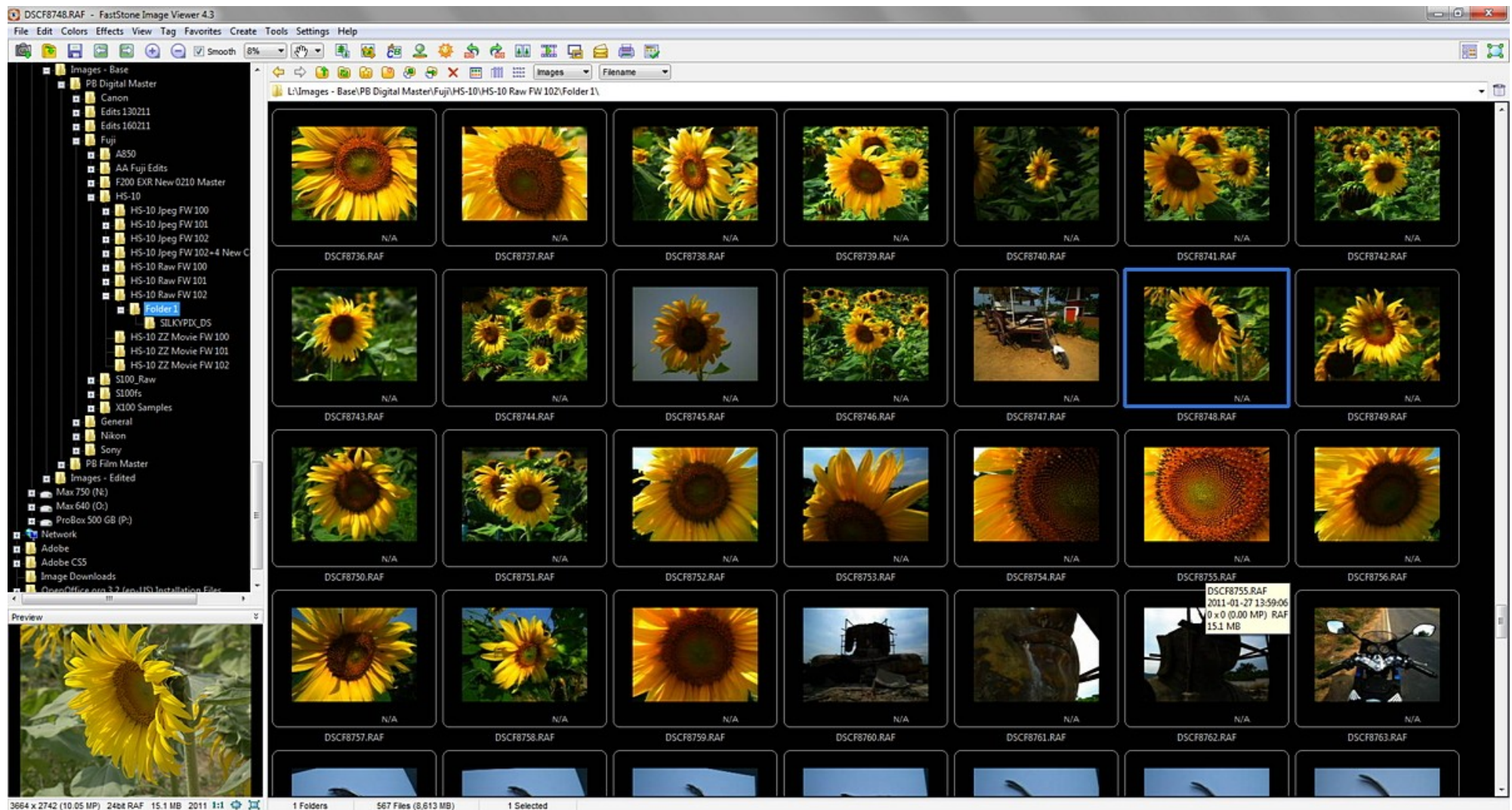


Image 2 - This is the image which I wish to edit. It is a Raw file from one of my Fuji cameras but the following examples apply equally to Jpeg files.

*Note : When in viewer mode, double clicking on the image thumbnail will then open the image in full screen mode as shown here*





Image 3 - Once opened in full screen mode, moving the mouse to the left, or right, will open additional dialogue panes. To the right, the image information, and to the left, the editing options pane. Here, my mouse is hovering over Rotation/Resize/Text/Other as straightening the image is my first edit step.





