

Hills Photographic Society

Lightroom - Getting Started and then Continuing

What is my purpose when I use Lightroom?

I shoot 99% of my images as RAW files.

RAW files contain the information directly from the sensor (voltage readings etc). It cannot be viewed by Photoshop or other image processors. Even to see it on the back of your camera, a computer has to translate the raw data into colours etc that can be displayed.

There is a computer (Processor) in your camera that does this. What this does has been decided, for you, by the software engineers employed by the Camera Company. You are locked into what they think the colours should be. They all do in slightly differently.

You can copy this file from the camera to your computer but you still cannot view the image it represents.

Before you can view it in Photoshop, the data has to be converted by a RAW image converter. This is sometimes referred to as a RAW Converting Engine. That is what Adobe Camera Raw CC is. This will convert the data into something that can be viewed on your computer monitor or can be then transferred to Photoshop for further processing.

Lightroom contains a RAW Conversion Engine. In fact it is the same engine that is used in Adobe Camera Raw. Hence what you can do in Lightroom you can do in Adobe Camera Raw.

RAW files are not modified so all RAW converter engines either have to make a new file or record all the actions you want to do to the data in the Raw file. The old file remains unaltered. That is why it is called "Non-Destructive Editing".

The file formats that are most commonly used to display images on a monitor are JPEG, TIFF, PSD. Each have their advantages and disadvantages.

So now my Purpose!

My purpose is to get as much detail as I can from the RAW file in the conversion process as is appropriate. This enables me to get the most appealing image as a result.

Macphun, Adobe, Apple, Canon, Nikon, Olympus, Sony and other camera/software developers all have their own engines for getting data from the RAW files. I have read that professionals arguable say that Apple's RAW converter in Aperture is the best Converter. Images and I have seen demonstrate this to be the case in my view. Apple has discontinued support for Aperture and hence most of us use Adobe's engine in its RAW converter in Adobe RAW Converter and Lightroom to do the conversion. It does an excellent job (as far as I can tell).

My "start" to conversion is to have a few steps that start me off in that direction.

Importing - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fb-TqUA2lDI>

Interface - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l35F8Sy01dY>

PreSets

Lens Correction - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WXWPVQqX38E>

Developing

Global Adjustments

Purpose - to get as much tones from the image as I can.

Quick Start

Cropping - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cha5FkSFbaA>

Basic - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UCM8qzT2fEM> or
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bECi0ZQAB34>

Detail - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lfvcsDdb6l0>

Effects - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zRkk4E0oGY0>

Basic -

Local Adjustments

Adjustment Brush - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZidCII_-6vA

Dodge

Burn

Clone and Heal

Spot removal -

Graduated Filter - [filter-https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zRkk4E0oGY0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zRkk4E0oGY0)

Radial Filter - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zRkk4E0oGY0>

Tilt Shift Effect - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cDdAolmeJs8>

Colour Effect - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BWKQkjLo_lo

Black and White - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zkvp5ur5E0I>

Architecture - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o9IymBXDCY>

Stars - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D2xZPRdsF0I>

Exporting

For Printing

For Digital Projected Image

General Exporting - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fXSZMYENJOc>

Something to think about

Your photos are not in Lightroom

Your photos are not hidden away by Lightroom

Your Photos are not ion the cloud either

Lightroom Catalogue Backup does not back up your photos

You still need to use Lights Room's catalogue backup even if you have a general backup.

Keep photos in the catalogue even after editing

Adding photos to Lightroom does not mean using masses of hard drive space

You don't have a "save" in Lightroom

You done have to keep your exported photos

Slide Shows

FotoMagico