



October 2025 LR, LRC, & ACR Updates

In this lesson, we'll explore the updates made to Adobe Camera Raw (ACR), Lightroom, and Lightroom Classic in October 2025, coinciding with the annual Adobe Max conference.

Shared Features

These features are available across ACR, Lightroom, and Lightroom Classic.

HDR Auto-Limit Slider

The HDR button that appears below the histogram allows you to limit the brightness range used.

Auto Limit Slider: The default setting is 2.3 stops brighter than standard dynamic range.

Adjusting the Slider: You can increase the slider value, especially if using an Apple display. Holding Shift and double-clicking may automatically adjust the slider based on your display's specifications.

Caution: Lowering the slider too much can cause highlights to appear blown out.

It's important to note that this HDR feature pertains to using extra brightness on HDR displays, not merging multiple exposures.

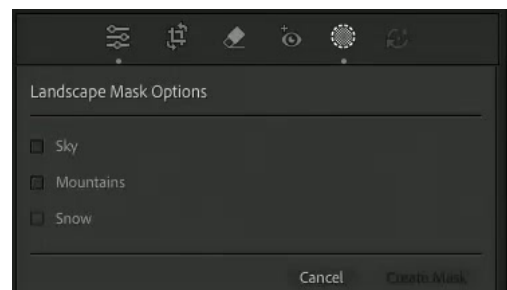
Masking: Snow Selection

The masking feature now includes a "Snow" option under the Landscape category.

Accessing the Feature: Go to the Masking panel and choose "Landscape" to find the "Snow" selection.

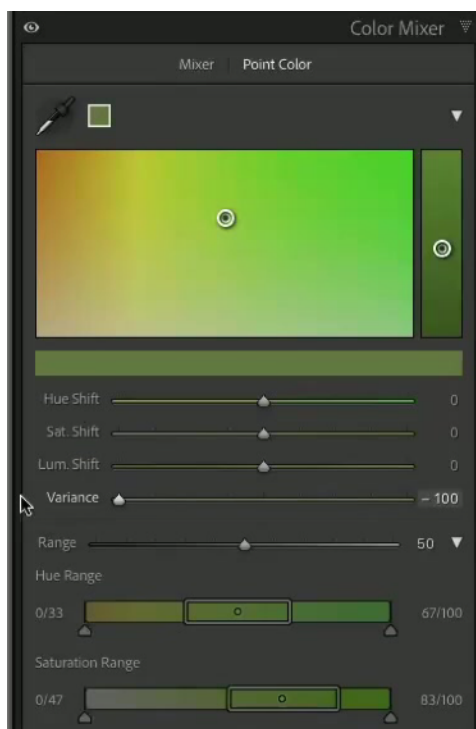
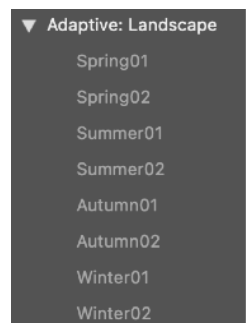
Auto Sync: To apply changes to multiple images, ensure "Auto Sync" is enabled.

Limitations: In the demo, the AI sometimes misses snow or incorrectly identifies other elements as snow.



Adaptive Presets

Eight new adaptive presets are available for landscapes, using AI-based masking for different seasons. Hovering over the presets provides a preview, and clicking applies the preset. You can then examine the generated masks in the Mask panel.



Point Color: Variance Slider

The Point Color adjustment tool now includes a Variance slider.

Accessing the Feature: Find the Color Mixer area and choose Point Color. Use the eyedropper to select a color in the image.

Functionality: Lowering the Variance slider makes variations of the selected color more similar. Increasing it pushes them to be more different.

Masking Recommendation: It's suggested to mask an area before applying the Point Color adjustment for more control.

