

Lessons In Lightroom

Creating Amazing Images
Peter West Photography

Lightroom Overview



What Is Lightroom?

- A professional photographic RAW and JPG image editor
- A robust database that saves, manages and protects your images
- A software program that changes photo editing forever

How Does It Change Photo Editing?

- Lightroom is a none-destructive editor
- It never touches your original images
- Lightroom saves pros lots and lots of time
- Lightroom makes amateur images look great

Who Uses Lightroom?

- At \$150 (or \$9.95/month with PhotoShop) it's a good RAW/JPG editor for everyone
- As a database, it's great for photographers who shoot lots and lots of images
- Thanks to its presets, it automates editing creating consistent results very quickly

Lightroom Advantages?

- LR was built for photographers
- LR doesn't require a super fast computer
- LR is non-destructive
- LR presets really speed up post production
- LR is affordable

How Does It Work?

- Lightroom downloads and saves your images
- It then creates JPGs for you to see and edit
- Changes are recorded in data files that are stored in your computer or on a hard drive
- Only when you export an image is a copy made that incorporates your changes

What Does This Mean?

- Your original RAW or JPG images are never changed and are safe on your hard drive
- Generally photographers output JPG versions of the edited images for display or printing
- LR is very fast and is a very good editor

How Does It Compare?

- LR library module and PhotoShop Adobe Bridge are identical
- Other photo editors don't remember where your originals are stored. LR does.
- LR can use PhotoShop (and tons of other programs) as an external photo editor

What's External Editing?

- LR manages files, edit images and export or print photos on its own
- External editors open inside of LR
- PhotoShop can be used as an external editor within LR
- Editors include noise reduction, sharpening, HDR, black and white, vignette, colour filtering and colour correction applications

LR vs PS vs PS Elements

- LR costs \$150 compared to PS \$800
- PS Elements \$99
- PS is much more complex
- Photographers use less than 1/2 of PS
- LR can't do layers* or pixel editing

What's Pixel Editing?

- PhotoShop uses layers to change images
- PS makes permanent changes to files
- PS can change anything in an image
- Lightroom can do 90% or more of what PS does but does it in a non-destructive way

LR Presets

- Very desirable shortcuts
- Presets automate almost all LR functions
- Created once, presets are always available
- You can buy or create your own presets
- Presets are available for importing, developing, retouching, printing and sending images to web galleries and photo sites

