

# EDITING IN LIGHTROOM 5

## Jack Kotz (December 2, 2013)

You can think of using LR 5 to edit photos in several stages. If you think you will make extensive changes to an image, you might work on a “virtual copy” so that you definitely still have the original.

### Stage 1 (turn on blinkies in histogram panel)

1. make corrections for any problems with lenses (lens profile and chromatic aberration)
2. add minor corrections like clarity (+20) and vibrance (+30)
3. straighten the image or add perspective correction.

(“Auto” in the Lens Correction panel works well, but you may need to tinker with the other controls or make corrections in the Crop tool.)

### Stage 2

1. check the white balance and adjust if necessary
2. try “auto tone” to make color corrections. This will often give a good starting place.
3. To adjust the following sliders, hold down option key (ALT on a PC) and drag the slider until you see color or bright spots appear. (Watch the histogram. Note that the “contrast” slider does not respond to this technique.)

Exposure

Highlights

Shadows

Whites

Blacks

4. Crop to desired size.

With some practice you can run through the steps above fairly quickly (say 10 minutes). Assuming that the image was well composed and not wildly out of proper exposure, the procedure in stages 1 and 2 will give a very acceptable image. If you need to remove blemishes or really tinker with the color and other features, then much more time may be required.

5. Use other tools such as:
  - a) Spot removal (for removing blemishes, sensor dust spots, etc.)
  - b) Red eye (best to avoid to begin with)
  - c) Graduated filter
  - d) Radial filter
  - e) Adjustment brush
6. Other controls:
  - a) Tone curve (to adjust contrast)
  - b) HSL (hue, saturation, luminance): a good way to make skies a bit more blue.
  - c) Sharpen if necessary. (I rarely use this.)