



The Beginner's Guide to Editing iPhone Photos

Cheat Sheet Materials



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to Stunning iPhone Photos”

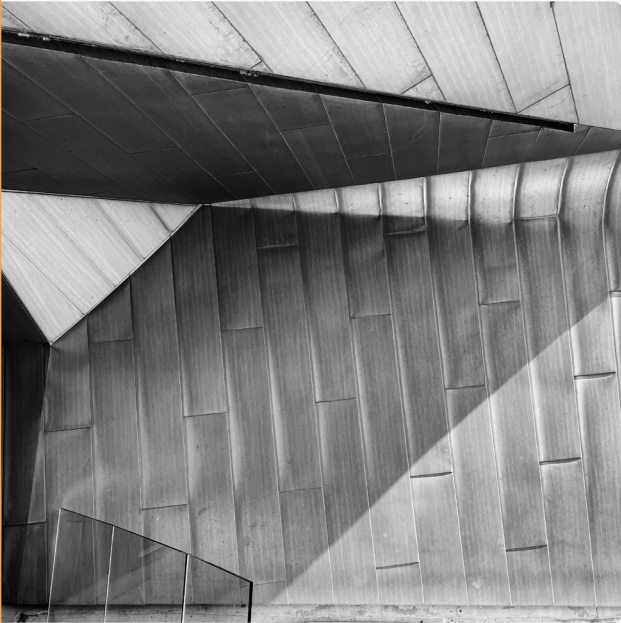
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We make every effort to ensure
accurate, up-to-date and relevant
information. However, it’s important
to note that the iPhone’s technology
is under continuous development.

This course was created using:
iPhone 12 Mini – iOS 16.4

With each new model of the iPhone
and/or iOS update there is the
potential for alterations in the
interface, camera, tools, and other
software-related features. For this
reason, certain information in this
course may fall out of relevancy or
accuracy. For up-to-date information
on the iPhone and its newest features,
please visit: apple.com

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Welcome

Editing is a crucial part of the digital photography process
yet it's something that can intimidate many beginners.

In order to get comfortable with editing it's important to
know the tools, understand the many different editing
processes and practice, practice, practice!

Editing is ultimately a process of problem-solving that is largely
intuitive and does not follow a linear path. There is no recipe that
works in every situation. A strong foundation for your editing process
will support any image editing that you do in the future.

In this course we cover basic photo editing using an iPhone, the
photo editing process in general and the two most popular photo
editing apps on iPhone: Photos and Lightroom mobile.

You are probably most familiar with Photos since it is the default photo
storage, management and editing app on the iPhone. We are going to cover
the Photos app extensively and perhaps reveal some tools and features
you didn't even know that you had! We will also cover the free version
of Lightroom mobile. Though intimidating at first, I make the case that
Lightroom mobile is a great choice for professionals-to-beginners.

This material is designed to prolong the learning experience of our iPhone
Photo Editing Course. The information provided in this material is not
exhaustive but rather a brief overview. For a more in-depth explanation of
these concepts, please look to the course video or slide deck resource.

If you have any questions or comments about the information
provided in this resource, the course video or the slide deck,
please reach out to us and we would be happy to assist you!

Wishing you all the best in your photography adventures,

Jesse Hebert

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Live

The Live section allows the user to set a new “Key Photo”, trim the live photo, or mute the sound of a live photo.

The image must be taken as a live photo in order to access this editing section and make the previously mentioned edits.



Adjust

The Adjust section is the primary editing workspace. This section allows the user to edit the light, colour and detail of their image.

Each tool can be adjusted using a draggable slider which allows for a great degree of control.



Filters

The Filters section allows the user to set one of nine filters on their image. As of iOS16, there are six colour filters and three black and white filters.

The intensity of the filters can be controlled with a draggable slider.



Crop

The Crop section allows the user to crop, rotate, flip and adjust the perspective of an image.

This section also allows users to change the aspect ratio and orientation of an image.

Adjust Section



AUTO

Applies auto-edit to your image.



EXPOSURE

Adjusts brightness of photo. Affects highlights primarily.



BRILLIANCE

When increased, brings out more detail and vibrance in images.



HIGHLIGHTS

Adjusts the brightness of the bright parts in an image.



SHADOWS

Adjusts the brightness of the dark parts in an image.



