

TIPS AND TRICKS IN LIGHTROOM

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Adobe Lightroom

- ▣ LR is the right hand of photographers today
 - Upload, organize, retrieve
 - Convert RAWs to many pixel-based formats
 - Edit, couple with external plug-ins and editors
 - Run elegant personalized slideshows with audio
 - Play and edit videos
 - Directly upload to websites, cloud storage/sync
 - Print, soft-proof, revise editing during the process
 - Compose elegant slideshows, much more

Adobe Lightroom

- ▣ Current Lightroom version is 5.6
- ▣ Purchase \$145 or \$75 student, own license
- ▣ Lease w/Photoshop for \$10/month, constant upgrades

Tips and Tricks

- ▣ The basics of Lightroom are in hand for many
- ▣ There are many conveniences built in that either aren't evident or largely unknown
- ▣ This review will briefly cover some of these, with sections as:
 - General, Screen Navigation, Keywords, Library, Develop, Presets and Beyond LR

General

- ▣ “Smart Preview” = 1/10 size RAW file 2560 px
- ▣ Used to store in-travel edits, act on full-sized file in home computer, small for a travel catalog
- ▣ Will show its type in upper part of right panel
- ▣ Can edit when offline, bring home w/changes
- ▣ Import SPs into home catalog
- ▣ Can also be used as final files for email, etc.

Screen Navigation

- ▣ Quick look for Shortcut keys: Ctl-/ or Cmd-;/ different in each module; Ctl or Cmd closes
- ▣ Click Spacebar to toggle zoom in/out
- ▣ If using a tool when zoomed in, to command normal actions hold down Spacebar
- ▣ "F" key = toggles full-screen and arrow keys browse; better than Slideshow for final review

Screen Navigation 2

- ▣ Get the Modes panel back w/click at the top; get more screen space by turning it off
- ▣ Rt-clk on edge panels' arrows to set Auto-hide, Manual, Auto-hide and Show, Sync w/opposite
- ▣ Turn on the Secondary Window for various uses even w/o a second monitor
- ▣ There's a Grid view button on Filmstrip; if it's open (it should be) get Grid from any module

Screen Navigation 3

- ▣ Below histogram:
 - Hover on rt panel > camera settings
 - Hover on image > color percentages
- ▣ When zoomed in and using a tool, to move around quickly drag Navigator rectangle (Library) or crosshairs (Develop)
- ▣ "F" key toggles full-screen, arrow keys browse; to edit again press "D"; full-screen w/"F"
- ▣ For final review, better than Slideshow

Develop - Different Views

- ▣ "Y" key presents Before/After to observe your editing differences; (Shft-Tab clears screen)
- ▣ "YY" *icon* offers different comparison views: side/side-upper/lower, etc.; "E" to return

Keywords

- ▣ Spray paint on various characteristics
 - best use: add keywords in Grid Mode
- ▣ Enable Painter in Library on Tool bar (T)
- ▣ Click on paint can, choose action for it
- ▣ Spray on one or many images – fast
- ▣ To remove a keyword, Alt-spray
- ▣ To assign an entered keyword to a whole group, in Keywording window delete asterisk
- ▣ Search using the Keyword List by clicking on the white arrow at right of keyword

Presets

- ▣ Make your own buttons for compound actions
- ▣ Develop presets add multiple settings at once
- ▣ Import presets add develop settings at upload
- ▣ To make an Import preset:
 - At right, at top of Metadata Panel, click dbl-arrow and select Edit Presets in the drop-down list
 - In the dialog box enter anything you want every image file to have: copyright notice, initial rating, etc.
 - Name it (“Import” or such) and click Create
 - Be sure to select it for all imports

Develop Presets

- ▣ To make a Develop preset:
- ▣ Edit an image to get settings you want
- ▣ At left top click Preset
- ▣ In list, select User Presets
- ▣ On Preset panel at top right click “+”
- ▣ In dialog box type a name for it
- ▣ Click on/off the edits you want to be in preset
- ▣ Click Create
- ▣ New preset will appear in User list

