Editing Photos in Lightroom

A guide to editing photos using Adobe Lightroom, outlining the steps for an efficient workflow, making various adjustments, and utilizing presets to improve image quality.

Step 1: **Workspace Setup**

Prepare your computer and launch Adobe Lightroom. Ensure your monitor is accurately calibrated for color-critical work.

Step 2: **Import Photos**

Use the Library module to import the photos you wish to edit into Adobe Lightroom. You can drag and drop files or use the import button.

Step 3: **Photo Selection**

Review the imported photos and use flags, stars, or colors to rate and select the images you want to edit.

Step 4: **Apply Presets**

If applicable, apply presets to your selected photos for a consistent look or as a starting point for further edits.

Step 5: **Basic Adjustments**

In the Develop module, start with basic adjustments such as exposure, contrast, highlights, shadows, white balance, and clarity.

Step 6: **Detailed Adjustments**

Continue refining your image with detailed adjustments like tone curve, HSL/Color, split toning, and sharpening.

Step 7: **Local Corrections**

Use tools such as the adjustment brush, graduated filter, and radial filter to make local corrections to specific areas of the image.

Step 8: **Lens Corrections**

Apply lens corrections to fix common issues like distortion, chromatic aberration, and vignetting.

Step 9: **Final Review**

Review all edits and compare the before and after to ensure the photo meets your artistic vision.

Step 10: **Export**

Export the final edited photo with the appropriate settings for the intended use, such as print or web.

General Notes

Backup Originals

Before starting the editing process, it's advisable to back up the original photos to prevent any loss due to accidental overwrites or technical issues.

Non-Destructive Editing

Lightroom's editing is non-destructive, meaning the original image files remain unchanged. You can always revert to the original photo if needed.

Regular Breaks

Taking regular breaks during the editing process can help maintain a fresh perspective and reduce eye strain.