

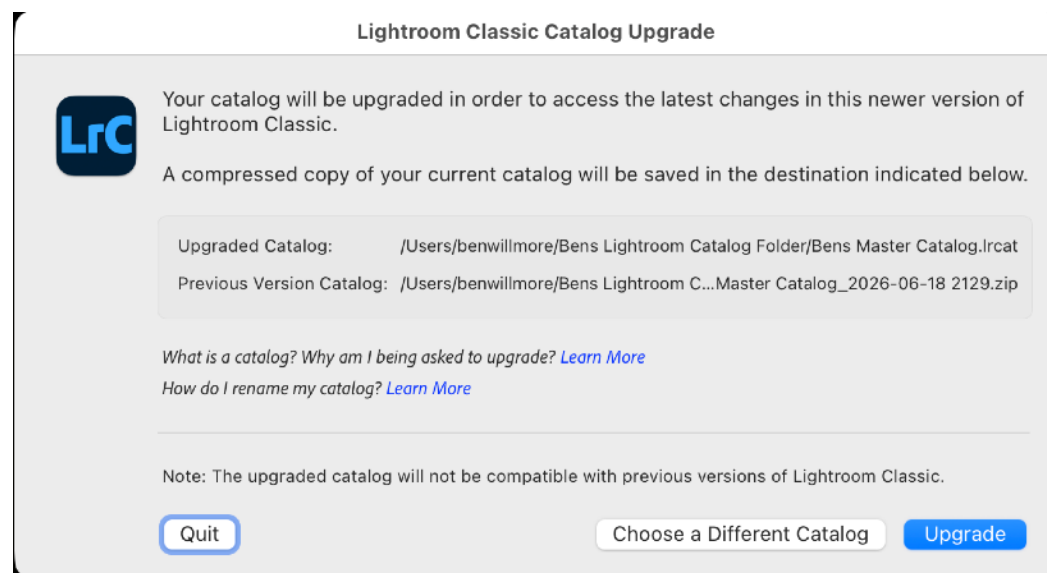


June 2026 ACR & LRC Updates

This lesson will walk you through the latest enhancements and new features introduced in Adobe Camera Raw and Lightroom Classic as of June 2026.

Catalog File Upgrade in Lightroom Classic

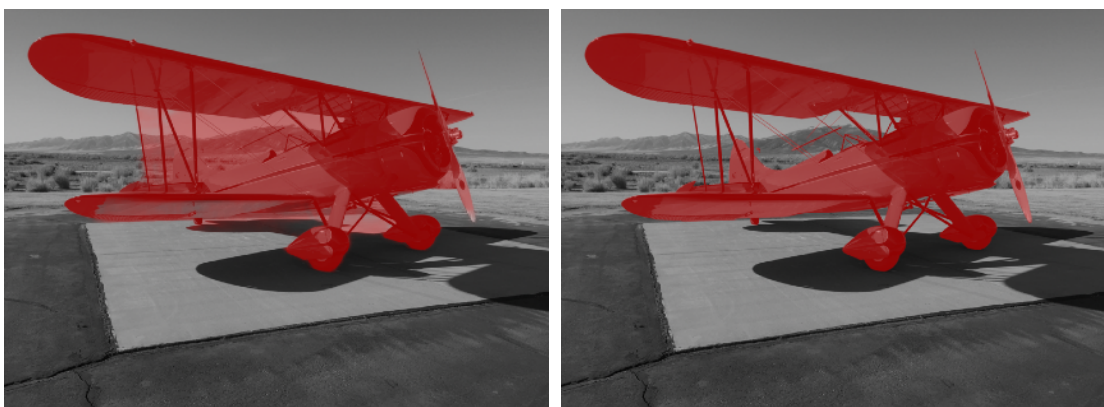
When you launch the new version of Lightroom Classic (15.4), you'll be prompted to upgrade your catalog file. This is a necessary step due to changes in how the catalog file is structured. Lightroom will automatically create a copy of your existing catalog file. It's a good practice to keep this older version for a few months until you're comfortable with the new version and confident there are no issues. This ensures you have a fallback if needed.



