

A dramatic landscape photograph of a snow-capped mountain range. In the foreground, a person stands on a narrow, snow-covered ledge of a dark, rocky cliff. Below the cliff, a calm lake is nestled in a valley. The background shows more snow-covered mountains under a cloudy, overcast sky. The overall color palette is cool, with blues, greys, and whites, accented by the dark rocks and the person's silhouette.

# *ShotKit* HOT TIPS

Adobe Photoshop Lightroom 6

# ShotKit

## Lightroom 6 Hot Tips

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Hi there

Thanks for subscribing to the Shotkit Newsletter. As a thank you, I've put together this list of hot tips for Adobe Lightroom 6. I hope the tips will make you more productive, saving you time and money in the long run.

If you find the tips useful, you may be interesting in purchasing Lightroom Power User, available [www.lightroompoweruser.com](http://www.lightroompoweruser.com).

Cheers  
Mark

PS. Follow @shotkit on Twitter for the occasional tip.

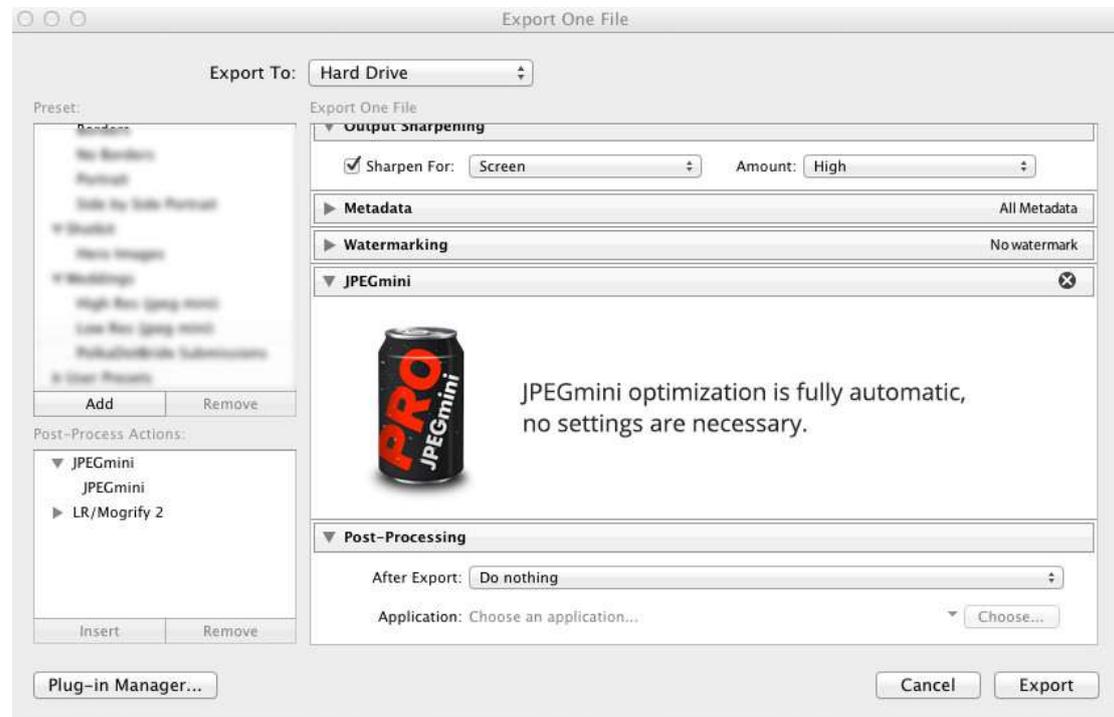
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### 1) Reduce the Size of your JPEGs



If you don't know about JPEGMini Pro already, start by reading [www.shotkit.com/jpegmini/](http://www.shotkit.com/jpegmini/)

JPEGMini Pro offers a Lightroom export plugin that will reduce the size of any image you export from Lightroom by up to 80%, with no visual loss in quality.



What this means in practice is faster upload times to online galleries/blogs, faster website load times, faster copy times to external drives and client USBs, and more files fitting on your external media.

Having an image file that looks identical but weighs far less can help in many steps of your workflow, and can even save you money on storage.

Every single image I provide to my clients has been reduced using JPEGMini Pro, and those images are often printed for albums and wall art without issue.

You can try out JPEGMini for free via their website, but I highly recommend you invest in the Pro version of the software which allows you to add the JPEGMini compression to your Lightroom export process.

It also processes the images up to 8x as fast too.

