

# Lightroom

## LR Overview

Cost:

- Full version: \$149 but usually less with sales (\$80 at B&H)

Lightroom's strengths are its speed, simplicity and short learning curve

Lightroom is based on a modular system.

- Modules are Library (organizing), Develop, Slideshow, Print, and Web.

LR is designed around a database

- Cannot just browse to view photos like Bridge
- You have to first import them into the LR catalog

## How LR Works

When you bring a photo into LR (into your library) you do not import the actual photo into LR but rather you provide directions to its location on your hard drive

The LR Catalog is very similar to a Library Card Catalog:

Library card catalogs tell:

- Where the book is located, Information about the book, Keywords
- Does not contain the actual books, they are located on the book shelves

LR Catalogs tell:

- Where your photos are located, Information about your photos, Keywords, ratings, etc
- It does not contain your actual photos. They are typically located on your hard drive. LR contains directions to the locations of your photos.

Your LR Catalog File also stores:

- Any changes you have done to your photo (cropping, correcting color, enhancing, edits) – these are recorded only as instructions in the catalog file
  - The actual photo does not get changed – **this is called non-destructive editing**. The original photo file remains unchanged
  - Edits only get applied to the file when you print or export the file or take it into Photoshop and then save it
  - To use Lightroom you must first establish a catalog of your photos

You need to create a catalog

- This involves bringing photos into your LR Library i.e., importing your photos/files into LR
- Photos can already be on your computer's hard drive
- Photos can be on your camera's memory cards
- Photos can be on an external hard drive

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## LR Workspace Main Areas

- Module menu (top, right), Left and Right panel groups, Image Viewing Area, Filmstrip

## LR Filmstrip

- Located at bottom of LR workspace
- Common denominator between the modules
- Contains thumbnail versions of all images displayed in main window of library module
- Filmstrip contains a filter that can be used to control what images will be viewed in main window

## LR Modules

### Library Module

- In the Library module you can import, export, organize, sort, rate and tag your images with keywords

### Develop Module

- Develop module provides a powerful RAW converter (all controls work equally well on JPEG or TIFF images)
- Everything done to your image is nondestructive- no pixels are changed in the original image. You are creating a sequence of instructions that are applied to the image on export

### Slideshow Module

- Allows you to make a simple, yet effective, slideshow

### Print Module

- Equally suited for processing single or multiple images
- Already set up to print some of the more popular sizes and print configurations (such as contact sheets), or you can create your own custom presets

### Web Module

- Creates both HTML and Flash-based web galleries quickly and easily
- Several presets are available, but you can also easily create your own
- Can add text based on image metadata or simply type in your own

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## LR Panel Groups

Two Panel Groups

- Left Panel Group (Left Side of workspace) - typically contain panels for viewing and selecting images
- Right Panel Group (Right Side of Workspace) - typically contain panels which describe, edit, or format images

Panels can be collapsed or expanded as needed using the little grey triangle at the center of the edge of the panel

SHIFT+TAB hides all panels and leaves just your photos visible – SHIFT+TAB again and the panels are back (The TAB key alone, just hides the side panels)

## Digital Workflow

Import (Library Module)

- Viewing Photos
- Select Keepers (rate images)
- Organize Photos

Enhance/Edit (Develop Module)

- Global Adjustments
  - White balance
  - Cropping
  - Overall Exposure
  - Vignettes
- Local Adjustments
  - Spot Healing Tool
  - Adjustment Brush
  - Graduated filter
  - Radial filter

Edit in Photoshop, if necessary

Print (Print Module)

- Presets, Contact Sheets, Multiple page printing

## How to get photos into LR

- You can import photos when you load your pictures from your digital media or you can import photos after you have loaded them on your computer through some other method
- You will have to create a Catalog within Lightroom
  - Catalogs are where you will store thumbnails of your images and instructions about the photo and directions to its location on your hard drive

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- Catalogs do not contain your actual images
- Opening LR for the first time creates a default catalog, then you have to import your images into the catalog

## Import from Memory card

- If you set Your Import Options (Located in general Preferences) to “Show import dialog when a memory card is detected”, then the Import Window will automatically come up with the Memory Card selected as the source
- From the Library Module click the Import button (lower left of Left Module) or select “Import” from File Menu bar

Source will be shown on the left panel of the Import Window (Source)

