

# Adobe Photoshop LightRoom 2

## Part II.

These notes are intended to expand on areas of LR2 use that I or others have found puzzling so I will ignore or gloss over many commands and functions.

The Shortcut key to display the Shortcut Keys is `Cntl + /`

While this display is context sensitive (ie different depending on the Module LR2 is displaying), it is unfortunately not able to be printed as it is a screen image only. It is more useful if available as a general *aid-memoir* and It may be helpful to print the diagrams below

Library Shortcuts	
<b>View Shortcuts</b>	
Esc	Return to previous view
Enter	Enter Loupe or 1:1 view
E	Enter Loupe view
C	Enter Compare mode
G	Enter Grid Mode
Control + Enter	Enter Impromptu Slideshow mode
F	Cycle to next Screen Mode
Control + Alt + F	Return to Normal Screen Mode
L	Cycle through Lights Out modes
Control + J	Grid View Options
J	Cycle Grid Views
\	Hide/Show the Filter Bar
<b>Rating Shortcuts</b>	
1-5	Set ratings
Shift + 1-5	Set ratings and move to next photo
6-9	Set color labels
Shift + 6-9	Set color labels and move to next photo
0	Reset ratings to none
[	Decrease the rating
]	Increase the rating
<b>Flagging Shortcuts</b>	
`	Toggle Flagged Status
Control + Up Arrow	Increase Flag Status
Control + Down Arrow	Decrease Flag Status
<b>Target Collection Shortcuts</b>	
B	Add to Target Collection
Control + B	Show Target Collection
Control+Shift+B	Clear Quick Collection
<b>Photo Shortcuts</b>	
Control + Shift + I	Import photos
Control + Shift + E	Export photos
Control + [	Rotate left
Control + ]	Rotate right
Control + E	Edit in Photoshop
Control + S	Save Metadata to File
Control + -	Zoom out
Control + =	Zoom in
Z	Zoom to 100%
Control + G	Stack photos
Control + Shift + G	Unstack photos
Control + R	Show in Explorer
Backspace	Remove from Library
F2	Rename File
Control + Shift + C	Copy Develop Settings
Control + Shift + V	Paste Develop Settings
Control + Left Arrow	Previous selected photo
Control + Right Arrow	Next selected photo
Control + L	Enable/Disable Library Filters
<b>Panel Shortcuts</b>	
Tab	Hide/Show the side panels
Shift + Tab	Hide/Show all the panels
T	Hide/Show the toolbar
Control + F	Activate the search field
Control + K	Activate the keyword entry field
Control + Alt + Up Arrow	Return to the previous module

## Develop Shortcuts

### Edit Shortcuts

Control + U	Auto Tone
V	Convert to Grayscale
Control + Shift + U	Auto White Balance
Control + E	Edit in Photoshop
Control + N	New Snapshot
Control + '	Create Virtual Copy
Control + [	Rotate left
Control + ]	Rotate right
1-5	Set Ratings
Shift + 1-5	Set ratings and move to next photo
6-9	Set color labels
Shift + 6-9	Set color labels and move to next photo

Control + Shift + C	Copy Develop Settings <i>A dialog will come up asking which settings to copy.</i>
Control + Shift + V	Paste Develop Settings

### Output Shortcuts

Control + Enter	Enter Impromptu Slideshow mode <i>Shows the current selected photos in a slideshow based on the current Slideshow module settings.</i>
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Control + P	Print selected photos
Control + Shift + P	Page Setup

### Navigation Shortcuts

Control + Left Arrow	Previous Photo
Control + Right Arrow	Next Photo

### View Shortcuts

Tab	Hide panels
Shift + Tab	Hide all panels
T	Hide/Show toolbar
F	Cycle screen modes
Control + Alt + F	Go to normal screen mode
L	Cycle Lights Out modes
Control + Shift + L	Go to Lights Dim mode
Control + Alt + Up Arrow	Go to previous module
Control + I	Show/Hide Info Overlay
I	Cycle Info Overlay
Control + J	Develop View Options

### Mode Shortcuts

R	Enter Crop Mode
N	Enter Spot Removal Mode
M	Enter Graduated Filter Mode
K	Enter Adjustment Brush Mode
D	Loupe View
Y	View Before and After left and right
Alt + Y	View Before and After up and down

### Target Collection Shortcuts

B	Add to Target Collection
Control + B	Show Target Collection
Control + Shift + B	Clear Quick Collection

## Slideshow Shortcuts

### Slideshow Shortcuts

Enter	Play Slideshow
Alt + Enter	Preview Slideshow
Space	Pause Slideshow
Esc	End Slideshow
Control + J	Export PDF Slideshow
Control + Shift + J	Export JPEG Slideshow
Control + T	Add Text Overlay