## JPEGmini VS JPEGmini Pro

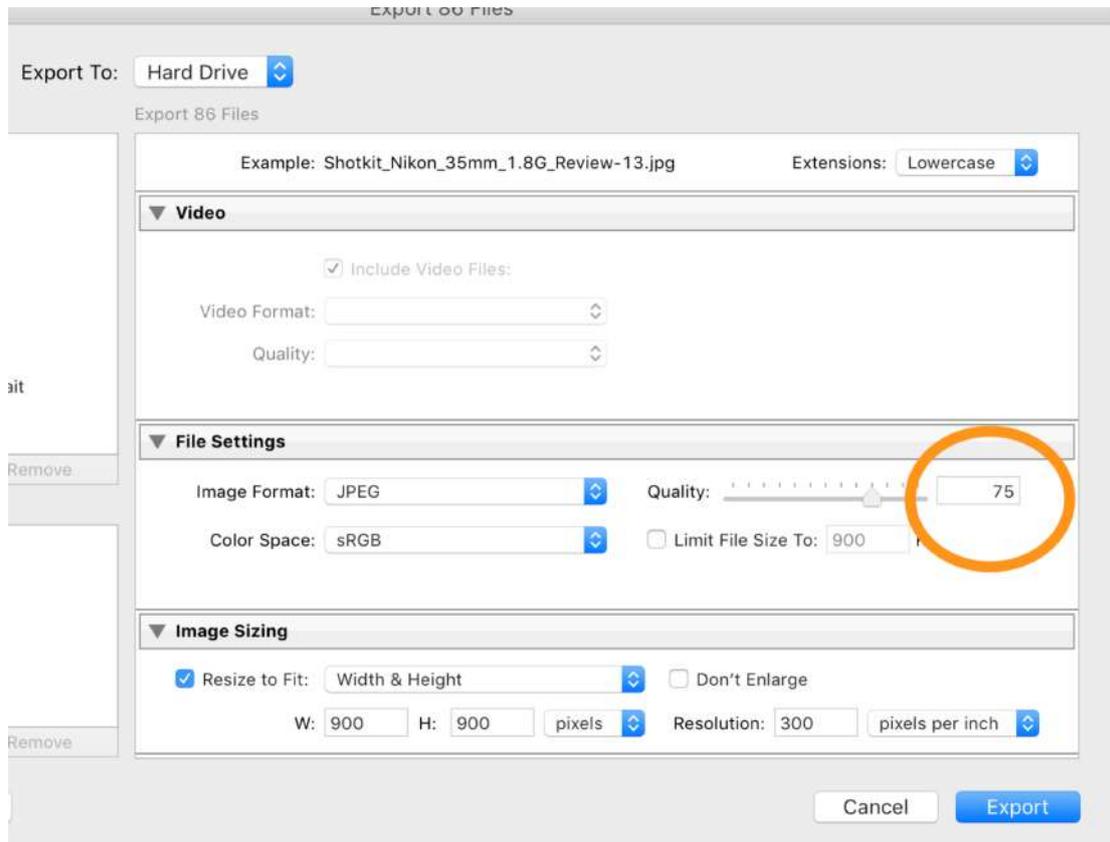
	<u>JPEGmini</u>	<u>JPEGmini Pro</u>
Quality	Same as Original	Same as Original
Reduction In File Size	Up To 5x [80% less]	Up To 5x [80% less]
OS	PC / Mac	PC / Mac
Number Of Photos	Unlimited	Unlimited
Photo Resize Option	✓	✓
Resolution	Up to 28 MP	Up to 50 MP
Speed	1x	Up to 8x Faster *
Adobe® Lightroom® Plugin	✗	✓

Being able to process images on Lightroom export really speeds up your workflow, and once you set it up, you'll never have to touch it again.

Get the best price on JPEGMini Pro here: [http://bit.ly/jpegmini\\_lrht](http://bit.ly/jpegmini_lrht)

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## 2) Reduce the Size of your JPEGs (for free!)



This tip can be used on its own, or in conjunction with tip #1 for further file size savings.

Since I came across the fantastic image compression software JPEGMini, I thought my JPEG sizes couldn't get any smaller.

However, here's a tip that not many Lightroom users know about.

I bet you, like me, export all your files from Lightroom at 100% quality. I mean, why wouldn't you?

Well actually, by exporting at the Lightroom JPEG export quality of 75, you end up with a photo that looks identical to one exported at a quality of 100, but is about *one third* the size!

This fact is actually very well documented on the net:

*"The Lightroom default JPEG export quality of 75, falling in the 70~76 range, seems to provide for as good a visible result as the highest quality setting... The file size, even at this relatively high 70~76 setting, is still about one third that of the 93~100 setting, so is well worth it in most situations. Those who blindly use the maximum setting for their exports likely waste a lot of local disk space, upload bandwidth, and remote storage space."*

- Jeffrey Friedl, a former consultant to Adobe.

Here's an example of an image exported at 100 quality:



and another at 76% quality:

