

# Post-processing Work Flow

One way to get a job done...

## Prepare hardware and software (50 – 75%)

- Collect “exposed” image cards from camera(s)
- Start Adobe Lightroom®
- Connect card reader and insert memory card
- Open Library Module in Grid view
- Open Import dialog in LR
  - Enter a new file name (you choose)
  - Enter ‘core’ key words (season, subject, location, theme, details) for all images
  - Select copy (to preserve data on memory card)
  - Add metadata and copyright presets
  - Select an import preset<sup>1</sup> (or auto-exposure)
  - Select preview format (if desired)
  - Select convert to DNG (if desired)
  - Confirm import destination folder (create new or use date folder)
  - Import files
- Confirm import and import from additional memory cards (if needed)
- Remove card and reader (if desired)

## First pass edits (80 – 90%)

- Scan subjects and add additional key words, as needed
  - Use hierarchical key words (sets) when possible
- Delete obvious technical errors from thumbnails
- Consider adding geotags from Map module (or do later after processing)
- Open Edit Module
- Make first pass global edits:
  - Assess and adjust Exposure
  - Set white point and black point; open shadows (up) and highlights (down)
  - Check white balance and tint
  - Check and adjust contrast / Tone Curve as needed
  - Fine tune exposure, white/black points, and shadows/highlights
  - Adjust global clarity, vibrance and saturation, if needed
  - Consider gradient filter, if needed
  - Check horizontal / vertical and perspective control; adjust as needed

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<sup>1</sup> My Import Presets are camera specific and boost shadows, reduce highlights, add mild contrast, increase clarity, augment vibrance, add minimal saturation, add minimal color and luminance noise reduction, and add sharpening.

- Synchronize global settings to 'clusters' of appropriate images
- Make first pass local and individual image edits:
  - Use gradient filter as needed
  - Tweak vibrance and saturation, if needed
  - Straighten horizon, if needed
  - Crop, as needed
  - Flag/Delete undesirable focus, bad composition, technically poor shots
  - Star-rate best shots for further editing / review / printing
- Merge panoramas, HDR, focus stacking images, if needed
- Close Lightroom and back-up catalog and image files

### Second pass edits (95 – 99%)

- Open LR and image folder to edit in Develop module
- Review loupe images
- Compare and delete duplicates, if possible
- Fine-tune exposure adjustments, as needed
- Apply noise-reduction, sensor spot removal, and clean edges and corners, as needed
- Apply radial filters, brush local adjustments, dodge and burn on star-rated images
- Consider vignette
- Apply sharpening
- Consider creation of image Collections
- Close LR and back-up catalog and images

### Optional advanced editing (perhaps 1% of images)

- Open LR folder in Develop module
- Review star-rated images
- Select image for advanced editing
- Open "edit in Photoshop"
- Determine the 'most important' edit(s)
  - Duplicate the Background layer
  - Apply global adjustments in LR
  - Apply filter plug-ins, as needed
  - For Nik plug-ins:
    - Define 2 – noise reduction
    - Raw pre-sharpener
    - Consider Viveza for local adjustments, if needed
    - Consider Color Efex Pro, HDR Efex Pro, or Silver Efex Pro
    - Make adjustments, as needed
  - Re-size image for output, if needed
  - Apply sharpening, as needed

- Consider flattening layers to reduce file size, if no other edits are planned
- Save image (with auto export to Lightroom)
- Consider other special effects or conversions, as needed
- Consider flattening layers to reduce file size, if no other edits are planned
- “Save As” image (with auto export to Lightroom)
- Close image
- Open image in Develop module
- Consider global exposure tweaks, if needed
- Consider cropping, if needed
- Move to next star-rated image and repeat advanced editing steps
- Close Photoshop
- Close Lightroom and back-up catalog and images

## Output Options

- Select images for collection or open Auto collection
- Determine output needed: prints, web, slide show, book, publish service
- Adjust final output image size
- Adjust resolution
- Select watermark / copyright overlay
- Select final sharpening
- Output images