

Editing Images With FujiFilm RFC EX

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The new FujiFilm X100, HS-20 EXR and the F550 EXR all have Raw capability and each comes bundled with a raw file converter (RFC). For the EXR series cameras, this is called RFC EX and is powered by SilkyPix. As far as I can tell, it is the same version for all the EXR sensor cameras.

I am a long time user of Photoshop and Adobe Camera Raw and use them daily. I have also been using SilkyPix products for the past year, or so. Personally, I think they are excellent products. It just takes a little time to learn to use them.

My first introduction to SilkyPix products was with the RFC supplied with the FujiFilm HS-10. That RFC had quite limited functionality and many settings were simply non-adjustable presets.

Fortunately, the new RFC EX has the important 'controller panes' fully operable and adjustable.

So, below, I am just running through an overview of how to use the RFC EX. The settings I am using are purely subjective and I would always encourage you to try your own variations. Typically, I step through an image edit in the order that I am showing here. This always works well, for me.

Hopefully, you will find this helpful.

Note : In the absence of having any of my own Raw files available, I am using a Raw file from an F550 EXR which was posted as an example on a web site recently. As the image is not mine, I will only show the screen shots and not supply the original, nor the edit

Note : This guide is not meant to be exhaustive It is simply to show some of the features of the RFC EX, and how they can be used in a practical application

Image 1 - This first image simply shows the image as opened in RFC EX. I have several 'controller panes' open and these are opened by clicking the relevant buttons at bottom left.

At present, all settings are at default and are as the image has opened in RFC EX.

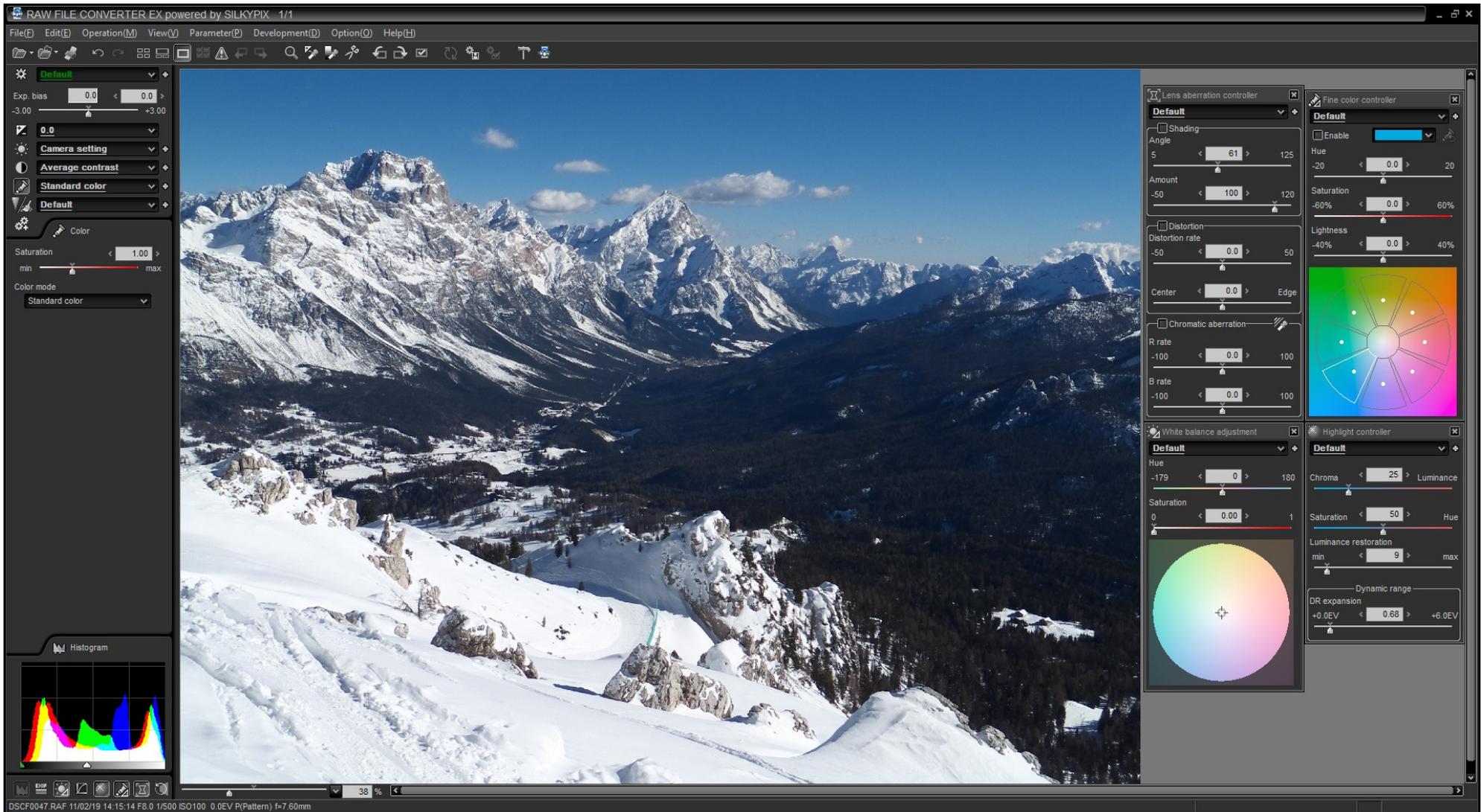


Image 2 - My first step is to turn on the shadow/highlight warnings. I have outlined the relevant box, in yellow. Once this box is clicked, options will open to allow different warning presets for shadows, highlights, or both combined. It is clear that several of the highlight areas are 'over cooked'.

Note : I only use this as a starting point to get a general idea and then turn it off. Otherwise the constant flashing will drive you nuts !!

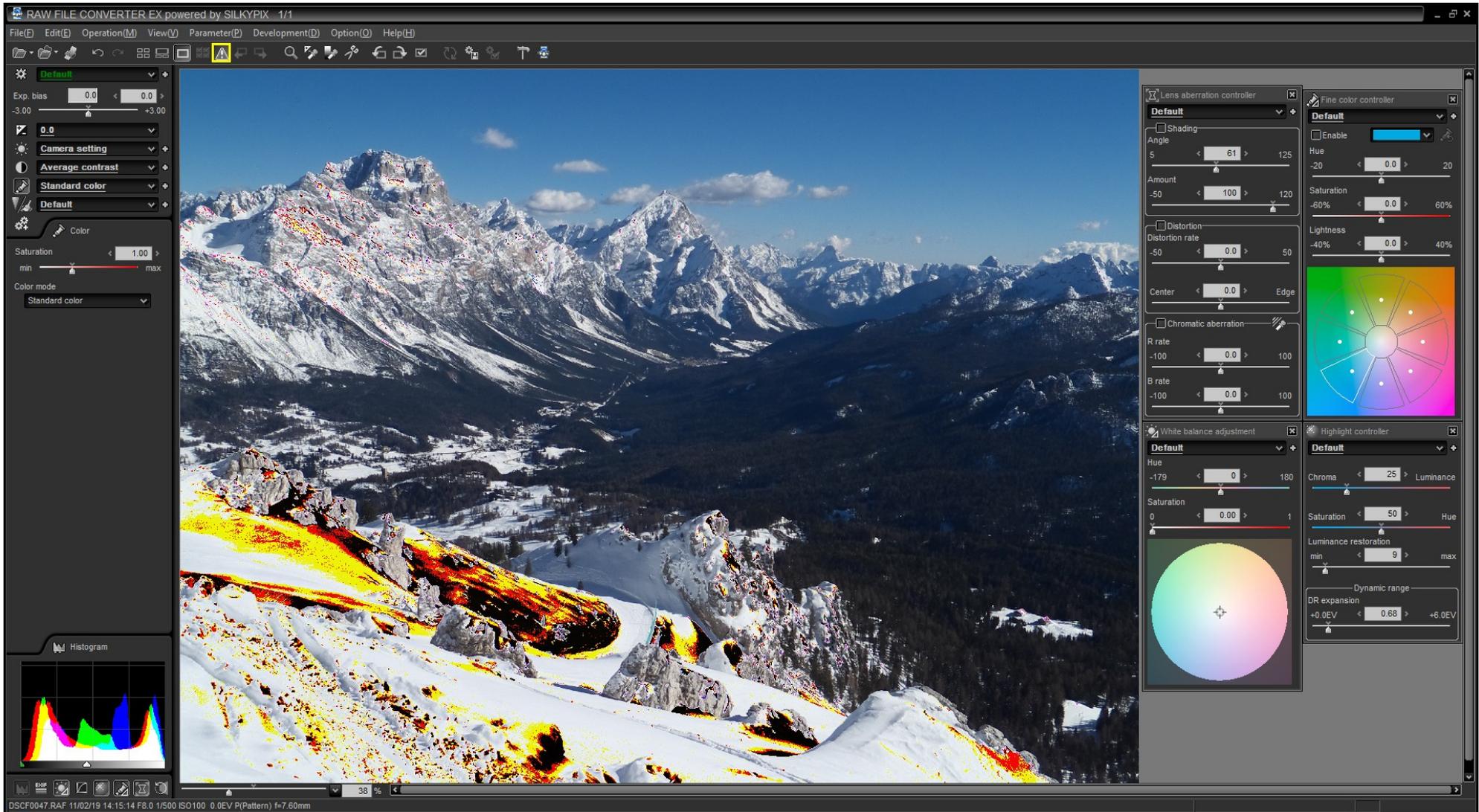


Image 3 - The example here simply shows what I want to end up with. The reason I show this will become a little more apparent in the next two examples.

