

POST PROCESSING IN LIGHTROOM

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

This is just one example of how to approach basic photo editing which in this case is with Adobe Lightroom. There are many ways to post process images; there is no right or wrong way for producing similar or possibly very different results. Personal preferences will ultimately determine how they're processed.

STARTING OUT

- A. Lightroom is essentially a RAW file editor but jpeg and TIFF files can also be edited as described below
- B. If you're new to Lightroom there's numerous ways to personalise & speed up work flow but a helpful tip for the Develop module is to set the develop panel to Solo mode to declutter the workspace. Right click on any dark grey title bars & select 'Solo Mode'. This collapses all title bars except the one currently in use.
- C. Images are imported into the Library Module. After importing them you switch to the Develop Module [keyboard shortcut – letter 'D'] to edit images.
- D. When importing images, it's always good practice to add your own Key Words to find them again quickly in future. You'll soon learn how to find them easily with Keywords as you increase your Lightroom skills.
- E. All Lightroom editing is non-destructive meaning it doesn't alter original image files in any way.

THE DEVELOP WORKFLOW BASICS – MY FAVOURED METHOD

1. Select the 'Lens Correction' title bar [in my opinion this should really be above the 'Basic' title bar]
 - a. Select Profile and check Remove Chromatic Aberrations and Enable Profile Corrections
 - b. Select Make, Model and Profile – the image often 'pops' when corrections are applied
2. Select 'Basic' title bar
 - a. Adjust 'White Balance' [Auto often does a good job but Undo using keyboard shortcut Ctrl+Z if result is unsatisfactory] & adjust Temperature & Tint sliders manually to suit personal taste
 - b. Adjust 'Tone' [Auto often does a good job but Undo (Ctrl+Z) if the result is unsatisfactory] & adjust Exposure, Contrast, Highlights, Shadows, Whites & Blacks manually to suit personal taste
 - c. To boost (i.e. improve) mid tone colours and contrast select Punch from Preset Panel on LHS of main workspace or adjust Clarity, Dehaze and Vibrance sliders manually to suit personal taste. N.B. The Saturation slider can overdo things so use this with care or only for desaturating globally. The Clarity, Dehaze (if needed) & Vibrance sliders are much subtler.
3. To add a little extra contrast [especially for B&W images that work better with greater contrast] select 'Tone Curve' title bar and in Point Curve select a Medium or Strong curve to suit personal taste
Tip: to see Before and After results click on Y|Y in bottom LHS of main workspace.
4. This could be all that's necessary for 'basic' editing but more localised (advanced) work can be done by using Crop | Spot Healing | Red Eye Removal | Graduated Filter | Radial Filter | Adjustment Brush
5. If no further work is required, the edited file can now be saved. Lightroom has no 'save' facility as such so files are Exported to a source of your choice. On main toolbar at top of main workspace go to 'File' → Export which reveals an export window. Simply work through this window from top to bottom making selections from the dropdown boxes. Files can be resized during this process which is useful for club competition entries. When all images are exported close and Backup Lightroom.

Tip: Any or all editing steps can be Undone with keyboard shortcut (Ctrl+Z). Alternatively, just Reset any work done and to start from scratch 'Clear History' - found in the Develop tab on main toolbar.