Image 4 - Once Rotation/Resize/Text/Other is selected, a dialogue pane will open. Here I have applied a small amount of straightening (+0.8) by using the 'Any Angle' slider. Note the grid reference lines. These can be moved around the image preview.

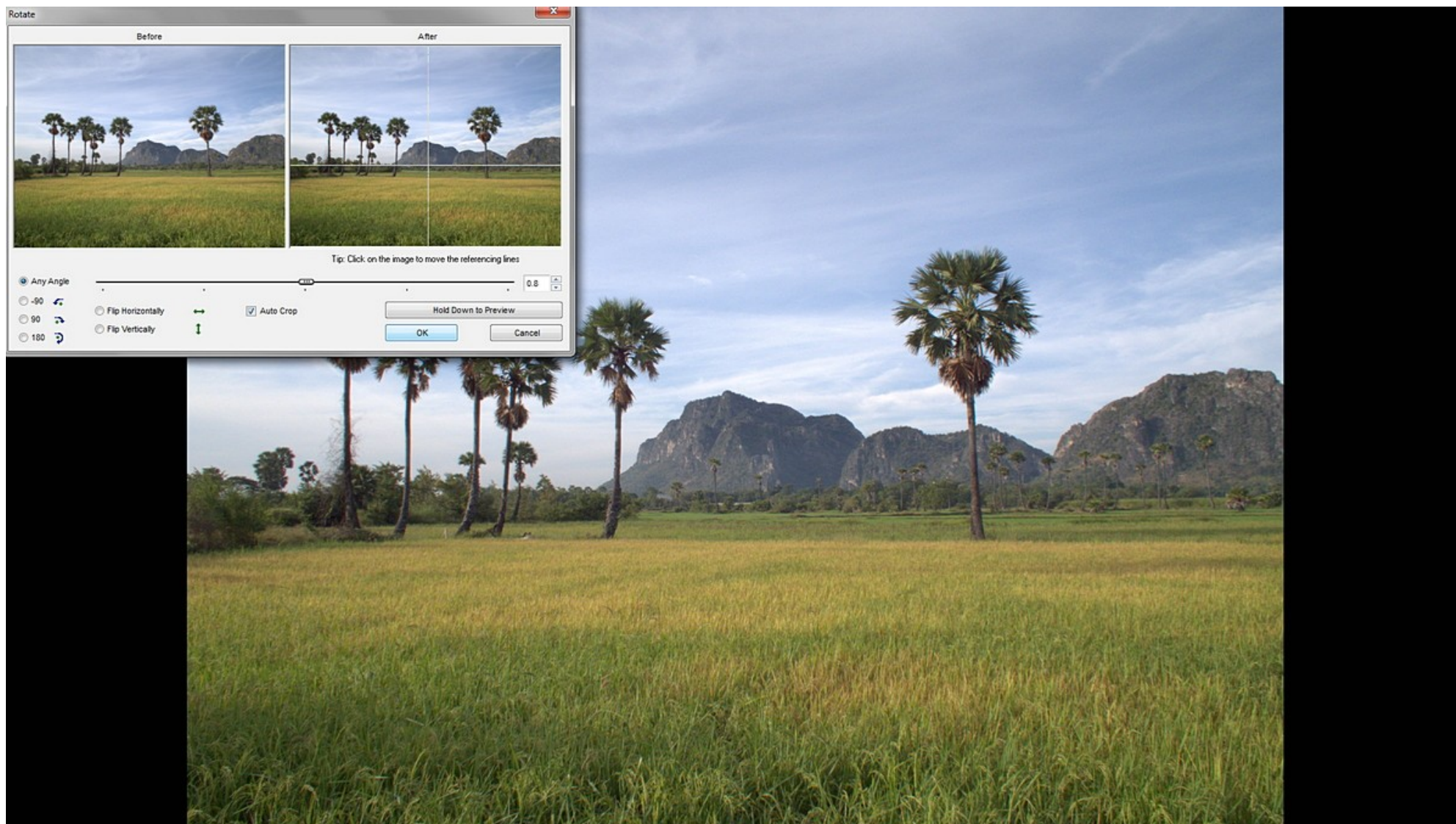


Image 5 - My next step is to select Adjust Lighting. Once selected, a dialogue pane will appear below the image. Here I have adjusted the Contrast and Saturation a little.

