

LightRoom 101

Provided By Tripod Camera Club

Nancy Clements Beasley Workshop Presenter

December 2010

Handouts: Relationship with Workshop Briefing Slides: Only slides that have Bold, Italicized, and Underlined Titles will be contained in this handout. Copies of all the Briefing slides may be downloaded from the TCC website (<http://www.tripodcamera.com>)

LR Provides Complete Environment For Digital Photography

- Based Upon Modules: Library, Develop, Slideshow, Print, Web
- Start with the Library module, import images into your Lightroom catalog, move seamlessly to Develop module to adjust images and share your photos as prints, slideshows, or web pages.

LR Overview

- Adobe Photoshop Lightroom is a photography software program developed by Adobe Systems for MACs and PCs
- Cost:
 - Full version: \$299
 - Upgrade: \$99
 - Student/Teacher Version: \$89
- Where to get it: Adobe.com
- Lightroom's strengths are its speed, simplicity and short learning curve
- Lightroom is based on a modular system.
 - Modules are Library, Develop, Slideshow, Print, and Web.
- LR is designed around a Database
 - Cannot just browse to view photos like Bridge
 - You have to first import them into the LR catalog

How LR Works

- When you bring a photo into LR (into your library) you do not import the actual photo into LR but create metadata about the photo
- Your LR Catalog is very similar to a Library Card Catalog:
 - Library Card Catalogs tell:
 - Where the book is located, Information about the book, Keywords
 - Does not contain the actual books, they are located on the book shelves
 - LR Catalogs Tell:

- Where your photos are located, Information about your photos, Keywords, ratings, etc
 - Does not contain your actual photos, they are located typically on your hard drive
- Your LR Catalog File also stores:
 - Any changes you have done to your photo (cropping, correcting color, enhancing, edits) – these are recorded only as instructions in the catalog file.
 - The actual photo does not get changed – **non-destructive editing**. The original photo file remains unchanged
 - Edits only get applied to the file when you export the file
 - Different than Photoshop which does change the original file
- To use Lightroom you must first establish a catalog of your photos
 - This involves bringing photos into your LR Library i.e., importing your photos/files into LR
 - Photos can already be on your computers hard drive
 - Photos can be on your camera's storage media
 - Photos can be on an external hard drive

One Rule To Keep Organized

- LR can keep you organized as long as you –
 - Keep all your photos inside one main folder
 - By default LR chooses your Pictures for MACs (My Pictures for PCs) folder
 - Doesn't matter how many folders you have inside your one main folder or how you organize it.

LR Workspace Main Areas

- Module Picker, Left and Right Panel Groups, Image Viewing Area, Filmstrip

LR Filmstrip

- Located At Bottom Of LR Workspace
- Common Denominator Between The Modules
- Contains Thumbnail Versions Of All Images Displayed In Main Window Of Library Module
- Filmstrip Contains A Filter That Can Be Used To Control What Images Will Be Viewed In Main Window

LR Modules

- Library Module
 - In the Library module you can import, export, organize, sort, rate and tag your images with keywords.
- Develop Module
 - Develop module provides a powerful RAW converter (all controls work equally well on JPEG or TIFF images).
 - Everything done to your image is nondestructive

- You are creating a sequence of instructions that are applied to the image on export
 - No pixels are changed in the original image, even when you use the spot removal, red-eye removal tools or Adjustment Brushes
- Slideshow Module
 - Allows you to make a simple, yet effective, slideshow.
- Print Module
 - Equally suited for processing single or multiple images
 - Already set up to print some of the more popular sizes and print configurations (such as contact sheets), or you can create your own custom presets.
- Web Module
 - Creates both HTML and vFlash-based web galleries quickly and easily
 - Several presets are available, but you can also easily create your own
 - Can add text based on image metadata or simply type in your own.

