

Lightroom Tips and Tricks

Turn out the lights so you can see!

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

Editing and processing images in Lightroom can be both fun, and challenging. Two of the most difficult things about post-processing digital images is selecting your best shot and deciding when to finalize your adjustments. I don't know about you but I sometimes come back the next day and see an image from a whole new perspective. It turns out Lightroom provides you a useful tool to see your image from a new perspective while editing and processing. You just have to toggle the "L" shortcut key to turn off the lights.

While viewing your image in the loupe view in all the major modules, and the grid view in the Library module you can hit the L key to turn off the lights and distractions around the image(s) being viewed. Hit the L key once and your screen brightness will dim significantly all around your image. Hit the L key once more, and the area surrounding your image turns completely black allowing you to clearly see with no distractions! This really comes in handy when selecting, rating, and adjusting your images. Turning out the lights with the L key allows you to focus your eyes on image content, colors, and tones. Toggle the L key one more time to turn your screen back to the normal application view. Give it a try!

Even better, when using the crop tool in the Develop module, hit the L key to darken all the outside desktop distractions and the area of the photo you have currently selected to be cropped out! This makes it very easy to see your final image view before closing out the crop tool and committing to your final crop.

So the next time you want to see your image from a different perspective in Lightroom, try turning out the lights. Hit the L Key on your keyboard!