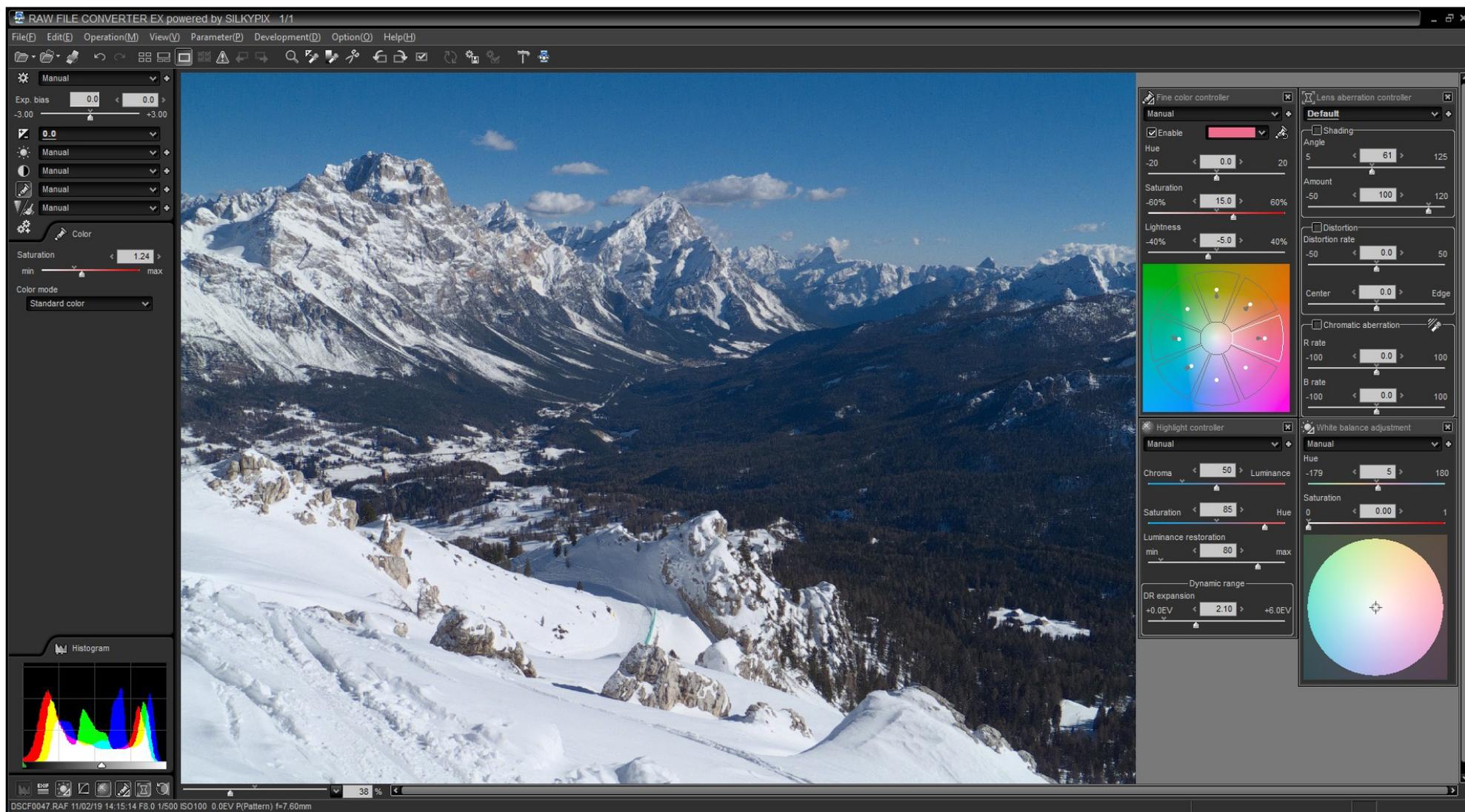


Image 4 - This example is the lower right corner of the image and is shown at 100 % view. It is clear that the trees are 'mushy' and quite dark. Also, keep in mind that we had several areas where the highlights were 'over cooked' (blown).

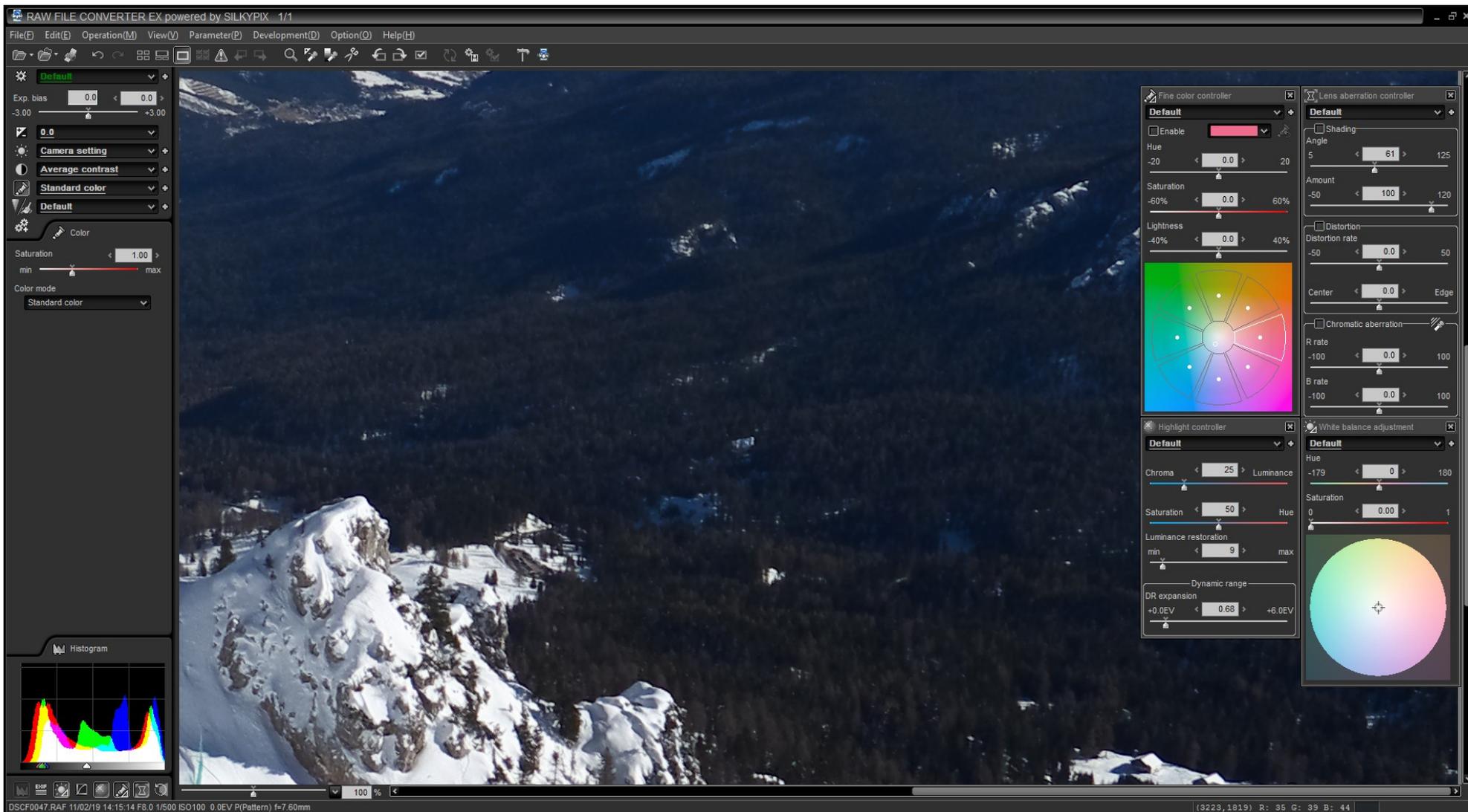


Image 5 - This is the same 100 % view as the image above but now with all my adjustments applied.

