

Lightroom Classic - None Destructive Editing

Non-destructive editing in Adobe Lightroom Classic is a fundamental feature that allows users to make changes to their images without altering the originals i.e. None destructively. Here is how this type of editing can be achieved in Lightroom Classic:

1. Catalogue and Import

Lightroom Classic uses a catalogue system that references original images and stores the edits as metadata.

- **How to Use:** Import the images into Lightroom CC Desktop by clicking on the “+” icon or using the “Import” button. This process doesn't move or change the original files.
- **Benefits:** The original images remain untouched, and all edits are stored as separate metadata, allowing for non-destructive workflows.

2. Editing with the Develop Module

All adjustments in Lightroom Classic are non-destructive and can be modified or reset at any time.

- **How to Use:** Go to the Develop module and use sliders and tools for adjustments like exposure, contrast, highlights, shadows, whites, blacks, clarity, vibrance, and saturation.
- **Benefits:** Edits are applied as instructions that can be altered or removed without affecting the original image.

3. Using Pre-sets

Pre-sets apply a predefined set of adjustments to the images.

- **How to Use:** In the Develop module, navigate to the Pre-sets panel on the left. Click on a pre-set to apply it to the image. (Do not use on Competition images).
- **Benefits:** Pre-sets provide a quick way to apply complex edits, and still tweak individual settings afterwards.

4. Creating and Using Snapshots

Snapshots capture the state of the image at a particular point in the editing process.

- **How to Use:** In the Develop module, go to the Snapshots panel on the left. Click the “+” icon to create a snapshot.
- **Benefits:** Multiple snapshots can be created to compare different editing styles and revert to any saved state at any time.

5. Virtual Copies

Virtual copies allow a user to create different versions of an image without affecting the original file.

- **How to Use:** Right-click on an image and select “Create Virtual Copy.”
- **Benefits:** Each virtual copy can have its own set of edits, providing flexibility to experiment with different looks without additional storage space.

6. Using the History Panel

The History panel keeps a record of all the edits made to an image.

- **How to Use:** In the Develop module, open the History panel on the left. Click on any history state to revert to that point.
- **Benefits:** Backtracking is useful to compare different editing steps without losing any edits.

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7. Local Adjustments

Local adjustments using Masks allow edits to specific areas of an image without affecting the entire image.

- **How to Use:** In the Develop module found in Masks, use tools like Objects, the Adjustment Brush, Radial Filter, and Graduated Filter etc. Make adjustments using sliders specific to these tools.
- **Benefits:** Local adjustments provide targeted control while maintaining non-destructive edits, as these adjustments can be modified or removed at any time.

8. Synchronizing Edits

Synchronizing edits applies the same adjustments to multiple images.

- **How to Use:** Select multiple images, make the edits on one, and then click on the “Sync” button to apply the same adjustments to the selected images.
- **Benefits:** This ensures consistency across a batch of images and speeds up the editing process.

9. Copy and Paste Settings

Copying and pasting settings replicate edits from one image to another.

- **How to Use:** Edit an image, then use the “Copy” button to copy the settings. Select another image and use the “Paste” button to apply the settings.
- **Benefits:** Efficiently transfer complex edits between images non-destructively.

10. Exporting

Exporting images generates new files with the edits applied, leaving the originals untouched.

- **How to Use:** After editing, click the “Export” button. Choose the export settings, including file format, size, and quality.
- **Benefits:** Exporting creates a new file based on the edited version, preserving the original file as is.

By using these features in Lightroom Classic, images can be edited extensively while ensuring that the original files remain intact. This approach provides flexibility and security, allowing for continuous adjustments and experimentation without risking data loss or degradation.