

## Scott Jarvie

### 1. Picture Taking

I take awesome pictures

sometimes I chimp/pre-delete on camera because I have time and or want to save space on computer HDs

### 2. Importing

I import from card using Lightroom. Little USB external importer thingy.

I store on a hard drive organized by date. (2009-03-14) Thus making it chronological order.

I rename the folder to include a description after the date.

(This maintains the chronological order but makes it easier to know what it is)

I have the computer pre-render 1:1 because I hate waiting when I'm going through them

### 2.5 Pre-Edits

In order to figure out which pictures are my favorites sometimes I want to see what they look like in a OK light

So sometimes I'll grab a picture edit it really quickly and then synchronize with all the pictures like it.

I'll do that for underexposed images so that when I do the next step I'm seeing a good image to make a decision on.

### 3. Selecting

I use "P" to pick or flag the image.

I keep one hand on the "P" and the other on the next arrow

Sometimes I click "X"(Reject) when a picture is so bad I should delete it off the computer to save room

Hitting "P" - I'm basically saying.. I think this customer will want this image

A yes no decision is the fastest decision you can make. Faster than deciding 1-5

### 4. Develop

I develop ALL the ones that I selected.

I used to use presets a lot more but now I know exactly where to go so I usually don't do presets.

I spend 5-30 seconds on a picture

Every once in a while when I want something fresh I'll go through my presets and see which one might be nice.

But I'll always tweak the picture after applying the preset.

Sometimes I make a virtual copy and try a second edit on the second version.

### 5. Reorder

After much investigation I've found out that putting your best face forward is super important

So I go through all pictures and pick my favorites to display to people first.

Then sometimes I go through those favorites and pick the bestests

I used the colors to symbolize levels of goodness

Recently I have been using the star rating feature to do the same thing.

1/red being great 2/yellow being to be shown even before that and when needed 3 to be even betterer

I use categories to save contain the ones I want to sort and reorganize

You can drag pictures into a specific order you want.

### 6. Export to JPG

When they're all in order I export to JPG with the file name the same but in front of the file name

I put a sequencer 001,002 - I believe that's a custom file name ability.

That way when I put them in a gallery I can have that gallery organize them by filename.

And therefore my pictures will be in order.. the order I want.

The amount of people that will look at your second page of pictures decreases by 2-3times

And half again for the next page of pictures.

So if your best picture is on the 10<sup>th</sup> page you basically just shot yourself in the face. Or you're saying I don't care if anyone ever looks at these picture.

### 7. Upload to SmugMug

I use SmugMug to display my pictures to customers.

I have them display by filename order

Sometimes I make a chronological gallery of the same images as well - in those cases I organize by time taken.

### 8. Distribution

I give my customers a link to the SmugMug and tell them to grab them off smugmug and make themselves a Facebook gallery

I sometimes make a blog by dragging straight from SmugMug into my blog editor

I'll grab a set of pictures from off of smugmug (because they are perfect size and have watermarks) and use those pictures to upload to Facebook and sometimes I even use Flickr

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1.--I import all my pictures directly into Lightroom with a specific name.

2.--Once the import is complete, I go through all the pictures in the "Library" mode and mark the ones I like with a flag.

I don't bother marking pictures with an "X" since any pictures that aren't marked with a flag I get rid of.

If one jumps out at me that I love, I mark it red.

If there are several in a row that are similar, I will ctrl click on several to see them side by side to compare and then pick the one or two that are my favorite.

3.--After I have gone through and flagged all my favorites, I go into the "Develop" mode and begin editing. 90% of the time I begin with my presets, scrolling through and trying different ones to see which one give the picture the look I want.

After finding the right preset, I then tweak the settings to get it to look just how I want it.

I also mark any others I love with the color red along the way.

4.--After editing all the pictures, I click on the red filter to see just the ones I marked red and then do the more detailed editing with brushes, graduated filters, spot removal, and cropping.

These are the pictures I tend to put on my blog.

5.--After I am done, I rename/renumber and export them into a folder to put in a Sugmug gallery and sometimes I will export them to Photoshop so I can add my watermark.