- By default there will be Previews of all pictures on the memory card in the center Preview Area with check marks indicating all photos will be imported
- Turn checkmarks off if you do not want all photos

Top Section indicates what will happen to the pictures – in this case they will be copied from the card to the computer’s hard drive

Right Panel of Import Window will allow you to specify file handling, renaming, keywords and a destination

## File Handling

Render Previews concerns how fast larger previews will appear when you zoom in on a thumbnail

- 1:1 previews make Import take longer but speed up full size previewing later

## File renaming

- Consider renaming your files to help identify the photo shoot
  - Examples:
    - Cox Arboretum June 2014
    - Girls in wraps in old house on Feedwire 2013
- Then add a unique sequence number to the end of the name

## Apply During Import

This is the easiest way to apply your copyright to every image

- In the Metadata field, select New
- Fill in the appropriate fields - IPTC Copyright and IPTC Creator
- Click Create button

## Keywording At Time Of Import

- Keywords can be added to your photos at time of import
- Any keyword you add will be added to all the imported photos
- Keywords can be applied in the Library Module if it does not apply to all the imported photos

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## Destination

Keep all your photos inside one main folder

- By default, LR chooses the last folder into which you imported photos. **Check the Destination every time to be sure the photos are going to the folder you expect)**
- It doesn't matter how many folders you have inside your one main folder or how you organize it
- Organize field – select either “Into one folder” or “By Date”
- If you want to create a new subfolder inside your main folder, check the “Into Subfolder checkbox and type the new folder name to the right

Click on the Import button to start the import process. A progress bar in the upper left of the screen will let you know when the import is complete.

## **Importing Photos Already On Your Computer**

From Library Module click Import button (lower left of Library Module) or select “Import” from File Menu

- Source will be shown on the left panel of the Import Window (Source)
  - Navigate to the folder where the photos are located (**Caesar Creek folder**)
  - When you click on the folder you will see thumbnails of the images in that folder
  - Organize field – use “By Original Folders” to keep your folder structure

Repeat steps above for importing from a memory card

## **Viewing Your Imported Photos**

Best place to view your photos is in the Library module

- Grid Mode (shortcut – G key) lets you see multiple photos
- Double click on image (or select it and hit the Space bar) to view large version of that image (Loupe View), press G key to get back to the Grid view
- Change size of thumbnails with slider at lower right of the thumbnails window
- To change the viewing order, use the Sort: icon (AZ or ZA) in the bottom strip below the thumbnails. This changes the order between Ascending or Descending order.
- The field to the right of Sort: can be used to change the sort criteria (name, rating, capture time, etc.)

## Catalog Panel

- Allows you to see all you photos in your Library, a quick Collection or the previous import

## Folders Panel

- Shows everywhere you have imported pictures

## Viewing/Selecting Keepers

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At time of import, photos can be viewed and keepers selected

- As photos are imported to library they will be displayed in Viewing Area
- Double Click on first photo, then use arrow key to review each photo

## Selection Approaches

- What ever you use – be consistent!
- Star rating selection approach
  - 1 Star is worth a closer look later
  - 2 or 3 Stars are keepers – definitely want to use for display or competition
  - Later you can increase rating for Best of the Best or lower rating if you don't like it
  - Shortcuts: Number keys 1 through 5 represents 1 to 5 star ratings, 0 will clear rating
- Flag Selection Approach
  - Picks, Rejects
  - To mark as a pick (flag it) – Press letter “p”
  - To Un-mark it as a pick (un-flag it) – Press letter “u”
  - Use the Filmstrip Filter to select your keepers for **viewing, editing or printing** (applicable to the Library, Develop and Print Modules)

## **Library Module – Right Panel Group (use the G key for quick access to Grid view)**

- The panels on the right side of the Library module let you view a histogram of the active photo, and view and add keyword tags and metadata to photos
- Quick Develop allows quick adjustments
  - Same as their counterparts in the Develop module, however, the Develop module has more precise controls for making adjustments and corrections to the image
  - There are many presets available in the “Saved Preset” field
  - Quick Develop adjustments can be slower and harder to see the change

## **Library Module – Right Panel - Keywording**

Keywording panel allows for viewing assigned keyword tags and for assigning keywords to selected photos

- Keywords are great for searching multiple folders for photos having the same keyword
- Ideal for assigning the same keyword to multiple photos
  - If Photos are consecutive:
    - Click on first photo then hold down shift key and click on last photo
    - All photos will be selected, then assign keyword by clicking to the left of the keyword
  - If Photos are not consecutive:
    - Select first one , then press Ctrl and click on each additional photo
    - Non-consecutive photos will be selected, then assign keyword