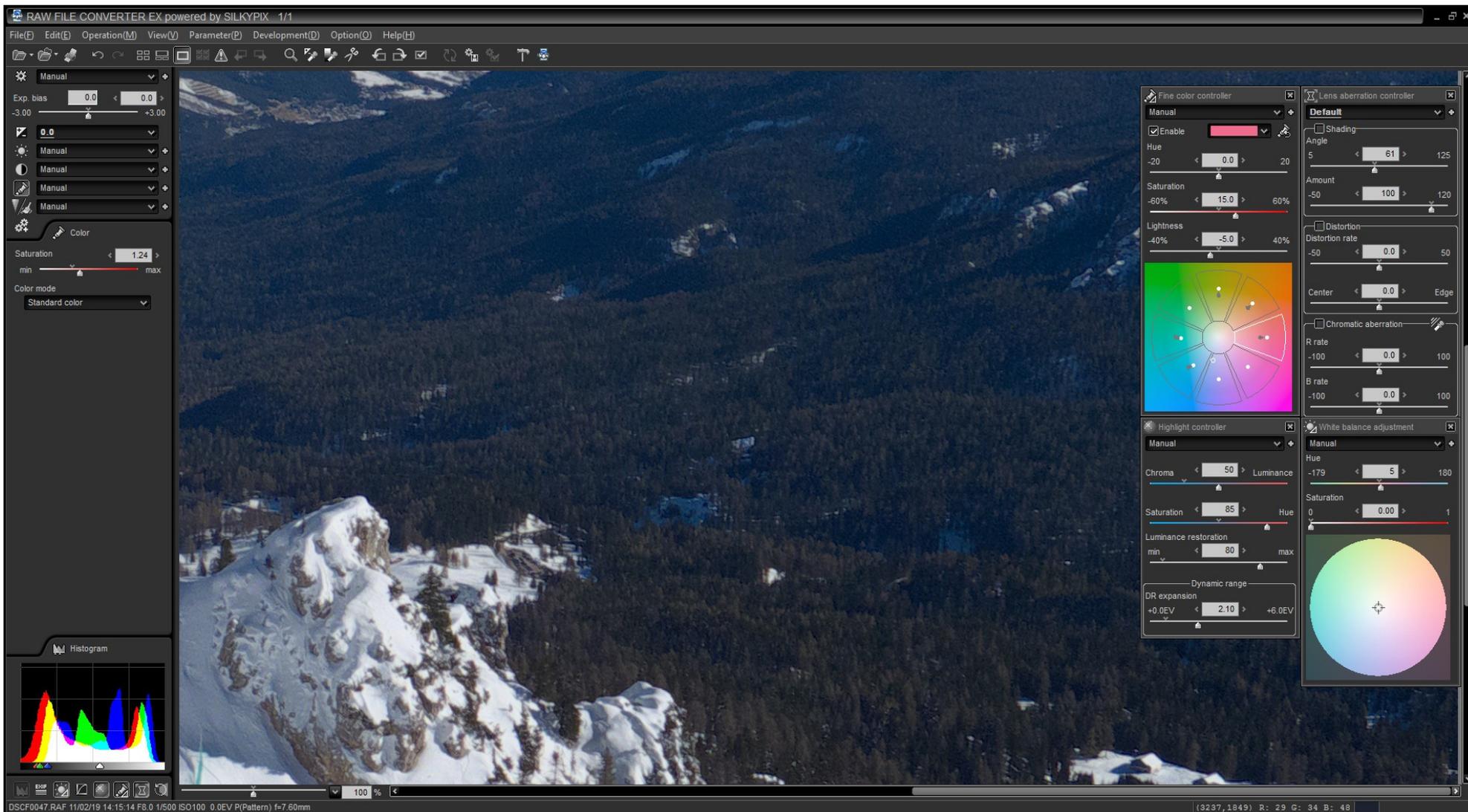


Image 6 - My conversion/editing goals for this image are quite simple. I wish to get as much sharpness/detail as possible, try to keep colours natural looking and also ensure that I recover any highlight/shadow areas which need so. With that in mind, my first step is to adjust the contrast. I have highlighted in yellow the relevant adjustment box and the settings I have used. Basically, I have reduced the contrast considerably and lightened the image a little using the Gamma control. The inverted 'arrows' on the sliders always show the default setting positions.

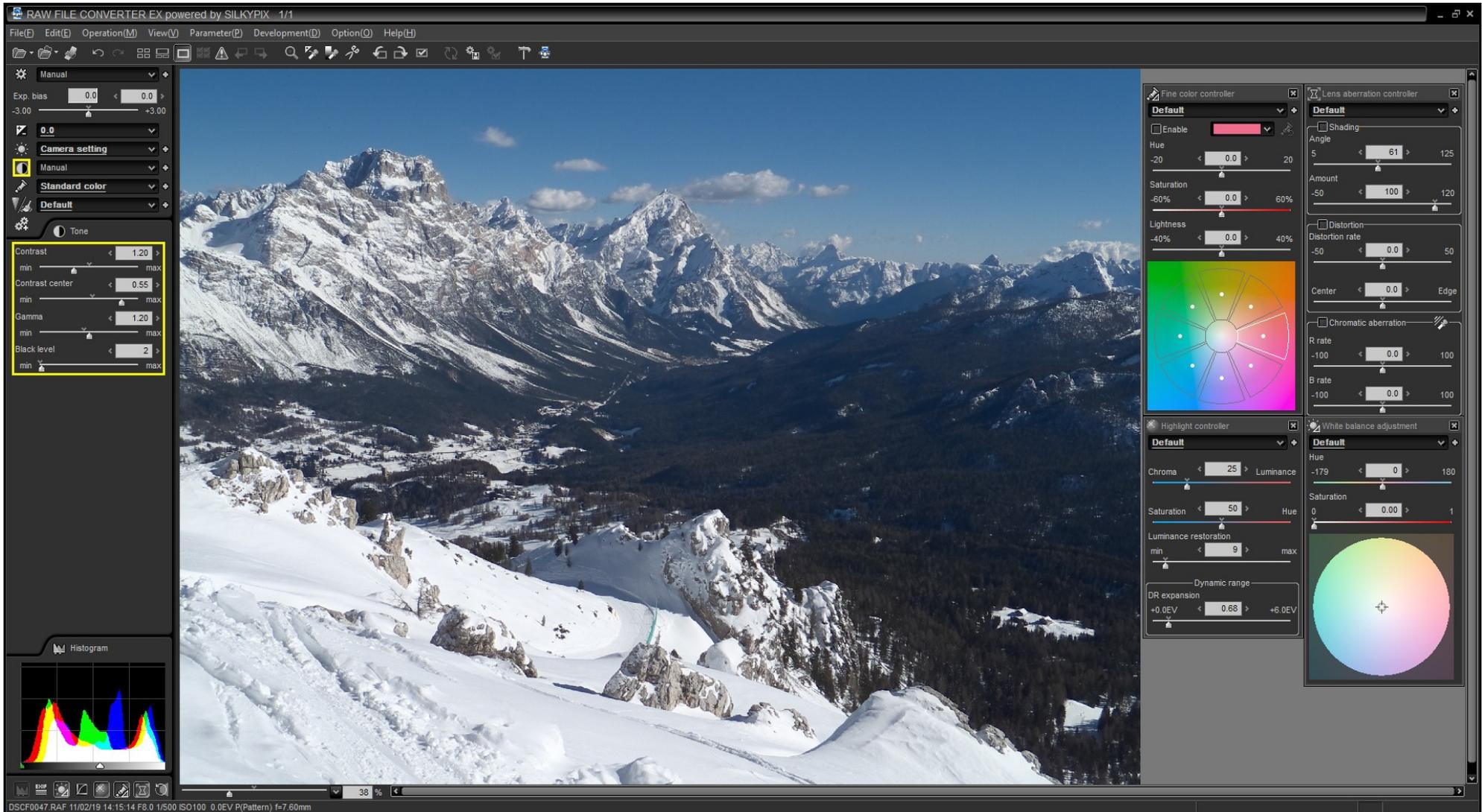


Image 7 - Now that the contrast has been reduced, my colour depth has also reduced. Again, I am highlighting in yellow the relevant adjustment box, and the settings I have used to increase the colour saturation somewhat. It is not a perfect fix but we will fine tune it later.