That is it! That is how I edit. Pretty simple isn't it?

**My Lightroom Experience:** I use Lightroom for 100% of all my editing. Scott taught me everything I know about Lightroom and it has made all the difference. In using Scott's workflow techniques, my editing process has improved and I can edit pictures very quickly.

**Random Tip:** First and most importantly, listen to Scott - he is an amazing teacher and he knows what he is talking about. Second, develop your own style and have fun with it. Don't be afraid to try something different.

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**A blurb about Lightroom and how it helped you:** Lightroom revolutionized my workflow. Prior to using it I tried just about every other RAW editor out there (Capture One, Bibble, Nikon Capture, Adobe Camera RAW, etc. etc).

Every one was difficult to use, slow, and unpolished. RAW editors at that time lacked the sophistication and ease-of-use I was used to having in Photoshop and were more frustrating than helpful. It wasn't until Lightroom was released that things began to turn around. Lightroom was the first RAW editor that offered the flexibility and ease-of-use I wanted.

I love Lightroom.

**Random Tip:** If you are shooting RAW and not using Lightroom do yourself a BIG favor and buy Lightroom, it will revolutionize your workflow too.')

(Sam Cont)

## My Workflow

Before anything else capturing some photographs is a must. My recipe for success is to go somewhere amazing and (hopefully) shoot some even more amazing photographs! My current love is a Nikon D300 DSLR and various Nikon lenses. I exclusively shoot 14-bit RAW and use the Adobe RGB color space (for more vibrant colors and smoother gradients). Shooting RAW gives me the most flexibility when editing and allows me to achieve exactly the look I am going for.

When I can home from a shoot...

### **Part 1: Library module**

1. The first thing I do after getting home from a shoot is take a shower and change my clothes. Usually I am pretty dirty after a long day shooting, so this is a good thing.

Next I insert my memory card(s) into a USB card reader and import all of my photos into my Lightroom catalog. I import the photos with the following custom settings....

- \* File Handling: Move photos to new location and add to catalog

- \* Organize photos into folders by date (ie. 2009/2009-03-01)

- \* Rename photos by date with a number sequence (ie.2009-03-01\_001.NEF)

- \* Embed custom metadata which includes my copyright, name, email, and web site. This metadata will be added to every file I import or export, so every JPG I send out can be traced back to me. This is important for helping protect my copyright.

Finally, I choose to have Lightroom render high resolution previews so I can easily and quickly zoom in and out without having to wait for Lightroom to render a new preview. This makes reviewing my shots much faster.

2. Once Lightroom has transferred all of the photos and rendered the previews I begin reviewing the photos. Its at this stage that I realize that most of those "amazing" photos I took actually sucked... Its a good thing reviewing a lot of photos in Lightroom is so easy...

- \* Any photo that is out-of-focus, severely underexposed or overexposed, has a bad composition or just isn't very good gets rejected. You can do this by hitting the X key.

- \* Often times I will use the Quick Edit sidebar to make slight exposure or white balance adjustments when comparing different compositions of the same shot. I want to make sure I keep the best shot and get rid of the others so small tweaks can be helpful to make sure I select the right shot.

- \* Hitting Z or clicking on the image zooms in and helps me check focus and sharpness. I use this a lot which is why I like to have Lightroom render high-resolution previews and not the smaller, standard previews.

- \* If I want to compare two compositions of the same image I will often select the two images and hit the C key to compare the shots. This shows both photos in a side by side comparison and is a great way to evaluate different compositions and check sharpness.

- \* In reviewing the photos from a shoot I will rate photos as well as reject them. This helps to separate the wheat from the tares and allows me to focus on only the best shots. Any photo that I like gets rated with 3 stars (hit the number 3 key to do this), any shot I really like gets 4 stars (hit the number 4 key), and any shot that really is amazing I will rate with 5 stars (hit the 5 key). I usually don't bother with anything under 3 because any photo less than 3 should probably be rejected and deleted.

3. Once I've gone through all the photos I go to the Photo menu and select "Delete Rejected Photos". This removes all of the bad photos so I am left with just the "good" ones.