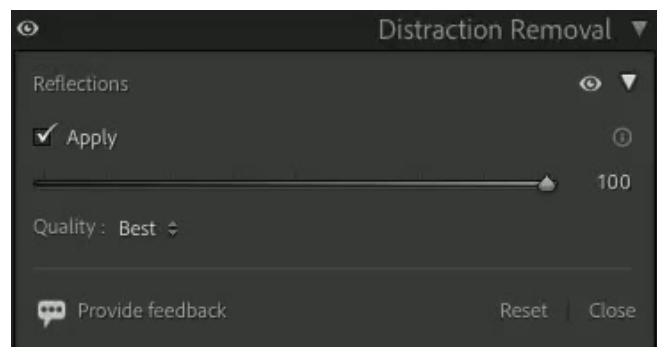
Remove Tool: Improved Reflection Removal

The Reflection Removal tool within the Remove tool has an improved algorithm. This enhancement aims to provide better results, particularly in areas where reflections dominate.

Benefit: The updated version produces more usable results than the old version.

Switching Versions: To switch between the old and new versions, toggle the "Apply" checkbox in the Reflection Removal settings. Reapplying will use the new version.

Potential Drawbacks: The new version may not be as effective at removing haze as the old version in some images.



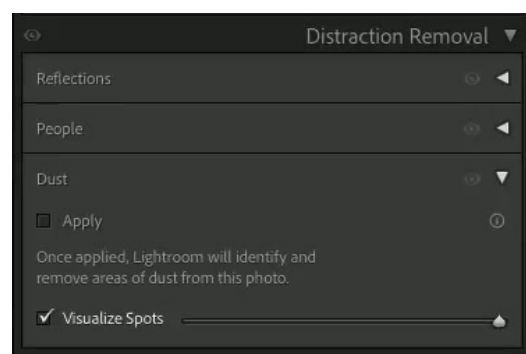
Automatic Dust Removal

A new "Dust" option is available within the Remove tool for automatic dust spot removal.

Accessing the Feature: Go to the Remove tool and select "Dust" under the Distraction Removal section.

Visualize Spots: Use the "Visualize Spots" checkbox and slider to identify dust spots. This slider is also available in the normal retouching tools.

Applying Dust Removal: Click the "Apply" button to automatically detect and remove dust spots.



Post-Application Inspection: Zoom in and inspect the image after the automatic removal, as some spots may be missed.

Manual Adjustments: Hold the Option key (Alt on Windows) and click to delete existing circles, then apply a new, properly sized circle.

Dehaze Trick: Temporarily increase the Dehaze setting in the Basic Adjustments tab to make dust spots more visible. Remember to reset Dehaze to zero afterward.

Batch Application: With Auto Sync on, applying dust removal will affect all selected images.

Saving as Preset: Dust removal can be saved as part of a develop preset.

Shared by Lightroom Desktop and Lightroom Classic

These features are shared by Lightroom Desktop and Lightroom Classic, but not available in Bridge or ACR.

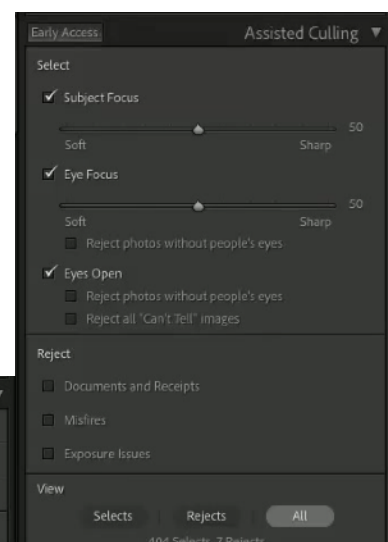
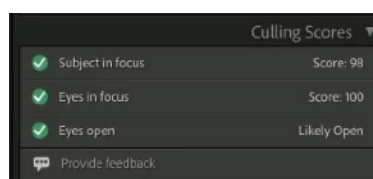
Assisted Culling

Assisted Culling helps narrow down images based on sharpness and focus using AI.

Accessing the Feature: Open the Assisted Culling panel on the right side of Lightroom Classic.

Analysis: The software analyzes images for eye and subject focus, and whether eyes are open. This feature is best suited for portraits.

Culling Scores: Each image is assigned a "Culling Score" indicating the confidence level for subject focus, eye focus, and eye openness.



Filtering: Set minimum sharpness thresholds for the subject and eyes to reduce the number of visible images.