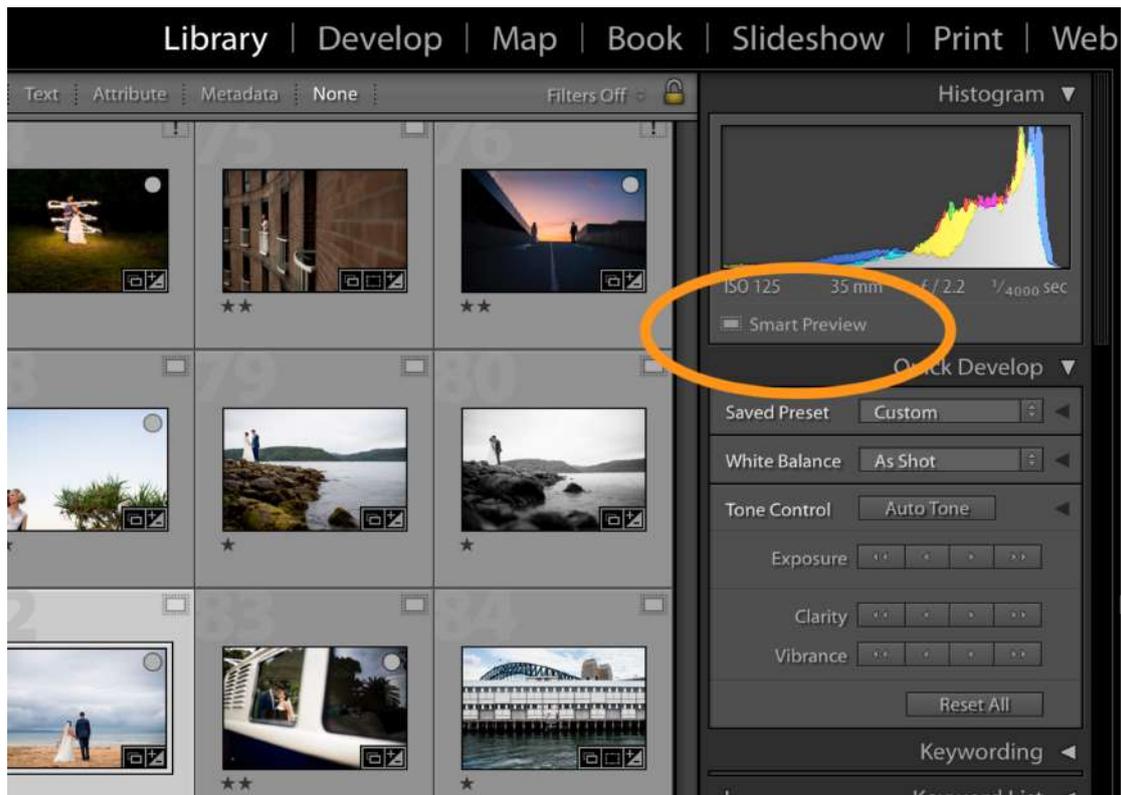


If you already own the JPEGMini Pro software and want to take things a step further, you can even export at 75 and use the JPEGMini Pro plugin to further reduce the file size.

If you'd like to see the results of this experiment, click here to watch a video I made: <http://shotkit.com/reduce-jpegs-to-speed-up-your-website-save-space/>

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### 3) Significantly Speed up Lightroom



There are many tips to help speed up Lightroom, but I've not come across one that makes such a huge difference to the Develop module as using Smart Previews.

Many of you will be familiar with Smart Previews already (here's Adobe's explanation of what they are: <https://helpx.adobe.com/lightroom/help/lightroom-smart-previews.html>) and using them to manage your mobile workflow.

If you've been using them to edit files on the go whilst leaving the original RAW files on an external device, you'll no doubt have noticed the massive speed difference when using Smart Previews.

If you'd like to use Smart Previews all the time, no matter what device you are using, you'll first need to disassociate the original files from Lightroom.

You can do this by finding where the original files are located, then temporarily changing the name of the folder.

By doing this, Lightroom won't know where the files are located anymore, so will be forced to use the Smart Previews instead.

(This is assuming that you've already created the Smart Previews of your files of course.)

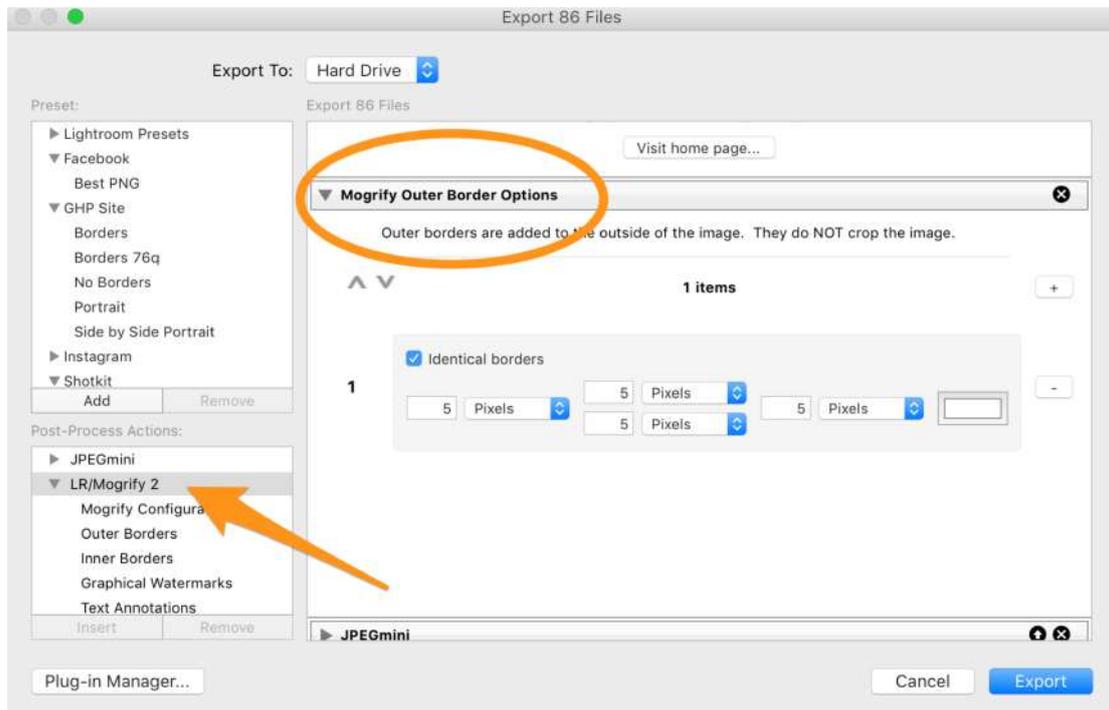
Editing using the Smart Previews is much faster, and so is any Develop module action.