Note : From here on if you see areas highlighted in yellow, then that is what the text will be referring to

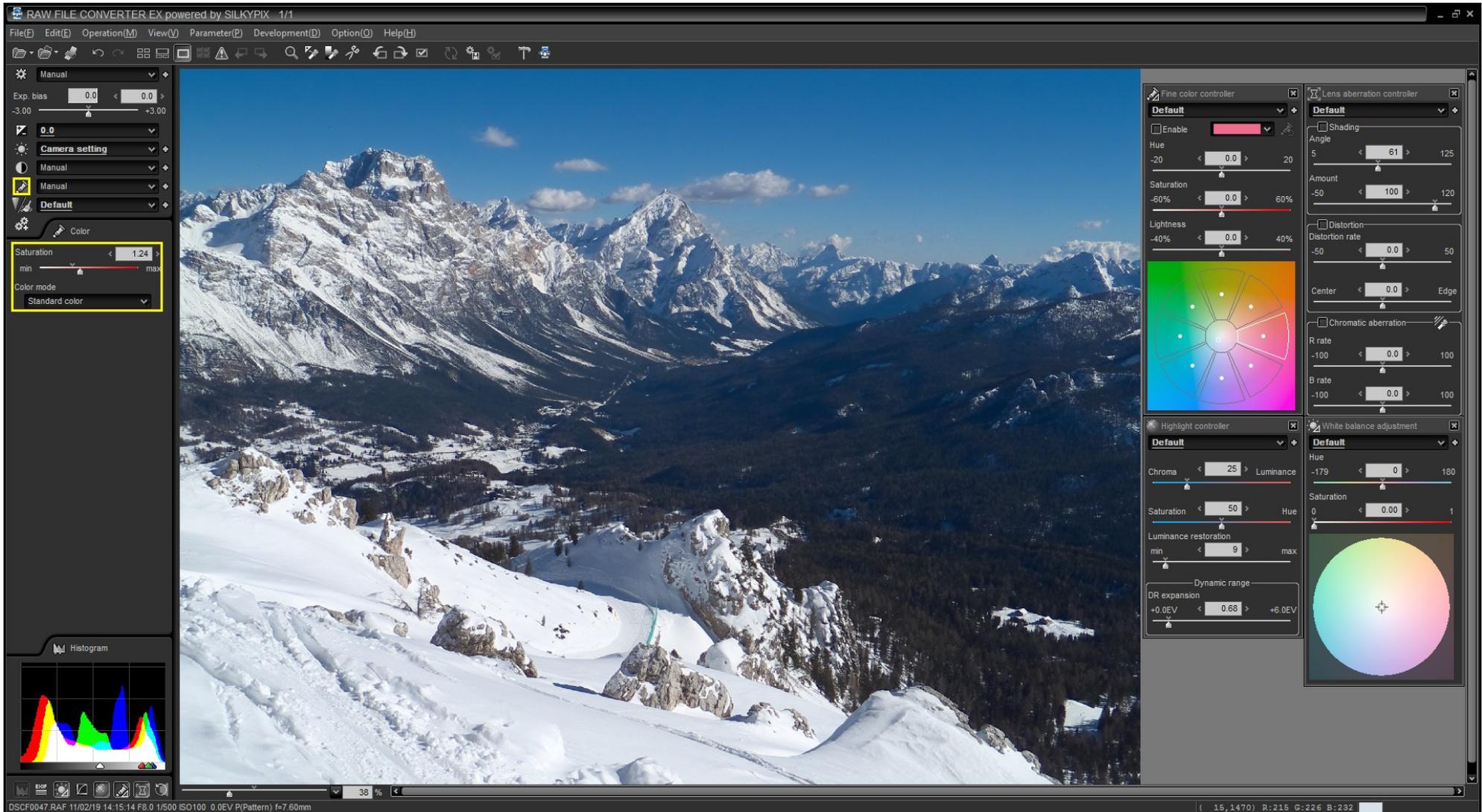


Image 8 - My next step is to use the Highlight Controller to shift the exposure more toward Luminance (brightness) and Hue (tone). I have also used the Luminance Restoration slider to keep my highlights a little more under control. Similarly, I have adjusted the Dynamic Range slider to restore my blown highlight areas. I don't show the shadow/highlight warning here, but now when turned on all the warnings have gone.

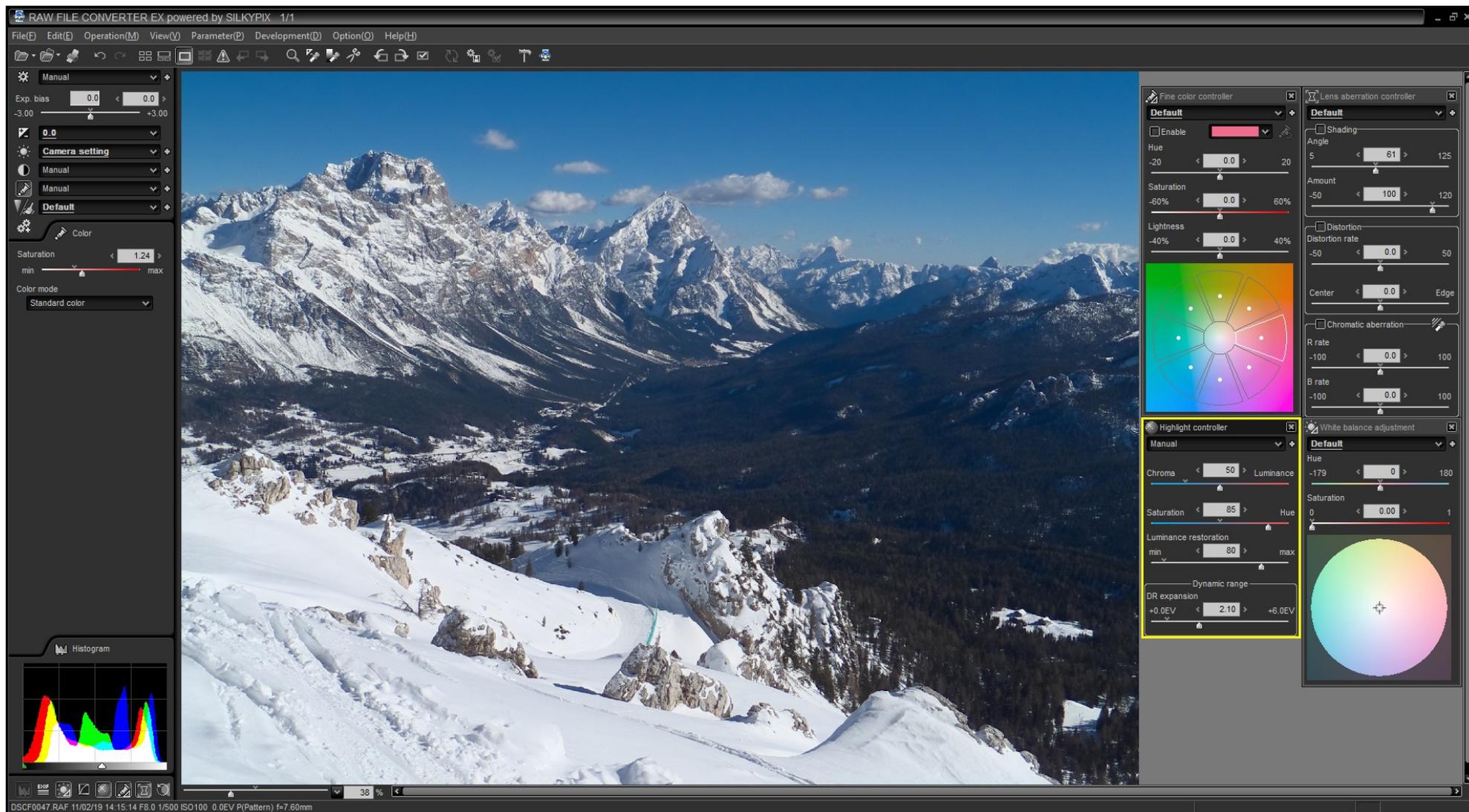


Image 9 - Using the Fine Color Controller, I have now applied adjustments to most of the colours. Whilst I don't show each individual setting here, from the top and working down, I have applied the following : For Red Hue 0, Saturation +15, Lightness -5. For the rest, I will just put the values - Magenta 0, 0, 0; Purple 0, 0, 0; Blue +2, -10, -10; Cyan +2, -10, -5; Green 0, 0, 0; Yellow 0, +15, -5; Orange 0, +15, -10

