

Lightroom Workshop

LIBRARY TAB

IMPORT:

- Renaming files on import
- Keywording
- Mass adjustments
- Destination folder

At the import prompt this is where you make all the decisions that will control your workflow. You need to decide if you want to set up your lightroom files by date, by a name (such as destination or subject), or use keywords to search and sort later. You can apply these settings to all images being imported at once and this saves considerable time in later file management. ***ee Camera Calibration on page 2**

EXPORT:

- Nothing is saved (all your adjustments) until you export
- You can set destination, size of file, add copyright info and even save presets for sizing ie- for includ

FILTERING/ SEARCHING:

- Depending on how you manage your workflow – ie date, keywording
- Can be done in the top bar ie -Filter- Metadata – edit or on the bottom bar click on the word “filter” and there are various options
- There is a search menu above the folders now (new in latest Lightroom update Feb15 2018)

FOLDERS:

- Data management set to your style
- In latest Classic CC update you can now search in your folders area and you can also favourite a folder this can be done on the folder itself by right clicking or on the bottom bar

COLLECTIONS:

- Like an album inside your folder with all your best images
- Do not need to use but can be convenient to locate best images for specific purposes like competitions

Key Reminder ****

Only move items within Loghtroom, from folder to folder or to collections, movig them in the file on your HD or storage space will make it so Lightroom can't find them and while your changes and the image may still show it will create errors if you don't re-locate the image for Lightroom first. This will be identified by a question mark (?) beside the image in the thumbnail or the folder if you have moved the whole folder.

AND again ... NOTHING IS SAVED UNTIL YOU EXPORT !!!

DEVELOP TAB

Presets:

Presets can be found online and I have provided you with a group of them, they are available for the develop tab and the print tab. Presets are a good starting point for many images or can even be the only development you do on an image. You can also create your own presets if you find yourself doing the same adjustments over and over to your images. They can also be overwhelming to the image meaning they take the development to a level beyond normal and are not suitable always for competition. I tend to have several favourites I use and then adjust from that start point. You do NOT need to use them, they are a time saver.

Left side develop bar:

This is where all your developing actions occur, it is broken down into various tabs from basic adjustments like exposure and contrast to sharpening, camera calibration etc. Some of these you will use often some not at all. You should get to know what each controls in case you need to do something specific. In the panel the larger your sliders are the more fine tuned control you have, this side bar can be wide or narrow, your choice just drag it. When you are making adjustments you usually use your mouse but you can manually type in a number OR use the up and down arrow keys for adjustments in increments. Just the arrow give a small increment, holding shift and the arrows is a larger increment.

If you hold shift and double click your mouse on a slider ie – exposure – Lightroom will adjust that slider to an “auto” setting of what Lightroom thinks it should be, again this can be a good starting point. You can also “zero” a slider that has been adjusted by double clicking on the number instead of trying to drag the slider back to zero.

In the left side tab if you open all the various adjustment tabs you can sometimes have to scroll quite a bit to get back top and then back to the bottom, If you are not a fan of scrolling all the time right click in the grey area beside the word “ basic” and select “ SOLO” . This opens only one tab at a time and when you click on another tab it will close the previous one to limit the amount of scrolling you have to do. You can also remove tabs from this area if you don’t use them but I do NOT recommend that as you can forget you have them available and sometimes one adjustment you need is in that particular tab.

One of the most important tabs if you shoot RAW or use your camera’s colour settings is the “CAMERA CALIBRATION” area. This seems more prevalent for Canon shooters for some reason, but before you begin adjusting your images be sure that you set the profile colour from “adobe standard” to whatever you shot in (This step can be mass completed at IMPORT). Also be sure to set the lens corrections to eliminate distortions.

TOP ROW OF TOOLS:

SPOT HEALER:

This tool heals small and large areas, on newer versions of Lightroom you can do lines or shapes, older versions are only dots. You can adjust the size of this “brush” using the sliders, or the [] keys. You can also adjust the size of the feather on this brush. This brush has clone and heal settings, sometimes one is

better than the other and you can move the selected area that Lightroom chooses by dragging the second circle to where you want the spot to come from. Spot healing can be synched to other images (see sync below)

GRADUATED FILTER:

This is meant to be like using a neutral density filter that is graduated. You can apply this overall to an entire image to put on a colour cast or you can drag the area from any side and at any angle. You can also keep the 3 sections as far apart or as close together as you wish. Within this filter your adjustments on the left only adjust the image in the marked area. Pressing the “Shift” key while dragging the filter on an image will keep your line straight. To reset this filter double click on the word “EFFECT”.

