

# FIX PHOTOS FAST



with  
ACTIONS



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## BONUS! Camera Raw—Photoshop

### Lesson 1: Editing Multiple Photos

Photos used in this lesson: Camera-Raw-01.jpg, Camera-Raw-02.jpg, Camera-Raw-03.jpg, Camera-Raw-04.jpg

Photoshop has many ways to edit photos, but one of the best is Camera Raw. It used to be that Camera Raw could only be used to edit raw images that were not compressed by the camera, but Adobe soon made it possible for jpegs to be edited with Camera Raw as well.

In this video we'll take a look at the Camera Raw interface and explore how to improve photos. I'll be starting with the Bridge, but Lightroom also has Camera Raw.

You can edit one photo at a time in Camera Raw, but the real beauty is that you can edit multiple photos at one time in Camera Raw. This is especially helpful for a series of photos taken in the same location with the same lighting.

- In the Bridge, click on one thumbnail and Ctrl click (Mac: Cmd click) on additional thumbnails to select them. If the photos are in a row, you can click on the first one and Shift click on the last one to select all the thumbnails in between.
- In the Menu Bar, choose File > Open in Camera Raw, or use the shortcut Ctrl R (Mac: Cmd R).
- The Camera Raw interface will open, and your photos will be displayed in a row on the left side.
- I often start by clicking the Auto setting. Sometimes that will fix the photo. Other times you'll need to make further adjustments using the sliders. If you don't like the result of Auto, click Default to return to the original setting.
- If you're editing multiple similar photos, you can go about it one of two ways—edit one photo and then apply the changes to the other photos, or select all similar photos and edit them at the same time. Most of the time it's easier to simply select all the similar photos and edit them at the same time. You can use the same selection techniques you used in the Bridge, or, if all your photos are similar, click on the Select All button above the thumbnails. The image that was active at the time you select your thumbnails will be the photo that remains visible.
- Whatever you do to one photo will also be applied to the other photos, because they're all selected. These changes aren't permanent, however. You'll be able to adjust each photo later.
- The sliders do a great job of correcting the photo! If you're using a different version of Photoshop, your sliders may be slightly different, but you'll be able to tell what each one does by the name or by experimenting.
- Above the panel on the right you'll see the histogram, which is especially helpful to know whether your photos are missing information on the right or left side of the histogram. Moving the Exposure slider and the Whites slider will affect the right side of the histogram. Moving the Blacks or Shadows sliders will affect the left side of the histogram. But mostly you'll just eyeball the photo and see what looks good to you.
- Many photos need more contrast. Move the Contrast slider to the right to add contrast.
- Clarity will add sharpness to your images.
- Vibrance and Saturation both increase or decrease the color saturation, but Vibrance stays away from skin tones, so if your photo has people in it, use Vibrance, if you need more color.

- Once you're satisfied with the look of the first photo, always click on each photo thumbnail to check the other photos. They may need a little bit of tweaking, but most of the work will already be done.

### Apply the Same Settings to Other Photos

If you make a change to a single photo that you like and want to apply it to the other photos, here's how to do it.

- Ctrl Click (Mac: Cmd click) to select the photos you want to include. If you want to include all the photos, click Select All button.
- Click the Synchronize button. Click OK to the dialog box that comes up.
- The settings from the first photo will be applied to all the other photos.

## Lesson 2: Adjusting White Balance

Camera-Raw-05-color.jpg, Camera-Raw-06-color.jpg, Camera-Raw-07-color.jpg, Camera-Raw-08-color.jpg

Camera Raw can often eradicate color cast, but other times it just doesn't seem to be able to balance the colors correctly, and I find it faster to use the Fix Photos FAST actions.

To adjust the white balance (color):

- Select all the thumbnails on the left that you want to adjust at the same time.
- Open the White Balance menu and choose Auto.
- If necessary, click the Auto link to fix the exposure as well.
- Fine tune the adjustment, if necessary.

Some photos don't respond as well to the white balance settings in Camera Raw, especially when there are one or more colors that are predominant and need to be reduced before color correction can work well. It's also difficult to adjust a photo that has a split white balance because of different lighting on different parts of the photo.

So the moral of the story is this: use what works best for your photo. Camera Raw is just one tool in your tool kit!

## Lesson 3: Red Eye In Camera Raw

Photos used in this lesson: Camera-Raw-09-red-eye.jpg

Red Eye is actually quite easy to fix in Camera Raw.

- Click on the Red Eye tool in the Tool Bar across the top.
- For best results, click and drag an outline over the entire eye, including the eyebrow and part of the skin.
- Uncheck Show Overlay to get a better look.
- If the pupil is too light, move the Darken slider to adjust it.
- If you need to adjust the size, check Show Overlay, click and drag on the outline around the pupil to change size.