CONTRAST

Adjusts the range of tones, bright to dark, in an image.



BRIGHTNESS

Adjusts brightness of photo. Affects midtones & shadows primarily.



BLACK POINT

Adjusts the brightness of only the darkest parts in an image.



SATURATION

Globally adjusts colours to be more or less intense.



VIBRANCE

Adjusts intensity of only the less saturated colours in an image and protects skin tones.



WARMTH

Adjusts image to be warmer or cooler.



TINT

Adds a green or magenta tint.



SHARPNESS

Adjusts sharpness of an image by making edges more defined.



DEFINITION

Adjusts the contrast of midtones in an image, improving clarity and texture.



NOISE REDUCTION

Reduces “digital noise” by averaging pixel data.



VIGNETTE

Creates a border around an image (white or black).

Crop Section



STRAIGHTEN

Adjusts the rotation of an image by one degree (-45° to 45°).



VERTICAL PERSPECTIVE

Adjusts the vertical angle of a photo.



HORIZONTAL PERSPECTIVE

Adjusts the horizontal angle of a photo.



ASPECT RATIO

Change aspect ratio and switch between portrait and landscape orientation.



ROTATE

Tap to rotate image 90° (CCW).



FLIP

Tap to flip image horizontally.

Editing Workspace in Photos

Diagram of the workspace in Photos.

EDITING SECTION INDICATOR

UNDO

Tap to undo the most recent edit.

TIP

Tap the image at any point in the editing process to compare the original and edited version.

REDO

Tap to redo the most recent edit.

THREE DOTS

Tap to copy and paste edits between separate photos, revert an edited image back to its original state, or change the date, time, or location of the image's metadata.

MARKUP

Tap to write or draw on an image.

This feature allows users to annotate their image with drawing tools and colours.

Tap the + icon to magnify or add a description, text, shapes or signature.

EDITING TOOLS

This is where the editing tools and effects for each section will appear. Scroll to reveal more.

The icon in the centre of the interface will be affected. The name of the tool will appear above its icon.

A draggable slider will appear below that allows control over the selected tool/effect.

AUTO

Cancel

CANCEL

Tap to discard edits.

Done

DONE

Tap to save edits.

ALTERNATE EDITING SECTION

Editing Tools in Lightroom

Description of the editing sections and tools within Lightroom mobile.

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Crop

Crop

The Live section allows the user to set a new “Key Photo”, trim the live photo, or mute.



Presets

Presets

The Live section allows the user to set a new “Key Photo”, trim the live photo, or mute.



Auto

Auto

The Live section allows the user to set a new “Key Photo”, trim the live photo, or mute.



Light

Light

The Live section allows the user to set a new “Key Photo”, trim the live photo, or mute.



Color

Color

The Live section allows the user to set a new “Key Photo”, trim the live photo, or mute.



Effects

Effects

The Live section allows the user to set a new “Key Photo”, trim the live photo, or mute.



Detail

Detail

The Live section allows the user to set a new “Key Photo”, trim the live photo, or mute.



Optics

Optics

The Live section allows the user to set a new “Key Photo”, trim the live photo, or mute.



Versions

Versions

The Live section allows the user to set a new “Key Photo”, trim the live photo, or mute.

Crop Section



TOGGLE ORIENTATION

Tap to switch the orientation between landscape and portrait.



TOGGLE LOCKED/FREE CROP

Toggle between locked crop (uniform crop) and free crop mode.



STRAIGHTEN

Tap to automatically straighten the horizon of an image.



ASPECT RATIO

Alter the aspect ratio of an image to a preset or custom dimension.



ROTATE

Tap to rotate the image 90° (CCW).