LR Panel Groups

- Two Panel Groups
 - Left Panel Group (Left Side of workspace)
 - Right Panel Group (Right Side of Workspace)
- Panel Functions
 - Left Panels typically contain panels for viewing and selecting images
 - Right Panels typically contain panels which describe, edit, or format images.
- Panels Can Be Collapsed Or Expanded As Needed using the little grey triangle at the center edge of the panel
 - SHIFT -TAB Hides everything and leaves just your photos visible – SHIFT-TAB again and the panels are back

Digital Workflow

- Import (Library Module)
 - Viewing Photos
 - Select Keepers
 - Organize Photos
- Enhance/Edit (Develop Module)
 - Global Adjustments
 - White balance
 - Cropping
 - Overall Exposure
 - Vignettes
 - Local Adjustments
 - Spot Healing Tool
 - Adjustment Brush
 - Photoshop Interface
- Print (Print Module)

- Presets, Contact Sheets, Multiple page printing

How to get Photos into LR

- You can import photos when you load your pictures from your digital media or you can import photos after you have loaded them on your computer
- You will have to create a Catalog within Lightroom
 - Catalogs are where you will store thumbnails of your images and metadata of your images
 - Catalogs do not contain your actual images
 - Your images are typically on your hard drive

Catalogs Re-visited

- LR Catalogs
 - Does not contain actual image files only references to where they are
 - Catalogs are typically located on your hard drive
 - Opening LR for the first time creates a Catalog then you have to import your images into the catalog
 - Each Catalog contains:
 - Catalog file
 - Previews File
 - Backup Folder

Import from Memory card

- From Library Module click Import button (lower left of Left Module) or select “Import” from File Menu (top ribbon bar of window)
- If you set Your Import Options (Located in general Preferences) to “Show import dialog when a memory card is detected”, then the Import Window will automatically come up with the Memory Card selected as the source.
- Source will be shown on the left panel of the Import Window (Source)
- By default there will be Previews of all pictures on the Memory Card in the Center Preview Area with check marks indicating all photos will be imported.
 - Turn checkmarks off if you do not want all photos
- Top Section indicates what will happen to the pictures – in this case they will be copied from the card to the computer’s hard drive
- Right Panel of Import Window will allow you to specify file Handling, renaming, keywords and a destination
- File Handling
 - Render Previews concerns how fast larger previews will appear when you zoom in on a thumbnail
 - Options are: Minimal, Embedded & Sidecar, Standard and 1:1

To Rename or not to Rename (Import Window)

- File renaming – simplest method – don’t rename

Keywording At Time Of Import

- Keyword can be added to your photos at time of import
 - Any keyword you add will be added to all the imported photos that have been check marked
- Keywords are just a fancy name for search terms
 - Africa
 - Buffalo
 - A Person, place, event, etc
- Keywords are great for searching multiple folders for photos having the same keyword (Casey pictures taken in 2010, I have a lot of folders with Casey photos)
- Keywords can be applied in the Library Module if it does not apply to all the imported photos

Importing Photos Already On Your Computer

- From Library Module click Import button (lower left of Left Module) or select “Import” from File Menu (top ribbon bar of window)
- Source will be shown on the left panel of the Import Window (Source)
 - Navigate to the folder where the photos are located
 - When you click on the folder you will see thumbnails of the images in that folder
- Top Section indicates what will happen to the pictures
- Right Panel of Import Window will allow you to specify file Handling, renaming, and keywords you may want to assign

Viewing Your Imported Photos

- Best Place in the Library module
 - Learning the various viewing options will really help you make informed decisions on which ones are the keepers
- Grid Mode lets you see multiple photos (use Thumbnail slider to change size of Thumbnail)
- Shift Tab Hides all the Panels, Shift Tab again and they are back
- Double click on image to just view that image (Loupe View), press G key to get back to the Grid view
- Catalog Panel
 - Allows you to see all you Photos in your Library, a quick Collection or the Previous Import
- Folders Panel
 - Shows everywhere you have imported/exported pictures

- Collections Panel
 - Allows for viewing of any collection you have generated.

Viewing/Selecting Keepers

- At time of import, photos can be viewed and keepers selected based upon your Selection Approach
 - As photos are imported to library they will be displayed in Viewing Area
 - Double Click on first photo, then use arrow key to review each photo
- Selection Approaches
 - What ever you use – be consistent!
 - Star Rating Selection Approach (Nancy’s Approach)
 - 3 Stars are keepers
 - Later you can increase rating for Best of the Best or lower rating if you don’t like it
 - Shortcuts: Number keys 1 through 5 represents 1 to 5 star ratings, 0 will clear rating
 - Flag Selection Approach
 - Picks, Rejects
 - To mark as a pick (flag it) – Press letter “p”
 - To Un-mark it as a pick (un-flag it) – Press letter “u”
 - For really bad, fuzzy shots that you will never ever use, flag as reject (Press letter “x”) – you can easily delete these later
 - Can be used for either Star or Flag approach
 - Do not recommend using Color Labels for selection approach
 - Difficult to remember which color is a keeper, or one level below/above a keeper
- Use the Filmstrip Filter to select your keepers for **viewing, editing or printing** (applicable to the Library, Develop and Print Modules)

Library Module – Right Panel Group

- The panels on the right side of the Library module let you view a histogram of the active photo, and view and add keyword tags and metadata to photos
- Quick Develop allows quick adjustments
 - Same as their counterparts in the Develop module, however, the Develop module has more precise controls for making adjustments and corrections to the image.