Using this tip alone should speed up your Lightroom workflow by more than 50%.

You can have a look at this detailed blog post I wrote on the topic for more information here: <http://shotkit.com/speed-up-lightroom/>

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## 4) Create Image Borders



As much as I love WordPress, one thing that drives me crazy is how it handles non breaking spaces. These are the gaps of white space between text and images.

WordPress has a nasty habit of adding and removing these white gaps for no reason, and it can drive you crazy.

If you use WordPress for your blog and want to make sure that images you upload in bulk have equal spacing between them one sure fire way is to create a white border around each one.

This can be done using an action in Photoshop amongst other means, but I've found a small, lightweight plugin called Mogrify (<http://www.photographers-toolbox.com/products/lrmogrify2.php>) does a great job.

As Mogrify can be used as part of your Lightroom export process, it doesn't add any extra steps to your post processing.

I have an 'export to blog Lightroom preset' that resizes images to 869px, reduces the JPEG quality to 75, runs them through JPEGMini, adds Sharpening for Screen and finally adds a border via Mogrify.

## 5) Cull from your Sofa!



The unavoidable truth about post processing is that you'll have to spend a lot of time at your desk.

You may have a fancy stand up work station, but whatever the case, nothing's as comfortable as starting off your editing process from the comfort of your sofa.

Culling should be quick and easy. If you've optimized your computer and Lightroom, the Lightroom Library module can actually be just as fast as Photomechanic, even on a computer with limited RAM such as the new Macbook Retina.

Whatever your system of culling your photos, I guarantee you'll enjoy the process much more if you're sitting somewhere comfortable.

The best way I've found to do this is by using a Playstation controller and a little piece of software called Joystick Mapper (<http://joystickmapper.com/>)

If you already have a Playstation controller lying around, then you're in luck! If not, I recommend the PS3 controller, which is wireless and available cheaper than the PS4 controller.

You don't *need* a wireless controller, but if you want to sit a distance away from your monitor, it might help.

Using Joystick Mapper you'll be able 'map' your joypad's keys to certain keys used in Lightroom.

For mine, I map the O key as a '1' and the X key as a '0'. Then I map the left and right cursor keys to be the same on the computer, so I'm able to scroll left and right through the photos. Finally I map one of the top keys to 'zoom to 100%'.

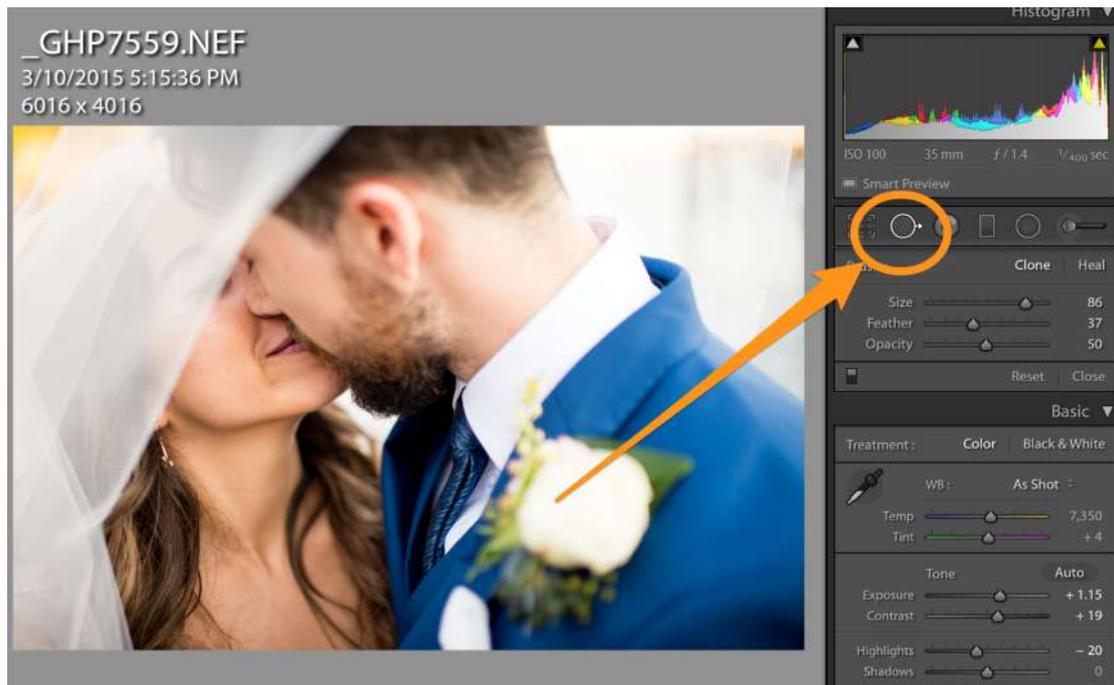
With this set up, I cycle through my photos with the cursors and press the 0 key when I find one I want to keep. If I make a mistake and need to cancel the 1, I press the X key to mark it back to a zero.

Occasionally I'll need to check the focus on a photo, so I use the zoom button.