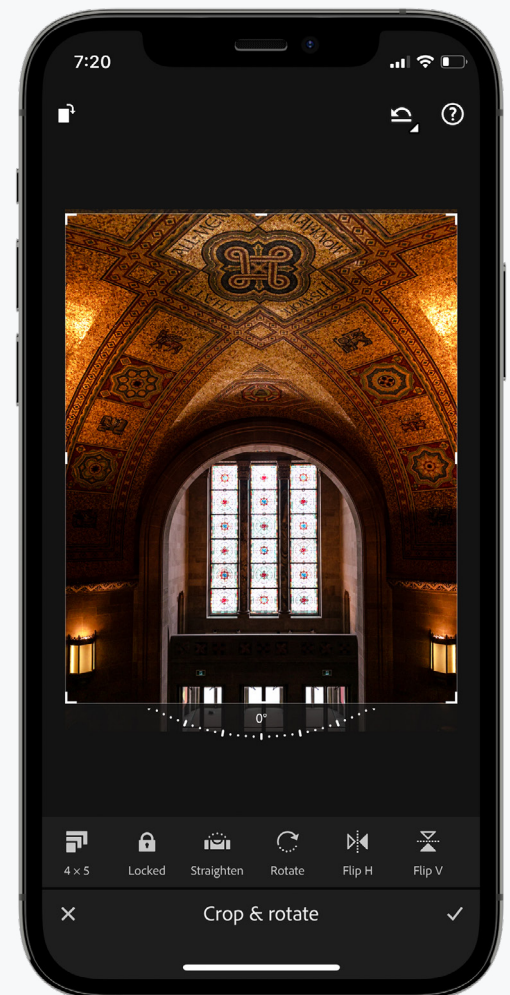
FLIP H

Tap to flip image horizontally.



FLIP V

Tap to flip image vertically.



Light Section

EXPOSURE

Globally adjusts brightness of photo.

CONTRAST

Adjusts the range of tones, bright to dark, in an image.

HIGHLIGHTS

Adjusts the brightness of the bright parts in an image.

SHADOWS

Adjusts the brightness of the dark parts in an image.

WHITES

Adjusts the brightness of the brightest whites in an image.

BLACKS

Adjusts the brightness of the darkest blacks in an image.

CURVE

Tap this to open the tone curve tool. This tool allows for a great amount of control over the tonal values in an image.

Detail Section

SHARPENING

Adjusts the edge definition of an image.

RADIUS (SHARPENING)

Adjusts the size of the details the Sharpening adjustment is applied to.

DETAIL (SHARPENING)

Adjusts how much high-frequency (fine detailed) information is sharpened.

MASKING (SHARPENING)

Controls an edge mask for the Sharpening adjustment to be limited to.

NOISE REDUCTION

Reduces luminance noise which appears in images taken in low-light conditions.

COLOR NOISE REDUCTION

Reduces colour noise which appears in images taken in low-light conditions.

Editing Tools in Lightroom Cont'd

Description of the editing sections and tools within Lightroom mobile.



Crop

Crop

The Live section allows the user to set a new “Key Photo”, trim the live photo, or mute.



Presets

Presets

The Live section allows the user to set a new “Key Photo”, trim the live photo, or mute.



Auto

Auto

The Live section allows the user to set a new “Key Photo”, trim the live photo, or mute.



Light

Light

The Live section allows the user to set a new “Key Photo”, trim the live photo, or mute.



Color

Color

The Live section allows the user to set a new “Key Photo”, trim the live photo, or mute.



Effects

Effects

The Live section allows the user to set a new “Key Photo”, trim the live photo, or mute.



Detail

Detail

The Live section allows the user to set a new “Key Photo”, trim the live photo, or mute.



Optics

Optics

The Live section allows the user to set a new “Key Photo”, trim the live photo, or mute.



Versions

Versions

The Live section allows the user to set a new “Key Photo”, trim the live photo, or mute.

Color Section

B&W TOGGLE

Converts image to black and white. After converting, the Mix tool can be used to adjust the luminance of certain colours.

GRADING

Adds a colour cast to separate channels: shadows, midtones, highlights and global.

MIX

Control the hue, saturation and luminance of individual colours.

EYE PICKER

Tap to select a custom white point.

TEMP

Adjusts the colours in an image to be more yellow or blue (warmer or cooler).

