

# *Using Lightroom*

*an Adobe Systems, Inc. product*

*by  
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## ***What does it do?***

- ⦿ Lightroom is a complete toolbox for serious amateurs and professional photographers
- ⦿ A program for one-stop post-processing – all steps are integrated
- ⦿ Works on RAW, jpg, tif, other file formats
- ⦿ Can be used for workflow (a regular sequence)
- ⦿ Avoid missing steps, automate routine processes
- ⦿ Lightroom operates with five linked “modules”

# *Lightroom's Five Modules*

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

# ***Image Files are not in Lightroom***

- ⦿ Your image files are uploaded to your storage system (a hard drive on/in computer)
- ⦿ Lightroom facilitates that storage and indexes each file into a “catalog” (database)
- ⦿ Catalog uses small replicas of your image (“previews”) stored in a LR preview file
- ⦿ Previews speed up your access to images
- ⦿ Full-sized image files are used for editing, previews are used for organizing

## ***Start with Library***

- In the Library module, copy image files from camera or a drive to one or two storage media
- “Importing” in a single activity permits file renaming, initially adjusting all images, adding image information to the LR catalog
- Then you can view, organize, compare, select, rate and group photos in several ways
- Can do some quick editing and slideshow prep
- Can “Export” files to a drive or CD/DVD, or upload for email, web gallery sharing, etc.

## ***Uploading: “Import”***

- ◎ You can, all at one time:
  - > from camera storage card, upload files automatically or manually; batch process them
  - > upload files only taken on a certain date
  - > add keywords to all to find groups of files later
  - > add information about the images, yourself, etc.
  - > adjust all images: sharpen, lighten, darken, etc.
  - > set the size of the previews to go into the catalog
  - > save these settings in a template to use again

## *Insert keywords and search*

- Use descriptive words about images
- In Library, insert as many as apply, comma-separated; or a phrase, space-separated
  - Use right panel to type word/phrase in just once
  - Select photos to be keyworded, click
  - From there on, just check the box next to word
- To search, open Keyword list, click on arrow at right end of keyword bar

## *Search by rating and filtering*

- ⦿ Once your files are cataloged, your earliest selections will make later retrieval easy
- ⦿ At any point you can quickly “rate” a photo
- ⦿ Can rate photos on the fly during a slideshow
- ⦿ Three methods of selection, can use any/all:
  - Flagging – simplest for in/out images (toggles on tilde ~ )
  - Star rating – use for ranking, process control (type 1-5)
  - Color tagging – note for next actions, etc. (type 6-0)
- ⦿ Choices are stored in the image file and LR catalog
- ⦿ Then, work on only what you want by using filters

## *Search on many parameters*

- ⦿ In Library (only), press backslash to get bar
- ⦿ Click on Metadata, then any column title
- ⦿ Check whatever you'd like to search on
- ⦿ Combine settings and filters, flags, etc.
- ⦿ At right, keep your selections in a preset
- ⦿ To search entire catalog select highest-level folder in tree at left

## ***Final organization: Collections***

- ⦿ Lightroom provides “collections” to group together any image files you’d like to retrieve
- ⦿ Collections solve the cross-reference problem
- ⦿ The collections are small text files that point to only your pre-selected, finished product
- ⦿ When satisfied with master image files from a shoot, put them in a collection with a descriptive name for later instant retrieval, shows, etc.
- ⦿ Original files and rejects, etc. are kept but need not be referenced again

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

- ⦿ Change exposure, white balance, contrast, brightness, saturation, crop, rotate, use a tone curve, paint in adjustments, make lens and perspective corrections, much more
- ⦿ All by non-destructive editing – originals intact
- ⦿ Can work on RAW, JPGs, TIFs, PSDs, others
- ⦿ Many operations here are similar to basic uses of Photoshop, but easier and faster
- ⦿ You can set up LR to switch to your editor, come back, save changed file in LR

