Guideline for Use of Illumination Fix Toolkit 4-17-06

version 1.3

Overview:

This toolkit provides means for fixing photos that have uneven lighting.   A typical lighting problem is a flash picture with an over-exposed foreground and an under-exposed background such as this one below.
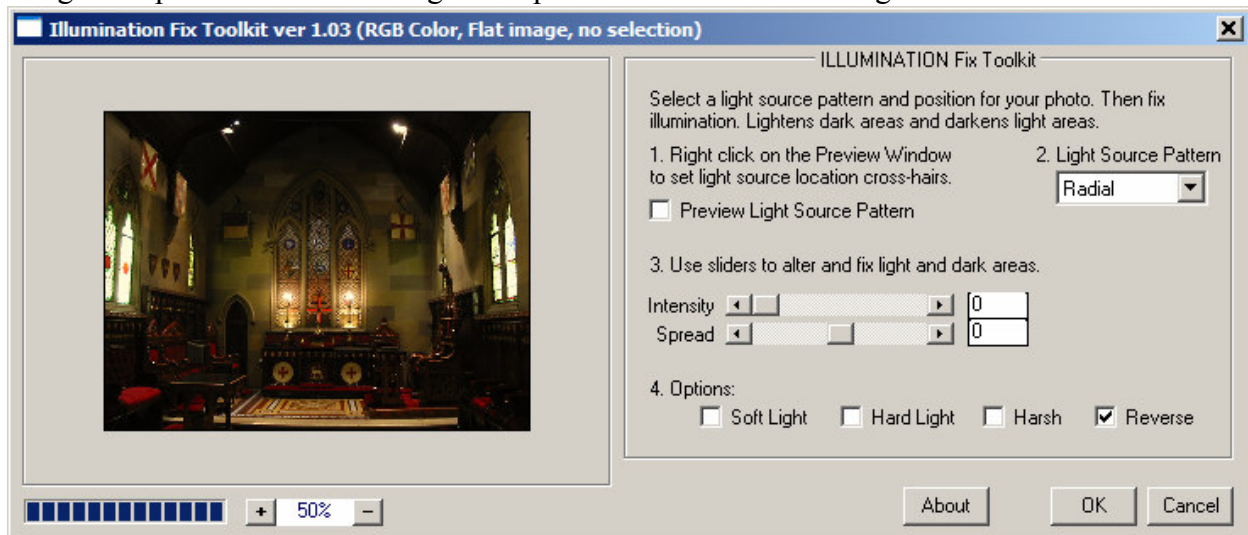

This can be corrected to look like the one on the right. Note that the foreground is darkened and the background is lightened.
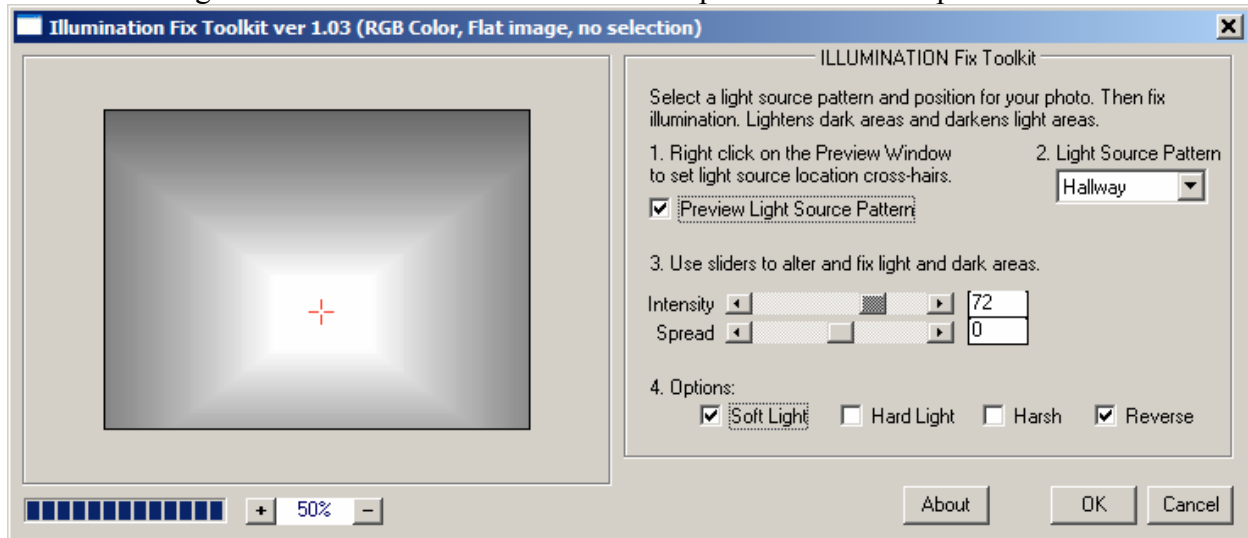