Viewing Options: View "All," "Selects" (those that pass the filter), or "Rejects" (those below the threshold).

Batch Actions: Apply color labels (e.g., red for rejects, green for selects) to visually identify images outside the culling section.

Auto-Stacking

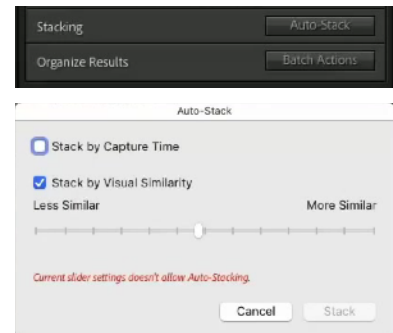
Auto-Stacking uses AI to stack images based on visual similarity.

Accessing the Feature: Find the "Stacking" section in the Assisted Culling panel.

Stack by Capture Time: While present, this is not the new functionality.

Stack by Visual Similarity: Turn on "Stack by Visual Similarity" and adjust the slider to control how similar images need to be to be stacked. A higher setting is more restrictive.

Troubleshooting: If the "Stack" button is grayed out, enable "Stacked by Capture Time".



Browsing Stacked Images: Click the number in the upper left of a stack to expand and view the images within.

Unique to Lightroom Classic

These features are exclusive to Lightroom Classic.

Catalog Updates

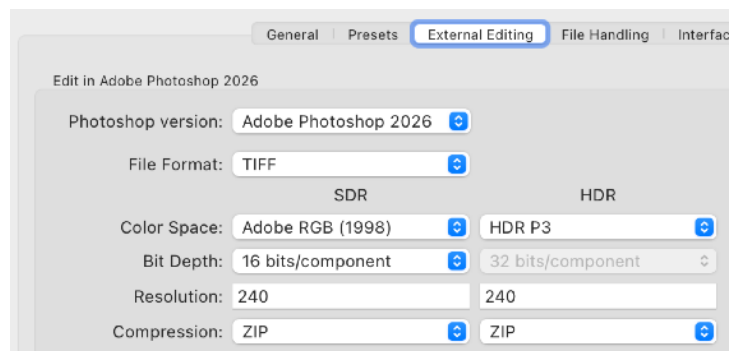
Upon installing the new version, Lightroom Classic will prompt you to update your catalog. If you dislike the new catalog name, rename it via File > Rename Catalog.

Compatibility: New catalogs are only compatible with the current or newer versions of Lightroom.

Backup: Lightroom Classic will create a copy of your old catalog, stored in a folder like "Old Lightroom Catalogs." Keep this for a few weeks until you're satisfied with the new version.

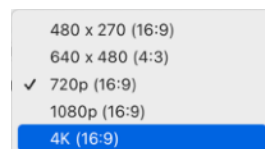
External Editing Preferences

The External Editing preferences now include additional color space options, such as Rec 2020 for HDR images. Separate controls are available for HDR images, allowing you to open them as 32-bit images in Photoshop.



4K Video Export

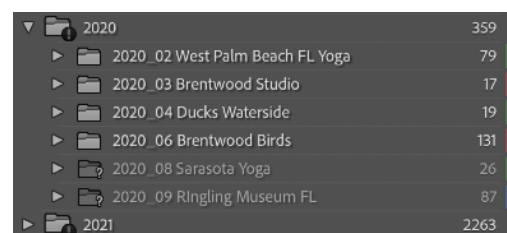
The slideshow module now supports exporting videos in 4K resolution. This allows you to utilize the full resolution of high-resolution televisions.



Folder List Indicators

Exclamation points on folders in the folder list indicate that one or more subfolders within are missing. This means Lightroom knew the folder existed but can no longer locate it.

