

# **LIGHTROOM CLASSIC 2025 MASTER GUIDE**

A Complete Beginner-to-Advanced  
Blueprint to Editing Like a Pro

Briar Hollis

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# INTRODUCTION

## What is Lightroom Classic?

Lightroom Classic is a software created by Adobe, mainly for photographers who want to manage and edit their photos with a lot of control and detail. Lightroom Classic offers superior features to simple photo apps, allowing you to fine-tune your photographs without affecting the source files.

Among its primary functions is the easing of picture organization. Lightroom allows you to effortlessly organize and discover thousands of images by importing them, creating folders for them, and applying filters like ratings and tags. Large picture collections are now much easier to manage. To avoid reorganizing your photo library by removing related images from their original folders, you may alternatively create collections to store them in.

Beyond organizing, Lightroom Classic is known for its editing tools. Adjusting sharpness, contrast, color tones, and brightness are just a few of the many things you can accomplish. For more detailed adjustments, such as adjusting curves, applying effects, or dealing with selected regions of the image, there are even finer options available. The original picture will remain undamaged regardless of the number of alterations you apply since these changes are **non-destructive**. If you decide you want to try another style or change your mind, you can simply return to the original, unaltered form.

Lightroom Classic, in a nutshell, is an all-in-one solution for photographers seeking robust organizational features and extensive editing capabilities.

## Overview of Adobe Photoshop Lightroom Classic 2025

Several significant enhancements to the photo editing experience are brought about by Lightroom Classic 2025. The new **Generative Remove** feature uses AI to quickly and efficiently eliminate undesired objects from photographs. Another notable addition is the enhanced **HDR support**, which allows for more streamlined processes for producing and exporting HDR images. Digital signatures on exported JPEGs are now possible with the inclusion of **Content Credentials**, and **Denoise** now supports more raw file types, including linear DNGs. Quicker camera identification is a result of improved **Nikon tethering**, and workflows are made easier with better library management.

## New Features

### 1. Generative Remove

The **Generative Remove** tool, which uses artificial intelligence to make object removal in photographs easier, is one of the outstanding features of Lightroom Classic 2025. Thanks to improved object recognition, this function makes it easier for users to spot and remove undesired things. Even with complicated or intricate backgrounds, the AI can detect the item with a simple brush, allowing for quicker picture editing without the need for precise human adjustments.

In the **Develop** module, select **Remove**  > **Detect objects**.

- a. Roughly brush over the object you want to remove. To get a more detailed selection, you can adjust the brush size.

#### **Note:**

To select the whole object, roughly brush around it.

- b. The refine controls allow you to make the following selections once you've chosen an object:
  - **Add** - Add areas to the selection.
  - **Subtract** - Subtract areas from the selection.Inside the chosen panel, you'll find adjustments for the brush **size** and **overlay** color.
- c. In the chosen panel, select the **Remove** button.
- d. **Generative AI** powered by Adobe Firefly can be combined with **Detect objects** to analyze and automatically select the object and remove it for optimal results.
- e. To cancel the modifications, choose **Reset**.

### 2. Content Credentials

With the new **Content Credentials** security feature in Lightroom Classic 2025, you can now attach digital signatures and metadata to your exported or shared pictures, ensuring that they are valid. By including crucial details like ownership and modification history, this upgrade protects your digital assets, making it easier to track and identify your photographs online.

### 3. **Denoise for Linear Raw DNGs**

The enhanced **Denoise** feature now works with linear raw DNG files, making it simpler to get clean, clear photos. Canon, Nikon, and Sony high-resolution raw files, as well as Apple ProRAW, HDR, and panoramic DNGs, may have their noise levels reduced with this feature. Even in dim light, photographers may now get sharper shots.

**Open Lightroom Classic:** Open Lightroom Classic and import your raw DNG files.

**Go to the Develop Module:** Navigate to the Develop module after selecting the picture you want to edit.

**Select Denoise:** Locate the Denoise section in the Detail panel of the Develop module.

**Apply Denoise:** After you click the Denoise button, Lightroom will begin processing the image. This will reduce noise while preserving details.

**Fine-Tune Settings:** If necessary, adjust the noise reduction settings to get the desired outcome.

### 4. **Optimized Tethering Support for Nikon**

Lightroom Classic 2025 has **improved tethering support**, which is great for Nikon customers since it speeds up and simplifies the procedure, particularly with Zfc, Z9, and Z6 III models. Streamlined workflows and more efficient live shootings are the result of improved tethering architecture, which guarantees faster camera identification and import times.

### 5. **Expanded Camera and Lens Profiles**

By continuously adding support for new cameras and lenses, Lightroom Classic ensures that it remains current with photography gear. Photographers can now use their newest gear with ease thanks to the addition of profiles for recently introduced cameras and lenses.