TINT

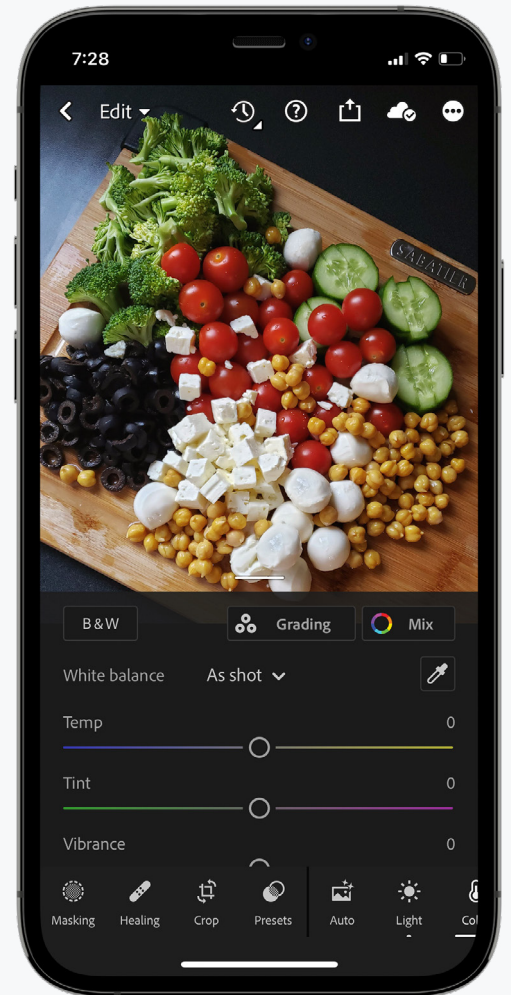
Adds a green or magenta tint.

VIBRANCE

Adjusts the intensity of only the less saturated colours in an image. Also protects skin tones.

SATURATION

Globally adjusts the intensity of the colours in an image.



Effects Section

TEXTURE

Smooths or accentuates texture details.

CLARITY

Adjusts the contrast of an image's midtones.

DEHAZE

Controls the amount of haze or apparent “fogginess” in an image.

GRAIN

Creates a stylistic grain effect similar to that of a film photograph.

SIZE (GRAIN)

Adjusts the size of the grain particle.

ROUGHNESS (GRAIN)

Adjusts the regularity of the grain particles.

VIGNETTE

Applies a dark or light border around an image.

MIDPOINT (VIGNETTE)

Adjusts the amount the vignette extends from the border of the image.

ROUNDNESS (VIGNETTE)

Adjusts the shape of the vignette to be more circular or more oval.

FEATHER (VIGNETTE)

Adjusts the softening of the vignette's edges.

HIGHLIGHTS (VIGNETTE)

Adjusts the highlight preservation when the vignette is negative (dark).

Optics Section

REMOVE CHROMATIC ABERRATION

Automatically corrects blue-yellow and red-green fringes in an image.

