



What to know before using Lightroom

Organizing your existing photos

Before you start using Lightroom and building your catalog it is important that you centralize your existing photos into one parent folder on one hard drive. For example, I have all of my photography stored on an external hard drive under a parent folder called “Photography”. Under the “Photography” folder I have numerous sub-folders by date and event.

Understanding Metadata

There’s room for more than meets the eye inside a digital photo image file. Regardless of the format, these files can store not only image data but also information about the images. Metadata is, literally, data about data. When included in image files, we call this information “photo metadata.” Metadata is actually part of the image file, effectively a bundle of image data and information about that image.

Digital photo files can include descriptive, technical and administrative classes of metadata of several types. These can list an image’s creator, copyright holder, source and description. They can explain rights released and available to an image. They can list how and when an image was created, its size, color characteristics and more.

How Does Camera RAW work with Lightroom?

If you work with photographs in Photoshop CS4 or Adobe Bridge, you use Camera Raw to achieve the same kinds of editing as you would in Lightroom. In fact, Lightroom uses the same underlying processing engine as Camera Raw, which delivers consistent and compatible results across Adobe applications. Adobe understands that individual photographers work in many different ways. We are committed to providing customers not only with the choice of which software to use, but also with the ability to use multiple applications together as needed.

Where the Camera Raw implementation in Adobe Bridge or Photoshop has the same functions as Lightroom, you will find virtually identical options and sliders. That means you can move back and forth without confusion or the need for extra learning. Where Lightroom contains additional enhancements to raw processing, the enhancements you make will be recognized when the photo file is opened in Camera Raw. A typical example is the Targeted Adjustment tool that is exclusive to Lightroom.