

Lightroom Tips and Tricks

Getting the best results from the Spot Removal Tool

By Chuck Palmer

Note to Photoshop users. . . Adobe Camera Raw has similar tools and functions as Adobe Lightroom. You can use many Lightroom tips and tricks in Camera Raw too!

Most Lightroom users know the Spot Removal tool is one the most used tools in Lightroom. This handy tool in the Develop Module can effectively eliminate dust spots and distractions. Although not as powerful as some of the spot correction tools in Photoshop, the Spot Removal tool easily fixes spots and blemishes, and even eliminates an occasional telephone pole if need be! Just select the Spot Removal tool from the tools palate at the top of the right panel in the Develop Module. Click on or click and drag on the distraction you are trying eliminate. Select Clone or Heal mode, and adjust the Feather and the Opacity of the results to your liking. I find the Heal mode of the tool is the most effective most of the time.

If you use this tool and the results of the spot correction looks funny you can force the tool to make another attempt at fixing the spot by just hitting the “/” key. Keep hitting the “/” key until you like the results. Each time you hit the forward slash key, Lightroom finds another sample selection area to fix the spot or blemish. Still don’t like the results? Then take the sample selection process into your own hands by clicking on the selection shape and move it to an area with similar textures, colors, and lighting. Give / key a try the next time you remove spots and blemishes.