

Digital Photography Workflow Using LightRoom 2 and PhotoShop CS4

JT Thomas – April 2009

www.JTPhotoGraphics.com

Taking the picture

- Set camera to save in RAW mode if possible
 - Set for highest setting if no RAW setting
- Use the lowest ISO (down to 100) possible for the shot
 - Watch shutter speed (Action above 1/250)
- Try other modes (besides Program) on camera –A, S, M
- Use “chimping” if just learning your skills
 - Learn to zoom in for sharpness

Importing the Images

- Remove card from camera
 - Faster
 - Less risk for damage to camera
 - Less risk for loss of data
- Use one base folder and all folders under that
- Rename shots from camera format
- Use Presets for info in metadata
- Use Develop Presets for common adjustments
 - Some cameras need same adjustments
 - Personal taste settings
- Use standard keywords that make sense for this shoot

Library Workflow

- Look for best pictures
 - “P” for setting as Pick
 - “X” for setting as Rejected
 - Stack similar pics if keeping more than one
- Add additional keywords
 - Use keyword suggestions and sets
 - Add comments to pics if needed
- Save a collection of Picks
- Finding images with LightRoom

Develop Workflow

- Crop image first
 - Using level line
 - Keeping aspect ratio
- Setting White Balance
 - Find neutral gray (all values equal) with eyedropper
 - Fine tune to taste
- Setting Exposure
 - Look at Histogram
 - Recover highlights and fill for shadows
 - Turn on indicators for each
 - Adjust blacks
- Use curves for contrast (not slider)
- Add Clarity and Vibrance if needed
- History States for changes
- Before and After
 - From each panel
 - Overall
- Special effects
 - Black and White
 - Toning
 - Presets

Targeted Image Adjustments

- Non-destructive editing
- Removing Red-eye
- Removing Spots and blemishes
- Graduated filter
 - Use shift key to keep horizontal
- Image Adjustment Brush
 - Adjusting for selected area
 - Set size and feather
 - Auto Mask mode

Moving to and from PhotoShop

- Go to Photo/Edit in and select PS CSx
- Edit copy with LR edits
- Can open multiple docs in layers in PS
- Save and close in PS
 - Saves a PSD file stacked in LR
- Use Edit Original if modifying PSD file again

Output Modules - Slideshows

- Select Pictures or use a collection
- Use/Create Templates
- Use first and last slides
- Spacebar pauses/resumes
- Escape exits
- Slideshow as PDF

Output Modules - Printing

- Select Pictures or use a collection
- Can set to print to JPG or printer
- Set print resolution to 240-300 for printers
- Use print sharpening for cleaner prints
 - Use Standard for most, High for large (13x19 or bigger)
 - Select Matte or Glossy matching paper
- Print Management
 - Get latest print driver for your printer
 - Download profiles for your printer/paper combination from your printer manufacturer
 - Select your profile and not managed by printer
- Select Page Setup and select type of paper
- Turn off Color Management on the printer if using a profile
- Select Best Photo for best and fastest print