

Jim's Lightroom Tips & Tricks

Blog Part 1

- On the *Import* screen, create a copyright for your import *Metadata Preset*: **⌘** *Edit Presets* > *IPTC Copyright* > *Copyright*, type (“©” Mac: Opt+G, PC: Num Keypad Alt+0169) [© 2020, First M. Last]. Check *Copyrighted*. “All Rights Reserved.” Add other info (Creator, Country, E-mail address). Change *Custom* to *Save as new preset*. Having experienced the new, improved *Auto Tone* button in December, 2017, I added it to my *Import Preset*, but there is another way to get the individual *Tone* sliders to automatically pick the best guess setting.
 - On any *Basic* slider, hold *Shift* and double-click either the slider title or the slider nub . Don't like it, do it again without the *Shift*.
- (August 2018) I was concerned that using an *Auto Tone* import preset to all my photos being imported could be a problem for sequences. HDR brackets may have alterations, so I limited my *Import Preset* to just *Lens Corrections*. After importing into the *Library*, I normally *Color Label* my sequences to tell me to stay away from editing until merged. Then I discovered if I hold the *Option/Alt* key while clicking my *Color Label* (blue) on the *Filter* bar attribute tool bar, I get all photos that are not color labeled blue. Now I do a *Cmd/Ctrl+A* select all, then hit the *Auto Tone* button on the *Quick Develop* panel.

April 2015 Lightroom CC (v6)

History

New in April 2016 (v6.4):

- The *Merge to Panorama* feature added a Photoshop trick. When you like one of the three projections (don't dismiss *Perspective*), skip the *Auto Crop* (ignore the white space) and slide the *Boundary Control* all the way to 100. You have just maxed out your panorama borders.

New in October 2017 Lightroom Classic CC (v7.0):

- Quick selections with *Color* and *Luminance Range Masking*: you can quickly create a precise masking area on your photo for applying local adjustments. These precision masking tools can detect changes in lighting & contrasting edges based on color and tone. The first sample of the color/luminance is free, hold *Shift* for up to four more.
 - *Color Range Mask*: After making an initial selection mask on your photo with *Adjustment Brushes* or *Radial Filter/Graduated Filters*, use *Color Range Masking* to refine the selection mask based on the colors sampled within the mask area. *Luminance Range Mask*: After making an initial selection mask on your photo with *Adjustment Brushes* or *Radial Filter/Graduated Filters*, use
 - *Luminance Range Masking* to refine the mask area based on the luminance range of the selection. This is a good replacement to the *Gradient Filter* with the *Erase Brush*.

New in December 2017 (v7.1):

- Enhanced '*Auto*' button to automatically apply the best guess *Tone* edits. (It's good.)

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New in February 2018 (v7.2):

- You can create *Collections* from folders: Select one or more folders in the *Folders* panel. Right-click and choose any of the available options from the context-menu:
 - *Create Collection "[Folder Name]"* or *Create Collection Set "[Folder Name]"*, if you've selected a single folder.
Create Collections From Selected Folders or *Create Collection Sets From Selected Folders*, if you've selected multiple folders.
- You can create a collection from a photo pin in the *Map* module. Right-click any photo pin or group on the map and choose *Create Collection* from the context-menu.
- In the *Folders* panel of the *Library* module, you can now use the search field \varnothing to find folders based on the entered text.
 - You can now mark *Folders* as *Favorite*. You also have the option to filter favorite folders within the *Folders* panel by right-clicking a folder.
- To filter the folders marked as favorite:
 - In the search bar of at the top of the *Folders* panel, click the \varnothing icon.
 - Choose *Favorite Folders* from the drop-down list.

New in April 2018 (v7.3.1):

- *Dehaze* was moved to the *Basic* panel.