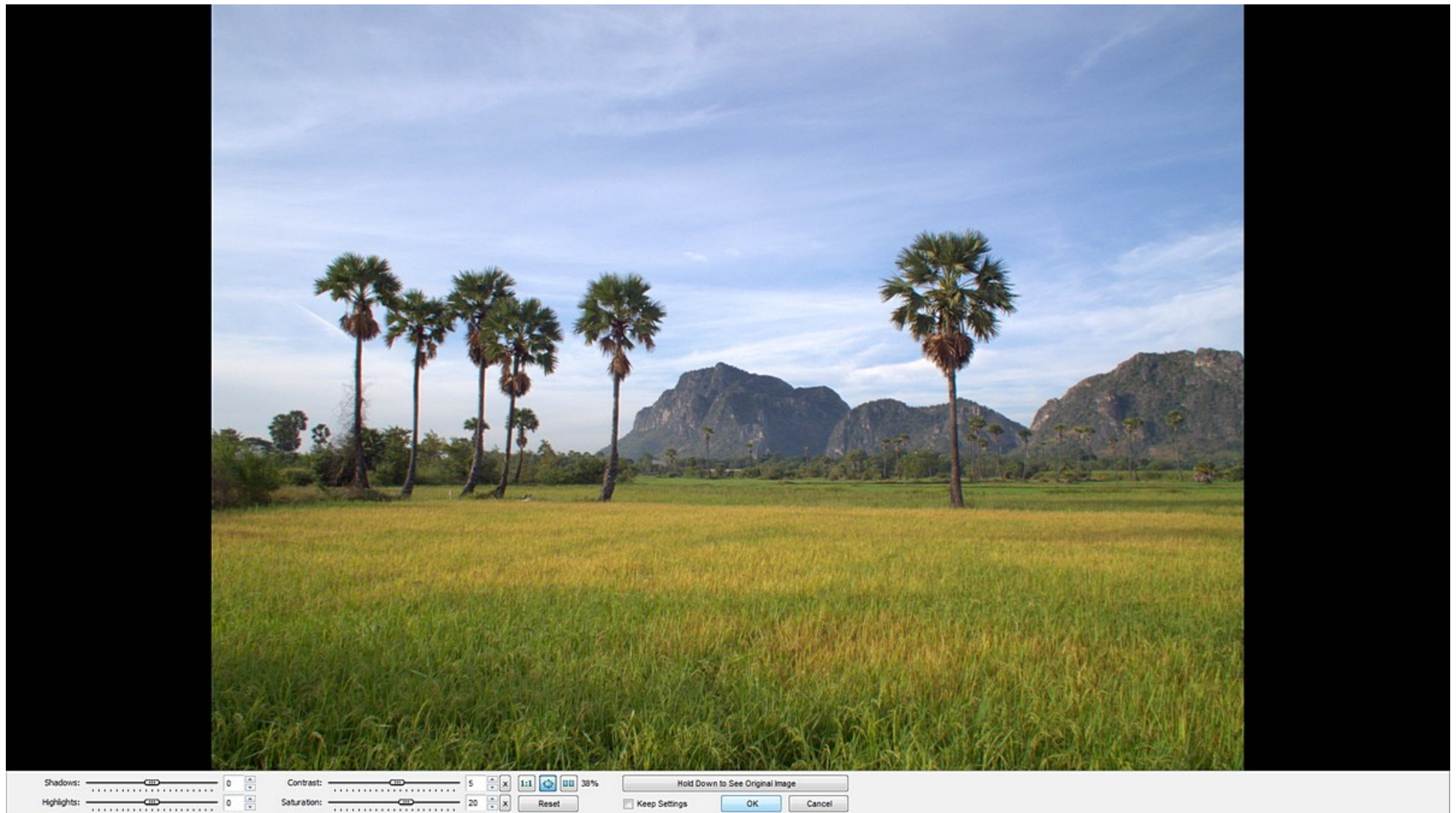




Image 6 - Next, I have selected Adjust Levels. This time a dialogue pane appears at the right of the image. I have made adjustments to Shadows (+10), Midtones (0.85) and also Highlights (245). In addition, I have set the Output Levels at Shadows 5 and Highlights 250. This helps keep shadows open and highlights from clipping.





Image 7 - Here I have selected Adjust Colors and a dialogue pane appears below the image.

I have reduced Red slightly, increased Blue slightly and reduced the Hue slightly



Image 8 - To sharpen the image, I have selected Sharpen/Blur/USM Sharpen and values of Amount 45, and Radius 0.5.

