

PROCESS VERSIONS

There have been significant changes under the hood of Lightroom 3 to improve the image quality that it can produce.

The initial demosaic algorithms have been rebuilt to extract more detail from the raw data and produce an artifact-free file that will respond better to noise reduction. That happens behind the scenes with all photos, so you might find your existing photos show a little more noise and sharpness than previous releases, and you may want to increase the Luminance Noise Reduction by 20-25.

There have also been significant changes to the Noise Reduction, Capture Sharpening and Fill Light too. If your photos with existing Noise Reduction, Sharpening and Fill Light settings had these new changes automatically applied, the photos would render significantly differently, and you would have to process them all again.

To avoid this situation of significantly different rendering, Lightroom 3 has introduced Process Versions named 2003 and 2010, often shortened to PV2003 and PV2010. That simply refers to the date that each process engine was introduced.

Any photos set to Process Version 2003 will use the old Noise Reduction, Sharpening and Fill Light algorithms, so will look very similar to the Lightroom 2 rendering, apart from the new demosaic. They'll show a warning exclamation mark in the lower right hand corner of the preview area in the Develop module. Any photos set to Process Version 2010 will use the new improved Noise Reduction, Sharpening and Fill Light.

As we mentioned in the previous chapter, there have also been changes to the way the different Process Versions preview in the Develop module, with sharpening now being applied to Process Version 2010 previews even at less than 1:1, and noise reduction being intelligently applied at less than 1:1 on the noisiest images.



Also check...

"The previews are slightly different between Library and Develop and Fit and 1:1 views—why is that?" on page 260 and "Detail—Sharpening & Noise Reduction" section on page 125



Also check...

"Can I synchronize my settings with other photos?" on page 352 and "History & Reset" section on page 312

How do I switch between PV2003 and PV2010?

To update from PV2003 to PV2010, you can simply click on the warning exclamation mark to the lower right of the preview in Develop. That shows a dialog asking whether to review the changes with a before/after preview. It also gives you the option of updating all of the photos currently in the filmstrip, which are those in the same folder or collection that aren't hidden by a filter.

If you decide to update your entire catalog, selecting 'All Photographs' with filters disabled and then clicking that 'Update All Filmstrip Photos' button will update all of the photos in one go.

If you choose the before/after preview, and you decide you want to stick with the PV2003 rendering for now, you can revert using Ctrl-Z (Windows) / Cmd-Z (Mac) or by selecting the previous state in the History panel.

There are a few other options for updating or reverting the Process Version. You will find it under the Settings menu > Process in Develop module, and in the Calibration panel, where Sync and AutoSync can apply your choice to multiple photos in one go. You'll find it in the Library module too, under the context-sensitive right click menus in the Develop Settings section.