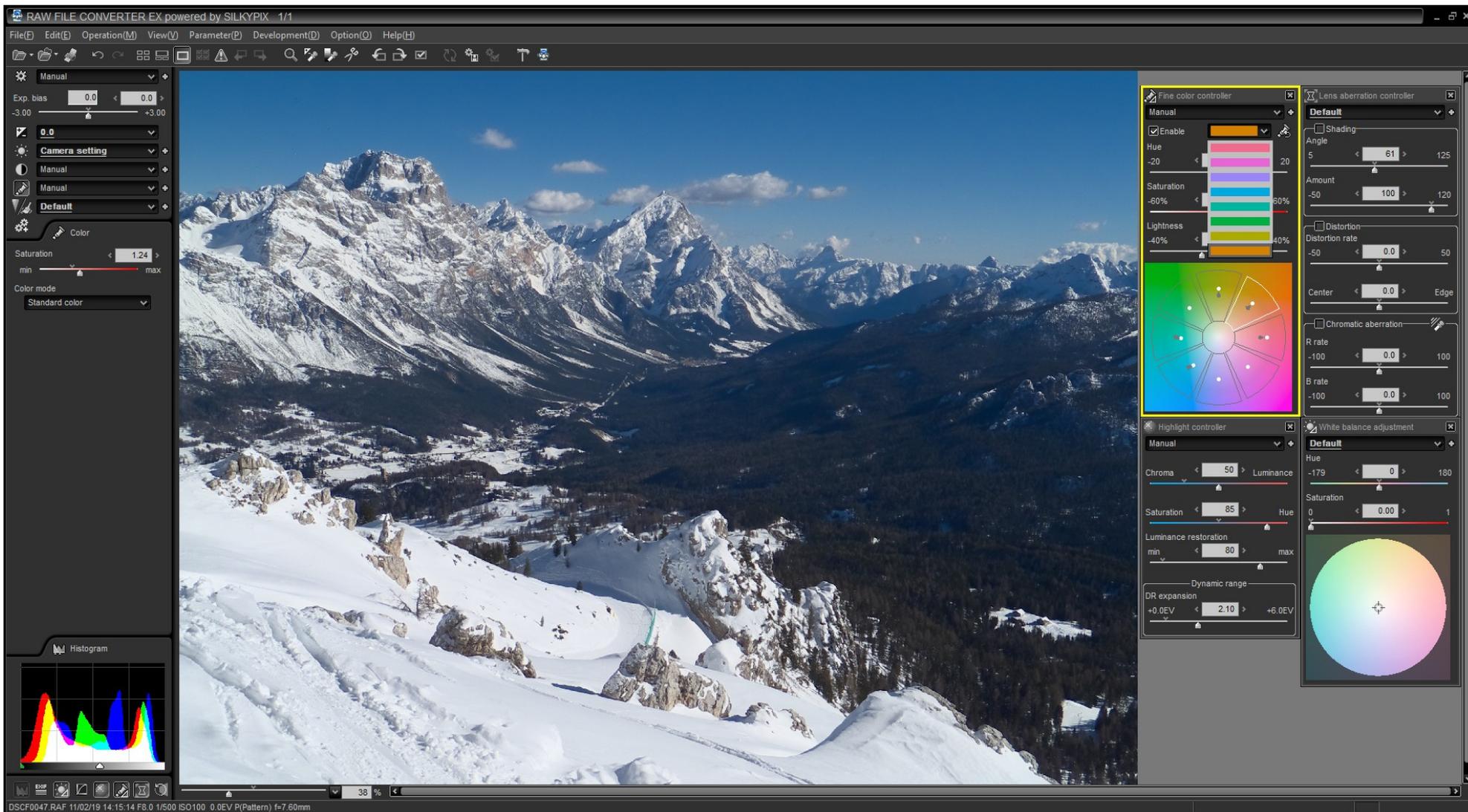


Image 10 - Using the White Balance Adjustment Controller, I have adjusted the Hue very slightly by +5. This applies a very small amount of 'warmth' to the image.

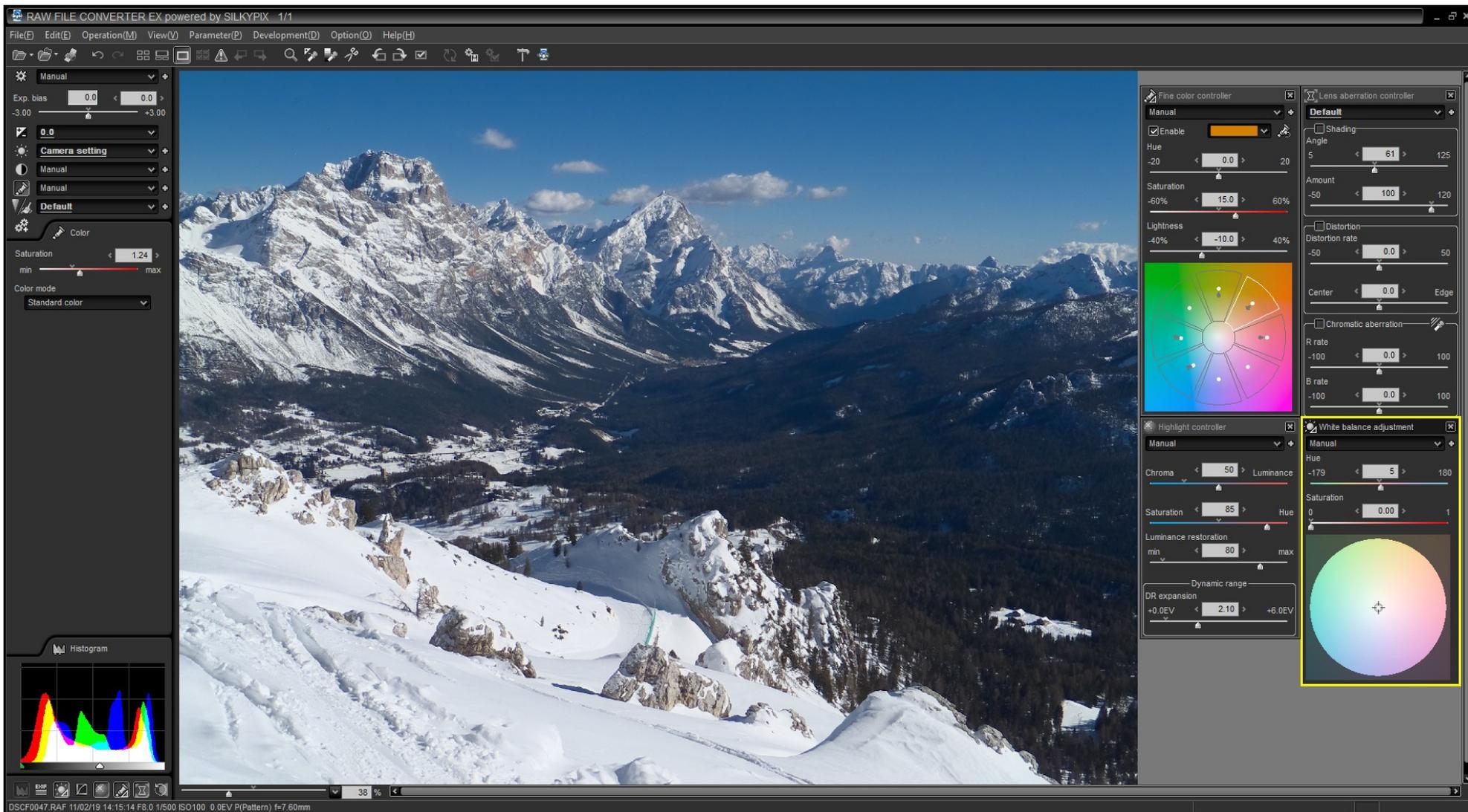


Image 11 - Whilst it may seem the same as the WB Adjustment Controller, the Color Temperature behaves differently. Don't ask why as I don't really know - It just does. Anyway, here I have adjusted the colour temperature slightly toward blue (5550K). The original colour temperature was 5645K.