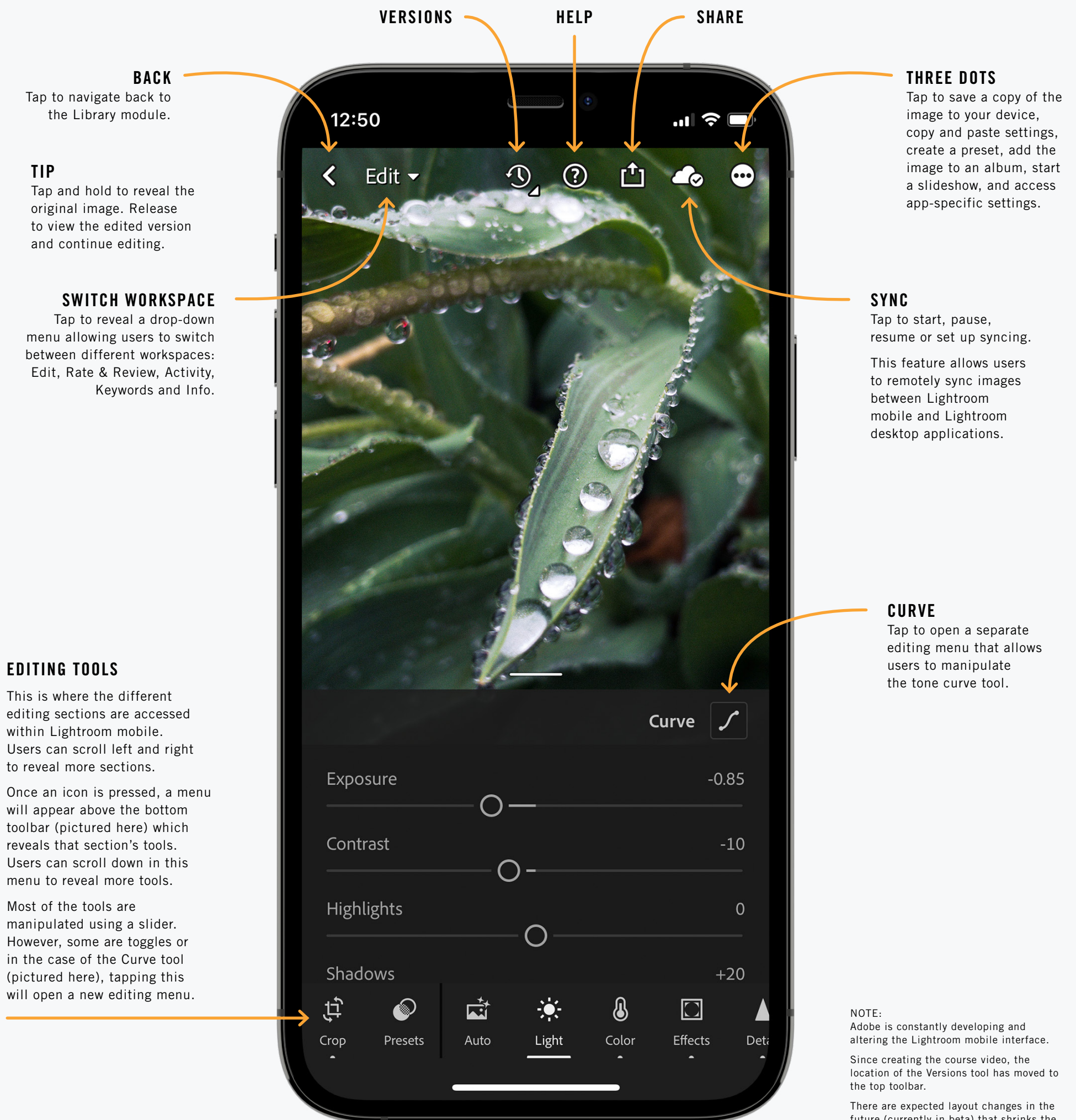
ENABLE LENS CORRECTION

Detects the lens an image is taken with and automatically corrects barrel distortion.

Editing Workspace in Lightroom

Diagram of the workspace in Lightroom mobile.

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NOTE:
Adobe is constantly developing and altering the Lightroom mobile interface. Since creating the course video, the location of the Versions tool has moved to the top toolbar.

There are expected layout changes in the future (currently in beta) that shrinks the bottom toolbar from 15 options to five. The current 15 tools will be distributed between these five sections in an effort to simplify the interface.

Pin-Point Accurate Tones (Tone Curve)

Overview of the tone curve tool found in Lightroom mobile.

tone curve

The tone curve tool in Lightroom mobile is arguably the most powerful tool available in the application. The tone curve tool allows users to visually manipulate the tones in their image, allowing for a great degree of flexibility and control.

Once opened, you will see a graph overlayed on top of your image with a line stretching from the bottom left corner to the top right corner.

The x axis of the graph represents the “input brightness” or the original tonal values present in your image. The bottom of the graph represents the darkest values and the top of the graph represents the brightest values.

The y axis of the graph represents the “output brightness” or the values that you are altering your tones to. The left of the graph represents the darkest values and the right of the graph represents the brightest values.