## ***“Going Out” to Photoshop***

- ⦿ Using Ctl-E command, a raw image is made into a \*.psd, exported to PS or Elements
- ⦿ Edit there using compositing, transforms, layers, lens corrections, etc.
- ⦿ Use “Save” w/o interfering with its choice of \*.psd format (do not choose \*.jpg)
- ⦿ Return to LR (Alt-tab) to see edited image
- ⦿ Both raw original and \*.psd are available

## ***There is no “Save” command !***

- ⦿ After your first adjustment of an image, you may look for a Save command, but...
- ⦿ The original is not altered = no need to save
- ⦿ LR saves every move you make as you go
- ⦿ Instructions unique to each image are saved
- ⦿ Instructions are used to update your previews and “Export” to screen, print or web
- ⦿ Instructions are saved as metadata

# *Non-destructive Processing*

- ⦿ LR uses the original file for all processes
- ⦿ Your adjustments, crops, etc. are kept as an instruction file for the preview and outputs
- ⦿ You can always:
  - 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)

## *What results?*

- ⦿ Changes you make are stored either:
  - by themselves in a “sidecar” file (\*.xmp) – or
  - embedded inside a \*.DNG (universal RAW) file
- ⦿ You can embed new metadata into the file
- ⦿ You can revisit your work without exporting
- ⦿ Only when you choose to output, you “Export” (not Save) a finished, specialized product
  - as an image file: \*.jpg, \*.tif, or \*.psd
  - to any folder for slideshow, print, web, email, upload...
  - original and sidecar files are kept, or all in a \*.dng
- ⦿ Catalog keeps change information and location

## ***Slideshow, Print, Web***

- ⦿ These three output modules make it easy
- ⦿ Intuitive to make a slideshow with frames, fades, start/end name slides, music, etc.
- ⦿ When you're done, export the slideshow as \*.exe or \*.pdf, send/run it on any computer
- ⦿ Printing is familiar, but simpler here
  - Some preparations are done with just a checkbox
- ⦿ Web page gallery design and preparation
  - an FTP client is included for simple uploading

# Slideshow Module

- From the Library module, choose images to show
- To rearrange order, make a Collection of your choices
- Click on the top right item: “Slideshow”, then:
  - Choose images or your Collection
  - Drag Collection images into your chosen order
  - Choose templates for overall appearance
  - On right panel, try various selections, see reactions
  - Optionally add a start and finish name, title
  - Make display choices, Preview
  - Add sound track, duration, order, repeat or not

# Print Module

- ⦿ Regular printing, with embedded preparation processes – sharpening, etc.
- ⦿ Uses flexible and customizable templates
- ⦿ Can print one image per sheet, or
- ⦿ Quickly arranges printing of multiple sizes on one or many pages
  - Makes the best use of paper and ink
  - Arranges for least number of paper cuts

## Web Module

- Prepares for an upload to a website using templates – theirs or yours
- Choose an “engine” by testing, upper right
- Can do html or flash
- Add start/end panels for title, credits
- Test with “Preview in Browser” at lower left
- Export to file, and/or upload by ftp to site

## *Compared to Picasa ?*

### ⊙ Lightroom (\$):

- Integration w/other Adobe products (Photoshop, etc)
- More sophisticated editing (no layers or compositing)
- Color correction, CA correction
- Noise reduction and sharpening
- Exposure and White Balance adjustments
- Batch processing of unlimited files at once

### ⊙ Picasa (free):

- Arguably faster (much faster for me)
- Integration with Google product (Blogger, etc)
- Simpler editing tools

## ***Make a free Trial Run***

30-day free trial is available as a download

Mac and PC versions available

Current version is 3.2, improved and faster

Regular price is about \$200 (Staples, 10/2010)

Upgrade from Lightroom 1 or 2 is \$96

Updates are free from Adobe

Student price about \$80 available on proof (easy)

at [amazon.com](http://amazon.com)

## ***Thanks for Listening !!!***

- ⦿ Lightroom collects all photographer's tasks into one place
- ⦿ Keywording is extremely valuable in long run
- ⦿ Takes some time, maybe many mistakes
- ⦿ Stay with it for a few months
- ⦿ It will grow on you, become indispensable
- ⦿ It will become as popular as Photoshop

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