### 6. **Smart Albums for Better Photo Management**

The new **Smart Albums** feature also helps photographers save time by automatically creating albums according to user-specified search parameters. By simplifying their picture management processes, users may save time with this tool's improved photo organization and search capabilities.

**Create a Smart Album:** First, make a smart album by right-clicking the Collections panel in the Library module. Hit the **Create Smart Collection** button.

**Set Criteria:** You may provide your Smart Album's parameters in the resulting dialogue box. Options include date, keywords, star rating, flags, and more.

**Name Your Album:** Give your Smart Album a name that describes what it is and why you made it.

**Save and Use:** To store your Smart Album, click **Create**. Then, you may use it later. If you specify criteria, Lightroom will automatically fill it with photographs that fit those requirements.

Smart Albums automatically arrange your collection without requiring any user intervention by updating themselves whenever you add or edit photographs that meet the specified criteria.

## 7. **Enhanced Develop Module**

Better responsiveness and smoother navigation are two changes brought to the Develop module in Lightroom Classic 2025. This improvement makes it easier for photographers to apply modifications and transitions between photographs, which boosts productivity overall and is particularly useful during long editing sessions.

### **Additional Feature Enhancements and Improvements**

- **Automatic Catalog Backup After Upgrade:** After upgrading to a new version of Lightroom Classic, the program will automatically generate a backup of your existing library. If you ever need to go back to an older version of the catalog, you can be certain that it is safely saved thanks to this function.
- **Simplified Catalog Renaming:** With this update, renaming a catalog is a breeze. By going to **File > Rename Catalog**, you can now rename your catalog without leaving the software, saving you time and effort. Managing enormous picture collections becomes much easier with this simplified procedure. It saves time and avoids mistakes.
- **Preview Cache Management:** You can now restrict the amount of your preview cache, which makes managing disk space more efficient. Users can choose the amount of storage space reserved for previews, which helps them avoid wasting space when dealing with huge picture collections.

- **Improved Performance in the Develop Module:** Lightroom Classic has made the **Develop module** more responsive, allowing for quicker and smoother picture edits. Users are now able to more easily navigate between photographs and make modifications, which greatly enhances their editing efficiency.
- **Expanded HDR Export Options:** The latest update introduces additional file formats with **HDR export support for ISO gain maps**. This ensures that the quality of exported high dynamic range photographs remains constant across platforms, giving photographers greater freedom in their work.
- **New Adaptive Presets:** Improve your productivity with the addition of many new adaptable presets. **Adaptive Sky, Adaptive Portrait, and Adaptive Subject** changes have their own set of presets that photographers may use to quickly and accurately apply creative effects.
- **HDR Support for Secondary Displays:** Lightroom now allows users to enjoy HDR material from several perspectives concurrently by supporting **HDR on secondary screens**. This is great news for those who work with many monitors. For photographers, the ability to see high dynamic range photographs on many displays allows for more precise editing.

# CHAPTER 1

## GETTING STARTED WITH LIGHTROOM CLASSIC 2025

### System Requirements for Running Lightroom Classic 2025

#### Windows:

- **Operating System:** Windows 10 (64-bit) version 21H2 or later, or Windows 11.
- **Processor:** Intel or AMD with 64-bit support, 4-core or higher, with SSE4.2 or later.
- **RAM:** 8 GB minimum (16 GB or more recommended for high-resolution editing or large images).
- **Graphics Card:** DirectX 12 compatible GPU with at least 2 GB of video RAM (VRAM) is required; 4 GB VRAM or more is recommended for higher-performance tasks like using the Denoise feature.
- **Display:** 1024 x 768 display (1920 x 1080 or higher recommended).
- **Hard Drive Space:** 10 GB available space (SSD recommended for better performance).
- **Internet:** An internet connection is required for software activation, updates, and some features.

#### macOS:

- **Operating System:** macOS 12.0 (Monterey) or later.
- **Processor:** Intel or Apple Silicon processor (M1/M2 chips).
- **RAM:** 8 GB minimum (16 GB recommended for optimal performance).
- **Graphics Card:** GPU with Metal support and 2 GB of VRAM (4 GB or more recommended).
- **Display:** 1024 x 768 (1920 x 1080 or higher recommended).
- **Hard Drive Space:** 10 GB available space (SSD recommended).
- **Internet:** Required for activation, updates, and certain features.

These requirements are designed to handle common photo editing jobs. Working with high dynamic range (HDR), 4K video, or massive panoramas requires a more robust machine with more memory (RAM), a faster solid-state drive (SSD), and a graphics processing unit (GPU) with more memory (VRAM).