New in June 2018 (v7.4): (latest first)

- Manage raw *Profiles* and *Presets*:
 - To show/hide profile groups: In the *Profile Browser*, right-click any profile group and choose *Manage Profiles* from the menu, select the profile groups that you want to show in *Profile Browser*, or *Deselect* what you want to hide from *Profile Browser*.
 - To show/hide preset groups: In the *Develop* module, click the plus (+) icon at the upper-right corner of the *Presets* panel and choose *Manage Presets* from the menu, select the preset groups that you want to show. Deselect the preset groups that you want to hide.
 - Adding *Color Labels* to the *Folders* panel. select one or more folders and right-click to bring up the context-menu, choose *Add Color Label* and then select any color from the submenu.
- You can also filter all the folders that have been assigned a color label: In the search bar of at the top of the *Folders* panel, click the \varnothing icon left of *Filter Folders*.
 - Choose *Labeled Folders* from the drop-down list.
- The addition of Apple's HEIC image/HEVC media file formats (more efficient than JPG).
The *Create Stack* checkbox in the *Merge to HDR* or *Panorama* tools. When checked, all the sequenced photos will be stacked in one frame with the output on top. (All the stacking controls are under the Photo menu.)
- *Profiles* were added to the *Basic* panel.
 - Right-click on any profile groups and choose *Expand/Collapse All*.
 - Change the view with the second bar on the panel.

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- To add a profile to *Favorites* profile group: When browsing the profiles in the *Grid* or *Large* view, hover on the profile thumbnail and click the star icon that appears at the upper-right corner of the thumbnail.
- When browsing the profiles in the *List* view, hover on the profile and click the star icon that appears next to the profile's name.
- You can also access your favorite profiles from the *Profiles* pop-menu.

New in August 2018 (v7.5):

- Lr Mainly *Book* module enhancements.

New in October 2018 (v8.0): (Process Version 5)

- Lr For HEIC photos with depth data, the *Range Mask* includes a *Depth* option.
- Lr *HDR Panoramas* are now a one step choice.
- Lr Support for HEVC (H.265) video.
- Lr Process Version 5 significantly improves highlight details.

New in December 2018 (v8.1):

- Lr Develop panels may be customized. Right-click panel header. Relaunch. Confirm.
- Lr *Auto Import* from a watch folder now supports *Add to Collections*.
- Lr The *Book* module includes *Grid Snap for images*.

New in February 2019 (v8.2):

- Lr To see a higher resolution image in *Library* or *Develop*, go to the *Photo* menu > *Enhance Details* > *Enhance*. Hold down the hand cursor in the pop-up preview to see the original version. A copy with “-*Enhanced*” is added. (Best with fast GPU)

New in May 2019 (v8.3) Lightroom Classic (no longer “CC”):

- Lr The new *Presence* slider is *Texture* that adds a 3D effect to details to the right, or smoothing skin to the left.
- Lr Your original file names are now preserved in metadata and shown on the *Import* > *Metadata* sub-panel. (Other apps, such as *Bridge*, won't read them.)
- Lr When importing from a memory card, it is faster to use the *Files* section, rather than the *Devices* section up top.

New in August 2019 (v8.4):

- Lr Lr can now use your GPU to not just help the display, but process images:
 - Navigate to *Edit* > *Preferences* > *Performance* (Windows) or *Lightroom Classic* > *Preferences* > *Performance* (macOS).
 - In *Camera Raw* section, *Use Graphics Processor* drop-down, select *Custom*.
 - Select *Use GPU for image processing*. (Switches from *Basic* to *Full...*)
- Lr *Color Labels* may be assigned to collections. Right-click.
- Lr You may *Export* to *PNG*.
- Lr You may batch merge multiple sequences to *HDR* and *Panoramas* from *Stacks*.

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New in November 2019 (v9.0):

- Lr Panoramas have the option to *Fill Edges*.
- Lr You may export presets, including groups of presets.
- Lr You may filter folders and collections by color label.
- Lr In the history panel, right-click a selected step and select *Clear History Above This Step*.
- Lr You may delete photos in the filmstrip by selecting them, then *Shift+Delete*.