Snapshots and Virtual Copies

- ▣ These are fairly similar in function
- ▣ Make a Snapshot (click +) when doing long work in history list; can delete steps, come back to Snapshot at any time
- ▣ Make a Virtual Copy (click Ctl-semicolon) to compare different versions (C); it's not a real file, just new settings for that file
- ▣ Can stack any number of VCs (Ctl-G)/open them all (click number block in image corner)
- ▣ Can't move Virtual Copies to another folder

Monotones

- ▣ To make instant B&W: “V” toggles w/color; or click on a Develop Preset
- ▣ To test wide variety of monotones, other effects in Develop hover cursor over presets and observe them in Navigator panel at top left
- ▣ To get control of the color contribution to the B&W click on B&W panel and use sliders

Editing with color

- ▣ Use Adjustment Brush to paint with color:
- ▣ Click on “envelope” icon at bottom of Brush panel, select color and saturation on display
- ▣ To zero out colored tool to normal, dbl-clk the word “color” on panel
- ▣ Adjust initial saturation with color display
- ▣ Adjust brightness and saturation with “Exposure” slider
- ▣ Use Brush controls (feather, flow, density, automask)

Dodging and Burning

- ▣ Use the Adjustment Brush and preset the Exposure slider up/down (#s are f-stops)
- ▣ When dodging (brightening) w/Brush to avoid pepper-like speckling, uncheck AutoMask
- ▣ Consider using the Radial Filter instead
- ▣ Click/drag a shape, turn, feather
- ▣ Use as many RFs in same image as you like
- ▣ Most useful is spotlight; check Invert Mask for brightening an area

Simulate shallow Depth of Field

- ▣ Use the Adjustment brush and optionally, the AutoMask checkbox
- ▣ Set clarity far negative for global blur, then brush back positive clarity onto subject area
- ▣ This is a mild but quick blur adjustment – for more, use PS/PSE and strong blur brush

Exposure Adjustment

- ▣ To set white/black points, while adjusting Highlights, Shadows, White, or Black sliders, hold down Alt or Cmd to where outlines just disappear. This assures there are no saturated tones in the image.
- ▣ To preview saturation, hover (temp) or click (permanent) on the upper left or right corners of the Develop histogram to see red areas (highlights) or blue areas (shadows).

Develop “Process”

- ▣ Adobe changes its tool set occasionally, called a “process” named by the year released.
- ▣ Years were 2003, 2010, and latest is 2012.
- ▣ In Develop, click on Camera Calibration and Process list to see what it’s using. Depends on when you used a version of LR to edit picture.
- ▣ Set it easily to the latest to enjoy the enhanced tools: In Develop under the histogram if there’s a tiny lightning icon it’s not 2012 process. Click it.
- ▣ Be observant, may have to change slider settings.

Spot Removal

- ▣ In v.5 can either click on a spot (old) or drag on the spot and enlarge it to a new shape (new).
- ▣ Has both Clone and Heal settings.
- ▣ *Clone* is good at edges of image; Heal smears.
- ▣ *Heal* is good in large areas (grass, spotted rug). Can switch them while editing.
- ▣ New: help in seeing subtle spots: click at bottom: “visualize spots” for outline; adjust slider for sensitivity. Can remove spots here.
- ▣ Use “H” to hide the outlines, examine results.

Beyond LR

- ▣ Picasa has a nice collage assembler
- ▣ Get your images for it into one folder, open it
- ▣ Click at top on Create > Picture Collage
- ▣ Picture Pile is versatile, allowing an image as background, deleting any, rotating images, reshuffling
- ▣ Save it and send to Lightroom for cataloging, printing, using as background, etc.

Beyond LR

- ▣ Use free Faststone from www.faststone.org
- ▣ Provides quick look at folders, drives, quick slideshow, etc.
- ▣ Lists files and sizes; permits copies of images
- ▣ Shows RAW files' embedded JPGs
- ▣ Sets up external editing at your choice
- ▣ Starts your scanner, files images
- ▣ Has limited editing capability
- ▣ Has draw board to mark up images

That's all, folks – as the bunny said

Thanks for listening, and think about taking a class in
Lightroom

Oct 7 – Nov 7 - eight Tuesday evenings

Nov 8 and 15 – all day two Saturdays

Both are here at MD Hall Rm 307

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