## Downloading and Installing Lightroom Classic 2025

1. **Visit Adobe's Website:** Go to Adobe's Lightroom Classic page.
2. **Sign In or Create an Adobe ID:** To access Adobe products, either log in with your existing Adobe ID or establish a new one. Please log in if you have an account.
3. **Download Lightroom Classic:** Select **Download** to begin downloading Lightroom Classic. Additionally, the Creative Cloud desktop program will be installed on your computer if it isn't already there.
4. **Install the Application:** To install Lightroom Classic, open the file you downloaded and follow the on-screen instructions.
5. **Launch Lightroom Classic:** Lightroom Classic can be launched from either the Creative Cloud app or your desktop after it has been set up.

### Why Use Lightroom Classic?

There are several important reasons why photographers and editors use Adobe Lightroom Classic which are:

1. **Non-Destructive Editing**

You can modify your images in Lightroom Classic without worrying about losing any of the original files. With this non-destructive editing feature, you can safely experiment with various adjustments without losing any of your raw data because you can always return to the original image.

2. **Advanced Photo Management**

With its powerful organizing and categorizing features, users can effortlessly handle thousands of photographs. Images can be easily sorted and retrieved based on specified criteria thanks to the ability to tag, rate, keyword, and create collections.

3. **Comprehensive Editing Tools**

Lightroom Classic's extensive set of tools is guaranteed to please photographers at all skill levels, from those just starting to those with years of experience. Among these tools are advanced capabilities such as Generative Remove, HDR merging, and AI-powered Denoise.

Local adjustment brushes, gradient filters, and advanced color correction are all part of the Develop module's toolbox for making precise modifications.

#### 4. **Integration with Adobe Ecosystem**

Thanks to Lightroom Classic's tight integration with Adobe Photoshop and Camera Raw, you can save time and effort by completing more involved modifications in Photoshop while keeping Lightroom for the less involved ones.

Remote editing and device sharing are made easier with its synchronization with Adobe's cloud services.

#### 5. **Raw Image Support**

When photographers need to process high-resolution raw photographs and get the greatest quality in their final edits, Lightroom Classic is the program they turn to since it supports a broad range of file formats from numerous camera manufacturers.

#### 6. **Tethered Shooting**

Studio photographers can take pictures in real time without leaving Lightroom Classic thanks to its tethered shooting capabilities. This facilitates real-time shot monitoring and modifications during filming.

#### 7. **Customizable Presets and Profiles**

By letting users build or import color profiles and preset, Lightroom Classic streamlines editing operations by making consistent alterations to several photographs at once. These may be customized to fit unique tasks or personal styles.

### **Differences Between Lightroom and Lightroom Classic**

Adobe has two photo editing programs, **Lightroom** (also known as **Lightroom CC**) and **Lightroom Classic**. However, these two versions serve different roles and processes. The main distinctions between them are as follows:

#### 1. **Cloud-Based vs. Desktop-Based**

**Lightroom (Lightroom CC):** All your photographs and edits are saved in Adobe's cloud, so you can access them from any device—desktop, mobile, or web—because Lightroom (Lightroom CC) is completely **cloud-based**.

**Lightroom Classic:** Photos are saved locally on your computer or external devices and because it is **desktop-based**, Lightroom Classic is perfect for handling huge raw picture collections that don't require internet access.

## 2. **User Interface and Workflow**

**Lightroom (Lightroom CC):** For those new to the program or who are juggling several devices, Lightroom's streamlined interface is a godsend.

**Lightroom Classic:** Professional photographers who need sophisticated editing features like tethering and more configurable export choices will find what they need in Lightroom Classic, thanks to its more thorough and feature-rich interface.

## 3. **Storage and Syncing**

**Lightroom (Lightroom CC):** Lightroom facilitates quicker device sync by storing all of your photographs and modifications in the cloud, while it does not offer extensive offline capability.

**Lightroom Classic:** Lightroom Classic prioritizes local storage, providing users greater command over the location and method of image backup.

## 4. **Performance**

**Lightroom (Lightroom CC):** Lightroom is designed to be fast when it comes to synchronizing and being accessible on many devices. It's perfect for people who want to make rapid alterations.

**Lightroom Classic:** Although it often necessitates a more robust computer, Lightroom Classic is fine-tuned for use with bigger picture collections and high-resolution photos.

## **Who Should Use Lightroom Classic vs. Lightroom?**

### **Use Lightroom if:**

- You desire the flexibility to access your images from any device and appreciate the ease of cloud storage.
- If you use a tablet or mobile phone for editing often, you should be able to sync your work across all of your devices.
- You would rather have an easier-to-navigate UI.