Using Joystick Mapper, you'll actually be able to use any number of gamepads to control Lightroom, so check out their website for more details.

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## 6) Spot Removal Time Saver



Every now and then in Lightroom, you'll need to try your luck with the Spot Removal brush.

This tool is not as powerful as Photoshop's Spot Healing Brush Tool, but can still help you out of some situations.

The idea as you probably already know is that you choose a small area to remove (such as some sensor dust in your image), and Lightroom automatically samples from another similar area of the photograph to clone or heal the affected area.

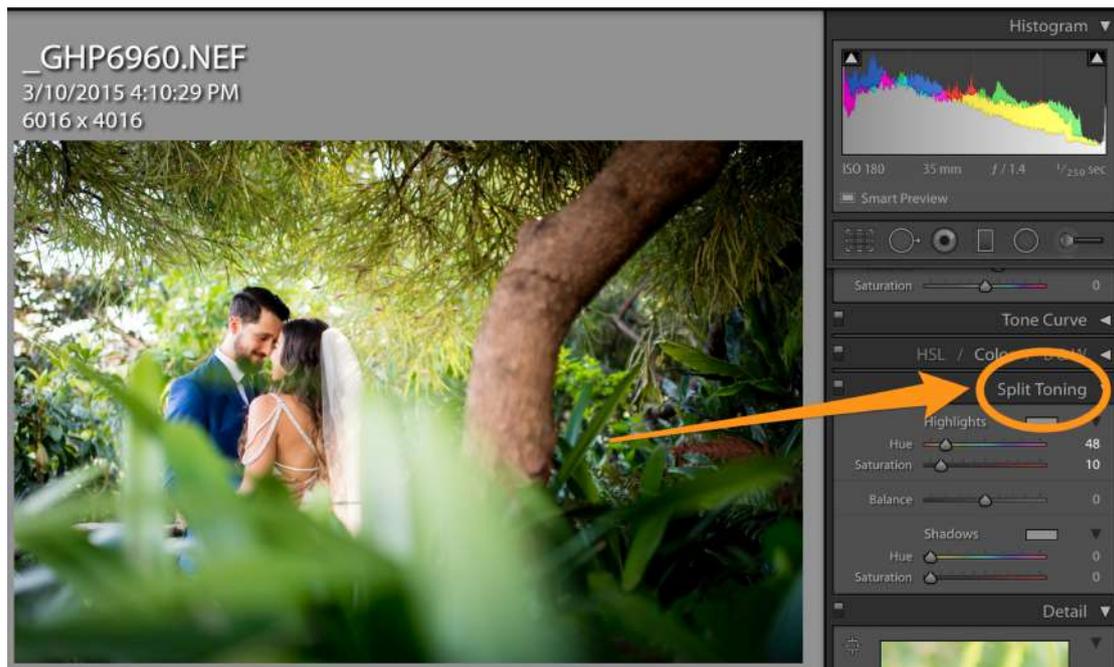
If the blemish is small and the background uniform, this tool can work wonders.

Sometimes however, Lightroom samples from the wrong area, and you're left with an unnatural edit.

A little known tip is that if you press the / key on your keyboard, Lightroom chooses another sample area for you.

Then you can keep pressing the / until you're satisfied with the results.

## 7) Split Toning for White Balance



Most photographers who use Lightroom shy away from the Split Toning panel. However, it can be a powerful tool to give your images a certain look that regular editing can't emulate.

Some well known wedding photographers including Sam Hurd (<http://shotkit.com/sam-hurd/>) and Jeff Newsom (<http://shotkit.com/jeff-newsom/>) use split toning as part of their 'secret sauce' when post processing, adding colour to highlights and shadows to create images that have an unusual quality to them.

Even if you don't want to try and emulate this popular look, you can use split toning to fine tune the white balance in Lightroom.

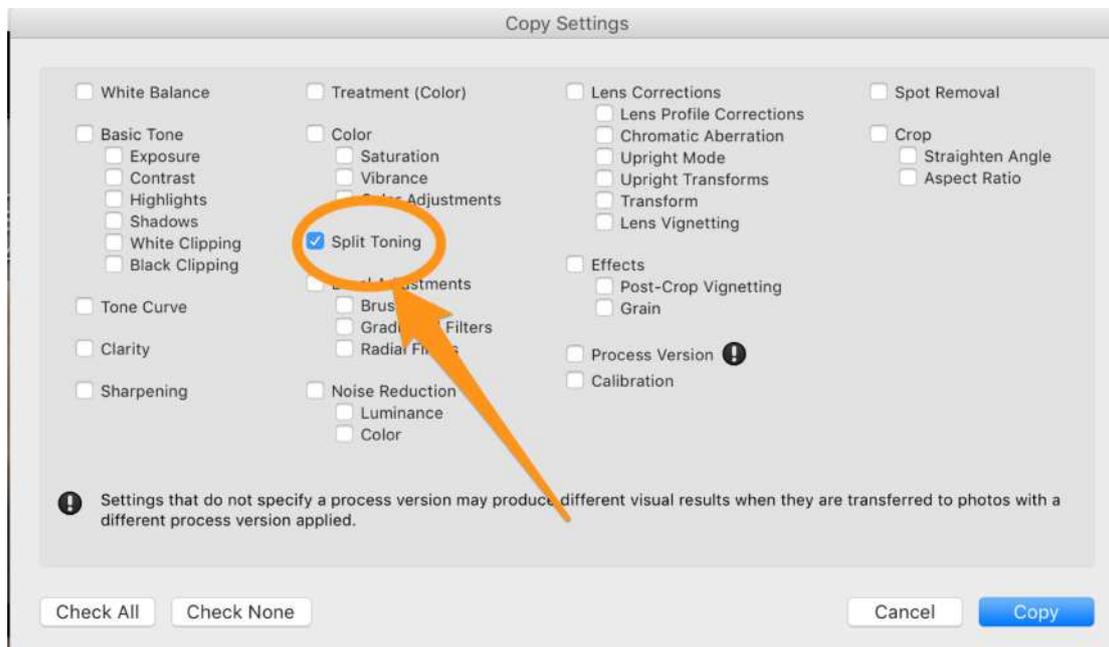
Using the built in Lightroom white balance tool is fine, but there'll be times when you'll want to adjust the warmth of an image without affecting the whole thing.