## Lesson 4: Photos With Contrast

Photos used in this lesson: Camera-Raw-10-high-contrast.jpg, Camera-Raw-11-high-contrast.jpg

If your photo has high contrast with dark areas, do your best to fix it in Camera Raw, but you may also need to open it in Photoshop and apply an action:

- Move the Shadows slider to the right.
- Move the Contrast slider to the right to compensate for any loss in detail.
- Adjust the Exposure, if necessary.
- Select the photo thumbnails and click Open.

- Use one of the Fix Photos FAST actions to complete your editing. I used the action Shadows/Highlights: Mild two times and Contrast at 10% opacity.
- When you open photos from Camera Raw into Photoshop, you will need to save them before closing.

## Lesson 5: Saving Camera Raw Photos

Photos used in this lesson: Camera-Raw-13-save-images.jpg, Camera-Raw-14-save-images.jpg

When you're done editing photos in Camera Raw, you have several choices:

- You can click Done and the Camera Raw dialog box will close.
- If you click Cancel and click OK to the dialog box that comes up, all your changes will be lost.
- If you click Open Images
- When you're done editing photos in Camera Raw, you have several choices:
- You can click Done and you will return to the Bridge with the non-destructive changes made to your photo, so your photo will look better, but you haven't actually saved it that way. A camera raw icon will appear on the thumbnail in the Bridge to show that it has been changed.
- If you click Cancel and click OK to the dialog box that comes up, all your changes will be lost and no icon will appear on your thumbnail in Bridge.
- If you click Open Images, your selected images will open in Photoshop. When you close those photos, Photoshop will ask if you want to save the changes.
- If you click Save Images, you'll be taken to a Save Options dialog box.

### Save Options Dialog Box

- In Camera Raw, select the photos you want to save or click the Select All button.
- Click the Save Images button. When the Save Options dialog box comes up:
- Decide where you want to save your photo(s), in the same folder, or in a new or different folder.
- Name your files. Use the menus to choose what you want to show first, second, and third, etc., or you can type in your own words. My normal routine is to:  
     Choose "Document Name" from the first field.  
     Write a descriptive name in the second field.  
     Example: DSC01872 + -flower = DSC01872-flower
- Choose your format—jpeg or psd file: 99.9% of the time I choose to save in a jpeg format at a quality of 10.
- When you're done, click Save. The images will take a few seconds to save, and then you can click Done to go back to the Bridge.

**Note:** If I need to do a lot of work on a photo, I usually make my initial edits in Camera Raw, then I click on the Open Image button in the Camera Raw dialog box and save the photo as a PSD before I start to work on it. That way I can save my file multiple times as I work on it without any loss of quality.

- Once you've worked on a photo in Camera Raw and returned to the Bridge, the original images will have a Camera Raw icon in the upper, right corner. The original files will look exactly the same as your newly saved copies, but all the original information is still there.
- If you double click on a photo thumbnail that has been edited in Camera Raw, it will open in Camera Raw again with the same settings you applied before. If you want to return to the original settings, you can click on the "Default" link and on the "As Shot" setting in the White Balance menu.
- You can also remove the Camera Raw settings from an image in Bridge. Right click on a photo thumbnail and choose Develop Settings > Clear Settings.

Camera Raw is a great tool, and if you're like me, you'll use it often!

## Lesson 6: Photo Workflow

I've given you a lot of tools in this class, so in this short video I want to tell you my personal workflow. Which editing tools do I use first? How do I decide where to start?

Like a river flowing downstream, I always go the path of least resistance. Whatever is easiest and fastest, that's the way I go, but I use all the techniques I've taught in this class at one time or another.

I quickly go through my photos and choose the ones I want to keep and discard the rest. (It's better to narrow down the number of photos to fix.) I use Bridge to do this.

My next step is usually Camera Raw. I open similar photos in groups and edit them as a group first. Then I quickly check each thumbnail and make any tweaks. If I'm satisfied with all of them, I make edited copies inside Camera Raw.

If one or more photos needs more help, the next step is to open them in Photoshop. Examples would be too much contrast (my actions are wonderful for that!), too much noise because I had to lighten them too much (I use the Noiseware action and maybe some additional sharpening and contrast after Noiseware), a color balance problem (the actions are a big help with color) or maybe I just want to enhance the photos a bit more, or clone something, or use Content Aware, etc. etc. The actions handle the tough areas and provide the finishing touch.

About the only time I do something different is with black and white heritage photos—I don't start with Camera Raw with heritage photos. I go straight to the actions, and I often need to use the tools to correct or fix the photos inside Photoshop.

Sometimes I open a photo that I've already edited, but I might feel it needs a tweak, so I choose the easiest way to fix it—which might be an action or something else. As I said before, I take the path of least resistance. I choose the tool that will do the best job in the least amount of time.

Starting with Photoshop Creative Cloud you can edit a layer in Camera Raw directly from Photoshop. Choose Filter > Camera Raw Filter. And make your adjustments. When you click OK, just the one layer will be changed. So Camera Raw got even better in Photoshop CC.

As you get better acquainted with the tools, you'll soon develop a workflow that is well suited to your style of editing, and you'll become a whiz at making your photos look great!