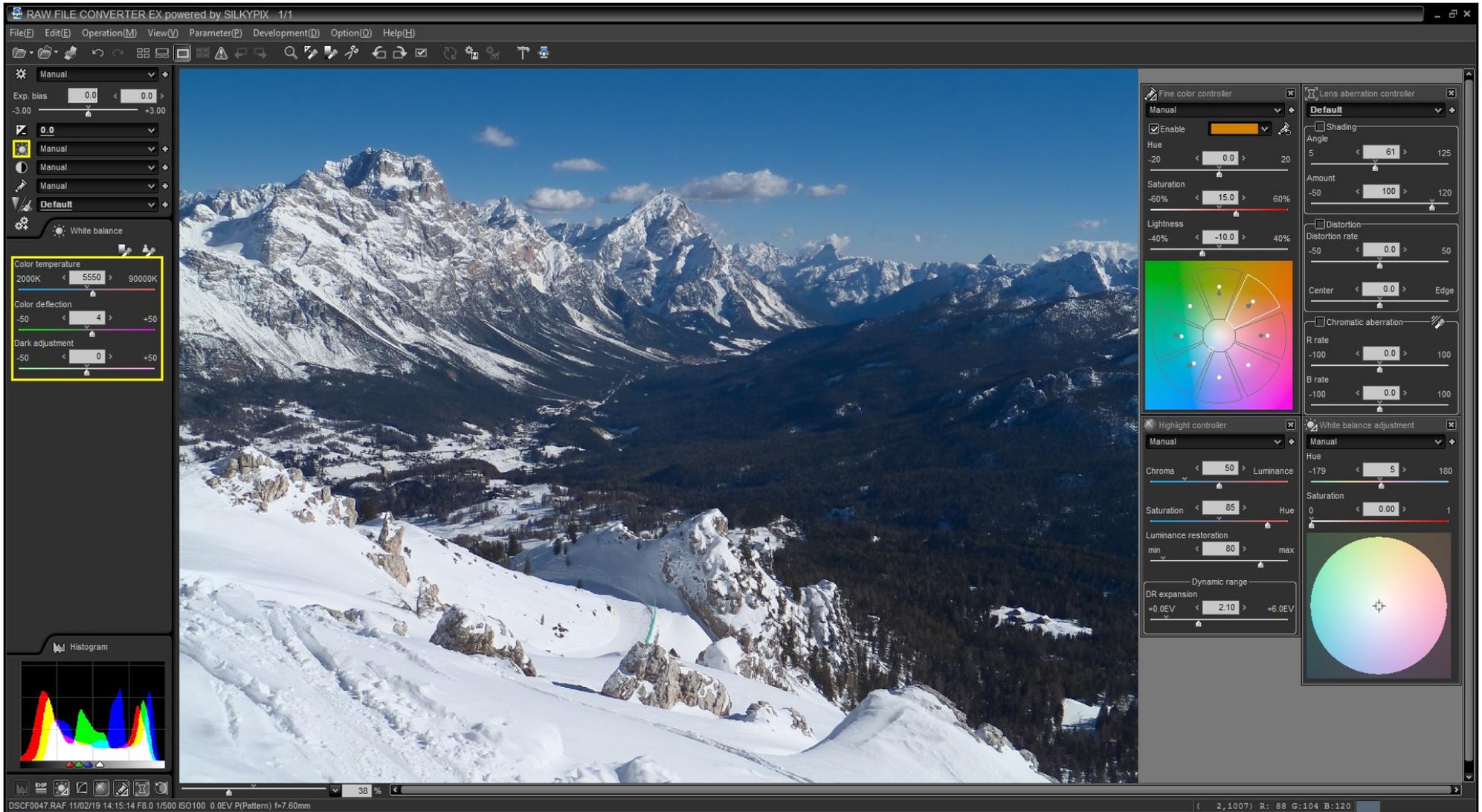


Image 12 - Sharpening and noise reduction really work hand-in-hand in RFC EX. To get a sharp image, I find it is best to start with noise reduction and turn it down as the default settings are a bit too heavy handed. Reading down from the top, the original default settings were : 31, 12, 20, 75, 0. the two which have the heaviest effect on the image are False Color Control and Noise Canceller/Noise Level. Typically, I turn the latter off and turn all the others down.

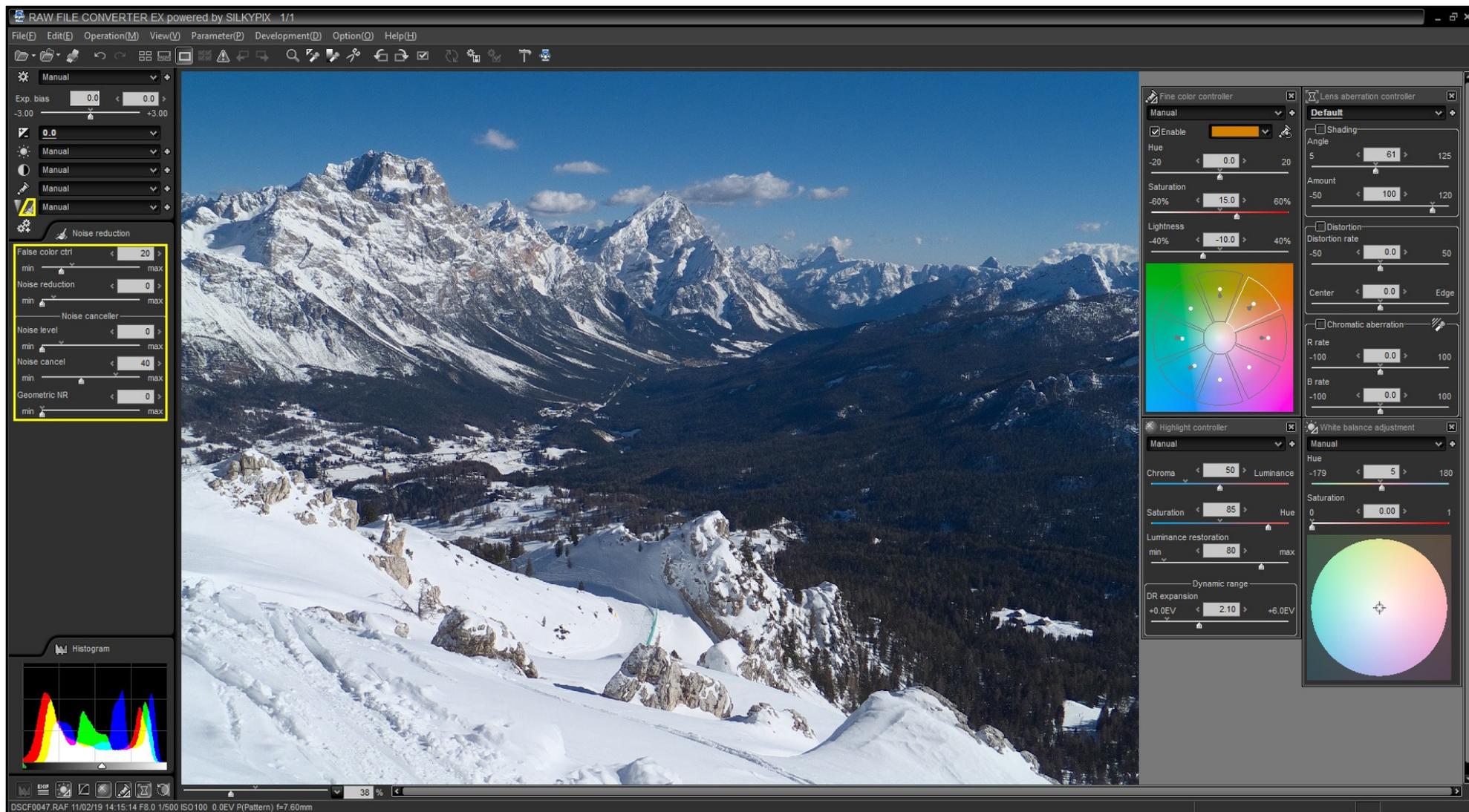


Image 13 - next step is to adjust the Sharpness controls. Here, I have kept the default settings but have also set the False Outline Control (mask) to +50 and selected Pure Detail.

