

CLOUD-BASED LIGHTROOM

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INTRODUCTION

Lightroom is now an application that only works on images stored in the [ADOBE CREATIVE CLOUD](#). It is available as a stand-alone computer application with 1 TB of storage in the Adobe Creative Cloud. For the same price you can also subscribe to Lightroom, Lightroom Classic and Photoshop with 20 gigabytes of cloud storage.

Once you have subscribed to Lightroom you will be given access to the apps for a [DESKTOP / LAPTOP](#), [SMARTPHONE](#) and [TABLET](#), which can be used for transferring images from your camera to the cloud. The desktop app and the smartphone or tablet apps are identical in layout and the work done is interchangeable. If you want to transfer your images from Adobe Creative Cloud storage to your own hard drives you will need Lightroom Classic on your computer.

Because it is more powerful keen photographers will do most of their work using Lightroom Classic, the computer-based version of Lightroom. Their work is stored on local hard discs. However the use of cloud based Lightroom enables the photographer to work away from their computer. Photos can be transferred from their camera card to the cloud with a smartphone or tablet, and developed using Lightroom on a tablet. On returning home the photos, with the edits made with Lightroom, can be copied to their own hard drives.

ADDING PHOTOS TO THE CLOUD WITH A SMARTPHONE OR TABLET

To add photos from your camera to the Adobe Creative Cloud you will need a card reader that plugs into your smartphone or tablet. For example the iPhone and iPad will need a card reader with Lightening connector. Connect the card reader and put the camera card in it.

Open the Lightroom app on your smartphone or tablet. At the bottom of the screen there are two blue buttons. If you can't see the 2 buttons, create a new folder, or select a folder where you want the images to go. The right button has a little camera on it. If you tap this one it turns on the device's camera and you can take photos with it. They will go to the cloud and be accessible by Lightroom. You have an option of saving them as RAW files in the DNG format.

Clicking on the left button will show a menu. The options are: [FROM CAMERA ROLL](#), [FROM FILES](#), and [FROM CAMERA DEVICE](#). The [FROM CAMERA ROLL](#) button will go to the images on your phone or tablet, or a camera connected to the phone. The [FROM CAMERA DEVICE](#) button has a little camera card icon next to it. Select this and the images on the camera card will be visible. Click on an image to select it. Select the ones you want to transfer to the Cloud. Click the [IMPORT](#) button and the selected images will be copied to the cloud and will appear in Lightroom's all images. It may take some time depending on the speed of the phone network or Wi-Fi and internet connection to the phone, and the number and size of the image files.

REVIEWING YOUR PHOTOS IN LIGHTROOM

You can review the photos in Lightroom in the same way as in Lightroom Classic, adding a star rating, reject or a pick flag. You can add keywords, but they will not be visible in Lightroom Classic. It is not possible to share Lightroom Classic's keywords.

DEVELOPING YOUR IMAGES WITH LIGHTROOM

You can develop the images in the Adobe Creative Cloud using Lightroom on a computer, tablet or smart phone. In **VIEW ALL PHOTOS** view select a photo, and it will fill the screen. Buttons will appear along the right-hand side at the top. Go through these buttons and choose which edits you want to apply. The editing available is analogous to that available in Lightroom Classic. Included are the **BASIC EDITS**, **COLOUR CORRECTION**, **CROPPING**, **REPAIRING** and **MASKING**. Lightroom has plenty of easily accessible training videos on these edits. Edits performed using Lightroom or Lightroom Classic are synchronised.

The **EDIT** ikon is the one with the horizontal lines with circles. Just below the **CLOUD** ikon

APPLYING LIGHTROOM DEVELOP PRESETS

At the top of the **EDIT** menu is a button labelled **PRESETS**. Click on this. Lightroom has a large number of Develop Presets supplied, and they make a good starting point for your edits. If you click on **RECOMMENDED** Lightroom will use AI to offer ones that suit your image.

You can import Presets from others, create your own in Lightroom, and transfer Lightroom Classic Presets to Lightroom.

A Preset is a great way to apply the same development settings to every image from your camera. The most obvious is to apply a Preset with a **CAMERA PROFILE**, **SHARPENING**, **NOISE REDUCTION**, and **OPTICS CORRECTIONS**. Lightroom has some inbuilt Presets that you can use to do this. For Lightroom on a Computer, look under **Yours > Basics > Defaults** to find them. For example, **Adobe Color + Lens + NR** will apply a profile, lens corrections and reduce the noise in one click. On a tablet, tap the **EDIT** ikon, then **PROFILE**, then the two circles under the Edit ikon. You will see a full list of available Presets in groups. Tap on a group to see the Presets in it. Tap the **<** to return to the list of groups.

Creating your own Preset in Lightroom is as easy as making the adjustment you want, clicking either the **+** button or the **3 dots** button and then **ADD PRESET**. You name your Preset, then check which of the Develop Settings you want to include in your profile and then **Save**. For example for the import profile, check **Profile**, **Detail** and **Optics** and make sure none of the others are checked. A name for such a profile would be:

5DIV_ISO+Faithful+Lens ISO100.