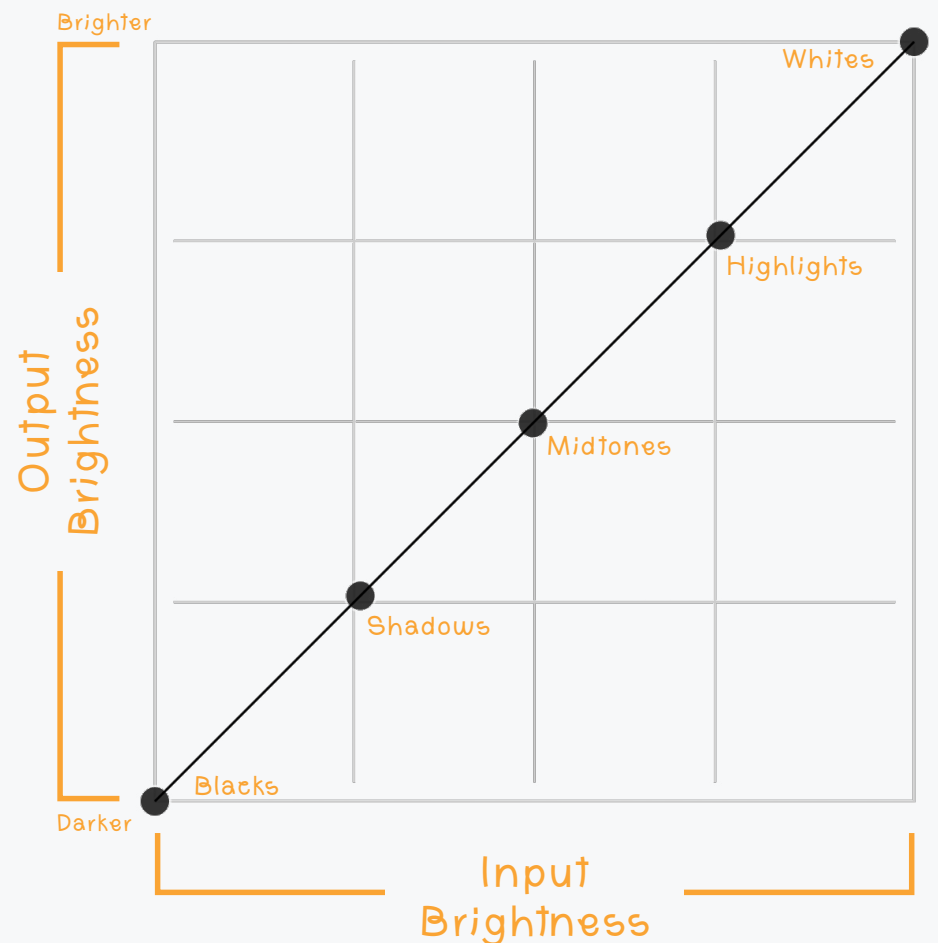
Using the tone curve tool is as simple as tapping to add a point and dragging to an area on the graph.

For instance, if I wanted to brighten just the midtones of my image, then I would tap the line in the middle of the graph and drag the point up. In doing so, the shadow area and highlight area of the line would also lift. To counteract this, I can add points in both the shadows and highlights area of the graph and drag down to darken.

Below you can see an example of the most popular way to use the tone curve tool: the S-Curve.

The first example increases the contrast by darkening the shadows and brightening the highlights. The smooth S-Curve allows for a smooth gradation of tones across the image

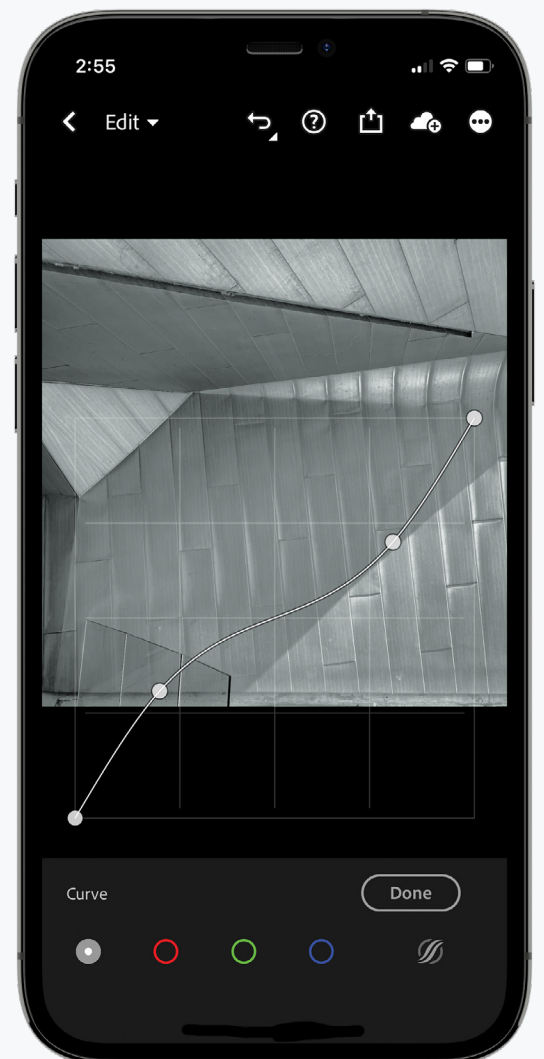
The second example decreases the contrast by brightening the shadows and darkening the highlights.