Five Steps to a Fix:

Here is a photo of a church with a central light source and some window light sources. We want to lighten-up the walls and ceiling of the photo and tone down the lights in the center.
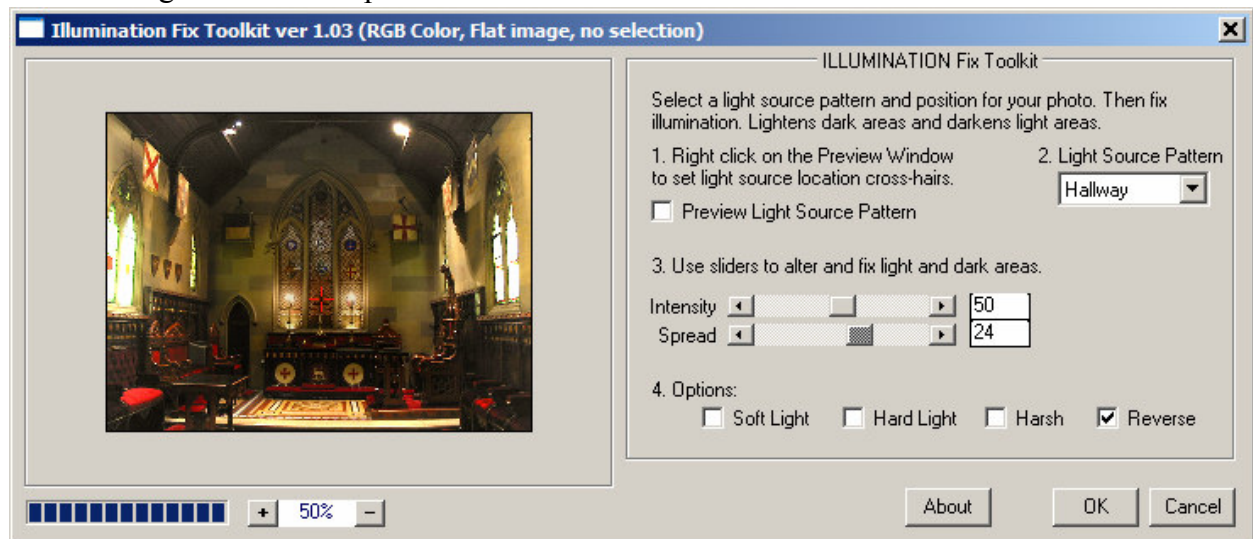

Step 1. Set the position of the light source cross hairs to the location of the lights you want to reduce, i.e. between the two central lights. This is done by right-clicking the cursor in the Preview Window.

Step 2. Select a light source pattern from the drop-down combo-box, such as this Hallway pattern below that shows the light coming from the center in a four-sided pattern. You can use the Preview Light Source Pattern checkbox to see the patterns. A radial pattern is the default.

