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Adobe Photoshop Camera Raw - Shortcuts, Tips & Tricks!

The keyboard shortcuts that you know and love in Photoshop are the same in the Adobe Camera Raw (ACR) dialog box (when applicable). For example, Command (Mac) / Control (Win) + (plus) zooms in and (minus) zooms out. The other tool shortcuts are:

Z   Zoom tool

H   Hand tool

I   White Balance tool (shift can temporarily activate the White balance tool - unless the crop tool is active)

S   Color Sampler tool

C   Crop tool

A   Straighten tool

L/R Rotate image left/right (Command (Mac) / Control (Win) + "[" or "]" will also rotate the selected images.)

Here are an additional dozen tips and shortcuts that I find extremely useful.

1. When starting from Bridge, if you choose File > Open in Camera Raw (or Command (Mac) / Control (Win) + R) to open Raw files, you are able to edit the files in the ACR dialog with out having Photoshop open. In addition, when finished making your changes, the default button is "Done", and clicking it takes you back to Bridge. I like this feature so much that I set the Preferences > Advanced - "Double-click Edits Camera Raw Settings in Bridge" so that double clicking a Raw file in Bridge also edits in Bridge (without launching Photoshop).

2. Shift-double clicking on a Raw image in the Bridge will bypass the ACR dialog, applying either settings that have been saved with the file, or if there are no setting applied, opening the file with the camera defaults.

3. When entering a custom ratio for the Crop tool, selecting a measurement (inches for example) and combining that with a resolution (entered in the Workflow Options) allows for the creation of an image at a defined size (pixel count). Also worth noting, the Workflow Options also have the option to open a raw file directly into Photoshop as a smart object.

4. Command (Mac) / Control (Win) + U applies the Auto Adjustment to an image.

5. To delete a single Color Sampler, position the cursor over the Color Sampler while holding the Option (Mac) / Alt (Win) key. When the icon changes to a pair of scissors, click to "cut" (delete) the Color Sampler. Holding down the Shift key temporarily toggles the Color Sampler tool to the White Balance Eyedropper.

6. Option (Mac) / Alt (Win) drag the Exposure or Shadows sliders to display any clipped areas in the preview. "U" will toggle on and off the Highlight clipping and "O" toggles on and off the shadow clipping.

7. To select multiple points in the Point Curves panel, click the first point; Shift-click additional points. Command (Mac) / Control (Win) -click in the preview area to add point to curve in Curves panel. Use the arrow keys to move selected point in Curves panel 1 unit (add the shift key to move the point 10 units).

8. Set all of the different sliders in as many panels as you desire, then choose "Save New Camera Raw Defaults". Then, every time you open Raw file from that camera you're settings will be the way that you want them! You can even choose to set the camera defaults specific to camera serial numbers and ISO setting (through the preferences for ACR). While in the Preferences decide if you want sharpening to preview only or be applied to the image upon open.

9. Don't forget that you can use the same shortcut keys to rate (stars) and label (colors) images while in ACR, just as you can in Bridge.

10. Delete (Mac) / Backspace (Win) in ACR marks the image to be deleted (with an x in the thumbnail filmstrip) when the dialog is exited. Tap the delete/backspace key to toggle it off (keep the image).

11. Holding down the Option (Mac) / Alt (Win) key changes the Save, Open and Cancel options:
"Save..." changes to "Save" (with out the ellipse) which saves the image bypassing the Camera Raw Save Options dialog (it automatically uses the last settings).
"Open" changes to "Open Copy" which opens a copy of the image. This would be useful for opening multiple copies of the same file processed in different ways.
"Cancel" changes to "Reset" which reverts the image settings to the beginning of the session (not the camera defaults, the image settings - although this might be the same if it's the first time the image is opened in camera Raw).

12. Toggling the Preview option on and off only toggles any changes that were made in the active panel. When you want to preview all changes made to an image (in all of the panels) select the Presets panel and toggle the Preview option.