### **Part 2: Develop module**

1. Switching to the Develop module I change the rating to 3 stars or more. This hides all of the photos I've not stared and lets me focus on just the "good" shots. Sometimes I will also change the rating to 4 or more, so it narrows things down even further.

2. From here its time for editing, some more editing, and even more editing! Every photo is different so I won't go into any detail about my process here.

3. Most of the time I can get my photos 90% of the way there in Lightroom. For that extra 10% I than take the photos into Photoshop. This is especially true with portraits which require additional retouching and editing that is only possible in Photoshop.

4. When I export from Lightroom to Photoshop or to JPG I make sure and convert to the sRGB colorspace. This is the default for the web and for most printers. I shoot Adobe RGB for the additional flexibility when editing but export to sRGB for compatibility.

After hours of editing hopefully I've survived long enough to shoot another day. Rinse and repeat. Have fun!

Dickie Adams

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### **My workflow:**

#### **- Import images from Camera/external media**

- If the images are completely supported (RAW or JPEG), then I generally use Picasa to import from. RAW files from my LX3 are not supported yet, so I manually copy those at this time.

- Folders named [event-date - RAW] for RAW files that need to be processed.

- Folders named [event-date] for only JPEG files (and also for the final export). If there is a JPEG/RAW mix, then those JPEGs are placed in the RAW folder for processing.

- Newly imported files are then sorted into sub-groups (Collections, in Picasa) if necessary. For example, I have "Unprocessed RAW" and "RAW" to help manage set status.

#### **- Import images into Lightroom**

- If the set is very small (under 10 images), then I import directly into my main catalog and work from there. For all other sets, I create a new catalog for that event, using the [event-date] naming convention, and placing the catalog within the folder where the images reside.

- Images are given a general metadata tag (usually event, date, and the name of the photographer).

- I don't normally apply any presents on import.

- 1:1 previews are set to generate upon import.

#### **- Cull, sort, and filter**

- Using Compare (with similar shots), or Loupe view, I use the common P, U, and X keys to note photos that are picks, and reject those that are so blurry or problematic that they would never be used. Further differentiation is done with colors. Generally, I am careful to under cull, as I can always drop a photo (pressing U) in the Develop stage.

- Any additional metadata is added at this stage.

- Before moving to Develop, I filter by Pick.

#### **- Develop**

- Using both presets and manual manipulation, I work the filtered photos.

#### **- Export**

- After all photos are completed, I export to the [event-date] folder as full-resolution JPEG.

- Files are named [event-date-original file number].

- No output sharpening is used.

#### **- Upload / Share**

- Final shots are uploaded (sometimes to multiple locations) from Picasa. Most often to Flickr and SmugMug.

- Notifications are sent to the client (with password if necessary).

#### **- Review**

- If I was hired to process the photos for another photographer, we review the photos online.

- Photos needing changes are starred, reexported, and uploaded again.

#### **- Consolidate and purge**

- Once the set is complete, the catalog is imported into the my main Lightroom catalog for future reference/changes.

- Every few months, I remove any rejected photos.

**Some notes:** I backup nightly to my Drobo unit (all images and catalogs). I also allow Lightroom to create catalog backups as necessary. I currently use a PC, running Lightroom 2.3, a widescreen 21" Viewsonic plus a Wacom 12WX as the secondary. Monitors are calibrated every two weeks using a HueyPro. Several of the common keyboard shortcuts are assigned to programmable buttons on the mouse and Wacom for faster processing. Picasa is used for many of the steps instead of Lightroom for multiple reasons. I find that it's easier to browse available photos, burn CDs, and when uploading, I don't have to wait for the process to complete before moving on to another Lightroom project.

## Jeremy Hall

### 1. Import RAW photos from card as DNG.

I import the photos into my working LR catalog, converted to DNG. Yes, I've bought into the Adobe koolaid completely. I think DNG is a great format. I retain the original RAW encoding but have found the single file (versus sidecar) plus ~10% file size savings attractive. I import all the photos of a particular project into one dated & named folder, i.e. 2009-03-14 PhotoCamp Utah. I pre-render to customized standard size for my screen for quick viewing through the next steps. I do not do 1:1 because I typically end up with too many slight changes before the develop step anyway, which requires re-rendering.