### **Use Lightroom Classic if:**

- You use huge raw picture files and need advanced editing tools since you're a professional or serious photographer.
- You want a greater say over how your picture collection is structured and would rather keep images locally.

- You depend on capabilities such as tethering, personalized printing, or making extensive picture libraries.

# CHAPTER 2

## MASTERING THE LIGHTROOM CLASSIC INTERFACE

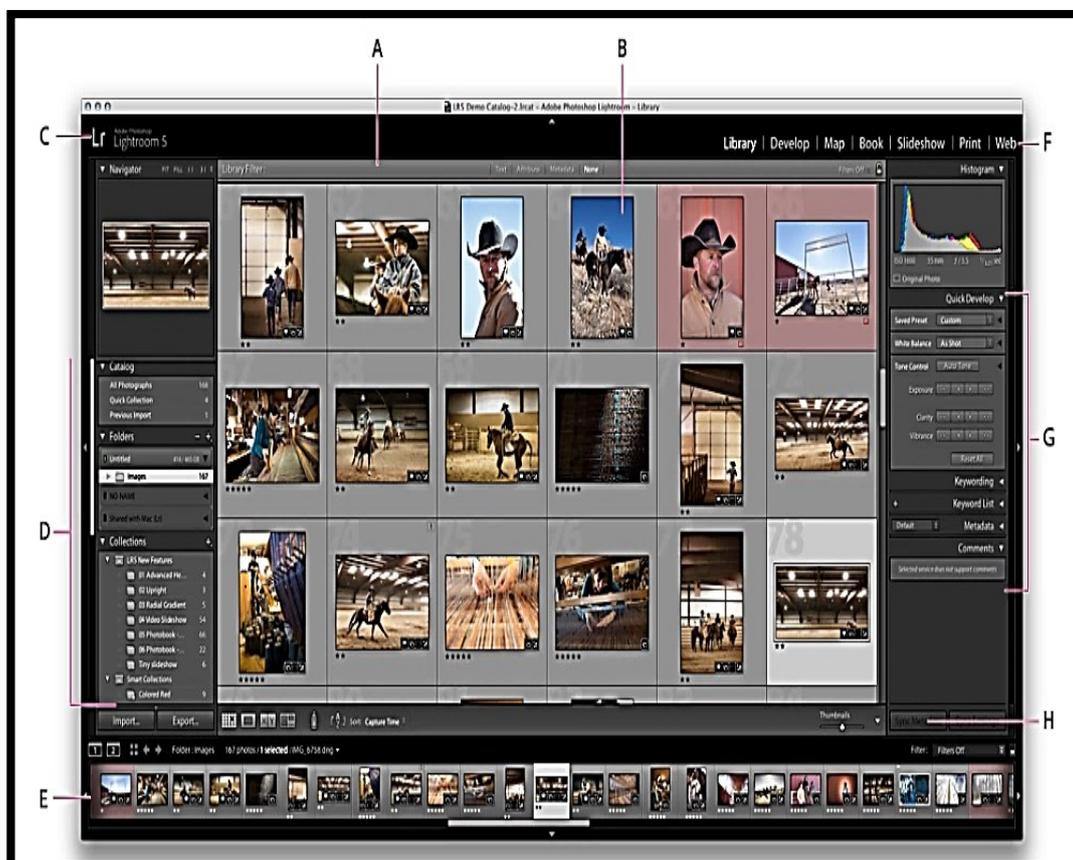
### The Lightroom Workspace

There are seven main panels in Lightroom Classic, which makes it an easy-to-use program for editing photos.

#### Platform Differences:

- **macOS:** The menu bar is at the top of the screen.
- **Windows:** On Windows, the menu bar is below the title bar.

Despite these minor distinctions, the overall design and functionality are the same on Windows and macOS. This ensures a seamless experience for users of both operating systems.



**A.** Library Filter bar **B.** Image display area **C.** Identity plate **D.** Panels for working with source photos **E.** Filmstrip **F.** Module Picker **G.** Panels for working with metadata, keywords, and adjusting images **H.** Toolbar

## **Top Panel**

The Module Picker is located on the right side of the top panel, while the identity plate is on the left side. Put your company's name or logo on this personalized license plate. Lightroom temporarily displays a progress bar in its stead when background activities are running. A menu item showing Lightroom's current activity will display when you click on the progress bar.

The Module Picker is located on the right side of the screen, and you may navigate between modules by clicking on their titles. The currently used module's name is always highlighted in the Module Picker. When you launch any Lightroom module, you'll get a set of helpful hints. You can navigate the region and get more done with these pointers. To dismiss the hints, click the Close button. To enable the module tips again, go to the Help menu and choose [Module name] Tips.