Original Image



S-Curve Increasing Contrast



S-Curve Decreasing Contrast

7 Editing Processes

Description and example images of the most common editing processes.

IMAGE SELECTION

The first and, perhaps, the most crucial step in the photo editing process. Keep an open mind when sorting through a batch of images. It can help to slowly shrink a large batch down to the good ones, then the best ones and finally the few stand out images.



CROPPING

This is a chance to re-compose your image! Through cropping, you can refine the overall balance and composition of the image. Cropping to certain aspect ratios can open up new compositional techniques.



GEOMETRY

This editing process stretches the pixels in an image to effectively alter the perceived angle of an image. Adjusting the horizontal and vertical perspective is a common practice in architecture and street photography.



WHITE BALANCE

This editing process removes unrealistic colour casts, so that objects which appear white in person are rendered white in your photo. RAW images allow you to fully alter white balance in editing.



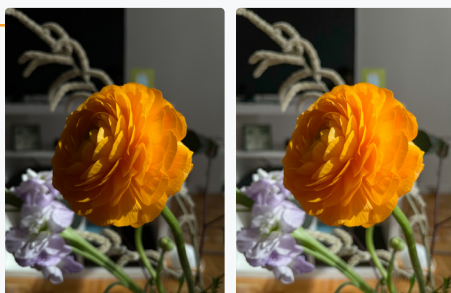
EXPOSURE CORRECTION

This is a process of correcting the exposure of an image so that there is adequate detail across the spectrum of highlight, midtone and shadow. Slight under or over exposure can work as a creative tool when used appropriately.



DYNAMIC RANGE

By darkening the highlights and brightening the shadows of an image, you can increase the perceived dynamic range. This process will bring out more detail across the spectrum of highlight, midtone and shadow in an image.



COLOUR CORRECTION

This is a process of adjusting the colours in your image to better match what they look like naturally. Skin tones are perhaps the most important consideration when colour correcting—you want natural-looking skin tones!



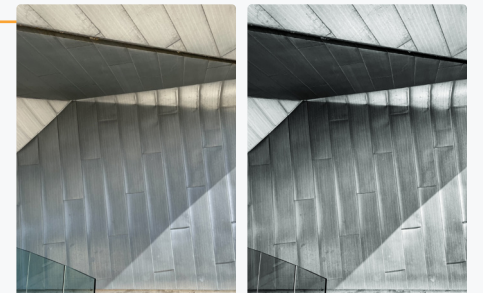
COLOUR GRADING

This process edits colours to give them a stylistic look. Colour Grading tools will commonly tint the highlights, midtones and shadows separately. This process is great for creating a certain mood, to introduce colour contrast or to create a signature look.



BLACK AND WHITE

Black and White processing desaturates all colours in an image. This process allows you to explore tonal contrast and dynamic range much more. Black and White processing can include subtle tints of colour.



DETAIL

This process encompasses tools that use localized contrast in order to enhance or soften the details of an image. Be careful not to over-sharpen edges!



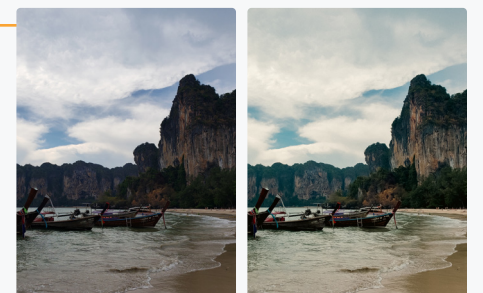
EFFECTS

Any tool that has a more specialized or particular use-case is generally considered as part of this process. The most common tools include: grain, vignette and noise reduction.



FILTERS/PRESETS

Filters or Presets are pre-made editing templates. This is a great place to start an edit. A great practice when using filters/presets is to scale the intensity in order to blend the effect into the image subtly.



Editing Tips & Tricks

List of the most important photo editing lessons.



CROP TO RE-COMPOSE

The importance of cropping cannot be over-stated! This is a second chance to re-compose your image and should be done carefully. Consider how your crop can fine-tune the balance and composition of your image.



