

# *Using Lightroom*

*an Adobe Systems, Inc. product*

*by  
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# *Make a free trial run, or buy*

Current version is 6 (or CC), improved and faster

Get a free 30-day trial from [adobe.com](http://adobe.com)

Mac or PC version available; CD or download

Buy (v.6) or lease (CC) for \$9.99/mo incl. PS CC

Street price: \$140 (Amazon Feb'15), upgrade \$78

Student price \$77 (free shipping, no tax) with  
proof of registration in any accredited  
educational institution (ex.: AACCC)

Buy, and your trial download is then “owned”

“Aperture” for Mac discontinued; LR can import catalog

# *What's in 6 that's not in 5.7?*

- ✓ Create HDR images w/o Photoshop
- ✓ Create Panoramas w/o Photoshop
- ✓ Radial and Grad filters have Filter Brush to add or subtract from filters' selection
- ✓ Facial recognition eases adding name keywords
- ✓ Video slide shows w/still images, music and effects
- ✓ Faster performance
- ✓ Make HTML5-based web galleries (Flash is gone)

# *What's in CC that's not in 6?*

- ✓ Use Lightroom on iPhone, iPad and Android
- ✓ Access Photoshop CC - free
- ✓ Automatically import (upload) photos from mobile devices
- ✓ Synchronize photos across desktop and mobile devices
- ✓ Edit raw files on mobile devices with Smart Previews
- ✓ Always up to date with latest photography innovations
- ✓ Learn from a library of in-depth video tutorials
- ✓ Remove or add atmospheric haze to images
- ✓ Share photos via web galleries with Lightroom
- ✓ Get feedback on shared galleries in Lightroom
- ✓ Cut out/combine images on mobile devices with PS Mix
- ✓ Access Lightroom photos from Voice & Slate storytelling apps
- ✓ Access Lightroom photos from partner apps and services

# *What does Lightroom do?*

- ⦿ Lightroom is a “complete toolbox” for serious amateurs and professional photographers
- ⦿ A program for one-stop post-processing – all your steps are integrated
- ⦿ Works on many file types: JPG, Raw, Tif, etc.
- ⦿ Can be used for workflow (a regular sequence)
  - > Avoid missing steps, automate routine and batch processes, non-destructive editing
- ⦿ Lightroom has seven linked “modules”

# *Lightroom's Seven Modules*

- ◎ Library to import, organize, keyword, compare, group, rate, find and select photos and make adjustments – 1-by-1 or batch
- ◎ Map to find images by geographic location
- ◎ Develop to adjust color and tone, sharpen, correct and creatively process photos
- ◎ Slideshow, Book, Print, and Web modules to output images in a variety of ways

# *Non-destructive Processing*

- ⦿ LR always leaves the original file intact
- ⦿ LR saves your “history” of work steps
- ⦿ You can always – at any time now or future:
  - > return to each step you took, remove later ones
  - > return to the original and start over
  - > make any number of different changes, save them as separate files (B&W, soft focus, crops)
- ⦿ Your “settings” (adjustments, crops, etc.) are continuously saved as an instruction file used to show you a “preview” and for final output preparation

# *Image Files are not “in” Lightroom*

- ⦿ Upload image files (by LR or any means) to your storage system (hard drive, CD, etc.)
- ⦿ Lightroom makes that upload easy by also “importing” info into a “catalog” (database)
- ⦿ Catalog shows smaller replicas of your images (“previews”) stored in LR preview files
- ⦿ LR stores “Previews” to speed up your access to images for organizing, editing, and output
- ⦿ Editing settings are used to make the preview and are stored in the catalog for final output

# *Similar to a conventional library*

- ⦿ Paper libraries have books in the “stacks”
- ⦿ Organized by a librarian in a “card catalog”
  - > Cards have “metadata” such as ISBN, author, copyright, #pages, publisher, etc.; but not the content of the book, which is back in the stacks
- ⦿ Lightroom makes a catalog of the photo files (that can be kept anywhere) and more
- ⦿ The catalog keeps track of all your work

# *Start and end with Library*

- ⦿ “Import” in a single activity uploads, converts, permits renaming and batch adjustments, adding camera/image information to catalog, and more
- ⦿ Then you can view, organize, compare, select, rate and group photos in several ways
- ⦿ “Export” files to a drive or CD/DVD, print, email, upload to web gallery/share, etc.