## **The Work Area**

Most of your time in Lightroom will be spent in the main viewing and work area. While you work, you can choose, assess, organize, compare, edit, and preview your images all from one website. As you go between sections, this main window adapts to display different types of content, such as book layouts, web galleries, print designs, and slide displays.

## **The Toolbar**

The Toolbar is located below the work area. Everything from the tools to the settings is module-specific. You have the option to customize the appearance of the Toolbar for each module independently. Viewing modes, text addition, rating, flagging, labeling, and navigation across sample pages are just a few of the numerous tools and functions at your disposal. The Toolbar may be hidden until you need it, or specific settings can be shown or hidden. By using the T key, you can alter the appearance of the Toolbar.

Looking at the Library module's toolbar, features view mode buttons on the left and customizable task-specific controls and tools on the far right. The available options in the menu will alter as you switch views.

A checkbox next to each name in the Select Toolbar Context menu indicates that the tool or feature is visible in the Toolbar. The order of the tools and options in the Toolbar

mirrors that of the menu. On the computer and in the buttons, you'll find many of the same options on the toolbar.

## The Filmstrip

No matter where you are in your project, you can always access all your images from the Filmstrip. The Filmstrip allows you to swiftly go through a collection of images or switch between sets without returning to the Library module. Select **Show Filmstrip** from the **Window > Panels menu** or press **F6** to bring the Filmstrip to the bottom of the workspace. Managing images in the Filmstrip is quite similar to managing them in the Library module's Grid view. Metadata develop presets, photo rotation, resizing, and removal are all at your fingertips. You can also rate, flag, and name colors.



Similar to the Grid view in the Library module, the images in the Filmstrip are also there. Depending on your search criteria, it may display all images in the library, images from a specific folder or collection, or a restricted selection.

## The Side Panels

Whenever you go to a new module, the side panels will update to display the appropriate resources and tools. To assist in illustrating the layout, think of each module as having two panels: one on the left side that lets you navigate, see previews, discover, and pick photos; and one on the right side that lets you edit or change the parameters for the image you've chosen. Typically, the side panels are arranged in this manner. Now, users of Lightroom Classic 2025 aren't limited to only the Develop module; they may now navigate between panel groups in any module.

On a mac, go to the **menu bar** in Lightroom Classic. On Windows, go to the **Edit menu**. To change the interface, go to **Preferences > Interface** and pick either **Swap Only Develop Left and Right Panel Groups** or **Swap Left and Right Panel Groups**. In the Library module, the left panels (Catalog, Folders, Collections, and Publish Services) help you find pictures and put them in order. You can make changes to the picture you've

chosen in the right panels, which are Quick Develop, Keywording, Keyword List, Metadata, and Comments.



Within the Develop module, you can choose Develop presets on the left and change their settings on the right. In the Slideshow, Print, and Web modules, you can pick a layout template from the list on the left and change how it looks on the right.

## Customizing the Interface

### Modules

Lightroom Classic's module design allows each module to have its own set of tools tailored to its own needs. If you want to make contact sheets from a recent picture session and print them off, for instance, you'll find everything you need under the Print module.

It should be noted that not everyone will utilize every module regularly. Indeed, you may find that certain modules are rarely, if ever, required. The Library and Develop modules are where most Lightroom users spend most of their time. These are where key operations like organizing and editing photographs take place.

Interestingly, Lightroom gives you the ability to hide modules you don't use often, so you may streamline your workspace. You can simplify the UI and zero down on the tools that are crucial to your workflow in this way. This customization can make navigating the software more efficient and less cluttered.

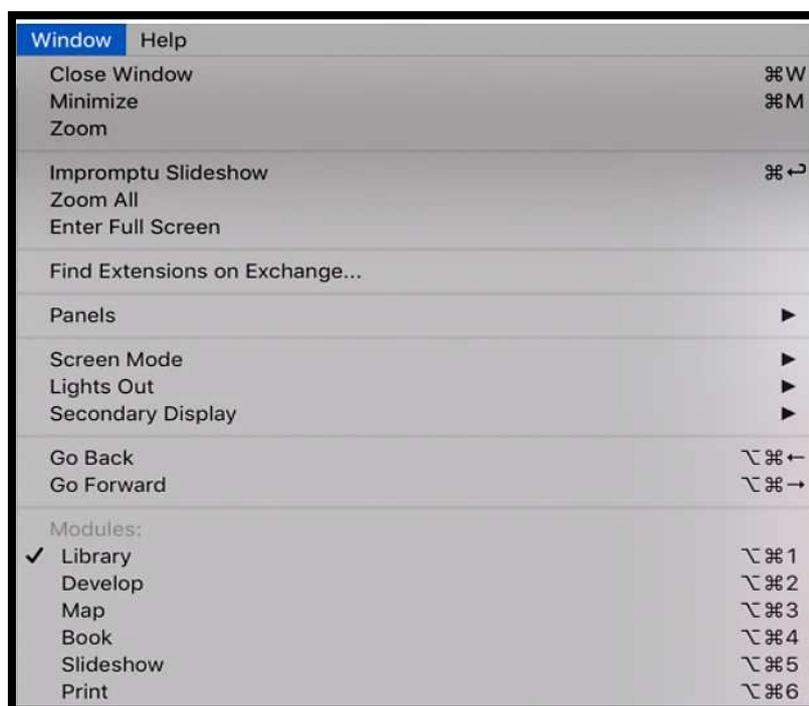
To select which modules to display, right-click on the module panel. A menu will appear:



