

Introduction

Adobe® Photoshop® Lightroom™ 1.0 was released on February 19th 2007, after a long public beta period, and it rapidly became a hit. Thousands of users flooded the forums looking for answers to their questions. In the 3½ years that have followed, Lightroom has continued to gain popularity, becoming the program of choice for amateur and professional photographers alike.

When you have a question or you get stuck with one of Lightroom's less intuitive features, where do you look? Do you trawl through thousands of web pages looking for the information you need? Perhaps post on a forum and wait hours for anyone to reply? Maybe you try to figure out the Help files? From now on, you look right here! *Adobe Lightroom 3 - The Missing FAQ* is a compilation of the questions most frequently asked by real users on forums all over the web.

This book isn't intended to be a basic step-by-step introduction to Lightroom. There are already books to fill that need and some things are far too obvious to need a book anyway. But there is one big gap—troubleshooting and reference material. I know you're intelligent (after all, you chose to buy this book!), and I'll assume you already have some understanding of computers and digital photography. You'll find a quick introduction at the beginning of each section, to give you an overview if you're a new user, but unlike those step-by-step books, I'm not going to tell you what you 'must' do—I'm going to give you the information you

need to make an informed decision about your own workflow so you can get the best out of Lightroom.

The Book Format

As you glance through the pages of this book, you'll notice it's designed primarily as a reference book, so similar topics and questions are grouped together. I've tried to keep things in a logical order for newer users who may decide to read the book cover-to-cover, but feel free to skip around to find the answers to your questions.

In the front you'll find a list of all of the questions covered in this book and, of course, no book would be complete without an index in the back. In the eBook format you can use the search facility or bookmarks to find the specific information you need, and better still, you can use your eReader software to add your own bookmarks and notes too.

As you read on, you'll also notice clickable sidebar links to other related topics marked with a pin, which are particularly useful if you're searching for the answer to a specific issue, or want to find out a little more about the current topic. Those cross-references usually refer to questions outside of the current section, rather than the question on the previous page. If you follow one of those cross-references, most eReader software includes a Back button to take you back to your previous page.

The final chapters list other useful information, including default file locations for preferences, presets and catalogs for each operating system, and a list of all of the known keyboard shortcuts.



Also check...

Sidebar links are clickable - and then you can use your software's back button to return

Windows or Mac?

It doesn't matter whether you're using the Windows or Mac platform, or even both. Lightroom is cross-platform, and therefore this book will follow the same pattern. The screenshots are mainly of the Mac version because I'm writing on a Mac, but the Windows version is

almost identical in functionality, and any significant differences will be explained and illustrated.

Where keyboard shortcuts or other commands differ by platform, both are included. The one exception will be the shortcut to view a context-sensitive menu, which is right-click on Windows or Ctrl-click on Mac. I'll keep that simple and just refer to right-clicking, as many Mac users today use 2-button mice, however if you're a Mac user with a one-button mouse, just remember that right-click is the same as Ctrl-click.

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Updates

Every time Adobe announce a new dot release (such as 3.1), I get an influx of emails asking whether there's a book update available, so let me save you a job... Adobe doesn't usually add new features to dot releases, so the book should still be current even when 3.6 is released. If there are any major changes, an update will be sent out automatically by email to anyone who has joined the mailing list at the time of purchase,

Adobe Lightroom 3 - The Missing FAQ

and a post will go up in the Book Updates category on my blog:
<http://www.lightroomqueen.com/blog/category/book-updates/>

Talk to me!

I'd love to hear your feedback on the things you like about this book, and the things you don't. I'm always looking for ways to make this book even better, so if you come across a question that I've missed, something that's not clear, or you just want to tell me how much you love the book, my email address is victoria@victoriabampton.com. I do reply! If you enjoy the book, posting a review on Amazon or your favorite online bookstore would make my day.

Now, where shall we start...?