Library Module – Right Panel Keywording

- Keywording Panel allows for viewing assigned Keyword Tags and for Assigning Keywords to selected photos
- Ideal for assigning the same keyword to multiple photos
 - If Photos are consecutive:
 - Click on first photo then hold down shift key and click on last photo
 - All photos will be selected, then assign keyword
 - If Photos are not consecutive:
 - Select first one , then press Cmd/ctrl and click on each additional photo
 - Non-consecutive photos will be selected, then assign keyword

Develop Module – Left Panel Group

- **Navigator:** allows for zooming in/out on selected photo
- **Presets:** Contains built-in Lightroom Presets and a place to create User Presets
- **Snapshots:** Allows for one click access to multiple versions of your photo, useful during heavy editing sessions
- **History:** LR keeps track of each edit you make
 - Displayed as a running list in History Panel
 - Allows for undoes, just click on the previous state
- **Collections:** Same as in Library Module

Develop Module – Right Panel Group

- Follow Consistent Workflow
 - Histogram – See where you are
 - A **histogram** is a representation of the number of pixels in a photo at each luminance percentage.
 - A histogram that stretches from left side of panel to right side indicates a photo that takes full advantage of the tonal scale
 - Histogram that doesn't use the full tonal range can result in a dull image that lacks contrast
 - Histogram with spikes at either end indicates a photo with shadow or highlight clipping. Clipping can result in the loss of image detail.
 - To Preview shadow and highlight clipping, position mouse over a clipping triangle in the upper-left or upper-right corner of the Histogram. Mask of clipped areas appears in photo. Click triangle to keep mask on
 - Set the White Balance
 - Approach 1: WB Pull Down Menu and Temp and Tint Slider Tweaks
 - Use Temp and Tint Sliders to dial in a better looking WB
 - Approach 2: Use the WB Selection tool
 - Click on Eyedropper Tool
 - Click on Something in the picture that is light grey
 - Click on the Done Key (lower right in view window) or click it back from where you got it
 - Crop
 - Crop First: why leave an area that may affect the histogram significantly, you're just going to crop it out later
 - When you crop the histogram changes as you change the crop area
 - The histogram you see is the real histogram and you can make better decisions when editing your photos
 - Basic Module - Overall exposure
 - Exposure Slider sets overall image brightness
 - Recovery Slider Reduces the tones of extreme highlights, attempts to recover highlight detail lost
 - Fill Light Lightens shadow to reveal more detail while maintaining blacks
 - Blacks Slider - Moving the slider to the right increases areas that become black, sometimes creating the impression of increased image contrast
 - Brightness Slider Adjusts image brightness, mainly affecting midtones
 - Contrast Slider increases or decreases image contrast, mainly affecting midtones
 - Basic Module - Presence
 - Clarity Slider increases/decreases midtone contrast

- Vibrance Slider increase/decreases the saturation of unsaturated colors more than heavily saturated colors and protects skin tones
- Saturation Slider increases/decreases the saturation of all colors equally
- Effects Panel
 - The Effects panel lets you apply a vignette to a cropped photo or add a film-grain effect
- Apply Local Adjustments if Required (Tools for performing local edits to specific areas of a photo are located in the tool strip under the Histogram panel)
 - **Spot Removal** Includes Clone or Heal options
 - **Red Eye Correction** Includes Pupil Size and Darken sliders
 - **Graduated Filter** Includes options for making tonal adjustments across a region of a photo.
 - **Adjustment Brush** Includes options for brushing Exposure, Clarity, Brightness, and other tonal adjustments on specific areas of a photo
- Details Panel (Noise Reduction)
 - Just because there are noise reduction sliders doesn't mean you use on every photo (use with moderation)
 - View at 1:1 View
 - Work on Color Noise (red, green and blue spots)
 - » First, move color slider to left till disappears then stop, suppresses R/G/B blobs without effecting edges
 - » Detail Slider controls how edges are effected
 - Luminance Noise (visible graininess)
 - » Luminance Slider (1 – no reduction, 100 painterly effect)
 - » Detail Slider preserves edges but higher values may result in noise being incorrectly thought as detail
 - » Contrast slider is a much finer grain than 100, use sparingly
- Details Panel (Sharpening)
 - Sharpening preferably done last
 - Amount controls the amount applied
 - Radius determines how many pixels out from the edge will be affected (set at 1, or 2 for mega sharpening)
 - Detail suppresses halos which sometimes occur during sharpening (default of 25 works pretty well)
 - Mask: Allows you to control where sharpening will be applied
 - » Hold down Option/Alt key and move mask slider to view the mask – great for portraits
- Edited in PS if needed
 - Do this last, so that final image is a PSD file
 - CTRL Click on file you want to edit and choose “Edit In PS”
 - Assuming Raw file, LR passes raw data (with edits done in LR) to PS
 - Upon exiting PS, a PSD file will be created and added to LR Library and you will be back in LR