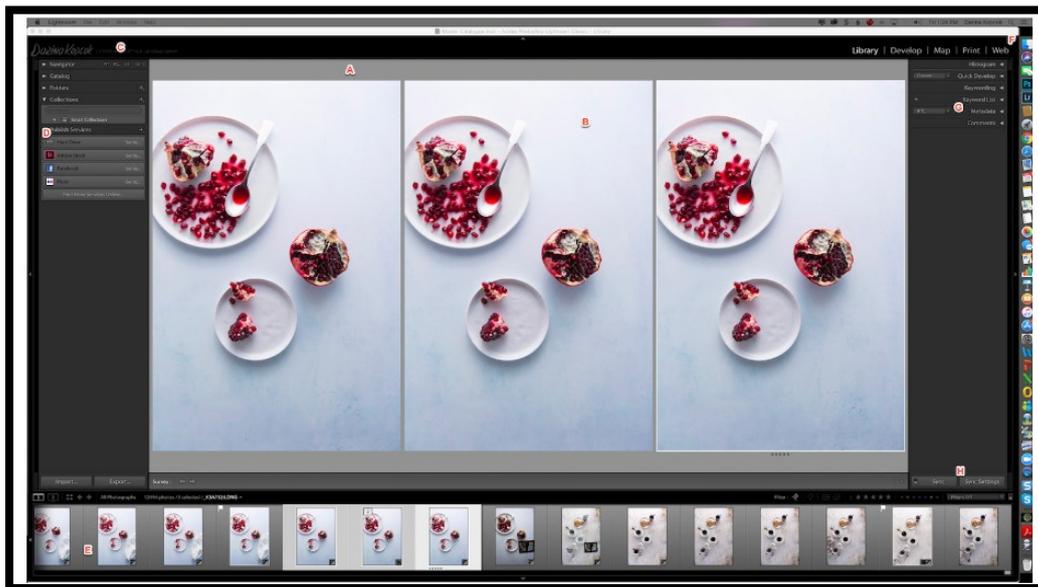
A little checkbox next to the name of each panel in Lightroom Classic allows you to toggle their appearance. To make a module invisible in your workspace, just click on its name in the menu and uncheck the box. That module will then vanish from your workspace.

For example, in my personal Lightroom configuration, I have unchecked the **Book and Slideshow modules** as I do not often use them. This helps to keep my workspace organized. You shouldn't be concerned if you ever require access to a hidden module; they won't be permanently removed. If you look in the Window menu, you can always locate the hidden ones.

You can also access hidden modules quickly by using keyboard shortcuts, which open them when you need them. This will bring the hidden module back to the Module Picker in Lightroom, so keep that in mind. This will cause the module to return to your workspace with the others, so you can quickly find it anytime you need it.



## Panels



The following can be seen in the picture above:

- A. Library Filter bar
- B. Image Display area
- C. Identity Plate area
- D. Panels displaying photos
- E. Filmstrip
- F. Module Picker
- G. Panels for working with metadata, keywords, adjustments
- H. Toolbar

You can customize your workspace to display only the panels that you choose.