### View Shortcuts

Tab	Hide side panels
Shift + Tab	Hide all panels
Control + Alt + Up Arrow	Go to previous module
Control + Shift + H	Show Guides

### Mode Shortcuts

F	Cycle screen modes
Control + Alt + F	Go to normal screen mode
L	Cycle Lights Out modes
Control + Shift + L	Go to Lights Dim mode

### Target Collection Shortcuts

B	Add to Target Collection
Control + B	Show Target Collection
Control + Shift + B	Clear Quick Collection

## Print Shortcuts

### Printing Shortcuts

Control + P	Print
Control + Alt + P	Print One Copy
Control + Shift + P	Page Setup

### View Shortcuts

Control + Shift + Left Arrow	Go to first page
Left Arrow	Go to previous page
Control + Shift + Right Arrow	Go to last page
Right Arrow	Go to next page

### Page Extra Shortcuts

Control + Shift + H	Show Guides
Control + Shift + M	Show Margins and Gutters
Control + Shift + T	Show Image Cells
Control + Shift + Y	Show Page Bleed
Control + R	Show Rulers

### UI Shortcuts

Tab	Hide side panels
Shift + Tab	Hide all panels
Control + Alt + Up Arrow	Go to Previous Module

### Mode Shortcuts

F	Cycle screen modes
Control + Alt + F	Go to normal screen mode
L	Cycle Lights Out modes
Control + Shift + L	Go to Lights Dim mode

### Target Collection Shortcuts

B	Add to Target Collection
Control + B	Show Target Collection
Control + Shift + B	Clear Quick Collection

Lightroom should preferably be running while you read these notes as I make no effort to describe context.

A Trial version can be downloaded from

[https://www.adobe.com/cfusion/tdrc/index.cfm?product=photoshop\\_lightroom&promoid=%2CDTEML](https://www.adobe.com/cfusion/tdrc/index.cfm?product=photoshop_lightroom&promoid=%2CDTEML)

The beta of *LR3* is a free download also. This new version has a rewritten rendering engine and some interface tweaks but can mostly be used to follow this article. (At this time catalogues in LR2 and LR3 are not interchangeable so don't use LR3 as a fully fledged database and imaging program)

## Recommended Reading

I have several books on LR2- Tim Grey's and Uwe Steinmuller's are difficult to recommend.

Scott Kelby – **LR 2 for Digital Photographers** is well written and has many excellent examples.

By far the most complete and authoritative is ***The Adobe Photoshop Lightroom 2 Book - The complete guide for Photographers*** by Martin Evening

## The Lightroom Menu Bar (at the top of the LR screen)

Most options can be left at defaults and explored at your leisure. Some selected options are sketched out here.

### **File:**

*Library Filters* should be enabled and *Include Subfolders* should be selected

### **Edit:**

*Preferences-General -Goto Catalogue settings-Metadata* - The field "Automatically write changes to XMP" is Not Selected by default.

If .dng is to be your RAW file standard or if you exclusively use Adobe for editing and viewing, this can be left unselected. (There are quite a few if's and but's and maybes in these notes and if anyone wants some of these more complex matters expanded I'm happy to do so.

I'm personally happy to convert all my RAW files to .dng (although on import, I backup my .nef files with the camera default filenames)

*Prefs:Presets.* I suggest that "Auto grayscale mix.." be selected

*Import :* Select *import :* "dialogue when memory card detected"

*External editing:*The Defaults are fine (16 bit ProPhoto is close to the LR colour space

*Interface* - fun to play around with

### **Identity Plate setup.**

Also fun to play around with

### **Library:**

(on Menu bar) Enable Filters (Toggles with Cntrl + L)

### **Photo:**

*STACKing (Cntl + G)* is useful when dealing with multiple similar images or with Snapshots or Virtual images.

(The difference between a SNAPSHOT and a VIRTUAL IMAGE is that the Snapshot is stored as an editing step in the original image and a Virtual image is a separate entity)

## Strategy for Classification

(Recommended reading THE DAM book (Data Access Manager for photographers - Peter Krogh)

Ian Walls and Ron Parry recommend making a folder under **My Pictures** called *Lightroom* and then importing normal folder and subfolder structures under that.

My personal preference is to have Lightroom in PROGRAMS and to have **My Pictures** with only images in it and referenced in LR (That sounds like double-dutch even to me and I just wrote it !! so let's expand a bit.)