Improved Select Subject and Select Background Masking

The masking tools in Lightroom Classic and Adobe Camera Raw have seen significant improvements, offering much higher quality results that are more akin to Photoshop.

- **Enhanced Accuracy:** When using "Select Subject" or "Select Background," the software now does a much better job of accurately identifying and masking complex edges, fine details like hair or branches, and intricate gaps between subjects.
- **Before and After Comparison:** You can clearly see the difference between masks created with the older and newer versions. The new version captures finer details and avoids incorporating background elements into the subject mask, as demonstrated with the cactus image where delicate spines are now properly selected.

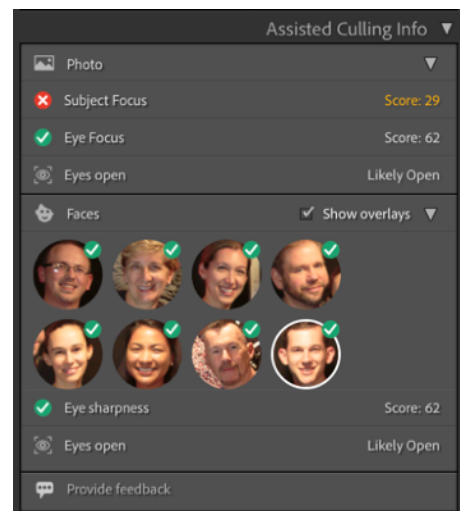


- **Furry and Hairy Subjects:** These improvements are particularly noticeable with challenging subjects like fur and hair. The new version is significantly better at isolating these fine details compared to previous versions, reducing the need for manual refinement with brushes.
- **Object Masks in Camera Raw:** In Adobe Camera Raw, the Feather and Edge sliders, previously only available for AI-based masks (like Select Subject, Sky, or Landscape), have now been extended to Object Masks. This means you can refine object selections with the same level of control as other AI masks.

Assisted Culling with the Faces Panel

Assisted Culling in Lightroom Classic now includes a "Faces" panel, which provides a more granular analysis of images containing people.

- **Individual Face Analysis:** Instead of evaluating the entire photo for eye focus and open eyes, this feature now assesses each detected face individually. This is especially beneficial for group shots where focus might vary across different individuals.
- **Rejecting Based on Faces:** You can now see individual face thumbnails and their corresponding assessments (e.g., eye sharpness, open eyes). This allows for more informed culling decisions, ensuring that shots with critical focus on faces are prioritized.
- **Customization:** While this feature is primarily designed for portrait and group photographers, its development suggests potential for broader applications in the future.



Duplicate View and Removal

Lightroom Classic introduces a new "Duplicate View" to help manage and remove duplicate images from your library.

1. **Select Scope:** First, decide which images you want to analyze for duplicates. This can be a specific collection, one or more folders, or even "All Photos" in your catalog.
2. **Access Duplicate View:** In the Library module, locate and click the "Duplicate View" icon in the toolbar below the thumbnail images. If the toolbar isn't visible, press the 'T' key or enable it via the View menu.



3. **Duplicate Detection:** Lightroom analyzes images based on visual similarity, not just file names or locations. Found duplicates will be stacked, with a number in the upper left corner indicating the total count.
4. **Review and Remove:** Click the stack number to expand and view the duplicates. You can then select one or more duplicates, right-click, and choose "Remove Duplicates." This process keeps the top image in each stack and removes the others.

5. **Handling Collections:** Be mindful that this feature doesn't inherently merge collection memberships. If a duplicate image is part of a collection you value, you may need to manually reassign it or use the "Set as Original" (right-click on image) option before deleting duplicates to ensure the correct image is preserved within your collections.
6. **Hide Duplicates:** If you want to exclude a specific set of duplicates from future detection, right-click on an image and select "Hide from Duplicates". You can later show these again using the "Show Hidden Duplicates" checkbox in the Duplicate View toolbar.