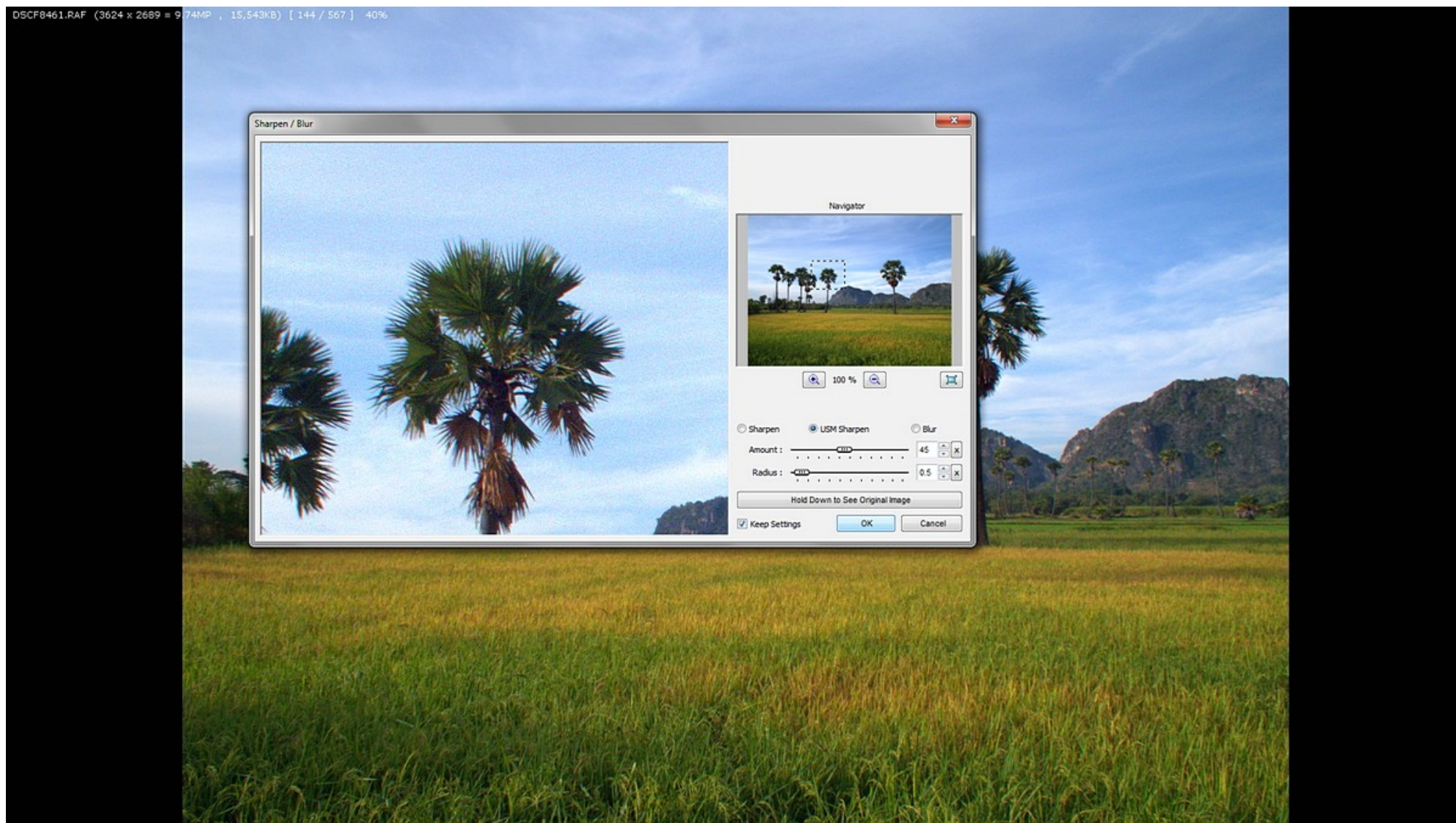




Image 9 - You may have noticed with my last step, that the sharpening introduced 'noise' into the sky area. In this next step I am again selecting Sharpen/Blur, but this time applying a very small amount of blur to the image. In this case, a value of 3. It is not an ideal solution to fixing 'noise' but it helps a little.