It will be specific noise reduction for a particular ISO setting. You will need others for different ISO settings. Your own Presets are in a folder called **YOURS**.

IMPORTING PRESETS FROM LIGHTROOM CLASSIC

I start development of my Canon camera RAW images by applying a *Canon Camera Faithful* profile, *ISO-Adaptive noise reduction and sharpening*, and with *Remove Chromatic aberration* and *Enable Lens Corrections* turned on. You can't create this in Lightroom, but you can with Lightroom Classic, which is described in my article *Lightroom Classic Development*.

It seems that Adobe changes the format and location of Presets regularly with new updates. First you need to find where the Preset you want is. In Lightroom Classic: MENU: Lightroom > Preferences > Presets. Click the button **SHOW LIGHTROOM DEVELOPMENT PRESETS**. This will open a window showing the list of your Presets. Determine where this file is in your file structure (Command Click on the centre of the window header for a Mac). It will be something like: Your Username > Pictures > Lightroom > Lightroom Settings > Settings

Now open Lightroom and navigate to the **EDITS** sidebar. Click **PRESETS**. Click the 3 spot button > Import Presets. You will then need to navigate to the folder where your Lightroom Classic Presets are stored, and select the one you want. Click Import.

LIMITATIONS OF LIGHTROOM OVER LIGHTROOM CLASSIC

- Tablets and smartphones cannot be calibrated, so any adjustments won't be as good as with a calibrated monitor, and inferior to a colour correction monitor (eg Eizo ColorEdge)
- The adjustments available in Lightroom are more limited than in Lightroom Classic, particularly for batch processing.
- Options for exporting images from Lightroom are much more limited than those for Lightroom Classic. Exporting a JPEG that meets WAPF core rules is tricky, and was not possible until the Feb 2022 upgrade of Lightroom (see below).
- Lightroom does not have the **MAP**, **BOOK**, **SLIDESHOW**, **PRINT** and **WEB** modules. Printing from Lightroom Classic is much easier.

EXPORTING A JPEG THAT COMPLIES WITH WAPF CORE RULES

Images for entry into WAPF digital competitions have to conform with the following pixel dimensions and file size restrictions.

- Maximum width 1920 px
- Maximum height 1080 px
- Maximum file size 2.0 MB

Lightroom Classic has the ability to set these and file type with a single Export Preset, which makes this job easy. You can use Lightroom on a computer (but not on a phone or tablet) to export a compliant JPEG, but it is a little tricky. Select a single image, and **FILE > Export to go to the Export screen**. In Settings, set:

File Type: JPEG

Dimensions: Custom

Long Side: Change to Short side: 1080 pixels.

Quality: Set so that file size (shown bottom left of screen) does not exceed 2.0 MB

Output Sharpening: Screen

Color Space: sRGB

Whether you set the long side or short side, and whether you set it to 1080 or 1920 pixels will depend on the orientation and aspect ratio of the image.

- For most landscape orientation images, set the short edge to 1080 px
- For portrait orientation images, set the long edge to 1080 px

- For square images it doesn't matter whether you set the long or short edge to 1080 px they are the same.
- For Landscape orientation Letterbox images (those with an aspect ratio wider than 1920:1080), set the long edge to 1920 px.

You could create Presets or do more than one image at a time, but you would have to sort images to ensure the correct Long Edge or Short edge dimensions are chosen.

When you are ready, Clicking the Blue Export button (Top Right) will enable you to chose a location on your computer's hard drive for the exported file.

TRANSFERRING CAMERA IMAGES FROM THE CLOUD TO YOUR HARD DRIVE

Before you can transfer your images to your hard drive you will need to add them to an **ALBUM** in Lightroom. If you are in the editing window click the little arrow at the top left of the screen to return to the basic window. You will see the heading **ALBUMS**. Click the plus button and you will get a dropdown menu. Select **ALBUM**. Give a name to your new album and create it. Now select the photos you want to put in the album and drag them over the new album's icon. They will be added to the album.

If your computer is connected to the internet and you open Lightroom Classic, you can work on images in the Cloud. In the library view at the right end of the selection bar at the top of the screen there is a cloud icon. Clicking on this will show the status of the cloud storage. Make sure that synchronisation is happening. In the library window you will find your album of images in the collections area. Click **COLLECTIONS** then **FROM LIGHTROOM** and you will see a list of Albums in the creative Cloud as Collections. Your new album will be one of them. So what was the what was an **ALBUM** in Lightroom becomes a **COLLECTION** in Lightroom Classic.

The images in the Collections window can be developed using the Develop module but will remain in the Creative Cloud.

These images can be copied to your hard drive in the following way. Select the images in the collection you want to transfer. In the folders panel select the file folder where you want to transfer. Click plus to create a new folder inside this folder, naming it as you would like. Drag the selection of images to the new folder. This copies these images from the cloud to your hard disc storage. Wherever you edit these images, in Lightroom Classic or in Lightroom, the edits are synchronised across both copies. If you want to you can now delete the images in the cloud.

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