For example, you may want to give an image a summery feel, but leave skin tones unaffected.

If you use Lightroom's white balance tool, the image will be affected globally and could lead to orangey skin tones.

Using split toning in Lightroom, you can set the Shadows saturation above zero to create a subtle colour cast, only affecting the shadows and leaving the highlights unaffected.

Using split toning as opposed to white balance in Lightroom allows you to apply this warming effect to multiple images that may have been taken in different lighting conditions, just by copying and pasting the split tone settings.



This allows you to set the white balance for each image independently of the warming effect, and simply copy the split toning settings over all your other images.

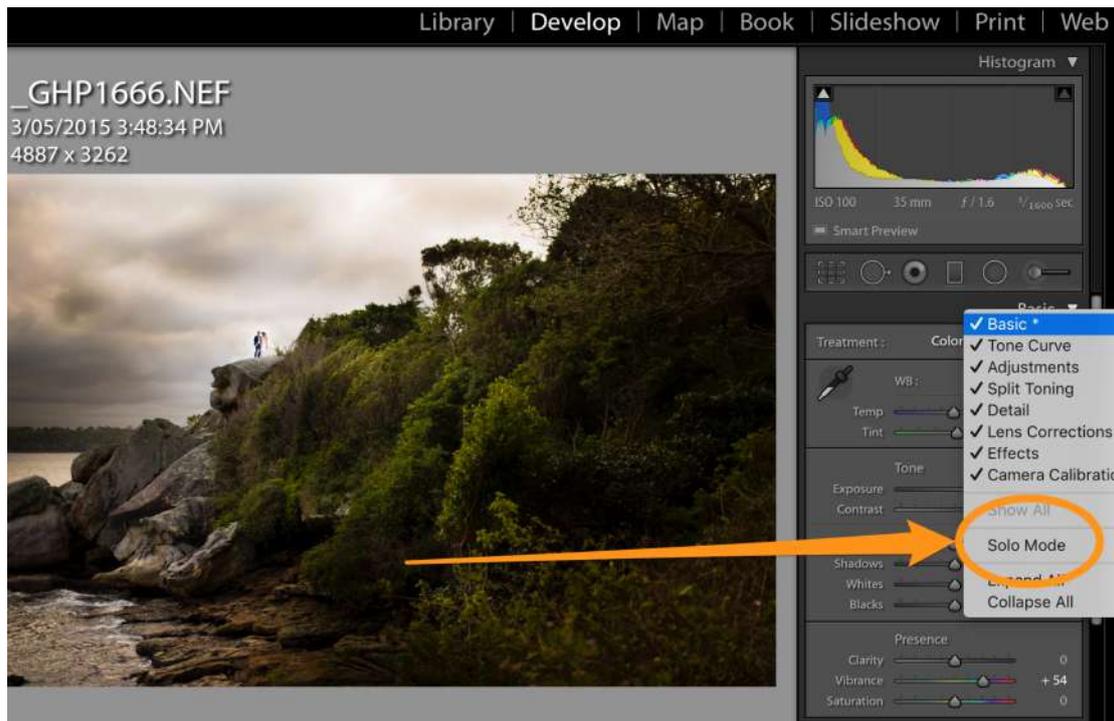
Using split toning is not an exact science, so it's best to play around with the settings to see what works for you.

To start, pick a highlight tone which will wash the lighter areas of your image with the selected colour. If you'd like to warm those areas, choose a warm tone.

Then you can pick a shadow tone in which to wash over the darker areas of the image. This step is optional – you may achieve the look you're after with just the highlight tone alone.

Finally, you can fine tune the balance of the two new tones by adjusting the balance slider. By decreasing the amount (a negative number), the tone for the shadows becomes more prominent, and vice versa with the highlights.

## 8) Maximise your Laptop's Lightroom Display



Trying to edit photos on a small laptop screen isn't fun, but more and more of us are doing it.

Whether you have a 13", 15" or 17" laptop screen, you can always use more of your screen's real estate to display the active image.

You may already know the useful 'Tab' shortcut, whereby each time you click the Tab button on your keyboard, your editing panels appear and disappear to give your active image more room.