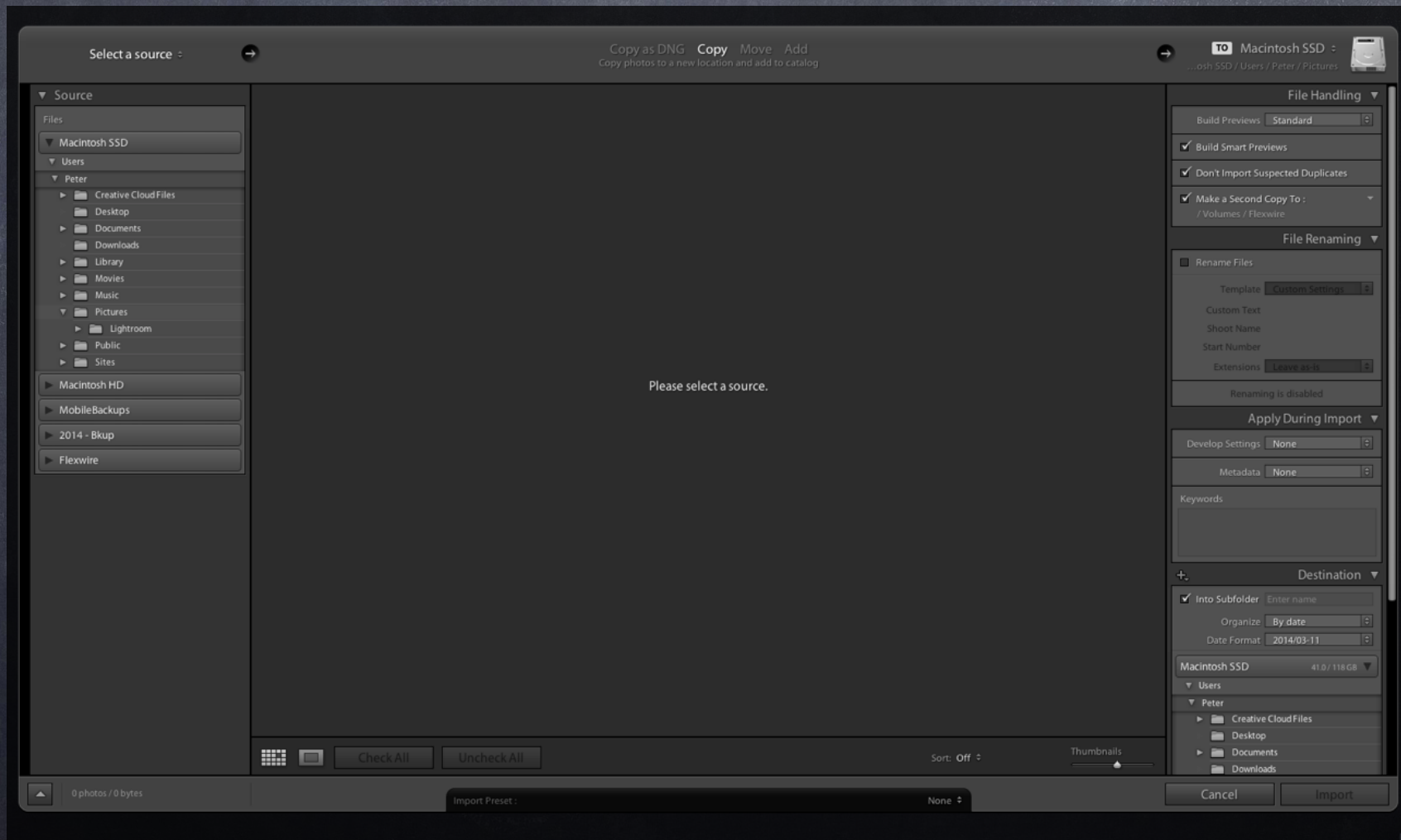
How To Get Started

- LR downloads images from memory cards
- But it's faster to use your operating system to import files
- Always make a backup copy on a 2nd drive
- Point LR at your stored RAW image folder
- From now on, only use LR to move your photographic folders or images

External Hard Drives

- New cameras create BIG photo files
- External hard drives are cheap and reliable
- You can add external hard drives easily
- You can use external hard drives as archives
- Lots of images stored on your computer's hard drive will slow down your processing

The Import Screen



What Are We Importing?

- JPG copies your original RAW (or TIFF or JPG) files for you to see in LR
- JPG previews can be small, medium or full size. Smaller loads faster
- Your original images remain in their folder
- Changes made to metadata files are stored in your Pictures folder as the LR catalogue

Importing Basics

- LR shows a contact sheet of images
- Import all (default) or import selected images
- Import as a DNG, Copy, Move or Add
- You can apply presets to images being imported (name change, metadata, even develop changes)

Smart Previews

- Check this box in the import window to edit images when not connected to the hard drive
- Allows editing of images when originals aren't available but adds size to catalogue
- Shows ! Previous versions showed ? on image
- Applies changes to main database upon reconnecting to external hard drive images

Preferences

- General, Presets, External Editing, File Handling and Interface
- External Editing – PhotoShop CC or PS Elements as default external editor
- Plus additional external editors: Silver Efex, HDR Pro, Viveza, Perfect Portrait, Bokeh, etc.
- Colour space – sRGB, Adobe RGB, ProPhoto

Catalog Settings

- set location of LR catalogue
- set backup LR for every time you exit
- File Handling – Preview Cache
- Auto discard 1:1 previews

The Modules

- Library - G - grid view
- Develop - D
- Map - Command Opt 3
- Book - Command Opt 4
- Slideshow - Command Opt 5
- Print - Command Opt 6
- Web - Command Opt 7

Library Module

- Grid - One Image - X/Y Compare - Survey
- Use to check focus
- Do Quick Development
- Add Keywording - Metadata - Comments
- Rate Images by stars, picks, colours

The Spray Can



- Under grid view on Toolbar (tap T)
- Click and assign "job"
- Spray keywords, ratings, metadata, presets
- Remember to re-park your spray can