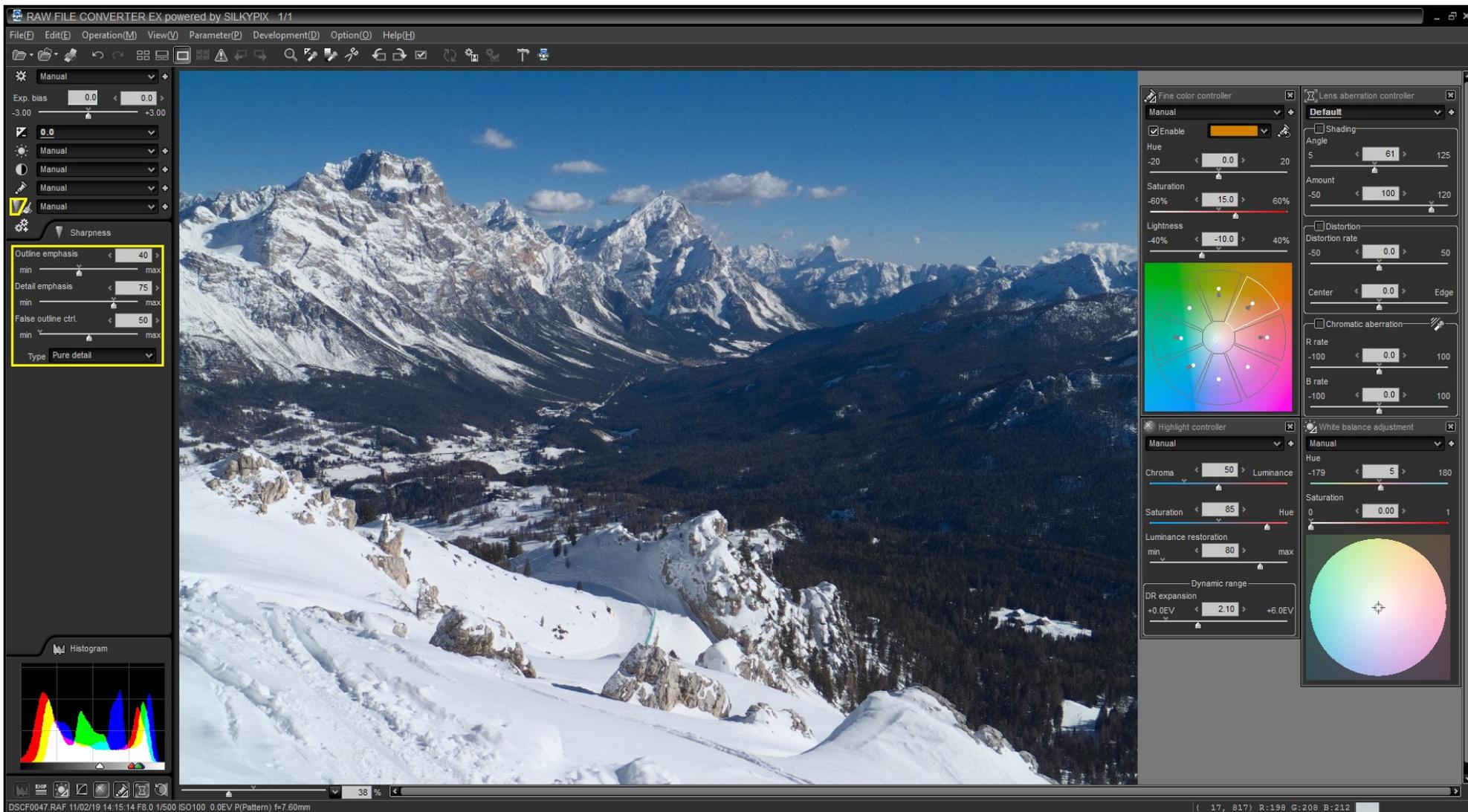


Image 14 - One of the 'tricks' with the SilkyPix products, is to adjust the Demosaic Sharp output to lessen the overall sharpening effect. The default is 80 and here I have dialled it back to 30. This is worth experimenting with as it can be a quick way to take the 'edge' off any sharpening applied.

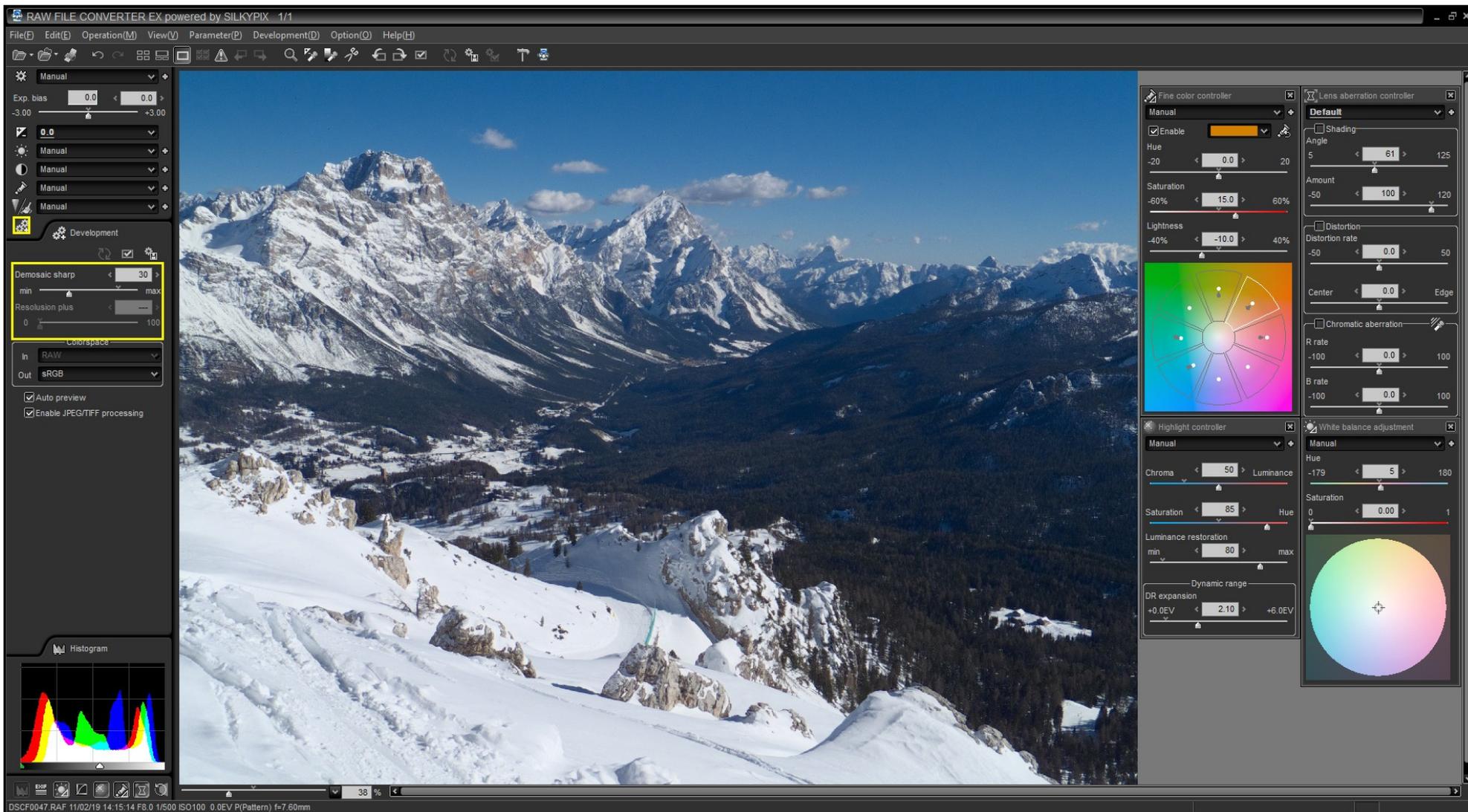


Image 15 - Well, I'm done. The last step is to save the image. To do this, we simply click the 'Development' box and enter the parameters desired. Here, I am saving as a Tiff file and I have also added 'RFC EX' to my file name so that I know it was converted/adjusted in RFC EX.

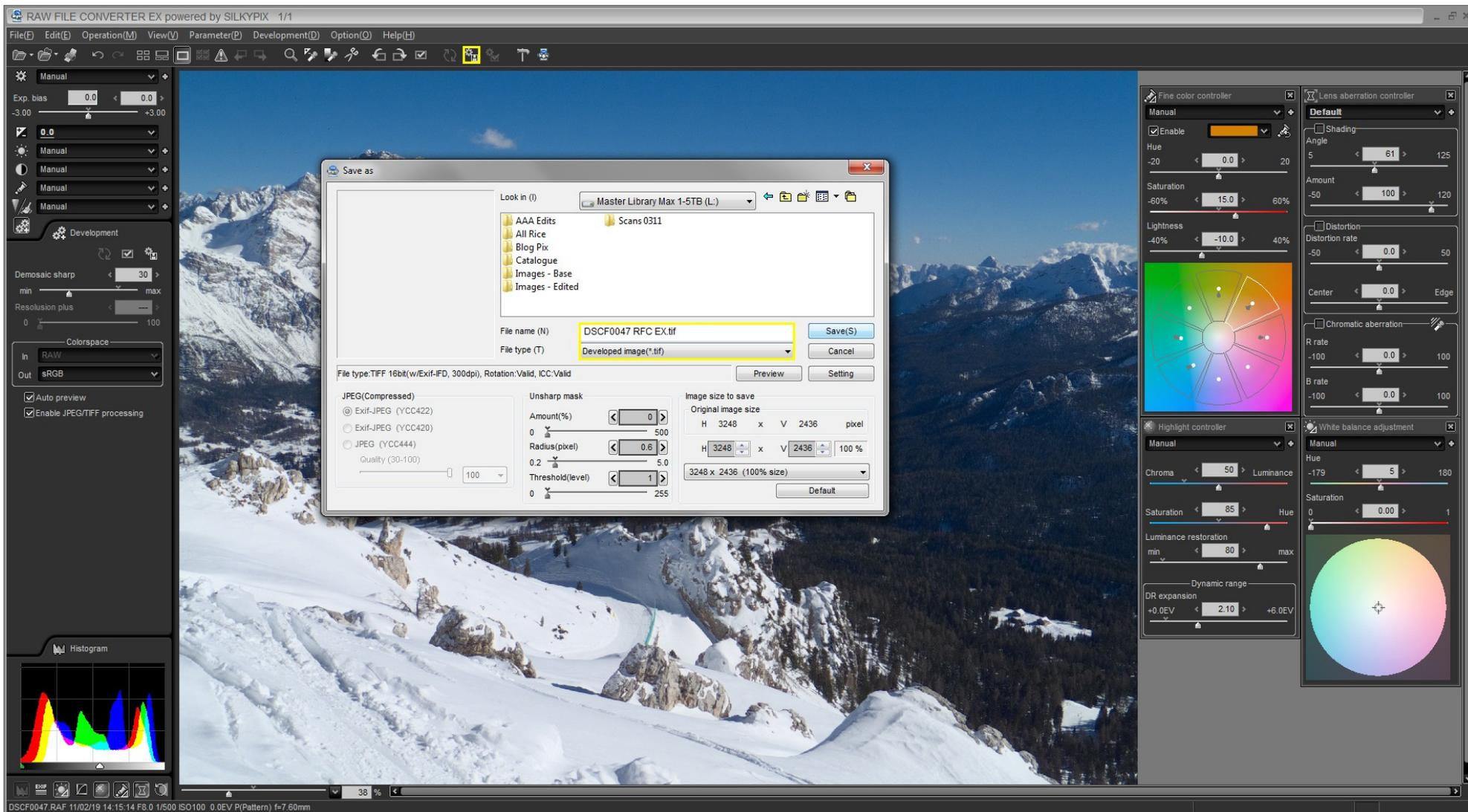


Image 16 - As mentioned earlier, the original image is not mine and so I will not supply the original, nor the edit in it's finished form.