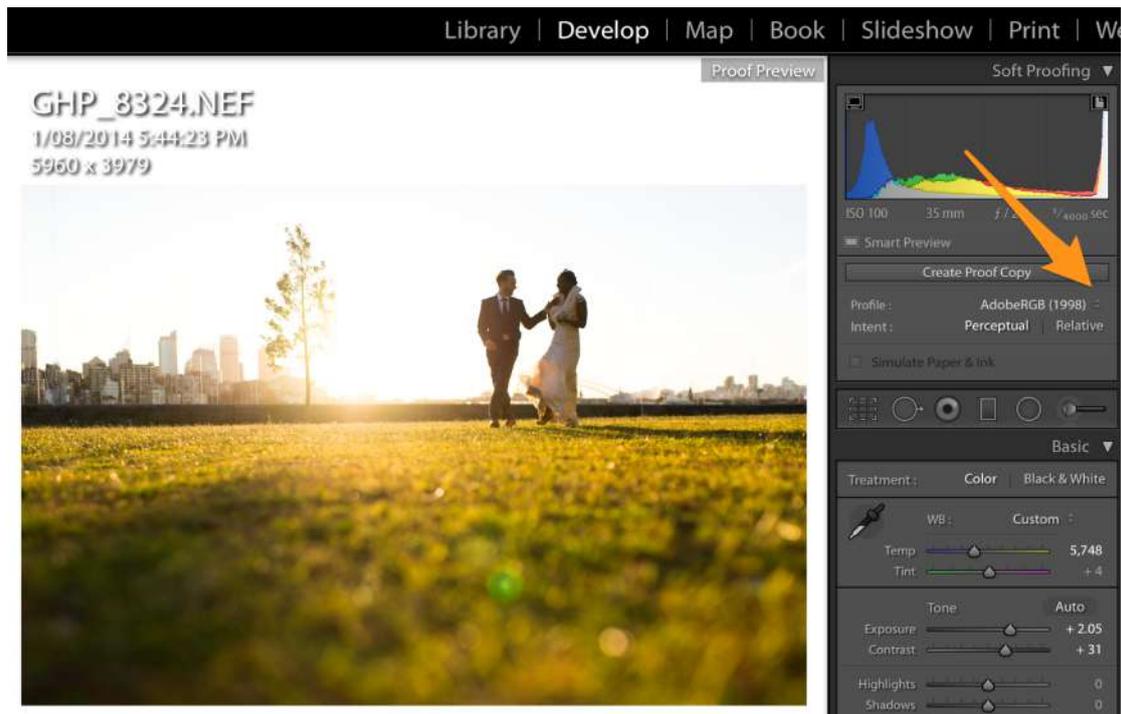
There's also a neat trick that's hidden away which will tidy up your side panels when they're not in use, and then expand only on the tool that you're using.

To do this, simply right click on any of the tool panel titles on the right of your screen, and select 'Solo Mode'.

This will save you lots of time spent scrolling up and down and clicking to open and close tool panels.

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## 9) Reduce printing errors via soft proofing



Softproofing lets you see how a printer will reproduce the colours in an image. This lets you adjust any colours that are 'out of gamut' i.e. those that can't be replicated.

Going to this level of colour correction before printing is optional depending on the level of control you want over your prints.

If you decide that you'd like to ensure that your prints are true to your digital files, you'll need to calibrate your monitor frequently too.

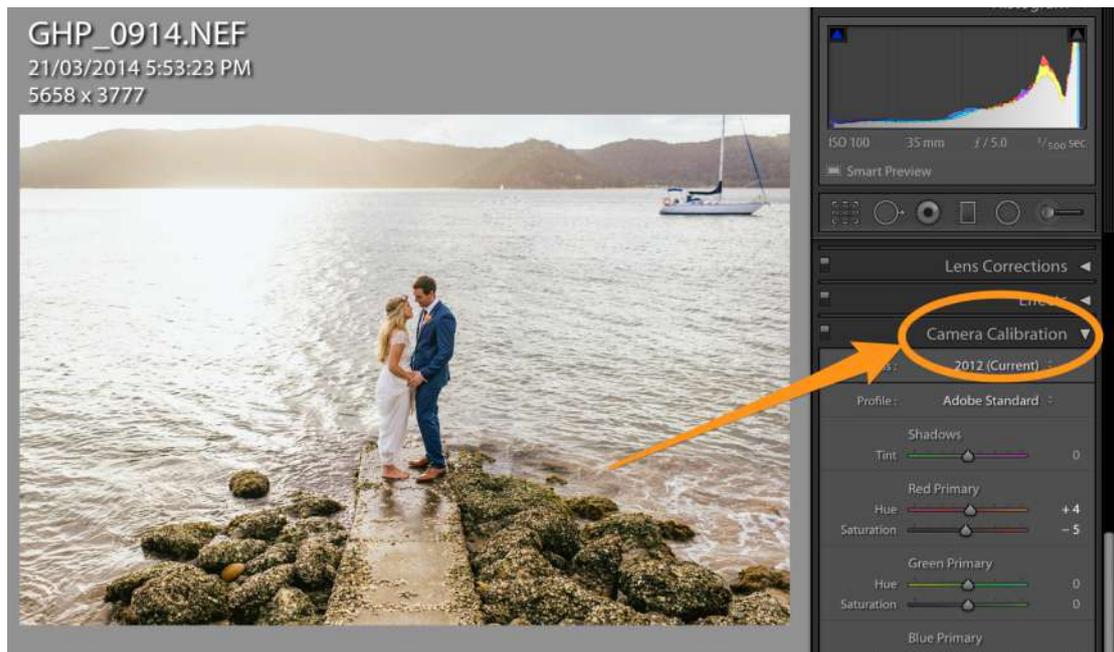
All printers and labs should have a colour profile which will be available for you to download.