New in February 2020 (v9.2):

- Lr The Export wizard now has a *Done* button to save changes without exporting.
- Lr *Auto Sync* now warns you that you are editing multiple photos.
- Lr Photoshop PSB large file format is now supported.
- Lr Photoshop Elements 2020 catalogs may be imported.

New in June 2020 (v9.3) now “LrC”:

- Lr Besides more speed and smoothness, *Sync*, *Tone Curve*, & *Color* tools have been updated.
- Lr *Hue* adjustments were added to the local adjustment brush.
- Lr *ISO* presets can be created to be adaptive.
- Lr *Crop Overlay* has a new centering target grid.
- Lr The *Presets* panel added a *Defaults* section to quickly preview their effect.

Back to My Blog:

- Lr I have a new 2017 4K iMac (with 32 GB, 1TB SSD, 4 GB display), so I have checked the *Catalog Settings > Metadata* tab's box: *Automatically write changes into XMP* (either .XMP sidecar file or .DNG package-my choice). That sync's data into my .DNGs (or .XMP files) with the catalog. The manual way is to select all edited photos & press *Cmd+S*.
- Lr Since my last Tips & Tricks, I replaced my hybrid/fusion internal hard drive with a solid state drive (SSD). No moving parts and no time lag reading/writing data. That allowed me to move my catalog and photos from an external drive to the iMac. The old hard drive is now a second Time Machine backup drive.
- Lr I spent the last few months (winter 2018-2019) going through all my tens of thousands photos (weddings and community service projects not counting because they're in separate catalogs). I deleted (backed up) exactly half, and gave every photo stars and keywords.
- Lr Here's what I learned: (before I got a camera that has built-in lens correction profiles.)
 - If you create an *Import Preset* based on your *Develop Presets*, a badge will be placed on every thumbnail. Now I can't tell which photos have been through the *Develop* Module. I see no reason I should not have *Lens Corrections* and *Chromatic Aberrations Removed* on every photo, so instead of a preset becoming an import preset, I make it a *Default*.
 - Grab an unedited photo and go to the *Develop* Module (*D* or *Opt+Cmd+2*).
 - With everything at its default position, go to the *Lens Correction* sub-panel, *Profile* tab.
 - Check *Remove Chromatic Aberration* and *Enable Profile Corrections*, *Default* or *Auto*.
 - *Create a Preset +*, *Uncheck All*, select *Lens Corrections*, create a *Preset Name*, *Create*.
 - Now, go to *Preferences > Presets, Master: Preset > User Presets*, then your new *Lens Profile* preset.

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- Before built-in profiles, I liked *Adobe Landscape* for my *Treatment Profile*, but not always. You may select a *Profile* in the *Basic/Treatment* sub-panel. *Adobe Standard* has a little less contrast than *Adobe Color*, but both good choices to start with as a default.
- With the settings to apply to all imported photos set, hold the Alt/Opt key and the *Reset* button changes to *Set Default*, click.
- A dialog box pops up. *Uncheck All* (*Process* and *Calibration* may stay), then check those default choices you want. *Done*. Your next *Develop* panels are set.
- Now, I have a camera with built-in profiles, so I like Nikon's *Camera Standard*.

Lr Before you import photos, make sure you have designated a *Second Copies* folder (preferably on another drive) for copies of your original files to go into holding. Some day, when all is good and backed up, you may delete these.

Lr I *Rename Files* with a format *YYYY-MM-####*.

Lr *Develop Settings* should be *None* (if you go the *Set Defaults* in *Develop* route).

Lr Don't forget to create a *Metadata Preset*, either in *Library's Metadata* sub-panel, and click on the *Preset* box and go *Edit*. Under *IPTC Copyright*, type ©2020, *First Lastname*, then select *Copyrighted*, then type *All Rights Reserved*. I add my e-mail alias and country further down. Select your preset in the *Import* panels.