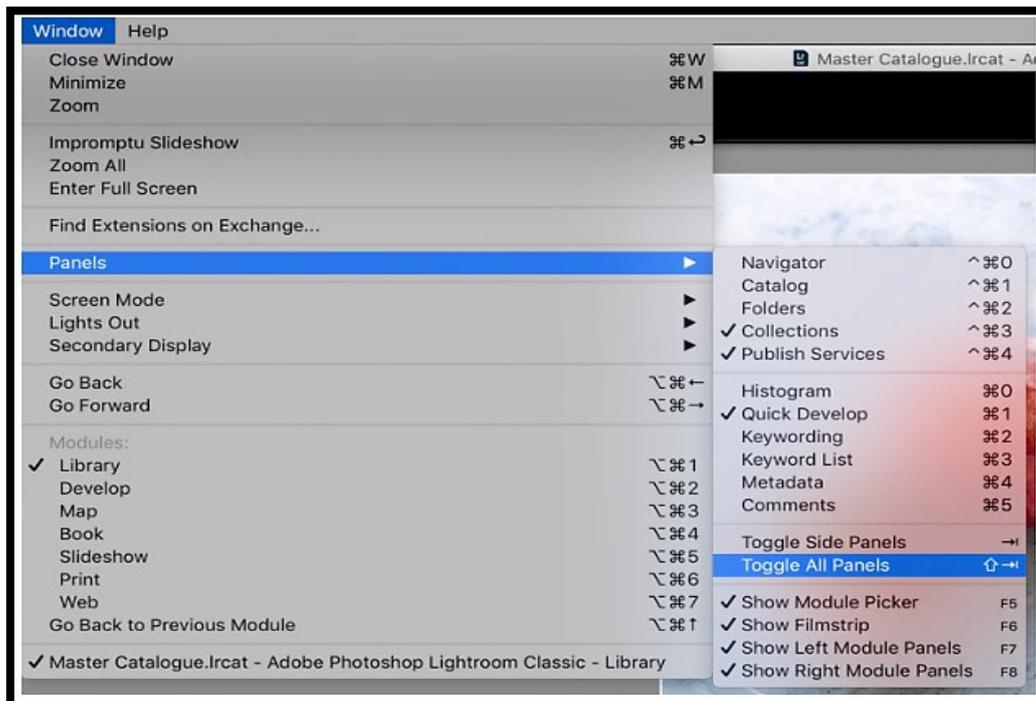
Keyboard shortcuts make navigating Lightroom Classic's interface a breeze, and you can use them to control which panels are shown at any one time.

Holding down the **Command key on a Mac or the Ctrl key** on Windows while clicking will open or close all the panels inside a group at once. By toggling all of the panels at once, you may save time compared to altering each one separately.

There is also a fast option to open or close only one panel, which is useful for circumstances like this. Simply hold the **Option key** on a Mac or the **Alt key** on Windows and click on the **panel header**; this will only change the state of that specific panel, the others will remain unchanged.

Both sets of side panels can be seen or hidden at the same time by using the **Tab** key or by navigating to the **Window** menu, selecting **Panel**, and then **Toggle Side Panels**. When you need more room to concentrate on your images without being interrupted by panels on each side, this is a great option.

More so, you can use Shift-Tab to hide any panel in Lightroom, including the side panels, the Module Picker, and the Filmstrip. You can also get the same option by selecting Panels from the Window menu, then Toggle All Panels. When you need to pay your full attention to your photographs, this step will provide you with a workspace free of any distractions.

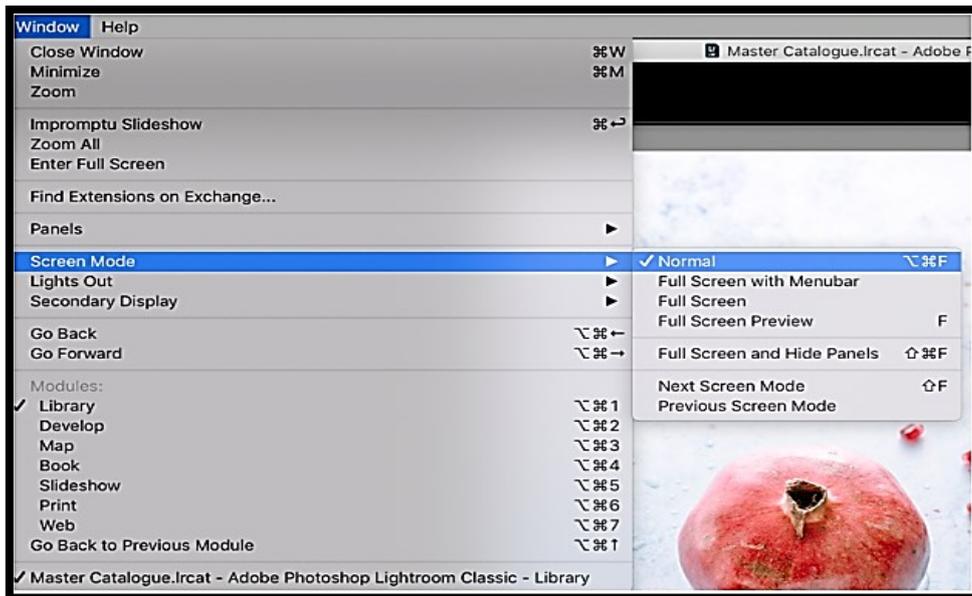


If you don't commonly utilize a certain panel, you can hide it from visibility. To do this, **Control-Click** (Mac) or **Right-Click** (Windows) on any panel header in the group and pick the panel name.

