

Photoshop Lightroom and the Nature Photographer

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Why Lightroom?

- Lightroom is built for speed in filing and sorting as well as processing images
- Lightroom works efficiently from files to processing and back, then to specific output needs from printing to exporting

Lightroom Layout

- Five modules – three functions
 - **Library** (Edit and sort)
 - **Develop** (Processing)
 - **Output**
 - **Slideshow** (Presentations)
 - **Print** (printing)
 - **Web** (Web galleries)
- Panels
 - Control your work area
 - Center work area
 - Left (Templates and organizing; preview or navigator)
 - Right (Specific actions)
 - Filmstrip (Linear grid)
 - Menus
- Keyboard commands
 - **Tab** (Hide and show side panels)
 - **Shift Tab** (Hide and show all panels)
 - **F6, F7, F8** (Hide and show specific panels)
 - **F** (Cycle full screen mode)
 - **L** (“Dim the lights”)
 - **G** (Grid)
 - **Spacebar** (Full size “Loupe” and magnify 100%)
 - **D** (Develop)

Library Module – this is a huge help for nature photographers

1. Import Photos
 - Selecting folders
 - Setting up import dialog box
 - Metadata templates
2. Editing Photos
 - Set up area like a light table
 - Viewing
 - Magnifying
 - Comparing
 - Ratings, colors, flags
 - X for delete, U to unmark, P for pick
3. Collections
 - Setting up
 - Select and drag
 - Across folders
4. Keywords
 - Semi-automated
5. Metadata
 - Copyright, captions, and more

Develop Module – made for speed and control

1. Image Processing
 - Set up for processing
 - Remember four key photo needs
 - o Blacks, whites
 - o Midtones
 - o Color
 - o Emphasis/Balance (also Photoshop)
2. Blacks and Whites – start with Basic
 - Blacks in blacks
 - Whites are Exposure
 - Use Alt/Option key to see threshold screen
 - Recovery and fill
3. Midtones
 - Tone curve
 - Sliders for regions
 - Click and adjust on the photo

4. Color
 - Eyedropper in Basic for color correction
 - White balance settings
 - Vibrance vs. Saturation
 - HSL: Hue and Saturation
 - Click and adjust on the photo
5. Balance and Emphasis
 - Click and adjust tonality
 - Click and adjust color, especially Luminance
6. Black-and-White
 - In color area
 - Click and adjust tonalities directly on photo (based on underlying color)
 - Recheck blacks, whites, midtones
7. Synchronize settings

Exporting Images

1. Nothing is changed on a photo until it is exported
2. Non-destructive processing
3. Export to Photoshop (right-click photo is easiest)
4. Export alone for more options

Slideshow Module

1. Limited application for nature photographers because of limited ability to use music
 - If music is needed, try ProShow Gold from Photodex (Windows), FotoMagico from Boinx Software (Mac) or Adobe Premiere Elements (both)
2. Good for live presentation of photos
3. Good looking display of images
4. Exported as Acrobat slideshow file

Print Module

1. Lots of printing features in one place
2. Left panel browser good place to start
3. Lay out image on page
 - Image Settings
 - o Stroke
 - o Auto-Rotate
 - Layout
 - o Margins
 - o Grid (for multiples)
 - o "Cell size" – image size
 - Overlays
4. Set up printing to printer
 - Sharpening
 - Color management
 - Print settings

Web Module

1. Two Types of Simple, Effective Web Galleries
 - a. HTML
 - b. Flash
2. Collect Photos
 - a. Quick Collection (9 minimum for HTML; no minimum for Flash)
 - b. Filmstrip or Grid
 - c. Rearrange photos in Grid
3. Overview of Panels
 - a. Templates on left panel a good place to start
 - b. Right panel to adjust individual part
4. Output
 - a. Output settings
 - b. Output
 - c. Upload