

Adobe Photoshop Lightroom CC

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Introduction

Lightroom (or LR) is designed by photographers especially for photographers, so all its features pertain only to processing photographs, not graphics. The result is a simpler, more intuitive and more efficient approach to post processing (key wording, filing, picking, rejecting, rating, optimizing and exporting) many images much faster; thus saving you time and making it more enjoyable.

Non-destructive adjustments allow you to return to images and make further changes. LR is not a memory hog; it works like Adobe Camera Raw...using the same engine with the same adjustments... plus many more. There is no need to do a "Save As" after optimizing each image since all adjustments are automatically saved into the catalog as you go through your film strip of images. It acts much like a master adjustment layer with each of the individual processing steps retained in the LR catalog. Also, every adjustment step is recorded and listed under History that allows you to return to any previous state. Unlike Photoshop (or PS), the History states are not erased when LR is closed, so they reappear the next time it is opened. These files are only finalized or saved when exporting the images, which is usually done as a batch.

LR is not a replacement for PS. It works as a companion application where the advantages of each program complement the other. It really replaces Bridge.

Images requiring more sophisticated steps, such as cloning, layer masking and many other features, can be easily edited in PS CC (or previous versions) and returned to LR with the same ratings and inclusion in the LR Catalog. They are automatically saved as a copy in TIF format that retains all of the PS layers; thus retaining its non-destructive properties.

Import Images

LR is a relational database, so it can precisely track all images in the system, even after they have been removed. To do so, the files must be formally imported into the LR Catalog, even those that are already stored on your computer's hard drive. The advantages of this are huge.

- Sources – Media cards, Storage device, Hard Drives, Folders, Collections
- Views – Grid with adjustable size, Loupe for large, single view
- Sort – Capture Time, Checked State, File Name, Media Type
- Destination – File Handling, File Renaming, Keywords, Destination

Four Options:

- Copy as DNG – Convert to DNG in a new location and add to catalog
- Copy – Copy to a new location and add to catalog
- Move – Move to a new location and add to catalog

- Add – Add photos to catalog without moving them

Export Images

The original files remain unaltered until they are formally exported from LR. All adjustments are recorded into the Catalog that links them to the original file, much like a cumulative instruction layer. Only when the images are exported are the adjustments permanently applied.

- Go to **Library**
- Select file(s) from **Grid View**
- **Export Location** (Designate the destination folder, **Same as Original**)
- **File Naming** (Custom, drop down menu)
- **File Settings** (Format, Color Space, Quality)
- **Image Size**
- **Output Sharpening**
- **Metadata**
- **Watermarking**
- **Post Processing** (Show in Explorer)

Overview of Modules

The LR interface is quite different from PS. The main features are divided into seven modules, as described below.

1. Library Module

- Left panel – Navigator, Catalog, Folders, Collections, Publish Services
- Top – Library Filter (in Grid View only) for Keyword searches
 - Text
 - Attributes
 - Metadata
 - None
- Views – Grid, Loupe, Compare, Survey and Faces
- Filmstrip Sort – Capture Time, Added Order, Edit Time, Edit Count, Rating, Pick, Label Text, Label Color, File Name, File Extension, File Type, Aspect Ratio, Custom Order
- Filters – Flagged, Ratings, Label Colors
- Right panel – Histogram, Quick Develop, Keywording, Keyword List, Metadata

2. Develop Module

- Left panel – Navigator, Presets, Snapshots, History, Collections
- Views – Loupe, Compare (Before/After)
- Right panel –
 - Histogram
 - Editing - Crop Overlay, Spot Removal, Red Eye Correction, Graduated Filter, Radial Filter, Adjustment Brush

- Basic – White Balance, Exposure, Brightness, Contrast, Clarity, Vibrance, Saturation
- Tone Curve – Highlights, Lights, Darks, Shadows
- HSL/Color/B&W
- Split Toning
- Detail – Sharpening, Noise Reduction, Color
- Lens Corrections – Basic, Profile, Color, Manual
- Effects – Post Crop Vignette, Grain, Dehaze
- Camera Calibration

3. Map Module

Cameras with GPS locators record coordinates in the image file metadata that will be pinned on a world map to keep track of precisely where your images were taken.

4. Book Module

Collections can be formatted into book pages for exporting as a PDF file for printing.

5. Slideshow Module

- Left Panel –
 - Template Browser
 - Collections
- Right Panel –
 - Options - Zoom to Fill Frame, Stroke Border, Cast Shadow
 - Layout – Show Guides
 - Overlays – Identity Plate, Watermarking, Rating Stars, Text Overlays
 - Backdrop – Color Wash, Background Image, Background Color
 - Titles – Intro Screen, Add Identity Plate, Ending Screen, Add Identity Plate
 - Music – Add using the “+” to browse and select MP3 files from **My Music**
 - Click on **Fit to Music** (NOT Sync Slides to Music)
 - Playback – Slideshow Mode, Slide Length, Crossfades, Pan and Zoom, Repeat Slideshow, Random Order, Quality
 - Preview to check
 - Play full screen

6. Print Module

- Left Panel – Preview, Template Browser, Collections
- Right Panel – Image Settings, Layout, Guides, Page, Print Job

7. Web Module

- Left Panel – Preview, Template Browser, Collections
- Right Panel – Layout Style, Site Info, Color Palette, Appearance, Image Info, Output Settings, Upload Settings

Demonstrations

- Import image files into catalog using descriptive **Keywords** (*Wedding, Dana and Steve, portraits, people*)
- Pick, rate and assign a color label to selected images to use as **Filters** for image files

- Save selected processed images to create a **Collection** for use in creating a slide show (*Colorado*)
- Apply **Sharpening** (*Maroon Belles*)
- Apply **Lens Correction** using **Profile** and **Manual** adjustments (*Motorcycle Handlebars, No Loitering* sign)
- Apply **Noise Reduction**, **Vertical Correction**, convert to **B&W** (*Sold Here*)
- **Crop**, convert to **B&W**, preview **Presets**, apply post crop **Vignette** (*Ferris Wheel*)
- Process an image using the **Graduated Filter** and other **Basic** adjustment features in the **Develop** module (*British landscape*)
- Apply the same settings via **Sync** to three other images (*British scenes*)
- Open the *Colorado* Slide Show collection, rearrange the image sequence, type **Mountain High** on the title screen, insert text for captions, drag image to background, add a soundtrack and play **Rocky** Slide Show
- Export the slide show as a PDF file to e-mail to your friends (Sorry, but the PDF format does not support a sound track)

Conclusion

This has been an overview of the principal features of LR with selected demonstrations. For more information, questions or comments please feel free to contact me at bobcoffey@aol.com or 828-595-5000.