# *Lightroom is a Raw Converter*

- ◎ The converter in your *camera* can make a JPG, the most-used and popular final product
- ◎ But you can control the final image much better:
  - > if you bypass that in-camera conversion to store the “raw” data from the sensor, and
  - > make the final image using the computer’s software
- ◎ To make a digital image with maximum info and flexibility, shoot using the Raw file format
- ◎ Lightroom is an excellent Raw converter
  - > Identical converter to Photoshop’s, kept in sync

# *Why shoot in RAW capture?*

- ◎ It's like having a film negative on hand, to:
  - > keeps all sensor data, does minimal processing
  - > keep more detail and exposure range than JPGs
  - > use 16-bit color space > less shadow noise problems
- ◎ Raw avoids irretrievably “cooking the egg” into JPGs according to the camera's settings
- ◎ Lightroom can convert any of today's Raw files
- ◎ Raw shooting must be selected in the camera
- ◎ Output needs computer processing to get image

# *Uploading with “Import”*

- ◎ You can, all at one time:
  - > from camera storage card, upload files automatically or manually; batch process them
  - > or upload files taken only on a certain date
  - > avoid duplicating card’s images already in catalog
  - > add information about the images, yourself, etc.
  - > adjust all images: sharpen, lighten, darken, etc.
  - > add keywords to all to find groups of files later
  - > save these choices in a “preset” to use again

## *To search later, keyword early*

- In Library *Keywording* panel, insert words that describe the image(s)
  - > Select photos for one or more keywords
  - > type it in once; thereafter check its box on left
  - > LR keeps a “tree” keyword list – no limit in size
- To search, open *Keyword List*, select keyword, click on tiny arrow at right, screen fills with all image previews for that keyword in your entire library!

# *Filters: choose on your criteria*

- ◎ Once your files are in the catalog, your earliest tagging will make later retrieval easy
- ◎ Three methods, can use any/all on an image:
  - > Flagging – simplest for in/out choices
  - > Star rating – use for ranking in one of six levels
  - > Color tagging – process indicators, special selections
- ◎ At any point you can quickly “rank” a photo, even on the fly during a running slideshow
  - > Your ranking choices are stored in the LR catalog
- ◎ Then, work on only what you want by sorting on these parameters - filtering

## *Search on many parameters*

- To search entire catalog, click highest-level folder in tree, such as Pictures
- To search a specific folder select it (click) at left
- In Library (only), press backslash, get bar at top
- Click on “Metadata,” then on any column title
- Click whatever item(s) you’d like to search on
- Combine settings and filters, flags, etc.
- At right, keep your filter entries as a preset
- Also can use Map module to search on location

# Map to search by location

- ⦿ The Map module has add-in functions to get location data into your image files:
- ⦿ GPS coordinates (in Metadata list) identify loc'n
  - > If photos don't have GPS coordinates, open the filmstrip, select and drag previews onto the Map; coordinates are entered in image file metadata
  - > Find your photos by clicking on the map
  - > Add location tracks from GPS to photo files
  - > Map module can do much more

# *Final organization: Collections*

- ⦿ Lightroom provides “collections” to group image files you’d like to retrieve from any folders
  - > Collections solve the cross-reference problem and are free from alphanumeric ordering by your OS
- ⦿ Collections are small text files that point LR to your pre-selected, finished product anywhere
- ⦿ When satisfied with master image files from a shoot, drag and reorganize them in a collection that has a descriptive name for instant retrieval
- ⦿ Original files and rejects, etc. are kept but need not be referenced again; use the collection