Ready to Print

- Select images to be printed then go to the Print Module
- Use Page Set up to set Paper size and Printer
- Set Your Print Size Using Predefined Templates or creating your own

Choose Your Color Profile

- Under the Color Management Panel click on the Profile Drop-Down Menu
- Drop-Down Menu will either contain multiple ICC profiles that you have already loaded or just “**Managed By Printer**” and “**Other**”
- If your profile is not listed, you will need to select “**Other**”
 - Choose from list from those available in the ColorSync Folder (for a Mac: Library/ColorSync/Profiles) and place a checkmark on the ones you want

What if my Printer/Paper/Ink ICC Profile is not Listed?

- For the most precise color in your prints, you can use profiles designed specifically for your printer model and paper type. Basic profiles are installed with your printer driver, or you may have to download ICC profiles from the Printer Manufacturer’s Website after you have installed your printer software

Where To Put Printer ICC Profiles

- Profiles need to be installed in the correct location on your computer for them to be available to LR or PS. These Locations are:
 - Mac OS X:
 - Folder: Library/ColorSync/Profiles
 - Windows 7, Vista and XP:
 - Folder: \Windows\system32\spool\drivers\color
 - Mac OS 9.x:
 - System Folder: ColorSync Profiles
 - Windows 2000 and NT:
 - Folder: \Winnt\system32\spool\drivers\color
 - Windows ME and 98:
 - Folder: \Windows\System\Color

Choosing ICC Profile and Rendering Intent

- Select the profile that is for your Printer and Paper Type
- Set rendering intent to **Relative** or **Perceptual**
 - Usually **Relative** is likely to produce the best results

Print Dialog Window

- Click the Print Settings button (Left Panel group, Lower Right)
 - Select Print Settings from the pop-up menu (just after Presets)
 - Select Correct Media Type, Set Color Settings to “Off(No Color Adjustment)”
 - Click on “Save”

Exporting

- No Save Command in LR (like there is in PS)
- How do you save a photo as a JPEG – you export it as a Jpeg
 - Tell LR where you want to save them to: “Export To:”
 - You can add the Jpegs to the catalog

- Set Format as JPEG
- Set Color Space (typically sRGB)
- Quality (80 to 100)
- Set Image Sizing
 - Your Option on size
 - For Resolution, 72 – 150 for viewing on web/monitor, higher for printing (240)
- Add as a preset using left hand bottom “Add” button

Introducing Collections

- Collections are a key organizational tool
 - Provide a way to group photos without actually moving or duplicating them on your hard drive
 - Collections do not duplicate your photos but create virtual collections based upon a criteria you choose
 - Collections are similar to iTunes Playlists, when you delete a Playlist it doesn’t delete the songs that were in it
 - Collections can contain photos across multiple folders
 - Used in all Modules
 - Examples:
 - Collection of all your 2010 competition photos
 - Collection of all the photos of your grandchild
 - Collection of all the photos of a certain model
 - Collection of all your Nature Keepers
- Smart collections
 - Similar to Saved Searches based upon criteria you established at the time you create the Smart collection
 - Smart collections automatically update as your photos meet or stop meeting the criteria you established.
 - A Smart Collection could be based on keyword(s) you assigned to the photo

Creating Collections

- To Create a Collection click on “+” in Collection Panel (Left hand Panel Group)
- Name your collection, click OK, select your photos, then drag your photos to the collection
 - If your collection has photos in multiple folders – go to each folder and drag the photos to the collection

Smart Collections

- Smart Collections can be used for Automatic Organization
- Smart Collections update live