### 2. Selecting & Rejecting

I run through the entire batch looking for obviously bad images (that cannot be recovered) and reject (X) and those I think I'll use. I flag the useful images at P. I delete permanently the rejected photos (CMD/CNTRL-delete). I then make a second pass through to select my favorite images. I used to use stars at this step, but have since converted to the color label method Jarvie uses. More on stars later. Sometimes I remove previously flagged photos, or make an extra run through the unflagged photos to see if I missed anything.

### 3. Develop – Stage 1

I generally do a 2 pass develop process. First I will run through to make group white balance and exposure adjustments. This is to correct lighting in groups of similar files that were shot next to each other time/location that need the same basic correction. If the entire batch was in a studio setting, this may be a single or a few synchs, but in an event it will be in groups.

### 4. Develop – Stage 2

Second pass is for more detailed development. How much of this gets done depends on the use of the photos. Portraits or event photos for a client I will develop all photos to a printable level including rapid looks at the basic sliders. If a particular photo really enthralls me I will make some virtual copies and try out different looks for the photo with presets and varied sliders.

### 5. Export

Again depending on the intended viewer, I will use filters to show only the photos I'd like to publish. Often just the double marked (flagged and color labeled) photos are shown. If it is someone that wants to see "everything" I will create a collection to put the best of images first and then the rest of the images afterwards. I then export to JPG in a preview size to load to SmugMug for review.

### 6. Archival

Once I have finished working with a particular project, I go through a few steps to archive my images.

- a. First I delete any of the unflagged photos at this point. They weren't useful up to now, they are not going to be useful to me down the road.
- b. I export a "preview" folder of the images I have kept as a subfolder of the overall project. These are 1200px on the long side at 75% quality. These are for quick finding/review in OS or image viewer.
- c. I export the folder as a catalog as a sub-folder of the overall project. This keeps a history of all my edits for the RAW images. I also make sure all the settings have been saved to the DNG files (select all and hit save).
- d. I remove the project from my working LR catalog. This is where I likely differ from most. I do not keep a master catalog of all or large amounts of my photos.
- e. If I have any "portfolio worthy" or just simply shots I really like, I copy them into a folder I keep updated in a separate LR catalog.
- f. The project folder is then copied from my working drive to my Drobo long term archive. I also have a second external drive I keep at my office & bring home once a week to make sync & keep a second offsite back up of all my photos.

## SCOTT MYLER

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1. After shooting, I import my shots into Lightroom by choosing Custom Name, Sequence. So if it's a wedding, I'll name it "Sally P 001" for example. I generally choose the Standard Preview, but after reading the others' workflow, I think I will do it differently with my next shoot. I also choose Sharpening for Glossy Paper.
2. In Library, I close all four panels down (F5, F6, F7, F8), scroll through each shot and mark the keepers with the "P" key. If something looks like it's past hope, I will mark it with X. You can do this same thing in the slideshow mode too.
3. I then go into Develop and begin editing the flagged images. There are times that I will compare shots (C) or go into the gallery view (G) to pick like exposures that need help, make the edits to exposure, vibrancy, etc... choose the like shots and Sync them. I have found Sync to be a life/timesaver.

I do use presets and find them useful for my style of editing, though I think it is easy to go overboard, so I try to keep them to a minimum.

When I come across a shot I really like, I will take it into Photoshop for further editing as a Stacked Copy. After I'm finished editing in Photoshop, I hit Save and go back into Lightroom. I continue that process through all of the flagged images.

4. After I have completed the editing process, I export the images as JPGs to a Folder on my hard drive and to a DVD (this was confusing the first time I tried it). I make two copies of the DVD. If you haven't tried to export to a DVD, the choice is hidden at the top right of the Export screen (on the right side of the header).
5. There are times when I have used the Slideshow module to make a quick Flash slideshow to upload to my site for viewing, but don't do that very often. It's nice having templates available for that.

I look forward to learning from people with more lightroom experience than me. I think it's a great product that has helped my workflow a lot.