Develop Module

- See all or only rated images
- Apply presets or work on individual images
- Crop, Heal, Fix Red Eye, Gradient, Radial and Enhance (with special brushes) Tools
- Basic, Tone Curve, HSL/Colour/B&W, Split Toning, Detail, Lens Correction, Effects, Camera Calibration

Collections

- B key adds image to Quick Collection
- Com. B shows Quick Collection in image bar
- Smart Collections - drag image into smart folder - Allows changes in images
- Images in collections are virtual copies only

Snapshots

- Creates a version of your image
- Create as many snapshots as you wish
- Cmd N creates new snapshot
- Name it - Cropped, lightened, noise reduced
- Preview shows in window above presets

Soft Proofing

- simulates how your image will look when sent to a printer or web (watch histogram)
- Essential to calibrate monitor (and printer)
- Saves time and money
- Found in Develop Module at bottom of image

Basic RAW Editing

- Allow preview to load
- Check histogram for clipping or blocking
- Crop - try auto tone - white balance - brighten, clarity, vibrance, saturation
- Detail - sharpening and noise reduction
- Effects - add vignette

Jack Davis 5 Step Tango

- White balance and crop
- Auto (undo)
- Exposure - Clarity - Shadows - Highlights
- Whites - Blacks
- Vibrance - Contrast if necessary - Vignette

Using the Histogram

- Same function as the camera's histogram
- Shows clipping of highlights on right
- Shows blocking of shadows on left
- Press "J" in develop module to see clipping

Tools

- Crop tool
- Spot removal tool
- Red-Eye reduction tool
- Gradient tool
- Radial filter tool
- Adjustment brush (with presets)

White Balance

- WB presets (as shot, auto, daylight, etc.)
- Use the eyedropper tool or sliders
- Try "auto" first
- Always remember you can "reset" anytime

Exposure

- Again try "auto" first
- Use your histogram as a guide
- Clarity creates contrast in mid tones
- Clarity adds snap or can soften portraits
- Saturation brightens or deepens colours
- Vibrance adjusts least saturate colours

Tone Curves

- Controls change all the tones in an image
- Creates classic "S" shape to tone curve
- Allows "points" on specific tones on image
- One of LR's most powerful tools

HSL/Colour/B&W

- Hue - Saturation - Luminance
- Hue is colour
- Saturation is grey
- Luminance is brightness

More Sliders

- Split Toning
- Detail - Sharpening and Noise Reduction
- Lens Correction
- Effects - Vignetting
- Camera Calibration - Standards and Custom (using a Colour Passport Checker)

Map Module

- manages EXIF data on geotagged images
- some cameras auto tag or use GPS
- drag images from photo bar onto map

Book Module

- Using edited images design and print a book
- Or save your book as Adobe PDF or JPG file
- Autofilling can save days of time
- LR uses Blurb Books as its default publisher
- Blurb has instructions and examples

Slideshow Module

- Go to Library and setup new collection
- Name - Slideshow - drag images into folder
- Smart collections use rules to do selection
- Go to Slideshow module and setup options
- Add titles and custom text
- Export video slideshow

Web Galleries

- Use prebuilt gallery template
- Add text and customize template
- Upload (FTP) to web gallery or Dropbox

Print Module

- Use LR templates to pick a print size or create a custom size
- Add custom text or a watermark
- Print job set resolution, sharpening and colour management
- Print a test and adjust brightness and contrast as needed

LR Shortcuts

- G = grid view in library module
- D = develop module
- Shift-tab = collapses all panels
- L = Dim/Off/On light panels
- T = toolbar on/off
- F = full screen mode

More Shortcuts

- I = Information (all but SS and Web)
- Cmd A = select all
- Cmd Z = undo last step
- Cmd Y = redo last step
- S in Dev. Module = soft proofing on/off

Powerful Presets

- Presets speed up workflow
- You can create (or buy) custom presets
- Presets for importing, developing, book design and printing are the most popular
- Keywording, metadata, comments are all data presets and can apply to one or all images

LR5 Resources

- ② [Trial version LR5](#)
- ② [Matt Kloskowski - LR Killer Tips](#)
- ② [Adobe LR on YouTube](#)
- ② [creativelive.com](#)
- ② [Julianne Kost](#)
- ② [Lightroom Forums](#)