Step 3. Use the sliders to alter the light and dark areas of your picture. To alter the intensity and size of the light-source fix-up.
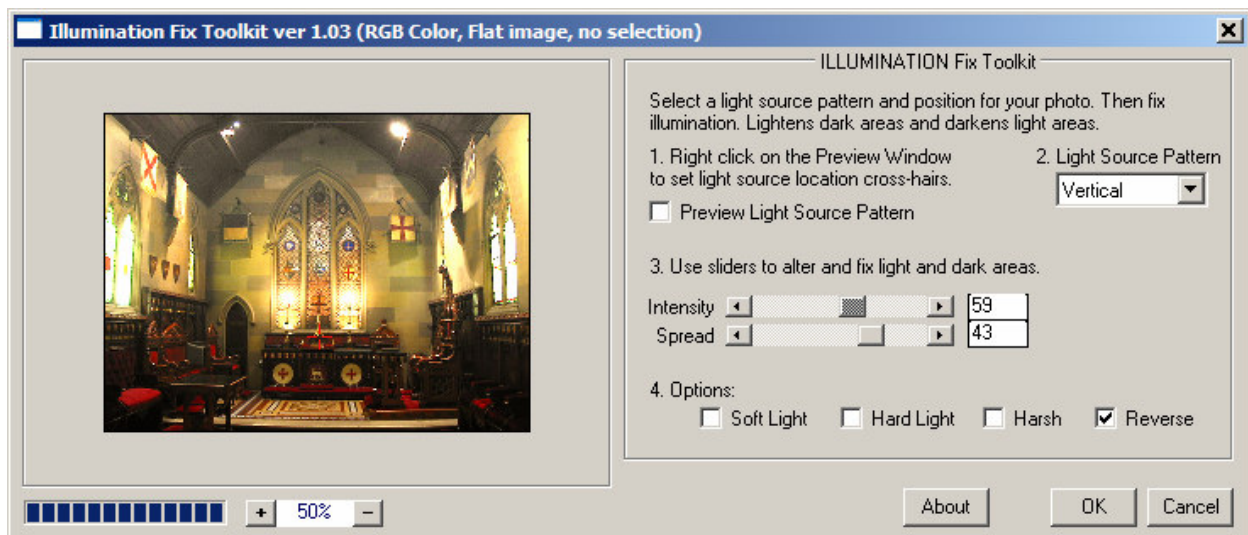

Step 4. Use the Options for setting the particular properties of the light source fix-up. Note that "Reverse" reverses the light and dark areas of the light source.
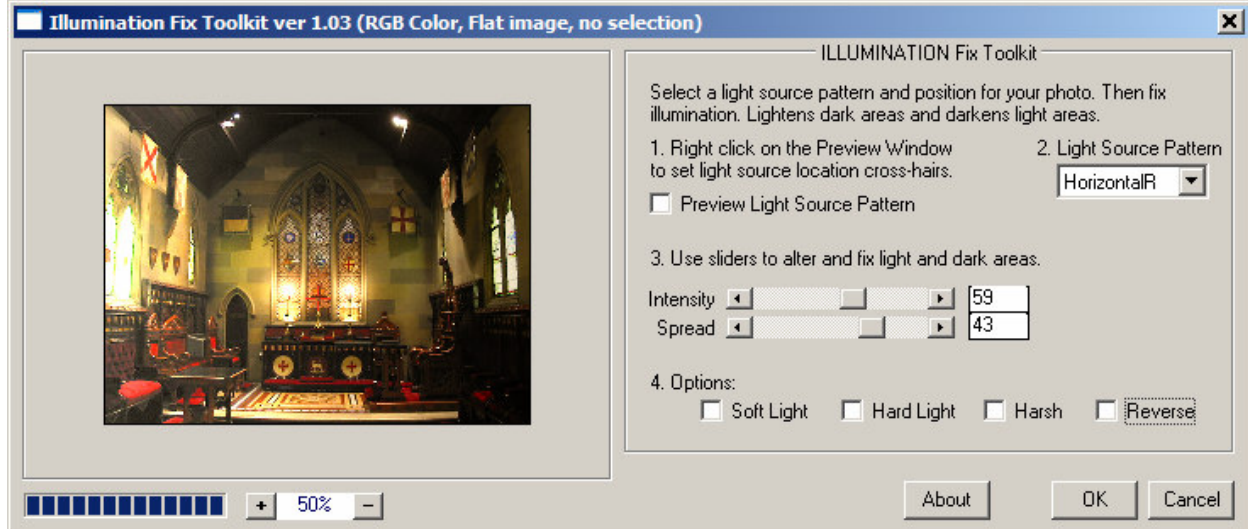
Step 5. Play with the settings and light locations until you are satisfied, and then save your changes by clicking on the OK button. If you wish, you can re-run the Illumination Fix Toolkit to fix other light sources in your modified picture.

Below are some examples of varying light sources and options used on the same picture.

Example: Fix-up using a reversed vertical light source to lighten the ceiling.

Example: Using a horizontal light source to just lighten the left wall.

Example: Using a radial reversed light source to accentuate the center and darken the walls.