

The previews are slightly different between Library and Develop and Fit and 1:1 views—why is that?

The previews you see are rendered differently between the Library and Develop modules. Library, and the other modules, use pre-rendered Adobe RGB compressed JPEGs for speed, so there may be slight losses compared to Develop, particularly if your previews are set to Medium or Low Quality. Develop module, on the other hand, renders a preview from the original data and then updates it live as you make adjustments.

There's also a difference in the resampling methods used in the 2 modules, which can result in a significant difference in the preview display at less than 1:1 view. The Library module takes the largest rendered preview it has available, and resamples that preview to show smaller zoom ratios, whereas Develop works on the full resolution raw data. Remember that lower zoom ratios aren't 100% accurate, and high sharpening and noise reduction values can be wildly inaccurate.

Then comes a difference between the sharpening and noise reduction. Because there have been significant changes to the Sharpening, Noise Reduction and Fill Light algorithms in Lightroom 3, Adobe introduced a new concept—a Process Version, often shortened to PV. PV2003 is for photos that were already in your catalog, and it uses the old algorithms. PV2010 uses the new rendering. We'll go into more detail in the Develop chapter, but as far as previews are concerned, there's a difference in the preview rendering depending on that Process Version setting, as well as whether the file is rendered (JPEG/TIFF/PSD) or raw.

	PV2003 Sharp	PV2003 Noise	PV2010 Sharp	PV2010 Noise
Library Fit Rendered	no (except low res)	no (except low res)	no (except low res)	yes
Library Fit Raw	no	no	no	adaptive
Develop Fit Jpeg	no	no	yes	yes

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Develop Fit Raw	no	no	adaptive	adaptive
Library 1:1 Jpeg	yes	yes	yes	yes
Library 1:1 Raw	yes	yes	yes	yes
Develop 1:1 Jpeg	yes	yes	yes	yes
Develop 1:1 Raw	yes	yes	yes	yes

In summary:

- In all modules, 1:1 view will show the sharpening and noise reduction, but lower zoom ratios vary
- In Library, PV2003 won't show sharpening or noise reduction unless there are 1:1 previews rendered
- In Library, PV2010 won't show sharpening unless there are 1:1 previews rendered, but may show noise reduction
- In Library, rendering 1:1 previews will also apply the sharpening and noise reduction to smaller previews
- In Develop, PV2003 won't show sharpening or noise reduction at less than 1:1 view
- In Develop, PV2010 can show sharpening and noise reduction on all rendered files at less than 1:1 view, but adaptively on raw files, depending on how likely you are to see the noise.