- If you go back to apply *Metadata* in previous years, change the copyright year.

Lr If you have a keyword that applies to all photos importing, type that (those).

Lr Since my photos are found by keywording, my folder and file structure is chronological. I choose *Organize By Date*, and *Date Format 2020/06*, which goes under the folder *Pictures* then *Lightroom Photos*.

Lr Make an *Import Preset* down on the bottom/center. *Import*.

Lr Once all photos are imported and converted to DNG, I look for obvious bad shots and give them an *X* (you could do unchecking before importing, too). To find sequences (HDR or panos) (I color label use blue), go to the *Photo* menu, *Stacking, Auto-Stack by Capture Time*. Slide to an interval to a is a minimum time between your last sequence shots and your next sequence shots (I try 5-6 seconds). Close, then go back to the menu and *Expand All Stacks*. You will see faint bars at each end of stacks and (along with *Capture Time* on the slide data) either *Shift* or *Ctrl/Cmd+click* sequence shots and tap *9* or click a *Color Label* box for blue (your color may vary). I avoid editing a photo that is part of sequence.

Lr Now, I'm ready to work my way through the *Library*, either hitting the bad ones with an *X*, or starring them (1=signs & notes, 2= keeper, 3, presentable, 4=competitive, 5=wall hanger). All get keywords with parent keywords assigned.

Lr When I see a group of shots trying to do the same thing, I select them and hit *N* (for a *Number* of photos). I click the *X* in the bottom right of the weakest until I have the best one (maybe two), then give them a star rating. Hit *Esc* to get back to the *Library*. Select all the no stars and give them an *X*. Periodically, press *Ctrl/Cmd+Delete* and *Delete* from disk (*Second Copies*). *Remove* keeps the files on your drive but not in the catalog.

Lr You may jump back and forth from *Library* (*G* for *Grid*, *Spacebar* or *E* for *Loupe*) to *Develop* (*D*), and back.

Lr While in the *Library*, I frequently use the *Quick Develop* sub-panel to try *Tone-Auto* and some necessary *Exposure* tweaks. Your *Develop Presets*, including *Favorites*, are available under *Saved Presets*.

