



April 2026 ACR / LR / LRC Updates

In this lesson, we will explore the updates made by Adobe in April 2026 to Adobe Camera Raw, Lightroom, and Lightroom Classic.

### Key Concepts

1. **Sony Compressed RAW Support** (01:32): Enables opening compressed RAW files from the Sony A75 camera in Lightroom and Adobe Camera Raw.
2. **Film-Inspired Presets** (02:04): New presets designed to simulate the look of older film types, offering a starting point for creative edits.
3. **Improved Assisted Culling** (03:48): Enhancements to the assisted culling feature, reducing rejections of images with sharp subjects and blurry backgrounds.
4. **Exposure Issues Sensitivity Slider** (04:10): Provides more control over the sensitivity when checking for exposure issues in images.
5. **Firefly Mood Board Creation** (04:45): Allows users to send up to 10 images to Firefly to create mood boards for collaboration and inspiration.
6. **Depth Range Masking Improvement** (07:25): The depth range mask can now generate its own depth map, even for images without embedded depth data, expanding its usability.
7. **Anamorphic Lens Correction in Crop Tool** (17:58): A new option in the crop tool to correct image distortion caused by anamorphic lenses.
8. **Projection Slider in Crop Tool** (20:59): Helps correct distortion, particularly for faces near the edge of the frame, with an auto-correction feature.
9. **PSV File Format Import** (26:05): Lightroom can now import PSB (Photoshop Big) files, which support numerous layers and large file sizes.
10. **Precise Cropping in Lightroom** (27:25): Users can now pan and zoom within the crop tool in Lightroom for more precise adjustments.
11. **Edit in Photoshop Options** (28:07): Enhanced choices for file format, color space, and bit depth when editing images in Photoshop from Lightroom.
12. **Natural Language Searching in Lightroom** (29:35): Enables searching for images using descriptive phrases, not just keywords, for cloud-stored images.
13. **Lightroom Classic Performance Improvements** (33:51): Enhanced performance, especially on Windows, with up to five times faster adjustment slider response.
14. **PSB File Support in Synced Collections** (34:31): Lightroom Classic now supports PSB files within cloud-synced collections.
15. **Background AI Processing** (35:54): Features like Denoise and Super Resolution can now be processed in the background, allowing continued work in Lightroom Classic.

## Shared Features Across All Programs

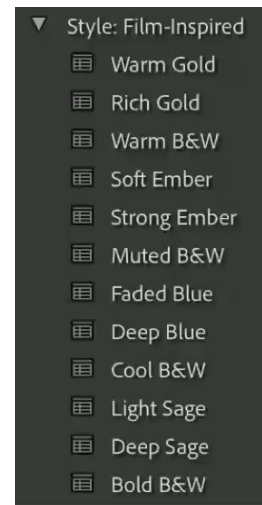
These updates are available in Adobe Camera Raw, Lightroom, and Lightroom Classic.

### Sony Compressed RAW Support

Previously, compressed RAW files from newer cameras like the Sony A75 could not be opened in Lightroom or Adobe Camera Raw. With this update, support has been added, allowing these files to be opened and edited.

### New Film-Inspired Presets

Adobe has introduced new "Film Inspired" presets that offer a simulated look of older film types without exact mimicry. In Lightroom Classic, these are found in the Develop module under the "Presets" panel. In Adobe Camera Raw, they are accessible via the presets icon. Users can hover over presets to preview their effect and adjust their intensity using an "Amount" slider. These presets also reveal the underlying adjustments made, which can be further customized.



## Features Shared by Lightroom & Lightroom Classic

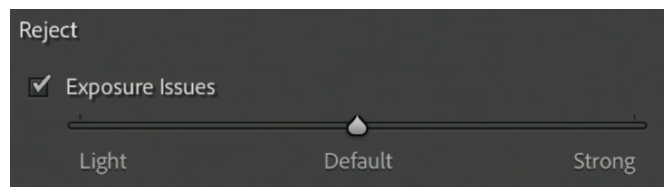
These improvements are available in both Lightroom and Lightroom Classic but not in Adobe Camera Raw.

### Improved Assisted Culling

The assisted culling feature has been refined to be less likely to reject images with sharply focused subjects and blurred backgrounds.

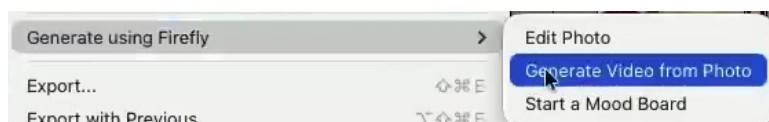
### Enhanced Exposure Issues Check

Previously, checking for exposure issues was a simple on/off checkbox. Now, a slider allows for adjustable sensitivity, providing more granular control over exposure warnings.



### Firefly Mood Board Creation

Users can now send up to 10 images (no videos) to Firefly to generate mood boards. In Lightroom Classic, this is accessed via File > Generate using Firefly > Start a Mood Board. In Lightroom, it's found under the Photo > Share > Generate using Firefly menu or via the Share icon. This process automatically launches a browser, directing users to the Firefly interface where they can arrange images, add text, and share the mood board via a link.



## Features Unique to Adobe Camera Raw v18.3

These updates are specific to Adobe Camera Raw.

### Depth Range Masking

The "Depth Range" mask, previously limited to images with embedded depth maps (like those from iPhones in portrait mode), can now generate its own depth map. This allows for depth-based adjustments on a wider variety of images. Within the masking tools, select "Depth Range." You can then adjust the depth range to affect specific areas, with a red overlay showing the masked portion. A "fade out" control allows for a soft transition. The mask can be refined by subtracting or adding areas using brush tools. A "Show Depth Map" option visualizes the generated depth map for more precise control. When an image *does* have a device-generated depth map, users can choose between using the device's map or ACR's generated map.