## To see all the photos with the same keyword

- Find the keyword in the list

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- Hover your mouse to the right of the keyword, against the right edge of the panel
- A right arrow will appear
- Click on the arrow to see all photos with that keyword

## **Develop Module – Left Panel Group (use the D key for quick access)**

- Navigator: allows for zooming in/out on selected photo
- Presets: Contains built-in Lightroom Presets and a place to create User Presets
- Snapshots: Allows for one click access to multiple versions of your photo, useful during long editing sessions
- History: LR keeps track of each edit you make
  - Displayed as a running list in History Panel
  - Allows for undoes, just click on the previous state
  - History is kept forever
- Collections: Same as in Library Module

## **Develop Module – Right Panel Group**

### Histogram – See where you are

- A histogram that stretches from left side of panel to right side indicates a photo that takes full advantage of the tonal scale
- Histogram that doesn't use the full tonal range can result in a dull image that lacks contrast
- Histogram with spikes at either end indicates a photo with shadow or highlight clipping. Clipping can result in the loss of image detail
- To Preview shadow and highlight clipping, position mouse over a clipping triangle in the upper-left or upper-right corner of the Histogram. Mask of clipped areas appears in photo. Click triangle to keep mask on
- One method of adjustment can be done by clicking the mouse in one section of the histogram and dragging left or right

### Basic panel - Overall exposure

- Exposure Slider sets overall image brightness
- Double-clicking on the word resets slider to zero (in the middle of the scale)
- Contrast Slider increases or decreases image contrast, mainly affecting midtones
- Highlights (formerly Recovery) slider reduces the tones of extreme highlights, attempts to recover highlight detail lost
- Shadows (formerly Fill Light) lightens shadows to reveal more detail while maintaining blacks
- Whites (formerly Brightness) slider adjusts image brightness, mainly affecting midtones
- Blacks Slider - Moving the slider to the right increases areas that become black, sometimes creating the impression of increased image contrast

### Basic panel - Presence

- Clarity Slider increases/decreases midtone contrast giving the impression of more sharpness. Sliding to the left provides a soft image – good for portraits

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- Vibrance Slider increase/decreases the saturation of unsaturated colors more than heavily saturated colors and protects skin tones
- Saturation Slider increases/decreases the saturation of all colors equally

Apply local adjustments if required (Tools for performing local edits to specific areas of a photo are located in the tool strip under the Histogram panel)

- Crop - It is good practice to Crop first: why leave an area that may affect the histogram significantly, you're just going to crop it out later
- Spot Removal Includes Clone or Heal options
- Red Eye Correction Includes Pupil Size and Darken sliders
- Graduated Filter Includes options for making tonal adjustments across a region of a photo
- Radial filter can create adjustments similar to the graduated filter except in circular patterns
- Adjustment Brush Includes options for brushing Exposure, Clarity, Brightness, and other tonal adjustments on specific areas of a photo

## Details Panel (Noise Reduction)

Just because there are noise reduction sliders doesn't mean you should use them on every photo (use with moderation)

- View at 1:1 View (full size) Select in Navigator bar, upper left
- Work with Luminance and Color Noise (red, green and blue spots)
- Luminance Slider (1 – no reduction, 100 painterly effect)
- Luminance Detail slider preserves edges but higher values may result in noise being incorrectly thought as detail
- Luminance Contrast slider is a much finer grain than 100, use sparingly

## Details Panel (Sharpening)

- Sharpening preferably done last
- Amount controls the amount of sharpening applied
- Radius determines how many pixels out from the edge will be affected (set at 0.6-0.8 for safe sharpening – set at 1 or 2 for mega sharpening)
- Detail suppresses halos which sometimes occur during sharpening (default of 25 works pretty well)
- Mask: Allows you to control where sharpening will be applied
  - Hold down Alt/ Option key and move mask slider to view the mask – great for portraits, photos with a lot of sky

## Effects Panel

The Effects panel lets you apply a vignette to a cropped photo or add a film-grain effect



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## Applying the same changes to many photos

Often, several photos from the same shoot have similar exposures, color, etc.

