

Lightroom Speed Tips

Whether it's surfing, snow camping, or day-to-day life, I'm all about living life to its fullest! And I apply this same passion to my photographic workflow. Do you want to get really good at Lightroom? Learn as many speed tips as you can. Enjoy a few of my favorites below.

Reduce and simplify

Celebrated photographer Ralph Clevenger's work and words remind us that much of photography is about reduction and simplification in order to create clear and compelling images. So how can we reduce and simplify while working in Lightroom? Press the F key to cycle through the different Screen modes; press the L key to cycle to the Lights Out mode. By doing this, we can get back to what it's all about—the image.

Take control of the interface

Want to have even more control over the interface and open up some screen real estate? Meet the Function keys: F5, F6, F7, and F8. These keys give you the ability to hide or show the core interface components in Lightroom. Let's begin at the top of the interface with F5, which hides/shows the Module Picker. Pressing the F6 key hides/shows the Filmstrip at the bottom of the interface. The F7 and F8 keys hide/show the left and right Panels areas, respectively.

But let's not forget that pressing the Tab key hides or shows the left and right Panels areas *simultaneously*. Finally, press the T key to hide or show the Toolbar.



Jump to the Library and Develop modules

You'll spend most of your time in the Library and Develop modules (Library for organization, Develop for processing). Here are a couple of excellent shortcuts: While you're in any of the modules, you can jump to the Library module in Loupe view by pressing E; pressing G takes you to the Library module in Grid view. To jump to the Develop module, simply press D.

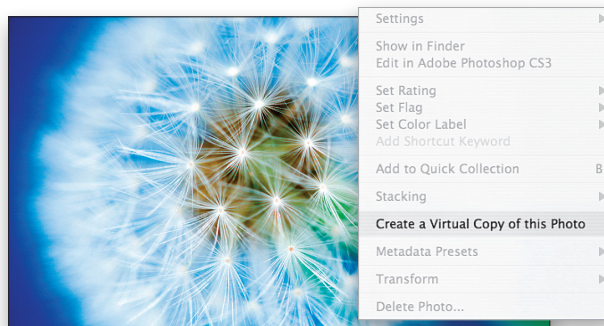
Quick grayscale conversion

To be creative, we need to be quick. Press the V key to take a quick look at your image in grayscale; press the V key again to take it back to color. As I pick up more shortcuts like this one, I'm continually amazed at how a simple shortcut can open up creative possibilities.



Virtual copy happiness

One of the best things about the RAW format is that it offers incredible control and flexibility. Here's one shortcut that will expand your RAW image processing. While you're in the Library or Develop module, you can Control-click (PC: Right-click) the image and select Create a Virtual Copy of This Photo from the contextual menu. What's a virtual copy? It's simply another set of "instructions" that interprets the RAW data in a new way, which means you can create multiple versions of a file without adding extra file size.



Speed rating

You can assign a one- to five-star rating to a photo by pressing a number when the photo is selected. But did you know that adding the Shift key when you assign the rating will rank the image and select the next photo? Awesome! To make it even simpler, press the Caps Lock key. Now all you have to do is press the number key of your choice and Lightroom will rank the photo and automatically select the next (no more holding the Shift key). Be sure to turn off Caps Lock when you're done. ■