New Filter Bar Options for AI Features

The filter bar at the bottom of the Library module in Lightroom Classic has been enhanced with new metadata options, specifically for filtering images based on AI-related features.

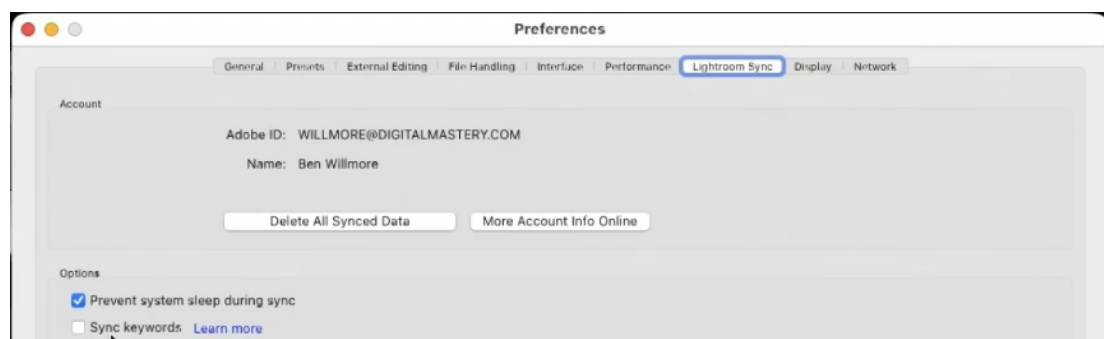
1. **Access Filter Bar:** Ensure the filter bar is visible at the top of the Library module (toggle with the backslash key or Window menu > Show Filter Bar).
2. **Select Metadata Filter:** Choose "Metadata" from the filter type dropdown.
3. **Develop AI Options:** Click on a column heading (e.g., "Develop"). You'll find new options with "AI" in their names:
 - **Has AI:** Filters for images where any AI-related feature was used (Yes/No).
 - **Has Generative AI:** Filters for images where AI generated new pixels, such as with the Generative Remove tool.
 - **AI Edit:** Filters for images that have had specific AI editing features applied, like Denoise, Super Resolution, or Raw Details.
20. **Smart Collections:** These new AI filters are also available when creating Smart Collections, allowing you to automatically group images based on the AI tools you've employed.



Keyword Synchronization

Keywords can now be synchronized between Lightroom Classic and the Lightroom cloud ecosystem (Lightroom Desktop, mobile apps).

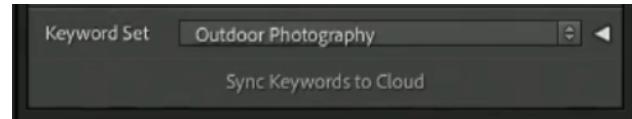
- **Enable Sync:** Go to Preferences > Lightroom Sync and turn on "Sync Keywords".



- **Synced Collections:** Keywords will sync for images within collections that are designated to sync to the cloud (indicated by a lightning icon).



- **Existing Keywords:** For images already in Lightroom Classic that have been synced, you may need to manually initiate a keyword sync.



Select the images, go to the Keyword Set area, and click "Sync Keywords to Cloud".

- **Best Practices:** Adobe recommends using "flat keywords" for broader compatibility, though their documentation also suggests creating keywords that match existing hierarchies in Lightroom Classic. This can be a point of confusion, so test thoroughly with your workflow.