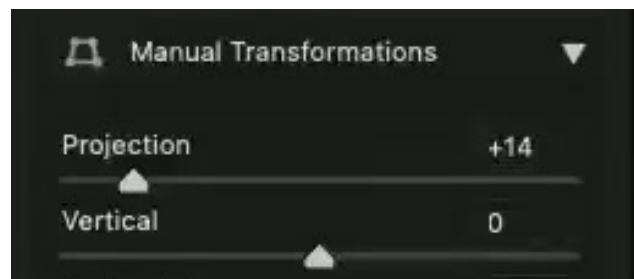
### Anamorphic Lens Correction in Crop Tool

A new "Anamorphic" option has been added to the crop tool. This feature is designed to correct image distortion caused by anamorphic lenses, which can "squish" the image horizontally to capture a wider field of view. Users can select presets or use a slider to de-squish the image. This tool is specific to images shot with anamorphic lenses and will scale the image horizontally if used on standard photos.



### Projection Slider

Within the crop tool's "Manual Transformations," a new "Projection" slider is available. This slider attempts to correct distortion, particularly for faces near the edge of the frame. It works by bending the image and may require subsequent cropping to maintain composition. An "Auto" function, accessed by holding the Shift key, analyzes the image and applies an estimated correction, primarily triggered by the presence of faces near the frame's edge.



## Features Unique to Lightroom

These features are exclusive to the Lightroom desktop application (cloud-centric version).

### PSV File Format Import

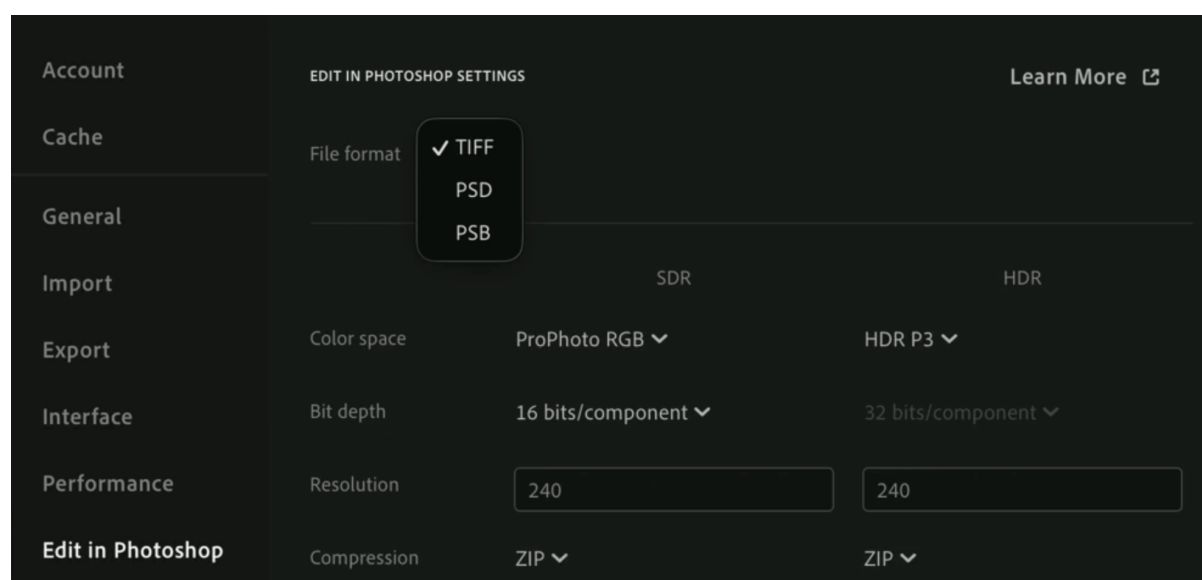
Lightroom can now import PSV (Photoshop Big) files. This format is useful for images with a large number of high-resolution layers that exceed the size limitations of standard Photoshop or TIFF files.

### Precise Cropping in Lightroom

The crop tool in Lightroom now allows panning by pressing the spacebar and zooming using Command + / Control + and Command - / Control -. This enables more precise cropping of fine details.

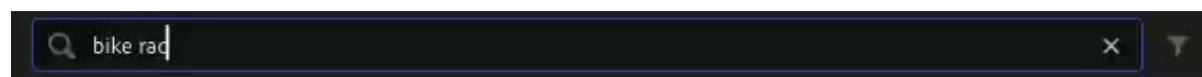
### Edit in Photoshop Options

When sending an image from Lightroom to Photoshop for editing, users can now select the output file format: TIFF, Photoshop (.PSD), or Photoshop Big (.PSB). Additional options for color space, bit depth, and resolution can also be configured, similar to Lightroom Classic.



### Natural Language Searching

For images stored in the cloud, Lightroom can now analyze their content and allow users to search using natural language descriptions (e.g., "flags," "bike rack," "blurry background"). This feature does not apply to locally stored images. The accuracy can vary, sometimes being too generic or missing relevant images. This functionality is not available in Lightroom Classic, and Adobe has no immediate plans to bring it to that version. A plugin called XR Search is mentioned as an alternative for Lightroom Classic users.



## **Features Unique to Lightroom Classic**

These enhancements are specific to Lightroom Classic.

### **Performance Improvements**

Performance has been significantly improved, especially on Windows, with adjustment sliders now responding up to five times faster. This reduces lag when making edits.

### **PSB File Support in Collections**

Lightroom Classic now supports PSB files within collections that sync to the cloud, making them accessible on mobile and web.

### **Background AI Processing**

Features like Denoise and Super Resolution now process in the background. This means users are no longer locked out of the application while these AI processes run. A progress bar indicates the ongoing process, and users can continue working on other images.