

Digital and Photoshop Mini-Workshop
Introduction to Photoshop
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Some Rules for Digital Photography:

Don't mess with the MASTER:

The camera Master exposure.

Leave the original untouched in case you need to start over

Back it up to Disc (CD/DVD) immediately (or sooner)

Background layer on a photo open in Photoshop:

Duplicate it **FIRST!!!**

Then do what you will

Shooting "your good stuff"?

Shoot RAW file format

In Making Exposure:

PROTECT the Highlights!!!

Lots of Contrary advice out there about new ability (of Photoshop) to recover highlights, but... Believe the flashing highlights in the preview on your camera (if it is available) ...If the highlights flash, shoot it again with reduced exposure.

Trust your Histogram!

Lots of advice saying what is wrong (how to violate) with this rule, but

Trust your Histogram

Do all work at 16 BIT (not possible with JPEGs)

Review Raw Converter to find this control.

Digital File Organization Plans: -Write down your **File Plan** – or – “Where the hell is that file?”

“If you can't write it down, you can't find it.”

Some do Contact Sheet Thumbnails of *all* images

Some file by subject

Some file by year/subject

Some re-name all files

Some use “keywords” feature of the Adobe Bridge

Doesn't matter how you do it, but it should be conscious, and always done the same way.

Work Flow

Work Flow: A process which describes how you handle your files, where they go, how they get named, when they get named, What order do you do things, how you identify images for follow-up, how you process images.

Write down your **Work Flow**.

“If you can’t write it down, you don’t know what it is.”

Rule: Always have EVERY file backed up – meaning - have two copies of EVERY file (Minimum) (Many recommend Two archival back up CDs or DVDs)

Woody’s work flow:

Shoot – RAW files

(if you shoot with several camera memory disks, you need a process to identify which have been shot, which not)

Download all images to laptop

Name folders: Subject, Month, Year

Back-up all files

If traveling – write to CD/DVD

If at home, - duplicate (copy to) onto a Desktop hard drive

Then Write DVDs

(Note that this is all without sorting or pitching – for me)

Generate thumbnails & Write Cache (Bridge: Tools/Cache/Export) for all new folders on Desktop hard drive (this is an automatic process in Adobe Bridge when a folder is selected the first time, or for the first time in a long time)

Sort/preview new image files on hard drive

Delete all OOPS

Mark all WOWs

Re-Review all new Images on hard drive

Rank/Grade all photos in the Folder

(Export Cache)

Make Raw fixes to High ranked photos

Color Correct

Straighten

Crop

First cut at any exposure changes

NOW! I am ready to think about selecting, opening, optimizing, and printing a file.