### Change the Screen Mode

You can also change how the screen looks to hide the menus, panels, and title bar.

Choose **Window**, and then, **Screen Mode**. From the drop-down menu, select an option.



Lightroom Classic makes it easy to switch between multiple viewing modes with the press of a single key. Normal, Full Screen with Menubar and Full Screen are the three primary viewing modes that may be toggled by hitting the F key. You can easily modify your workspace to meet your requirements because of this.

Take care when using macOS's Full Screen and Full Screen with Hide Panels modes. Both of these options will make the Dock hidden, which might also make the application's **Close, Minimize, and Maximize** buttons hidden. In such a case, you can return to these controls by hitting the F key twice; doing so will cycle among the available viewing modes.

While in Full screen mode, you can restore the panels and menu bar by pressing **Shift+Tab** followed by **F**. The panels and menu bar will become visible again, allowing you to quickly access the tools and settings you require.

If you're using a Mac, you can use the shortcut **Command+Option+F**, and if you're using Windows, you can use **Ctrl+Alt+F** to return to the normal screen mode from Full Screen with Menubar or Full-Screen Mode. You can go back to the standard window view by doing this.

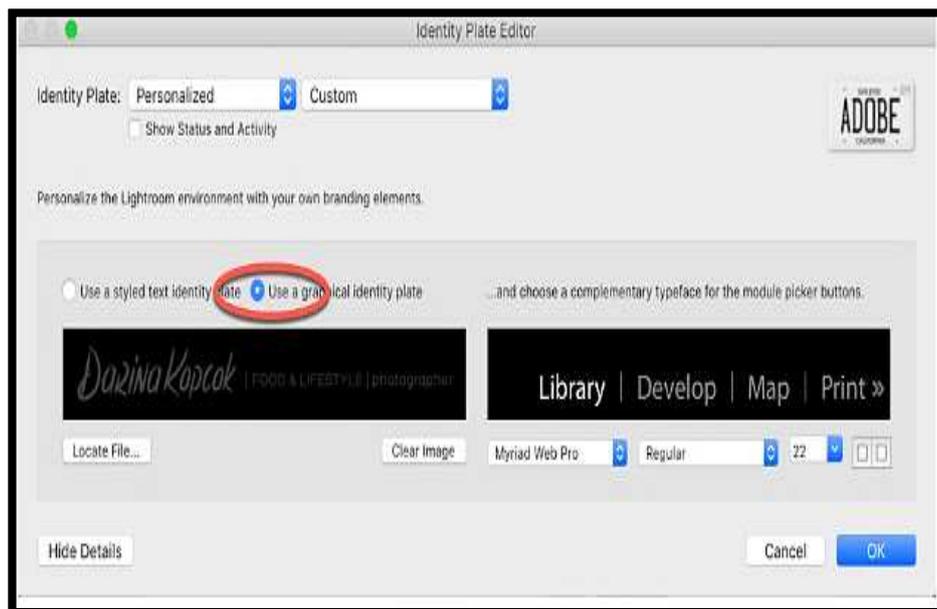
Pressing **Shift+Command+F** on a Mac or **Shift+Ctrl+F** on Windows will bring up a more minimalistic look that hides the title bar, menus, and panels. This ensures that your work area is tidy and uncluttered.

Last but not least, go to **Window > Lights Out** to change the brightness or disable the Lightroom Classic workspace's illumination. By using the F key, you can go through these options and change the lighting to your liking.

## Identity Plate

Your photography business's logo can be added to Lightroom using the **Identity Plate Setup**.

You may seem more polished while interacting with customers and using tethered capture with this awesome customization. It will have zero impact on how you carry out your duties.



If you're using Lightroom Classic and want to customize your Identity Plate, here are the steps to do it:

On a Mac, go to the top menu bar and select **Lightroom** to begin. Choose **Identity Plate Setup** from the drop-down menu. On Windows, you'll have to click **Edit** in the top menu and then choose **Identity Plate Setup**.

After you reach the Identity Plate Setup window, navigate to the **Identity Plate** area and search for the **Personalized and Custom** options. Click on this option to begin customizing your Identity Plate.

Just choose **Use a Graphical Identity Plate** and then choose **Locate File**. From there, you can find your picture saved on your computer and choose it to use as your Identity Plate.

Customizing the wording on your ID plate is possible regardless of whether you have a picture or logo to work with. You can make the text seem exactly as you want it to by changing the font, color, and background. Adding a visual element isn't necessary to make your Identity Plate stand out with this customization.