

Newsletter

InFocus at DVCC

30th March 2025



Caption

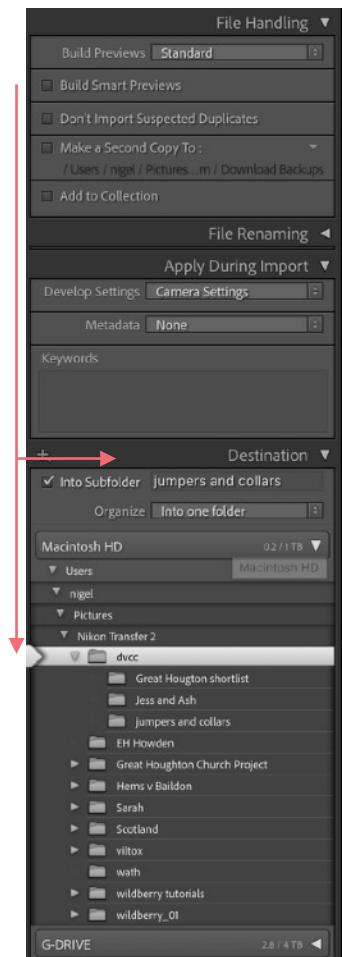
This week's meeting - Lightroom and Photoshop

Continuing the club's mantra of Learn, Develop, Share and Support, Nigel and Gill took to the stage and shared with us some of their knowledge about Adobe Photoshop and Adobe Lightroom Classic. As is always the case with computer software there seems to be a myriad of ways of achieving the same results and what was shared was the way that Nigel and Gill use the software. Others may achieve the same results in a different way, you have to find what works for you.

Nigel says he considers the *Library mode* of Lightroom Classic (hereafter referred to as LrC) as something of a card index system (a catalogue) that connects the file on your computer (in the cloud) to LrC and to the editing you have done in the *Develop mode* of LrC.

If you import your photographs into LrC you can say which folder (directory) / sub folder to import them to then in that process you can nominate a new folder and LrC will create that sub folder for you and move the files from your camera / card into that sub folder. Move the images in to a different folder in LrC and it will move them on your computer for you. If you look to the top of the LrC window when about to import file you will see an option called "Copy" - select this to copy files from the camera / card to your computer.

One of first things Nigel does once he has imported the images is to view each of the new imports and mark those he's rejecting by pressing "X" on the keyboard - this flags them as 'rejected'. He can then delete them in LrC (delete key on Windows or backspace key on Mac) and they will be deleted from the



Focus: Adobe Photoshop

Gill's guide to mimicking a pencil sketch.

Step 1: Having opened your image in Ps look for the "Layers panel" and the layer called "background". As its the only layer it will be selected for action

Step 2: Duplicate the layer (press CTRL and letter J in Windows or CMD J on Mac)

Step 3: The new layer will be called Layer 1 - given you've just created it, it will be selected for action, Now we will desaturate it (Menu: Image, Adjustments, Desaturate)

Step 4: CRTL J to duplicate it this acts as a safety net in case we mess it up), The new layer will be called Layer 1 copy - you can rename the layers.

Step 5: inverse this layer (important step) by pressing keys CTRL and I (CMD and I)

Step 6: Above the layers you will see the word "normal" - this is the blend mode and determines how this layer "blends" with those below it. Click on Normal and then from the list select "Colour Dodge". You should have a white image of 'nothingness now' !

Step 7: with this layer selected go to Menu item Filter, Blur, Gaussian Blur. On the dialog box that pops up move the slider (radius pixels) and watch what happens to your image. Stop the your happy then press "OK"

Step 8: use Save As to save as JPEG or PSD if you want to re edits the effect)

computer (or not depending on what option you choose). Structure your folders in a manner that means something to you.

Having done this he colour codes his images - for rugby he uses one colour for one team and another colour for the other team. This helps in filtering the library to see only those colour coded, for example red for Wath. He then rates the once he considers 'the best' by giving them a star rating - press keyboard 5 for 5 stars, 3 for three stars etc)

Having selected a picture for editing its time to move to the *Develop module* where you can change a whole host of things and more.

Crop the image, adjust the exposure, increase the lightness in the shadows, decrease the lightness in the highlights, add or decrease texture, clarity, increase or decrease the saturation and vibrance of the colours, adjust the sharpness of the image Do this until you find the settings that you like - but don't go overboard otherwise your image will look as if it has been doctored. Whilst we are, sort of, doctoring the image we want it to look as if it hasn't been ! You can save your favourite adjustments as a "preset" - then easily apply the preset to other images rather than setting each slider yourself.