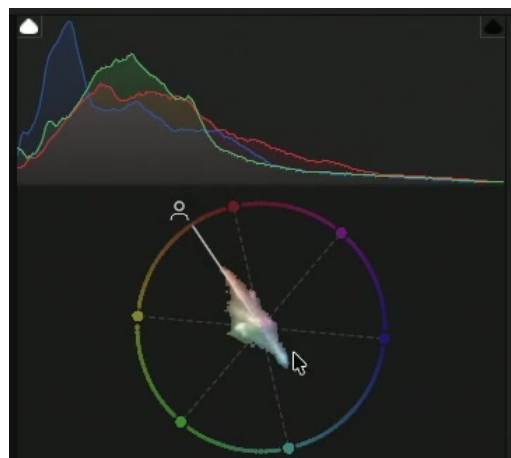
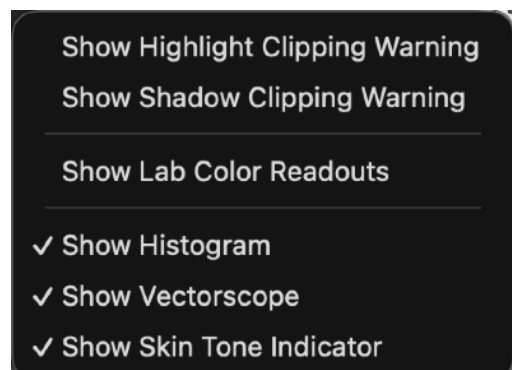
✦ Best practices

- Place photos in [synced collections](#) or in **All Synced Photographs** to sync Lightroom Classic photos with Adobe Lightroom apps.
- Use flat keywords (non-hierarchical keywords) when syncing keywords between Lightroom Classic and Lightroom apps.
- Manage and edit hierarchical keywords in Lightroom Classic to preserve the hierarchy if you are syncing them to Lightroom apps.
- Create keywords in Lightroom apps that match an existing hierarchy in Lightroom Classic, so Lightroom Classic automatically places them in the corresponding hierarchy when it syncs them back.

Vectorscope in Adobe Camera Raw

Adobe Camera Raw now includes a Vectorscope, a tool traditionally used in video for color analysis.

1. **Enable Vectorscope:** Right-click on the histogram in the upper right corner and select "Show Vector Scope".
2. **Understanding the Display:** The Vectorscope displays a color wheel representing the spectrum of colors. The central area shows the colors present in your image. Areas extending towards the outer edge indicate more saturated colors.
3. **Color Grading Aid:** This tool is invaluable for assessing color balance and making precise adjustments. You can see how changes in saturation or hue affect the color distribution in real-time.
4. **Skin Tone Indicator:** For portraits, a "skin tone indicator" line (marked with a person icon) is available. Aligning the masked skin tones with this line helps ensure natural and healthy-looking complexions. You can toggle this indicator on or off by right-clicking the Vectorscope.
5. **Masked Adjustments:** When working with a mask, a small icon appears on the Vectorscope to indicate that the analysis is limited to the masked area, providing focused color insights.



Generative AI Remove Tool Beyond Image Bounds

The AI-powered Remove tool in Adobe Camera Raw now allows for retouching and content-aware fills outside the original image boundaries.

- **Expanded Editing Area:** If you've adjusted geometry (e.g., corrected verticals) that expanded the canvas size, you can now use the Remove tool in these newly created empty areas. This is also useful for panoramas where you might want to extend the background seamlessly.
- **How it Works:** Ensure the "Use Generative AI" checkbox is enabled in the Remove tool settings. You can then paint and fill areas beyond the original image frame.
- **Benefit:** This feature reduces the need to crop tightly or export to Photoshop for simple extensions of the image canvas, offering a more integrated workflow.



Anamorphic De-Squeeze Copy and Paste

For photographers using anamorphic lenses, the ability to copy and paste anamorphic de-squeeze settings has been added.

1. **Apply De-Squeeze:** If you've used an anamorphic lens, you can apply the de-squeeze correction within the Crop tool's "Geometry" settings by selecting the anamorphic preset.
2. **Copy Settings:** Right-click on the image with the applied settings and select "Copy Edit Settings." Ensure that "Crop and Geometry" is selected, specifically the anamorphic de-squeeze checkbox.
3. **Paste Settings:** Navigate to another image, right-click, and choose "Paste Edit Settings" to apply the same de-squeeze correction. This streamlines the process of applying consistent lens corrections across multiple images shot with the same anamorphic lens.