Once you apply this filter you can select “BRUSH” at the bottom of the panel and erase to remove the gradient from an area you don’t want it... ie if you have people or an object in the middle of your sky.

If you drag the filter down your sky to darken clouds but your mountains and trees also get dark, adjust the “ shadows” and those areas will lighten again without affecting the sky and clouds.

To add a colour to your filter at the bottom of the tab is the word “colour” click on the box beside and pick a colour as you click it will show on your image as a preview. If after you have picked a colour you decide you don’t want any colour on your image double click on the word “colour” and it will reset to none.

ADJUSTMENT BRUSH:

This brush is used to selectively change areas, you can adjust the size of the brush from very large to very small as well you can adjust the feather at the edge of the brush. Just under the image is a check box to “ display mask overlay” this shows the areas that you have brushed over in red. Once you see that you have your area covered uncheck the box and make your adjustments. To remove areas hold down the “ ALT” or “OPTION” (Mac) and your brush is now a – minus. This brush can also use the “colour” tool and selectively add colour to specific areas.

RADIAL TOOL:

This “filter” works much like dodging and burning. You select the size and shape of your radial spot and add shadows and highlights to these area. This tool can be used to make a subject pop out of the background by using clarity and exposure. This tool can be used in “ reverse” to mask an area and you are then adjusting everything EXCEPT what is in the circle. Be sure to keep the feather at/near 100 for a smooth transitional edge.

Further important tabs on the left side:

Sharpening: this adjustment can quickly add noise to an otherwise clear image so use sparingly BUT if you have an area that does NOT need sharpening ie the sky, use the masking slider any areas that shows BLACK as you move this slider will NOT be sharpened. Again using the ALT or OPTION key will preview the various sliders on your image.

Targeted colour adjustment:

In the “ HS2/Colour/BW” tab the small dot on the left side of the opened panel is the target. If you drag this dot onto a colour in your image you want to adjust and then drag up/down only that colour range in the image will be adjusted. This way you don't need to worry whether a colour registers as red vs orange for example in the sliders.

A few final points:

- The Fader plugin – this is included with the presets I gave and can be loaded into Lightroom. This plugin “fades” the opacity of any preset you are using without changing the overall settings of the preset. Load it through preset manager and then goto File- Plug in Extras and select the fader.
- Tone Curve and Split Toning- Split toning allows photographers to control the color tones in the highlights or shadows individually to create colorized effects, such as a sepia look or imitating a specific classic film. Tone curve is used to adjust tone, contrast, and color balance. Explore this tab on your own
- Settings – Match total exposure : Say you have several images you took in a row and you like the exposure of one of them but the others are lighter or darker because you adjusted the settings when you took each image. You are now able to synch all these images to the one image. First select the image you want to match. Then hold SHIFT and select all the other images.. goto Settings – Match total exposure and all images will now be at the exposure of the first image you selected.
- Synch/Previous – at the bottom of the right develop area is the word synch o previous. In Previous you can simply do adjustments to one image and then select the next image, click previous, and Lightroom will adjust that image the same way the previous image was adjusted. You can keep doing this as long as you don't change settings within the image OR if you do and then click the next image and click previous it will take THOSE changes and apply them. Similarly Sync will apply various setting that you decide to either one or multiple images. As in the above match total exposure you select an image you want to copy from, then select the image you want to copy the settings to. Click sync and a check box area comes up. Decide which setting you want to copy and then ok/sync on that panel and all the images you selected will have the adjustments you applied to the first selected image applied.
- If you create a collection of images and want to share them with someone or a client AND you are synched with your Cloud you can create a URL that you can share with anyone to access your images, they will see full size images and you can decide if the can download, comment or share them further in the settings
- Rating images- to quickly rate images in the library tab have your images in thumbnail view and put the CAPS LOCK on. Start at your first image and use the number keys, once you hit a number for the first image it will jump to the next image immediately and you can just continue to hit the ratings as it automatically advances from image to image.