Halide Mark III is coming with color grades, HDR, and early access for subscribers

Lux Optics has released a loose product roadmap for its next big iPhone photo app, Halide 3.0 (which it's calling Halide Mark III). After being more forthright than usual in the development of its Kino video app, which was recently awarded iPhone app of the year for 2024 by Apple, Lux is giving the next version of its popular photo app a touch of the Steam indie dev treatment.

Not only is Lux already hyping key upcoming features in a blog post by cofounder Ben Sandofsky, but it also plans to open up the development process via a Discord server, where users can give feedback once they start trying Halide Mark III.

So far, Lux has detailed three upcoming features for Halide Mark III that subscribers will be able to try early: Color Grades, HDR photos, and an app redesign. Color grades will operate a lot like they do in Kino, with users able to quickly load an aesthetic look / color palette based on Lux's own creations, film stocks, and imported recipes cooked by other users. In addition to what sounds like Lux's take on Fujifilm's film emulations, Halide Mark III will also include the developer's take on HDR photos — now that iOS 18's Adaptive HDR feature is making it easier to view HDR images on more platforms.

Not much has been revealed so far about Halide 3.0's redesigned interface, but Sandofsky said in the blog post that form follows function, and "if Halide's version of Instant Grade goes as smooth as we think it will, we'll make grade-

picking central to the UI, just like Kino.”

Sandofsky’s blog post also didn’t go into further detail about when Halide Mark III will ship beyond sometime in 2025, and it didn’t say how much Halide Mark III will cost. But the @halideapp account on Threads indicated to a commenter that Mark III will be included for Mark II users, and an upgrade for v1 users.

https://www.theverge.com/2024/12/23/24328371/halide-mark-iii-3-ios-camera-early-access-launch-discord-feedback