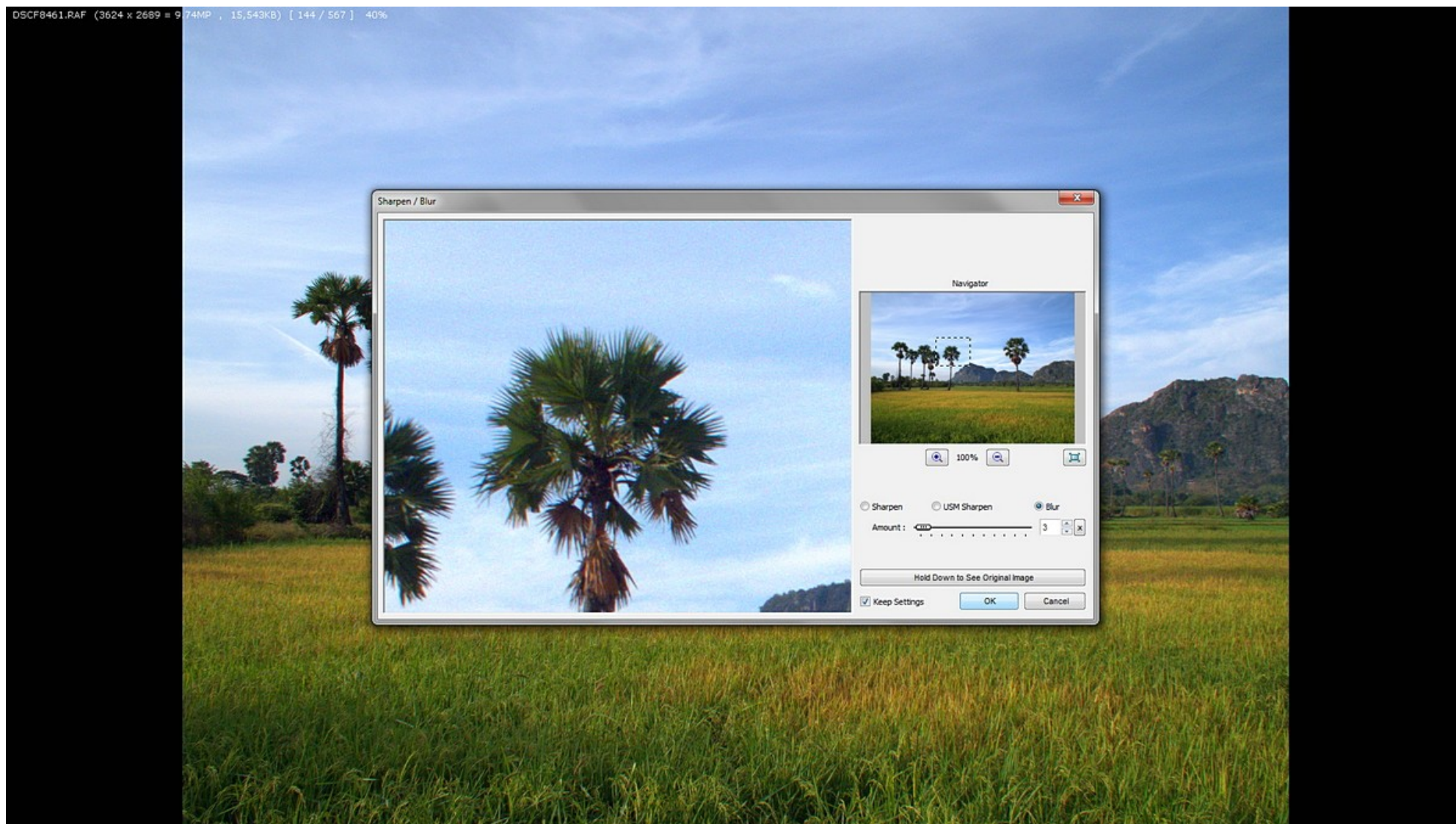
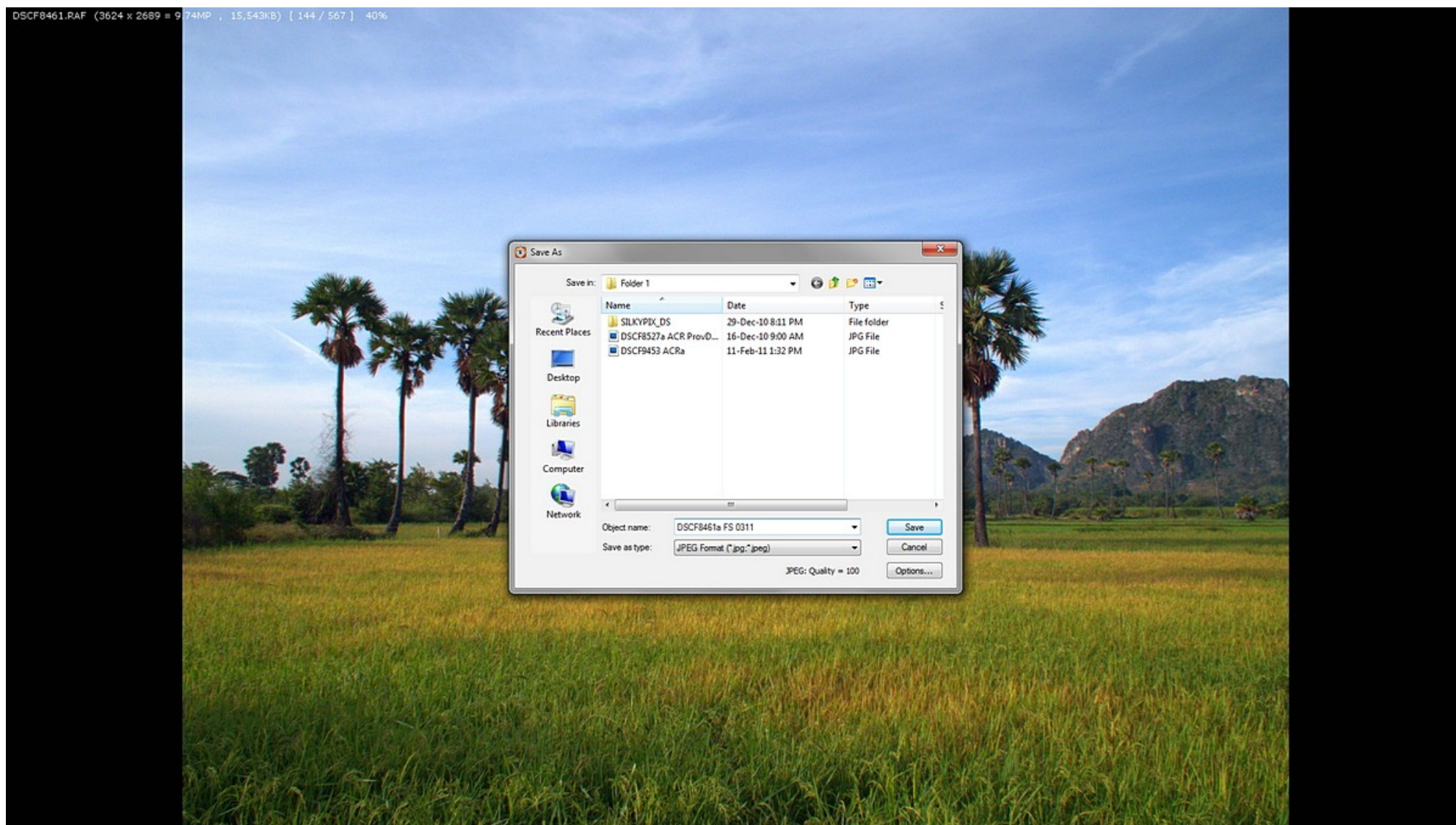


Image 10 - Having completed my above steps, I now select 'Save As' to save my image. Once the dialogue pane is open, I have added the following to the original file name - ' ... a FS 0311'. 'a' tells me it is adjusted, 'FS' adjusted in FastStone, '0311' the date adjusted. Never save over your original image, always use 'Save As'.





My original image.



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My image as adjusted with the steps described above.



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With the above example, I have not tried to edit the image fully, rather simply show some steps which can be performed.

There are many different options in the edit fields and I would encourage you to explore them. Also, explore different values for each adjustment step.

FastStone is not what I call a 'full featured' image editor, but it is certainly useful for basic editing functions.

*Note : Remember to never save over your original image*

Cheers

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One other thing I use FastStone for, is to batch resize images for web use. To do this, and when in viewer mode, simply click Tools/Batch Convert Selected Images. Once the screen shown below opens, you can then select any images at left, and then click 'Add'. the image list at right will then show which images will be converted. Clicking Advanced Options will then open the dialogue pane shown, and you can select the options desired. Once done, click 'Convert'

*Note : Be sure to select an 'Output Folder' or the original images will be overwritten*

