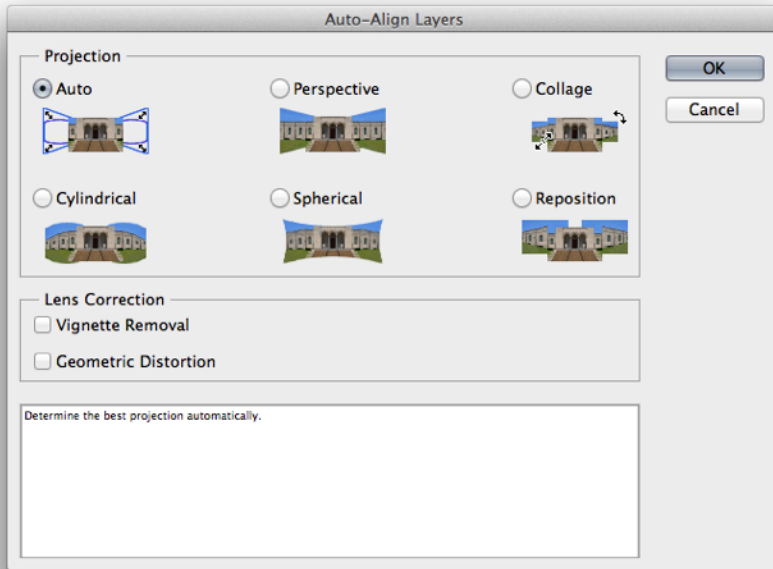


## Focus Stacking - Post Processing

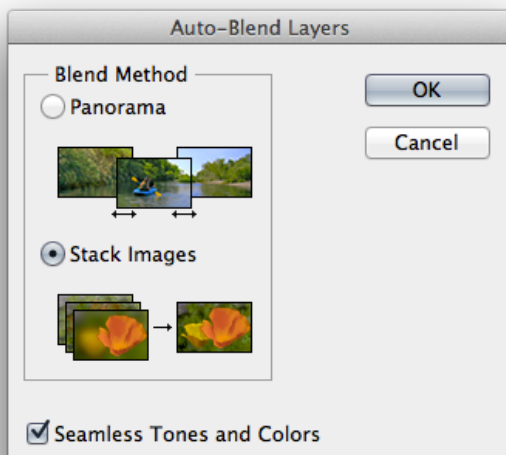
by Josh Mayes, Tripod Camera Club, May 2013

### Photoshop

1. Process RAW images (don't crop or vignette yet)
2. From Bridge, Tools, Photoshop, Load Files into Photoshop Layers...
3. In Photoshop, Select all layers
4. Edit, Auto-Align Layers...



5. Edit, Auto-Blend Layers...



6. Create Merged layer (retain source layers if you wish)
7. Touch up if needed
7. Sharpen if needed
8. Save PSD file
9. Save copy in TIF format (Discard layers)
10. Use ACR to make final crops and add vignette if desired
11. Save JPG finals

## **Photoshop Elements**

1. Open all images
2. File, New, Photomerge Group Shot...
3. Verify all source images show up in the Project Bin
4. Drag first image into "Final" window
5. Click on second, draw with Pencil Tool to add sharp areas to Final
6. Eraser tool to erase or undo
7. "Show Regions" checkbox will show you which areas are from which image, using automatic color coding
8. Save JPG finals

## **ZereneStacker**

Process two ways for optimal results, Nice retouching tool (JPEGs or TIFFs only)

1. Drag input images in
2. Stack, Align & Stack All (Both PMax & DMap)
3. Edit, Start Retouching
4. Select desired source input image(s) and simply paint in selective areas
5. When done, Edit, Commit Retouching
6. File, Save Output Image(s)...16-bit TIF
7. Save Project if desired (creates folder for future further editing)
8. Ctrl-R in Bridge to edit TIF
9. Save JPG finals

<http://zerenesystems.com/cms/stacker/docs/howtouseit>

<http://zerenesystems.com/cms/stacker/docs/tutorials/tutorialsindex>

<http://zerenesystems.com/cms/stacker/docs/keyboardshortcuts>

## **Helicon Focus**

Another very good stacking program with a great "Remote" software for tethering and capturing images with Live View on a laptop or iPad (RAW support) - Must have Canon or Nikon camera that supports Live View

[http://www.heliconsoft.com/focus\\_workflow.html](http://www.heliconsoft.com/focus_workflow.html)

[http://www.heliconsoft.com/focus\\_help.html](http://www.heliconsoft.com/focus_help.html)

\*Both Zerene and Helicon support (drive) the StackShot rail system from Cognisys