

# DIGITAL IMAGING WORKFLOW

## Part #2

This workflow is *one* approach in the creation of images for the internet or for printing by an ink jet printer, not for a commercial CMYK printer. It is meant to be a guideline to processing images, not a set of rules to be strictly followed. Many alternative techniques are equally valid and in some cases, are a better approach than detailed here for a specific image.

### Basic Workflow:

- Camera Image File + Modifications and Adjustments => Master Image File (psd format).
- Master Image File + versions 1...n of the image's final size, resolution, sharpening & file format => Output Image File versions 1...n.
- Backup your data

## Step 2: Bridge and Camera RAW Image Processing

Perform initial image processing in the Bridge and, if appropriate, in Camera RAW.

### 1) Process All Images in the Bridge

#### a. Setup

1. Bridge >Edit > Preferences
  - General: Background = dark, Show = File Size
  - Advanced: When Saving the Cache = Use a Centralized Cache File
2. Thumbnail View: put all tabs into a single section

#### b. Film Strip View

1. Rotate any images as needed
2. Set any file to be deleted = 1 Star, Show 1 or more stars, Delete, Show All Items (note: Label can be used instead of a star)
3. To rename, Tools > Batch Rename
4. Select all images to receive a Copyright notice, Tools > Append Metadata > previously defined template with name and copyright info (to create a template, File > File Info > {save copyright data} > Menu > Save Metadata Template)

#### c. Slide Show View (View > Slide Show, or ctrl+L)

1. Left & Right Arrow keys: show previous or next arrow
2. Space Bar, Space Bar: play and pause slide show
3. H for options
4. Esc to quit the slide show

#### d. File > New Window to open multiple copies of the Bridge to drag files between folders

#### e. Thumbnail View

1. To print a thumbnail contact sheet, Tools > Photoshop > Contact Sheet II
2. Select all images to process, set 5 stars, Show 5 stars
3. To open 1 RAW image or 1 or more jpg images,

double click on the thumbnail

4. To open multiple RAW image to be processed similarly, select the RAW images, Right Click > Open in Camera RAW

### 2) Process a RAW Image in Camera RAW

Many features are available in Camera RAW and in Photoshop,

Function	Camera RAW	Photoshop
Crop	Crop tool	Crop tool w Perspective
Rotate	Straighten tool, 90°	Measure tool + Image > Rotate Canvas > Arbitrary, Edit > Transform
Clipping	Shadows, Highlights	Levels: alt+drag ▲
Format	Color Space, Size, Bits/Chan, Resolution	Image > Mode, Edit > Convert to Profile
Color Modify	Temperature, Tone	Color Balance Adjustment, Hue/Saturation Adjustment, Selective Color Adjustment
Color Cast	White Balance tool, Color Samplers	{same}
Luminance	Adjust tab: Exposure, Shadows, Brightness, Contrast, Saturation Curve tab: Curve	Levels Adjustment, Curves Adjustment, Hue/Saturation Adjustment Mode > Adjustments > Shadow/Highlights
Sharpening	Detail tab: Sharpness	Filter > Sharpen
Noise Reduction	Detail tab: Luminance Smoothing, Color Noise Reduction	Filter > Noise > Reduce Noise
Automation	Synchronize	File > Automate, File > Scripts, Actions,

#### a. Setup

1. Camera RAW > Settings Menu > Preferences
  - Save Image Settings in = Camera RAW Database
  - Apply Sharpening to = Preview images only
  - Camera RAW Cache = set as needed

#### b. Workflow Options (bottom-left)

1. Set Color Space = Adobe RGB (1998), Depth = 16 bits, Resolution = 240 to 360 pixels/inch (same value as printer)

#### c. Tools (top-left)

1. White Balance tool: if a light gray subject exists (e.g., image of a gray card), click on this area to remove a color cast
2. Crop tool: either wait until in Photoshop to crop or crop now any areas that you are certain you don't want
3. Straighten and Rotate tools: either wait until in Photoshop or rotate the image now

#### d. Controls (right)

1. Settings: select Previous Correction if the last RAW processing was for an image of similar subject and lighting

#### e. Controls - Adjust tab (right)

Note: I find that Auto works well as a starting point

1. Temperature and Tint: adjust the image's color temperature by eye and by placing several Color Sampler eyedroppers; don't clip, alt+Temperature to visualize which channel(s) clip
2. Exposure: set the white point to correct the image's

*brightness; don't clip, alt+Exposure to visualize which channel(s) clip*

*3. Shadows: set the black point to darken shadow areas; don't clip, alt+Shadows to visualize which channel(s) clip*

*4. Brightness: set the mid-point brightness*

*5. Contrast and Saturation: don't adjust, do later in Photoshop; set Saturation = -100 if image is to be processed in grayscale*

*6. Fine-tune Exposure and Shadows to avoid clipping*

*f. Controls - Detail tab*

*1. Luminance Smoothing: increase if monochromatic noise is visible; too much can soften the image*

*2. Color Noise Reduction: increase if color noise is visible; too much can soften the image*

*g. If multiple similar RAW images were opened in Camera RAW, Select All and Synchronize to apply the same correction to all*

*h. Select Open to go to Photoshop*

*i. Archive the RAW image with it's modifications*

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## Resources

### Books

*Adobe Photoshop CS2 Studio Techniques, Ben Willmore*  
*Real World Adobe Photoshop CS2, Bruce Fraser*

### Web

*[luminance-landscape.com](http://luminance-landscape.com)*

*[photographyblog.com](http://photographyblog.com)*

*[www.adobe.com/digitalimag/ps\\_pro.html](http://www.adobe.com/digitalimag/ps_pro.html)*

*[www.adobe.com/digitalimag/ps\\_pro\\_primers.html](http://www.adobe.com/digitalimag/ps_pro_primers.html)*

*[www.creativepro.com/front/home](http://www.creativepro.com/front/home)*

*[www.dpreview.com](http://www.dpreview.com)*

*[www.imaging-resource.com](http://www.imaging-resource.com)*

*[www.photoshopnews.com](http://www.photoshopnews.com)*

*[www.timgrey.com](http://www.timgrey.com)*