However, here I am showing a screen shot comparison of the original (left) and the finished version (right)

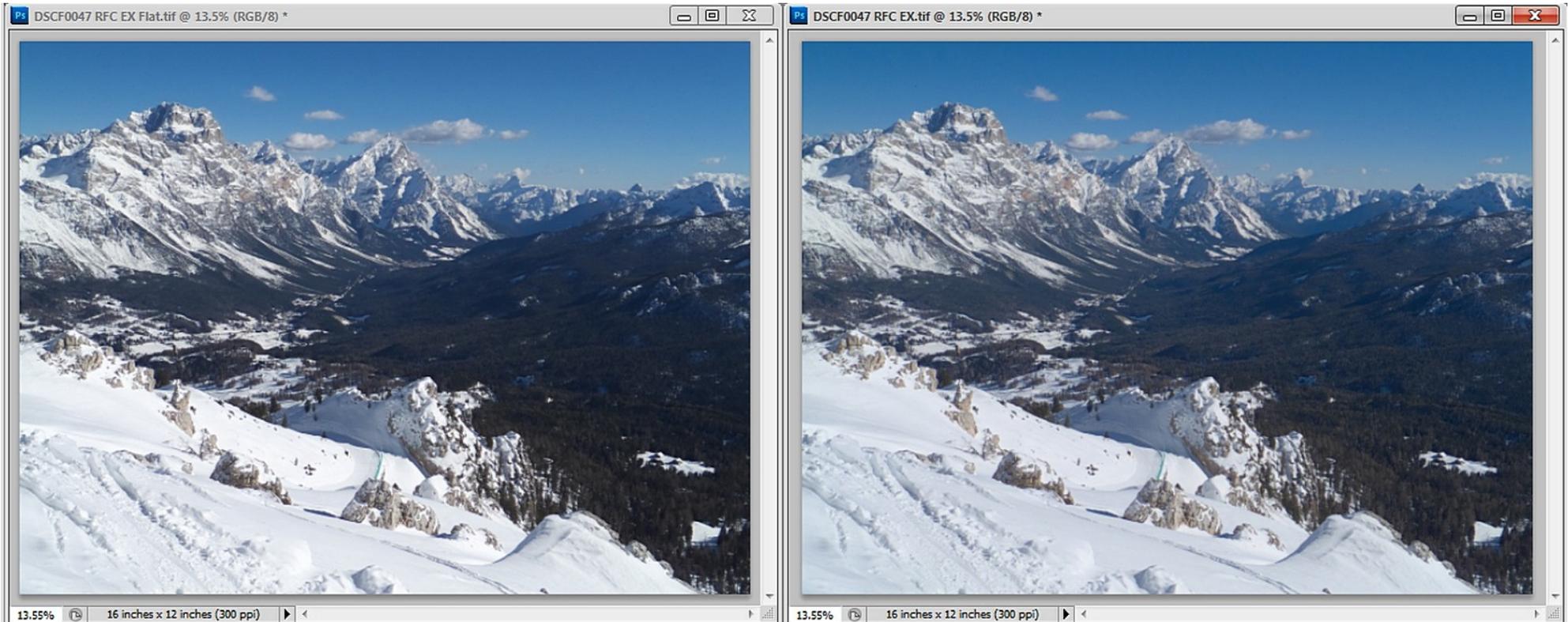


Image 17 - On the next page, I am showing the same as the above but both images are now resized to 12 x 16 inches and being shown as if at a print size view of that size.

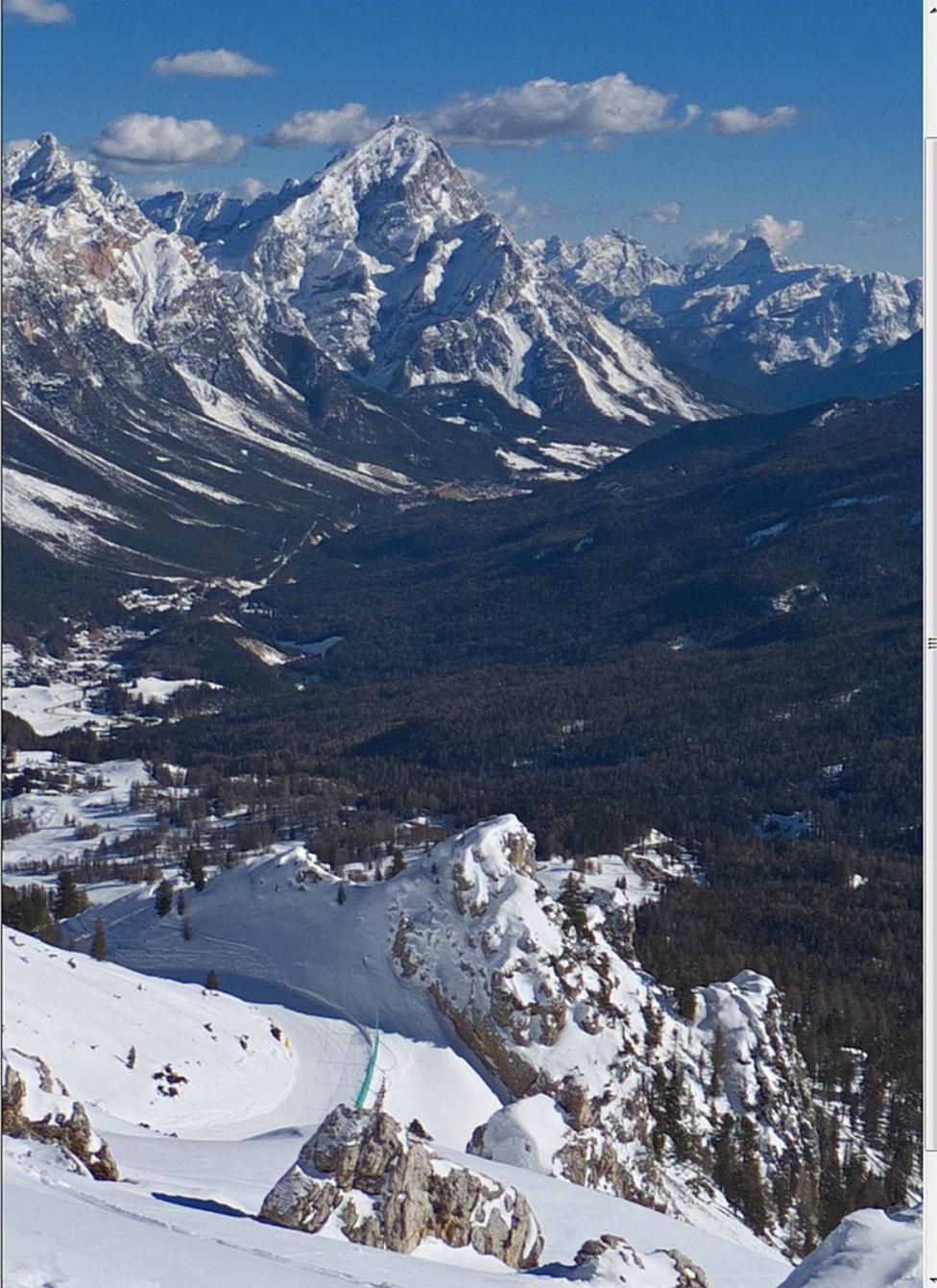
Again, the original is at left, and the finished version at right.

Ps DSCF0047 RFC EX Flat.tif @ 32% (RGB/8) *



32% 16 inches x 12 inches (300 ppi)

Ps DSCF0047 RFC EXa.jpg @ 32% (RGB/8) *



32% 16 inches x 12 inches (300 ppi)

Image 18 - On the next page, I am showing the same as the above but with some additional sharpening and levels control done in Photoshop.

Ps DSCF0047 RFC EX Flat.tif @ 32% (RGB/8) *



32% 16 inches x 12 inches (300 ppi)

Ps DSCF0047 RFC EXa.jpg @ 32% (RGB/8) *



32% 16 inches x 12 inches (300 ppi)

Well, that's all.

This tutorial is purely intended as a guide for using the RFC EX converter. I hope you find something helpful here.

I would encourage you to try your own settings and experiment though. It's the best way to learn.

Cheers

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