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- Lr Lightroom does a nice easy job of HDRs (Ctrl+H) and/or panoramas (Ctrl+M, think *Merge Mountains*), and are mild, but...:
- Lr For those sequences that really need help with dynamic range, you need a plug-in, such as HDRsoft's Photomatix Pro. It installs as a plug-in automatically if Lr (and Ps) are already there. You still should add plug-ins to the *Additional External Editing* apps/programs in Preferences. This will place it in the *Edit In...* list when you right-click a photo or go to the *Photo* menu. This is not the best way for Photomatix Pro. Always go to the *Edit* menu, *Plug-in Extras, Export to...* list. This avoids creating a large TIFF for every photo in the sequence, just the HDR output, and places it back in your Library with a .TIF extension.
 - Photomatix's TIFFs are huge, more than 250 MB each, so I recommend Exporting them, using *Add*, and *Same Location*, and .DNG. Then do an *Import* of that folder. Delete the TIFFs. Each .DNG may be $\approx 1/3^{\text{rd}}$ size.
- Lr Either way, the output gets a (Red) *Color Label* for HDRs, or a (Purple) *Color Label* for a pano. The keywords "HDRs" or "Panos" are applied, too.
- Lr When some sort of *Collection* will be created for an album, slideshow, etc. I create a *Target Collection* and hit *B* (Best) for those to go there. When finished with editing, I go to the collection, and if I need to narrow it down, hit *P* for a *Pick*. Finally, I would go up to the *Filter Bar* and elect the white flag (Picks). Hit Ctrl/Cmd+A and *File > Export* them, etc.
- Lr *Develop Presets* can personalize your workflow, but you can go one step further. I made presets for *1 Profile-Landscape*, *2 Tone-Auto*, *3 Contrast-zero*, *4 Transform-Auto*, and *5 Vignette -25*, and others. The numbered ones get right-clicked and *Add to Favorites*. Now, many shoots can be edited quickly by clicking these *Favorites*. (Note: *Auto Tone* works great for the *Highlights* to *Blacks* sliders, but the *Exposure* is a little down for me, along with *Contrast* going to around -20, when I prefer less.)
- Lr Don't leave your Tool Bar (*T*) below your photo empty. Click the ▼ on the right end.
- Lr Skies often need a little help, the new Lightroom is on the way...
 - One way is to pull down the *Gradient* tool's shade. Don't worry about those trees or roof tops, we're not going to have to pull out the *Eraser*. In addition to negative *Exposure*, a little blue *Temp* and *Dehaze* might help. A run around with *Contrast* may get the clouds where you want them. Now, here is the key (including the tools to the right): drop down to *Range Mask*, and click the *Off*, and select *Color*. An eyedropper will appear to the left. Pick it up and click on the sky in the gradient. If it varying in color shades, drag the tool or *Shift*+click more places, leaving little eye droppers in the sky. Notice the areas not sky, they should lack the gradient adjustments. You can move off *50 Amount*, but watch for halos (or frost) on the reset areas. *Done*.
 - Another method is the *HSL* sliders. If you don't have other areas of importance with the color needing help (say blue), go the *HSL* sub-panel and the *Saturation* tab. Click the *Color Range Selector* target (formally *Target Adjustment Tool/TAT*) in the upper left corner. Click in the color needing help and drag up (or scroll down) to increase *Saturation*. Repeat with *Luminance* the opposite way with the same spot.
- Lr Shooting a lot of architecture, I use the *Transform* sub-panel a lot, so I right-clicked on a sub-panel, and selected *Customize Develop Panel*. I moved *Transform*, *HSL*, *Tone Curve*, and *Effects* up under *Basic*. (Keep your sensor vertical as best you can.)

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- Lr When using the *Spot Removal* Tool for long lines (contrails, power lines), break them up in chunks, rather all-at-once. If at first, you don't succeed, *Edit in Photoshop*.
- Lr There are at least two ways to do *Content Aware Fill*. The old way is to go to *Edit > Fill > Content Aware*, but a new way is just below that menu item at *Content-Aware Fill* and a wizard to play with. Ctrl/Cmd+D to Deselect and *Save*, you're back in Lr.
- Lr When I am done with a folder, and all un-needed photos are deleted, I select all (Ctrl/Cmd+A), then *Library* menu > *Rename Photos (F2)*, & set the sequence number to 1.
- Lr Create *User Presets* in the *Export* dialog. Most JPEGs for displays do not need to be much more than 1 MB, so set *sRGB* and a *Quality* of around 80. A common *Image Sizing > Resize to Fit* choice is *Width & Height*, which is a constraint box (as in a screen). A 16x9 screen might be 1920 W by 1080 H, A 3x2 (sensor) might be 1620 W by 1080 H (aka 1K). *Resolution* has no use for displays, except to estimate the size on the screen, so I use my display's pixels per inch of 220 PPI. (A 2,200 pixel length would be 10 inches on my display.) For prints, stick with 240 or 300 PPI.
- Lr Speaking of displays, before I start editing photos, I calibrate my monitor (display/screen) with a ColorMunki Photo every four weeks, then set my display brightness to the position achieved in calibrating for about 120 brightness level for my photo paper (I also know it is a certain number of * function key taps from zero).
- Lr Besides one or two automatic backup drives (Time Machine), I manually copy my Pictures folder (holds Lr catalog files and photos) to two external drives, monthly. One goes in a fire resistant safe or away from my house.
- Lr Go get my Lightroom Workflow document, or e-mail JamesLambPhoto@icloud.com, or CCCC Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/Capitalcitycameraclub/files/> .