There are multiple methods to speed up the enhancing process of many photos

- In the Develop module, change one photo to your liking (Camden – Barrett's Cove 39)
  - Select another photo that could benefit from the same changes and click on the Previous button on the lower right of the Develop module. Repeat for other photos
  - Select several photos in the filmstrip. Hold the CTRL/Command key and left click on many photos. The Previous button on the lower right will change to Sync.... Click on Sync. The Synchronize Settings dialog will appear from which you can select any of the settings and click on Synchronize.
- In the Library module, select two or more photos and then click on the Sync Settings button on the lower right. The Synchronize Settings dialog will appear from which you can select any of the settings and click on Synchronize.

## Edit in Photoshop if needed

- Right click on file you want to edit and choose "Edit In Photoshop"
- May get multiple options:
  - "Edit with Lightroom Changes" - LR passes raw data (with edits done in LR) to Photoshop
  - "Edit Original" – if the file is a PSD or Tiff file you have modified already in Photoshop, then choose this option. This will have all the layers you may have created in Photoshop previously
- Upon exiting Photoshop, a PSD file will be created and added to LR Library

## **Ready to Print**

- Select images to be printed then go to the Print Module
- Set Your Print Size using predefined templates on the left or create your own
- Use the Page Setup button (lower left) to select paper size and orientation
- Change settings in Image Settings panel to match desired result
- Use Page panel to print watermarks, page numbers, photo info, etc.
- Use Print Job panel to set paper size and printer
  - Under the Color Management Panel click on the Profile drop-down menu
  - Drop-Down Menu will either contain multiple ICC profiles that you have already loaded or just "Managed By Printer" and "Other"
  - If your profile is not listed, you will need to select "Other"
    - Choose from list from those available in the ColorSync Folder (for a Mac: Library/ColorSync/Profiles) and place a checkmark on the ones you want

## What if my Printer/Paper/Ink ICC Profile is not Listed?

- For the most precise color in your prints, you can use profiles designed specifically for your printer model and paper type. Basic profiles are installed with

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your printer driver, or you may have to download ICC profiles from the printer manufacturer's website after you have installed your printer software

## Where To Put Printer ICC Profiles

Profiles need to be installed in the correct location on your computer for them to be available to LR or Photoshop. These Locations are:

- Windows 7, Vista and XP:
  - Folder: \Windows\system32\spool\drivers\color
- Mac OS X:
  - Folder: Library/ColorSync/Profiles
- Mac OS 9.x:
  - System Folder: ColorSync Profiles

## Choosing ICC Profile and Rendering Intent

- Select the profile that matches your printer and paper type
- Set rendering intent to Relative or Perceptual
  - Usually Relative is likely to produce the best results

## Print Dialog Window

- Each print dialog is different from one printer to the next
- Find the locations to select the correct Media Type
- Set Printer Color Management to "Off(No Color Adjustment)"

## **Exporting**

- No Save Command in LR (like there is in Photoshop)
- To save a photo as a JPEG –export it as a Jpeg
- Click on the Export button, lower left
- Specify the Export Location (where you want to put the new file)
- In File Settings section, set Image Format as JPEG
- Quality (80 to 100)

## Set Image Sizing

- Use this section to create a size different from the original (small for web or email, etc.)
- For Resolution, 72 – 150 for viewing on web/monitor, higher for printing (240)

If you expect to use the settings you made again later, click on Add under the Preset panel on the left. Give it a descriptive name. From now on you can select that preset

When everything is set, press the Export button on the bottom

## **Collections**

Collections are a key organizational tool

- Provide a way to group photos without actually moving or duplicating them on your hard drive

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- Collections do not duplicate your photos but create virtual collections based upon a criteria you choose
- Collections can contain photos across multiple folders

## Examples:

- Collection of all your 2010 competition photos
- Collection of all the photos of birds or just the egrets
- Collection of all the photos of a certain model
- Collection of all your Tripod competition images

## Creating Collections

- To Create a Collection click on “+” in Collection Panel (Left hand Panel Group)
- Name your collection, click OK, select your photos, then drag your photos to the collection
- If your collection has photos in multiple folders – go to each folder and drag the photos to the collection

## **Using the Painter to quickly apply settings**

- In Library module, click on spray paint can in strip at the bottom of the thumbnails
- You will then see options for what you can “paint” – keyword, rating, collection destination, etc.
- You can then “paint” the setting by clicking on any photo. You can hold the left mouse button and drag over several photos (like spray painting)