

TACC DISCUSSION GROUP

2/9/19

LIGHTROOM PART 2

Greetings

The February session continued the discussion of Lightroom editing software. We visited several topics based on the January discussion of Lightroom (LR).

It is important to emphasize that this was a **DISCUSSION**. To some degree, as the old saying goes “You had to be there”. Great information was exchanged between the presenters and the attendees. Consequently, these notes will only attempt to address the key takeaways from that day.

John Gill: Global adjustment

The Global adjustments tab is where your main enhancements to your Adaptive Exposure, Details, Color and Noise [reduction] occur. Any adjustments you make in global are applied to your ENTIRE image. Also, when you apply any of the presets those effects are applied to your entire image as well. The adjustments here are the foundation of your enhancement work with Adjust, and often may be the only adjustments you need/want to make to your image. You’ll also notice an **Eraser** option that will allow you to Erase any of the local adjustments that you may have applied but no longer want.

Use the Histogram to gauge the color balance and dynamic range. If the parts of the color curves are pushed off the right side, then the highlights in the image will be blown out (pure white with no detail). If parts of the color curves are pushed off to the left, then the shadows will be pure black with no detail.

Saturation affects all color equally

Vibrance affects the middle range of colors. Use for fine tuning.

John suggested that you start with the standard presets as applied edits to general pictures depending on the conditions in the photo; low light action in doors, cloudy action outdoors etc. This may be all the adjustment that the image requires.

The Local adjustments tab features a 4-in-1 adjustment brush. Local means that your adjustments here are NOT applied to your entire image, and instead are only applied “locally” to the section of the image that you select. Easier said, this is your way to make selective adjustments to specific parts of your image. **Dodge** allows you to lighten up

areas of your image, **Burn** darkens areas of your image, **Brush** out allows you to remove added enhancements from an area of your image, and **Smooth** allows you to smooth out areas of your image.

As you can imagine, the TACC attendees had many suggestions and insights to offer.

One of the experts mentioned at the meeting was Julieann Kost. She is an Adobe Lightroom expert. Here is a link to her blog on this topic.

<http://blogs.adobe.com/jkost/tag/global-adjustments>

Jay Petersen

Jay Petersen talked about several useful features in LR.

Importing

Exporting

Develop a module history panel to track every change made to an image.

Importing: Set up parameters for your imports and save them in a preset:

Import Preset Example:

- Copy the image as DNG. This is a industry standard raw format that contains the maximum amount of information from the camera sensor. This assumes you have captured images in your camera as raw (in the camera specific raw format).

- Save to new location (specify target top folder)

- Use import folder as new folder name (will be under folder specified above)

- Rename files if desired (set template for filenames)

- Apply preset(s) during import: Under develop settings in import menus, you can use any system presets or user presets

Note: To apply a user preset (for example Chromatic Aberation correction and Lens profile correction), you must create a preset with those settings before you import. Do this as follows:

In the Develop Module, Under Develop, select New Preset. Check Lens Profile Corrections and Chromatic Aberration. Name and save this preset and you will be able to apply it as part of your import preset.

Save your import preset with a name so you can use it every time you do another import.

Develop Module History Panel:

Shows each adjustment you have applied to an image in the develop module. You can select any entry in the History list to see the image at that point in the adjustment history.

You can save an image at any point in the history list with a Snapshot. This is just a snapshot of the image at that point. It cannot be edited.

You can also make a virtual copy at any point in the history list. This is an editable image, but you cannot change or view the edit history prior to the creation of the virtual copy. This allows you to experiment with other changes but retaining that “point in time image” and not losing it. Since the virtual copy appears as a new image in your filmstrip, the image it was copied from is still available if you want to go back to that set of edits. You can also change the metadata for a virtual copy for example, to add notes about it. Virtual copies can be stacked and unstacked to organize the photos in the filmstrip.

See this video for a nice (but very British) overview of snapshots, virtual copies and stacking: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ErjGuvmmEF8>.

This is a link to a short article about virtual copies: <https://digital-photography-school.com/5-ways-to-use-lightroom-virtual-copies-better/>

You can copy all or some of the adjustment settings from one image and apply them to one or more other images. This is helpful if you have several shots taken under the same lighting conditions. Do this in the Develop Module by selecting Settings-Copy Settings. Select the setting you want to copy and select Copy. To apply these settings, select one or more images in the Develop Module and select Settings-Paste Settings.

Exporting:

You use the Export command in the Library Module to create and export images to your file system or other destinations. This is useful for creating images to submit to shows or send to a printing service. Highlight the images you want to export and select the export command (lower left of screen or File-Export). A dialog box will come up that lets you specify the location, filename, format, size, etc. of the exported images. You can also save these settings in a preset.

General discussion

John Gill also briefly talked about On 1, a software editing tool available by purchase or subscription. It has grown to have many of the features of Lightroom. It might be something to explore. The group discussed the fact that it was not inherently easier or harder than LR. But it is different. The main takeaway is deciding on one editing software and stick to it. Don't try to use two or more editing tools that do the same things. Too confusing.

TAKEAWAYS

What are the takeaways from the January and February discussions?

1. If you are new to LR, or any photo editing software, the only way to learn it is to dive in and use it.
2. Read about importing pictures from your source.
3. Create and import a test file of small number of photos you can play with....label it so you know it is a test file. I started with less than 12 photos of different types.
4. Look for the Help offerings from Adobe related to LR.
5. Start at the beginning. Don't jump into fancy editing or other tools before you know and are comfortable with the basics.
6. Load your software and take a run through it to familiarize yourself with the words and terms. Then go to Help and start at the beginning; how to organize your files.
7. Don't do anything too sophisticated related to your organization but understand your options for creating Collections and entering Keywords. This will help you locate your photos when you amass 10,000 images. I would create an organizational outline of how I think I want to organize my photos before I start doing it. Play with that outline and see if it holds up.
8. Search the web for UTube or other tutorials. The folks at the meeting mentioned the following experts that are good at explaining Lr.
9.
 - Julieanne Kost <http://www.jkost.com/>
 - Tim Grey <http://www.timgreyphoto.com/>
 - Laura Shoe <https://laurashoe.com/>
10. Did I mention diving in and using the LR software? One member suggested that she opens the tutorial or help topic on one device and opens her LR file on her computer so that she can try the steps without having to toggle back and forth. Good idea.

There was a ton of information exchanged at this meeting. Please consider coming to the discussion groups on the second Saturday of the month. Topics are announced in advance and Jay Petersen sends out email notices.

It is important that we have all levels of participants at these meetings; novices and more experienced photographers. The discussion is where your membership in TACC really becomes valuable.