In LrC you can remove artefacts, unwanted objects and the like from your images - personally I think you get better results in Photoshop than you do in LrC - but again try it and see what works for you. Using the erase tools (looks like a rubber) you can remove the telephone cable in this shot



The eye icon in the settings adjusts and removes "red eye" from photographs.

Perhaps the most interesting tool is the Masking tool - the circle with a dotted line around it. This lets you select specific part of the image and apply settings to only that part. But again be careful that you don't overdo it and that you don't leave a masking halo around the thing you have masked.

Map Module, Nigel says he's never used it as he tends to a) know where he was when he took the photos and b) does not have geo tagging / GPS functions in his camera. Slide show module, again seldom used by Nigel, but he does occasionally use the *Print Module* especially when it comes to creating either contact sheets or collages / triptych's .

Select the three images your interested in from *Library* module, then in the *Print* module use the Contact sheet option, create a grid of 3 columns, 1 row. Explore the options available to see what suits your images. To get the photos in the order you want you need to re-order them in Lightroom - easiest way to do this is put the three images you're using in a folder of their own, then drag them into order you want.

If you'd like to do a bit more learning about Lightroom or Photoshop let us know and we will see if we can fix up some "off schedule" zoom sessions for small groups.

Alternatives to Lightroom

Whilst are presentation focussed on the use of Adobe Lightroom (particularly Lightroom Classic) and Adobe Photoshop and Adobe Raw there are of course a number of alternatives packages available.

If you're looking for free alternatives to Adobe Lightroom, here is a bit an overview several alternatives

Open-Source & Free:

- Darktable:
A powerful, open-source photo editing and management tool with a user-friendly interface, often considered a strong Lightroom alternative.
- Raw Therapee:
Another open-source option, particularly good for raw file processing and offers a wide range of features.
- GIMP:
A versatile, free and open-source image editing software, similar to Photoshop, but with a steeper learning curve.

Following list is of software you would need to purchase - although many do offer a free trial option

- ON1 Photo RAW:
A subscription-free photo editor with AI-powered tools and a focus on ease of use, offering a comprehensive suite of features.
- Luminar Neo:
A subscription-free AI-powered photo editor that is known for its unique editing methods and user-friendly interface.
- Affinity Photo:
A subscription-free, one-time purchase option that offers professional-grade editing capabilities, including layer editing.
- DxO PhotoLab: and DXO Raw
A photo processor known for its superb RAW photo processing features, using AI technology to demosaic and denoise images.
- Capture One:
A free trial version is available, but the all in one offer will cost you £22.83 a month.

Others to consider are NCH Software PhotoPad, and of course don't forget the software that came from your camera manufacturer Digital Photo Professional from Canon, and from Nikon there is NX Studio. I'm sure Olympus, Fuji, Sony do something similar.

Look ups and Links.

How did you get on with last week's quiz ?

None of these are endorsed by DVCC, they are things I've found on the internet that might (or might not) be helpful and or interesting

Beginners Guide to Lightroom Classic (Photo Editing Tutorial 2024)

[Park Cameras](#)

Adobe Lightroom Full Tutorial for Beginners 2025 | Under 20 MINUTES!

[Lightroom for Beginners](#)

Phlearn Photoshop Learning site which also provides Lightroom guidance and skill sharing as well from Aaron Nace

[Phlearn](#)

Calendar of events - Look on the website for the new schedule.

02/04/2025	Wed	Wath	Presentation: What do you do with your photographs
09/04/2025	Wed	Wath	Show and Tell: Share an image that tells the story, can the audience guess the story
16/04/2025	Wed	Wath	High Speed Synch (HSS) what is it, what can it do
23/04/2025	Wed	Wath	Practical Night: model and using HSS
01/05/2025	Thu	ZOOM	External Speaker: <u>Mike Martin</u> "It's not what you see its what you make". Mike describes this as a mixed evening - in addition to an overview of his people photography, he also showcases some of his non-portrait photography, and step by step walk through making of some of my creative images using a live Photoshop demo and sharing some of my creative projects during lockdown.
14/05/2025	Wed	Wath	Show and Tell: 3 of your best composited images
14/05/2025	Wed	Wath	Presentation and Learning: Creating a composite image
21/05/2025	Wed	Wath	Members Photography Journey: Gill Batson
28/05/2025	Wed	Wath	Planning

Get your thinking caps on, last meeting of this season is about planning the next set of events. Probably do this in small groups to establish the sort of activities and events we want to explore, challenge ourselves, and enjoy. Its your chance to influence the calendar.