RECOVER HIGHLIGHT & SHADOW

Highlight recovery is typically not possible with JPEG images. Shadow recovery, on the other hand, is usually quite successful. By recovering or brightening shadows, you can bring a lot more detail into your image.



USE CONTRAST EFFECTIVELY

Contrast can work wonders to make a dull image POP and focus the attention on the subject of an image. If the light is too **dull**– increase the contrast. If the light is too **harsh**– decrease the contrast.



THINK ABOUT COLOUR

Good colour is usually a matter of personal taste but start to think about colour cohesion and colour contrast when editing your images. Understanding basic colour theory can help to make effective colour choices in editing.



ADJUST WHITE BALANCE

It's very common for auto white balance systems to render images too warm or cold or with a noticeable green or magenta tint. Before applying any colour edits, it's a good practice to adjust white balance to a neutral point.



LESS IS MORE

There is no shortage of editing tools to use on our photos but that doesn't mean we should be using all of them all of the time! Practice restraint and constantly check back on your un-edited photo to see if you've gone too far with an edit.



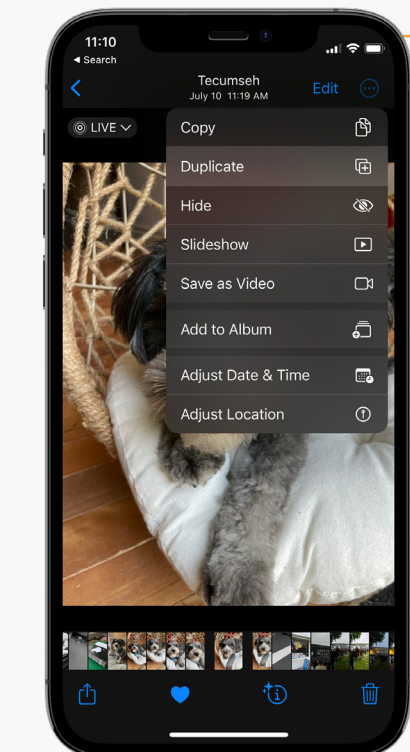
START WITH PRESETS/FILTERS

Filters/Presets are a great place to start an edit. They're a quick way to achieve a certain look and can automate a lot of the editing process we previously discussed. Just be sure to fine-tune the intensity.



EXPERIMENT

Have fun and enjoy the editing process! Sometimes it's fun to push the boundaries of these tools beyond their intended purpose. Don't be afraid to "mess things up" every now and then!

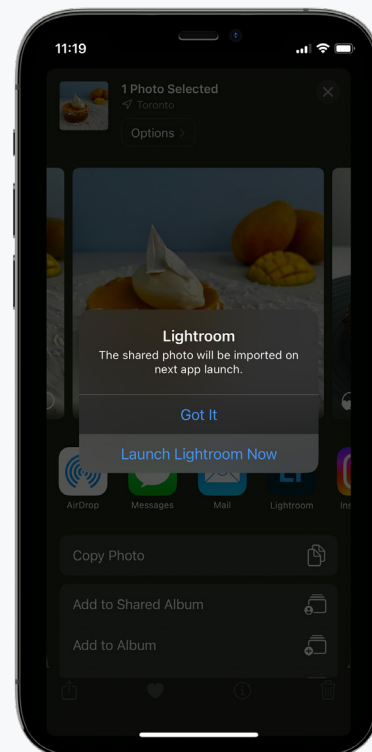


ADEQUATE SCREEN BRIGHTNESS

In order to edit an image to the best of our ability we need to see it properly first. Editing in bright sun where the screen is hard to see or on a screen with a low brightness setting is not ideal.

NON-DESTRUCTIVE EDITING

It is a great practice to always keep an original, un-edited version of your photos and only edit on copies of those photos. This process allows you to freely experiment and always retain an original copy of your image.



USE PHOTOS AND LIGHTROOM

My common workflow is to: sort and select my images in Photos, import to Lightroom, fully edit my photo(s) in Lightroom, save images back to Photos, and share from Photos.

DEVELOP A WORKFLOW

As you edit, consider your workflow from start to finish and see if any efficiencies can be made along the way. Slowly but surely, your workflow will develop and solidify, hopefully, into a streamlined process.

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