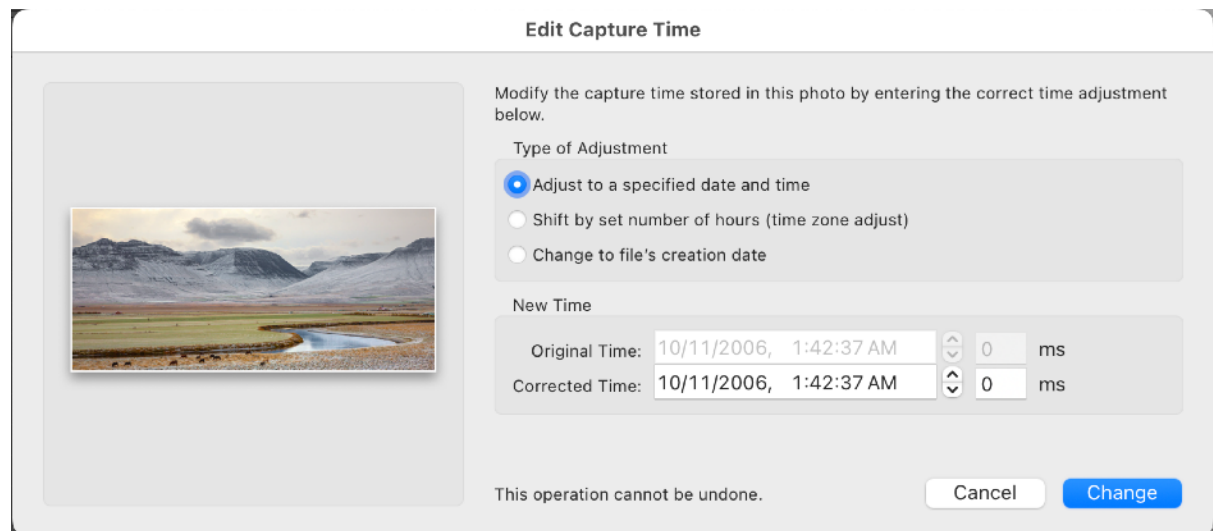
Fixing Missing Folders: Right-click the folder with the question mark and choose "Find Missing Folder" to relink it.



Millisecond Capture Time

Lightroom Classic now tracks capture time down to the millisecond. This is useful when syncing images from multiple cameras.

Editing Capture Time: Access the Edit Capture Time option via the Metadata menu to adjust times with millisecond precision.



Cropping Enhancements

You can now zoom into images while cropping. Use the navigator in the upper left or keyboard shortcuts (Command +) to zoom.

Metadata Saving

Saving metadata (Command S or Metadata > Save Metadata to File) now creates two sidecar files if you've used Denoise or AI-based masks. The standard XMP file contains adjustment settings, while the .ACR file stores the results of Denoise or AI masks.

Leica Tethering Support

Tethering support has been added for select Leica cameras.

Unique to Lightroom Desktop

These features are exclusive to Lightroom Desktop.

Assisted Culling and Auto-Stacking

Assisted culling and auto-stacking only work on images stored in the cloud.

Video Tips

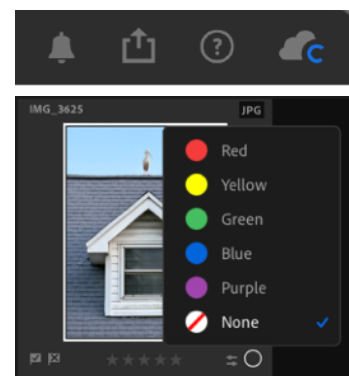
Quick tip videos are accessible via the question mark icon in the upper right of the screen.

Color Labels

Color labels can be applied by clicking the circle in the lower right of a thumbnail. The "Interface" section of the preferences controls whether the thumbnail background reflects the applied color label. Using the "vivid" setting may help colorblind users differentiate between colors.

Batch Renaming

Batch renaming is now supported. Select multiple images, click the information icon in the lower right, and use the panel to create a renaming template.



Rename 5 Photos

Template: Custom Name - Sequence ▾ ...

Custom text: Custom text

Start number: 1

Example: -1.jpg

Cancel Apply

Subfolder Viewing

You can now view the contents of subfolders by enabling the "Include Subfolders" checkbox near the top of the screen.

☒ Include subfolders

In summary, the October 2025 updates brought several enhancements across ACR, Lightroom, and Lightroom Classic, including AI-powered features like snow masking, assisted culling, and auto-stacking.