# *Raw files can be universal*

- ◎ Camera manufacturers store Raw image data in their own proprietary formats:
  - > \*.CR2, \*.NEF, \*.ORW, \*.ARW, etc.
- ◎ Many analysts agree: we should *archive* in a universal format such as Adobe's ".dng"
- ◎ DNG (Digital NeGative) files can keep a variety of additional data about your image, optionally including the original Raw files
- ◎ LR will convert almost any proprietary format into the DNG format; it's still a Raw file

# *Shoot both RAW and JPG?*

- ⦿ Using LR, a catalog (database) program, to track/develop two file formats > confusing
- ⦿ 1 – Camera embeds a \*.jpg file inside RAW file
- ⦿ 2 – At your choice, camera also makes a full-sized \*.jpg based on camera's settings
- ⦿ 3 – LR processes RAW (or DNG) into a \*.jpg
- ⦿ Which is which? Troublesome tracking
- ⦿ A \*.jpg made in computer is likely superior
- ⦿ Instead, shoot RAW, export JPGs as needed

# DNG or “sidecar” files?

- ⦿ Either: use the DNG format to contain all the items you may need for this image:
  - > the dng-formatted raw file information (the “negative”) including the embedded small \*.jpg in that RAW file
  - > your camera’s JPG-ready settings that weren’t used
  - > all metadata about the file, in-camera *and afterward*
  - > your coming LR editing instructions for this image
  - > (opt.) a copy of the original proprietary RAW file
- ⦿ Or keep the original RAW image files and use sidecar (\*.xmp) text files to keep your changes
  - > these must be coordinated and stored together

## ***Next: the Develop Module***

- ◉ Many operations here are similar to basic uses of Photoshop, but easier and faster
- ◉ Adjust exposure, white balance, contrast, brightness, saturation; you can crop, rotate, use a tone curve, sharpen/blur, remove noise, correct lens problems, paint changes on the image, add effects and much more
- ◉ All by non-destructive editing – originals intact
- ◉ Can work on Raw, jpg, Tif, PSD, other file types
- ◉ Set up LR to switch to your favorite editor, then come back to LR with those changes saved

# *“Going Out” to Photoshop*

- ⦿ LR will make a psd or tif copy and export it to an external editor (PS, etc.)
- ⦿ Edit there for operations LR can't do, such as transforms, compositing with layers, detailed masking and selecting, etc.
- ⦿ Use “Save” and return to LR to see your edited image already in the catalog
- ⦿ Both Raw original and \*.psd are available

# *There is no “Save” command !*

- ⦿ After adjusting your first image, you may look for a Save command, but there is none
- ⦿ LR saves every move you make as you go
- ⦿ Instructions (“Settings”) are saved to update your previews and to “Export” the final
- ⦿ Settings can also be saved as metadata inside each image file, independent of LR
- ⦿ The original is not altered = no need to save

# What results?

- ⦿ Changes you make (“settings”) are stored either:
  - > by themselves in a “sidecar” file (\*.xmp) – or
  - > embedded inside a universal RAW (\*.dng) file
- ⦿ Catalog also keeps settings and locations/paths
- ⦿ You can embed new metadata into the file
- ⦿ You can revisit your work with/without exporting
- ⦿ Only when you choose to output, you “Export” and Save As your finished, specialized product
  - > as an image file: \*.jpg, \*.tif, or \*.psd, \*.exe, \*.pdf, etc.
  - > to slideshow, print, book, web, email, upload...
  - > original and sidecar files are kept, or all in a \*.dng

# *Slideshow, Book, Print, Web*

- ⦿ These four output modules make it easy
- ⦿ Make a slideshow or video with frames, fades, start/end titles, music, embed videos, etc.
  - > When you're done, save and export as a \*.pdf or \*.mov video to send and run it on any computer
- ⦿ Assemble a book in your style, send out layout
- ⦿ Make prints; familiar steps, but it's simpler here
  - > Some preparations are done with just a checkbox
- ⦿ Web page gallery design and preparation
  - > an FTP client is included for simpler uploading