It is not necessary to have any sort of Folder structure to use LR. All pictures can be stored into 1 big folder (up to about 100,000 images) PROVIDED all images are keyworded.

The database that makes up LR does NOT contain your images ; it contains links to images stored wherever you choose.

This is such an important concept that it is worth getting your head around and fully understanding because it has useful consequences. e.g if your hard drive is full, it is necessary only to copy your images to a new hard drive and you can tell LR to look at the new location. Images and metadata do not have to be re-imported.

Images that you may not want to reference can even be hived off to a new location but still seen in LR (the images stored this way not able to be edited until LR is pointed at the new location. The images that you see in LR are actually small previews built at the time images are imported.)

We use folder structures in computers as a system to allow us to find data. At the time of downloading, a folder called "Mary's Dinner party" makes sense. 3 years later it may not.

LR encourages images taken at Mary Smiths's that night to be labelled or KEYWORDed with tags that allow those specific pics to be found years later and differentiated from the dinner party Mary Jones had 2 weeks after.

It is possible, however, to have the advantages of both worlds; import images into folders as well as having LR reference them and that is the way most of us will choose. Just be aware folder are not necessary and even have are some minor disadvantages.

This scheme makes a lot of sense if you already have multiple folders of pics and are just starting to use LR. All your images can be imported at their present location with 1 command.

Mostly it is unnecessary to have a multitude of catalogues. (In fact I use 2 catalogues - 1 for work images and the other for everything else.) Some advocate separate Catalogues for (for example) different wedding or clients but in my opinion this unnecessarily complicates the wonderful design of LR and can be accomplished much better in other ways

## IMPORTING to LR

It is sensible to set up *Preferences* in *EDIT* on the LR task bar (at the top of the LR screen) to open LR when a card is inserted.

Enter a few descriptive keywords and import to your chosen location.

Keywords should be descriptive words that you would use to find those images if you had only a vague notion of their content and location maybe years down the track. (Keywording in LR is a subject that can have many pages devoted to it and I may go into this in greater detail in future.)

Images are displayed on a grid according to the criteria you have chosen to SORT by.

The activity indicator at top left indicates the background processing and can be clicked to display the status of each task.

I import invariably as .dng's but backup all the originals in the default format (.nef in my case) After import I switch to Loupe View (E) and quickly weed out the technical dross, marking the unacceptable images with X. I then Filter to display these Images only (In Library -\ (forward slash) to display *Filter* ,choose *Attribute* and click the Black flag.

I then quickly look again at these images that I have rejected. Most will remain as Rejects but if I change my mind I use the U Key to UNFLAG. Then I personally use **Cntl + Backspace** and choose to DELETE these images from Disk (I have no desire to be reminded of my rotten technique !!)

I'll have **Loupe (E)** view plus the Filmstrip along the base of the screen. (**G** swaps Loupe view to Grid view)

Then I use the paradigm of arranging the remaining images into an upside down Pyramid of excellence- and add more targeted Keywords. Images are rated with Stars and these are added with number keys.

Most images will be rated 0 (Zero) and be at the bottom level of my pyramid.

#### **Stars:**

**0**-Record images/Family shots that you want to keep but are not good enough to show anyone who doesn't really, really love you

**1**- images you are not ashamed to show-personal portfolio

**2**-good enough to Print/Display in public

**3**.Very good images-competition entries

**4**.The best of the Best

**5**-Not used (or duplicates of Honours images)

#### **Colours-**

**6** (Default name is Red - this can be altered) Red in my system means a pretty good image that needs some Photoshop work

**7**(Yellow) – Group of images intended for *HDR* processing

**8**(Green) – Group of images intended for *Panorama* processing

**9**(Blue) Can be used when first importing to signify-"*Not yet rated/Keyworded*" which can be useful in the longer term.

**Purple** - can't be chosen with a number key

**White** - can't be chosen with a number key.

( White and ) **Light Brown** can be customised and used in Keyword sets (beyond the scope of this article but if *Colours* seem not to work it is probable that there is another Keyword Set in use.)

## **Photoshop and Lightroom**

An obvious question is where does Lightroom fit with Photoshop and a glib and accurate but incomplete answer is that PS is designed for images scanned from film and edited as .jpg while LR is designed for digital RAW images.

Editing in PS degrades image quality while editing in LR is non-destructive and is applied only when an output option is chosen. (There are multiple extensions to these simple statements with some PS editing as "Smart Objects" non-destructive and LR quite at home with .jpg but in general these are the divisions) The only time PS is really required in a LR workflow is when extensive cloning is needed. Even layer masking, PS's amazing ability, is (sort of) available in LR in the form of automatic masking.