After downloading it, enter the Develop module in Lightroom and press the 's' key to enter soft proofing mode. The area around your image will turn white and an extra menu will appear to its right.

If you click this drop down menu and choose 'Other', you'll be able to load the colour profile you just downloaded.

Any colours that are out of gamut will be highlighted in red, meaning that you'll need to make fine tuning adjustments to the image in order to retain the same colour in print as on your screen.

## 10) Replicate your Camera's Rear LCD



This may not be important for all of you, but I know some photographers who are disappointed after seeing the dull RAW file in their computer, especially when the preview image on the back of their camera looked so vibrant and crisp.

If you'd like your images to look the same as they do on your camera's LCD display, you'll need to make an adjustment in the camera calibration tab of Lightroom.

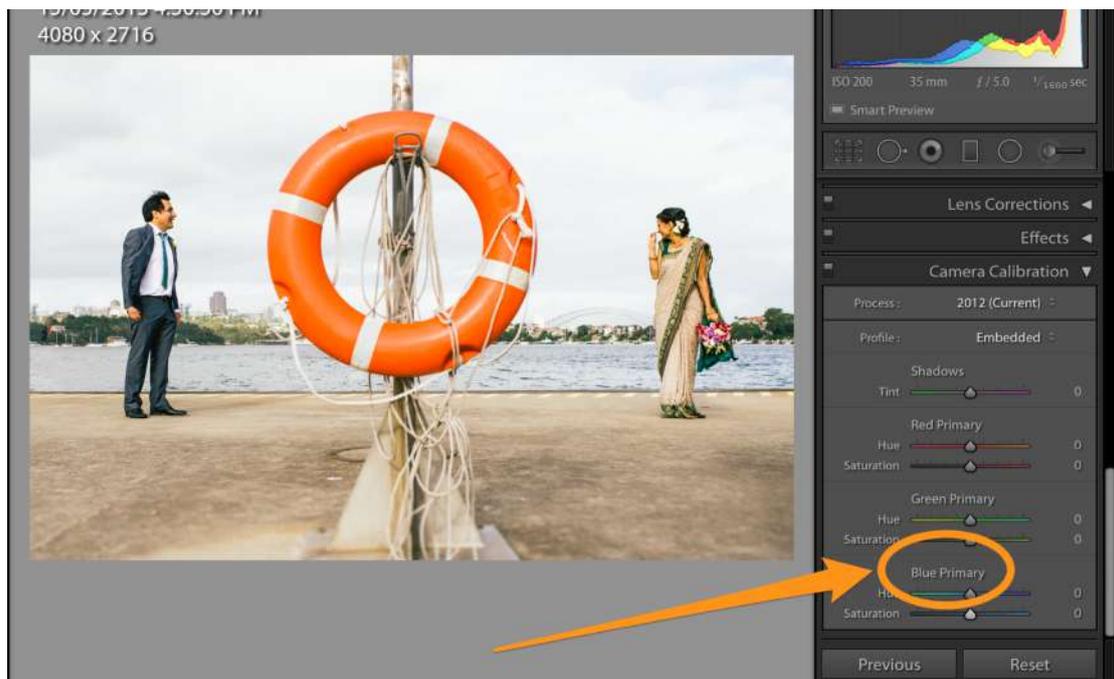
Depending on the brand of camera you use, the options in the Camera Calibration drop down menu will differ. Lightroom provides the colour profiles for most cameras that shoot in RAW format.

By selecting 'Camera Standard', your RAW file in Lightroom should display in the same way as when you looked at it on your camera's LCD display,

**Note:** Adobe Standard and Camera matching profiles are based on the DNG 1.2 specification. If they do not appear in the Profile pop-up menu, download latest Lightroom update here: <http://www.adobe.com/go/downloads>

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## 11) Boost your Colours in Lightroom



If you've had enough of using the Vibrance and Saturation sliders to try and add some oomph to your colours in Lightroom, here's an alternative that may give some interesting results.

In the Camera Calibration menu, increase the saturation slider of the Blue Primary.

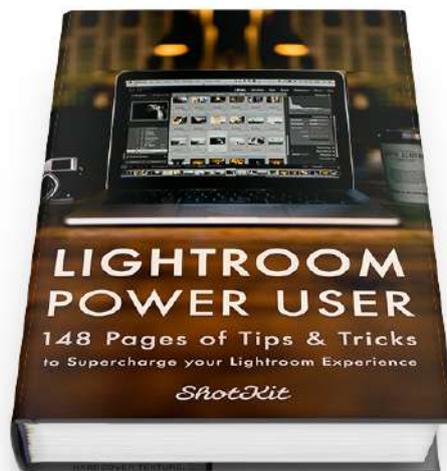
Try going all the way to 100, then back down again gradually until you find the level that looks the best.

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# ShotKit

I hope you enjoyed these Lightroom tips! If you're interested in learning more about Lightroom, there are many more great Tips & Tricks available in Lightroom Power User – out now!

Click here to learn more: [www.lightroompoweruser.com](http://www.lightroompoweruser.com)



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