# Slideshow Module

- ◉ From the Library module, choose images to show
- ◉ To rearrange order, make a Collection of your choices
- ◉ Click “Slideshow” at the top right, then:
  - Choose images or your Collection shown at left
  - Drag Collection images into the order you like
  - Choose templates for overall appearance
  - On right panel, try various selections, see reactions
  - Optionally add start and finish nameplates/titles
  - Choose display: Preview or Play (full-screen)
  - Set duration, order, repeat, add a sound track

## *Design, order a photo book*

- ⦿ In the Book module, you can add photos in a book layout/design of your choice
- ⦿ You can edit, reselect, add, drop photos in LR while doing the layout
- ⦿ Lightroom can send all the instructions and photos to “Blurb.com” with your payment
- ⦿ Blurb mails you the finished product
- ⦿ Or you can save it as a PDF or JPG file and have it printed wherever you choose

# Print Module

- ⦿ Set up printing with your own printer driver
- ⦿ Regular printing, with embedded preparation processes – sharpening, color mgmnt, etc.
- ⦿ Uses flexible and customizable templates
- ⦿ Can print one image per sheet, or
- ⦿ Quickly arrange printing of multiple sizes on one or many pages using templates
  - > Makes the best use of paper and ink
  - > Arranges for least number of paper cuts

# *The Web Module*

- ⦿ Prepares an upload to your website using templates – LR’s presets or yours
- ⦿ Add start/end panels for title, credits
- ⦿ Test with “Preview in Browser” at lower left
- ⦿ Either export to a file, and/or upload to site by LR’s internal FTP client in Web

# ***Publish Services***

- ⦿ LR can batch-synchronize with web pages
- ⦿ Upload images to your own pages or to Flickr, Facebook, many other destinations
- ⦿ Drag previews into a collection you make in Pub Svcs, it makes a target folder on your site
- ⦿ Click the Publish button and images are sent
- ⦿ Make corrections later in LR and “re-publish”
- ⦿ Get back Comments that are made on web page; they’re displayed in LR metadata

# *Free plug-ins and add-ons*

- Lightroom accepts 3d-party add-ins such as presets
- Presets speed up your work, some free:
- Presets Heaven: Offers presets and training
- Wonder Land Presets : a dozen+ free presets
- On One Software : 85 presets
- Inside Lightroom : Color, B/W, calibration presets
- Gantico : New presets every few months
- Lightroom Blog : A variety of user presets
- 640 Pixels : 15 color, black/white, split-tone presets
- [regex.info/blog/lightroom-goodies](http://regex.info/blog/lightroom-goodies) (J Friedl)

- ⦿ Lightroom is the leader in collecting all the photographer's tasks into one place
- ⦿ Getting easy with it will take time
- ⦿ Stay with it and it will grow on you and become indispensable
- ⦿ Lightroom already has become more popular than Photoshop among photographers worldwide

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# Lightroom References

- ⦿ An excellent compendium of online references:
  - ⦿ <http://insidelightroom.com/>
- ⦿ Adobe has a complete free manual online:
  - > [http://helpx.adobe.com/pdf/lightroom\\_reference.pdf](http://helpx.adobe.com/pdf/lightroom_reference.pdf)  
or use Help list in top bar
- ⦿ Free online tutorials by Julianne Kost:
  - > [www.jkost.com/lightroom.html](http://www.jkost.com/lightroom.html)
- ⦿ Several detailed reference texts are available:
  - > *Adobe Lightroom (4, 5, 6, or CC) - The Missing FAQ* by Victoria Bampton - \$23 ebook or \$46 ebook plus paperback at Amazon, online membership and fast interactive help responses

# *Lightroom 6.2/CC 2015.2*

- ⦿ Today (Oct 5) Adobe released an upgrade
- ⦿ It's been recommended by experts to not upgrade until some features are reworked
- ⦿ If you've upgraded today and don't like it you can revert: use [LauraShoe.com](http://LauraShoe.com) directions
- ⦿ Upgrade later – it's not essential now
- ⦿ LR works with Win10 without problems