

Using Lightroom

an Adobe Systems, Inc. product

*by
Don Dement, Photographer*

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

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 (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

don.dement@verizon.net, nonlinearart.com, 443-994-1333

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
or use Help list in top bar
- Free online tutorials by Julianne Kost:
 - > 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 directions
- Upgrade later – it's not essential now
- LR works with Win10 without problems