

Some Useful Photoshop Techniques

Peter North
Nov 2018

Photoshop & Lightroom – the differences

Lightroom – The pros & when to use

- Filing System – Unmatched as a way of organising, viewing and sorting all of your photos in one place
- Editing – Easy, convenient and connected way to edit / enhance an image as you took it (RAW / JPEG etc)
- All editing is non-destructive - a complete history is recorded and can be recalled in later sessions
- The only edit tool you'll ever need following the 'taking' a photo as an accurate record of what was in front of the camera

Photoshop & Lightroom – the differences

Lightroom – The cons and when not to use

- Has limitations if you want to 'make' (vs 'take') an image using creative and fine-art photography techniques
- Does not support layers - removing, adding, scaling parts of an image (skies, focal points etc)
- Compared to photoshop, cloning parts of an image is a bit 'clunky'

Photoshop & Lightroom – the differences

Photoshop – The pros

- Great for fine-art and more creative photography that involves deep editing, the use of layers or extensive precision cloning
- Can do everything that Lightroom does apart from the cataloguing

Photoshop – The cons

- Inherently 'destructive' editing - although layers are saved (in PSD not JPEG) the edit history is not (but always edit a copy so original is intact)
- A very extensive program with a steep learning curve – you must use it regularly until the techniques become second nature.
- Many different ways of doing the same thing – can be confusing for beginners.

Photoshop

The good news

- Despite its complexity you can achieve almost anything by learning and practicing just a few essential techniques
- Dodge, burn, saturation and blur tools
- Selective adjusting of shadows, highlights, brightness, contrast, colour
- Making selections and then cutting and pasting them
- Creating and working with layers
- Understanding and using the clone tool

Today's Demo

- How to get that painterly, faded and 'glowy' look
- How to add mist to the right picture
- The clone tool – the most useful of all
- Different ways to do exposure blending (non – HDR)
- Best way to select & copy difficult objects like trees or fur
- How to copy, paste and manipulate multiple copies of the same object
- Using the dodge and burn tools to add modelling or depth to a scene
- Some useful PS shortcuts