

Raw to jpg Workflow

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It was an impassioned plea that rang out in our first Lightroom class, "How do I just get from one RAW file to a jpeg in Lightroom?" The room was galvanized; they all wanted to know the same thing, *and*, they applauded the bravery!

Well, here's my work environment...

I've got a USB 2 card reader plugged into a studio computer. In the background, between computer and monitor, there's that 2 TB external hard drive. In the lower right-hand corner, there's a Wacom tablet and pressure sensitive pen, so I can create a fine art image like Ship Rock! Oops; maybe it's okay I had to use the camera to take this shot - rather than put the camera in.

Let's take a look at how to use Lightroom in a primary Import mode in the Library module...

Importing Raw Files into Lightroom

If Lightroom is up, when I take a card out of the camera and put it in the reader, Lightroom sits silent. In the Library module, I click on the Import button. Here's the 8 step process I used to bring in 3 raw files from the CF card.



1. I'm importing from a CF card, clicking the right pointing arrow lets me find the USB card in my equipment directory.
2. My main raw image is on an external source. So, I want to Copy that raw file to the hard drive.
3. I created a folder on my desktop called 2011Raw_to_jpg. Choose folder.
4. I've got 3 raw photos; 1 from class and 2 more of my work station. With checkmarks, I bring them all in. If I didn't want one, I'd uncheck it.
5. I've selected a Metadata template for a Copyright on each Import image.
6. I know what I want to put so I can find those images *years* from now.
7. I've got to tell Lightroom where that desktop folder is.
8. If I'm interested, I can ascertain how many files I'm bringing in and how big they are.
9. Okay, now **IMPORT** those raw files into Lightroom!

Check Out the Import



Lightroom can be naughty; it talks back. The big problem - how I interpret what it sez?

In the Library module, the left panel says I've just Imported 3 files. For this case, I'm looking at Loupe view (E) of the raw file I want to convert to JPEG.

Quickly, I check; did Keywords get put in Lightroom catalog? Yes...

One more check; What about Copyright?

Yes... all the information is there from my preliminary steps!

If not, I'll do a much better job next time...

Why?

Well, this is a learning process. But, after a while, you've talked yourself the right steps...

Then, it's just a matter of discipline!

Crop the Raw File



Do you guys recall my comment, "Always work with a virtual copy (**Ctrl-**). It's like working with layers in Photoshop. There is a point where you may want to come back and go up a different development path, so that's a very, very convenient workflow choice!" Let's work on a Virtual Copy in the Develop mode (**D**).

1. Here, I made a virtual copy.

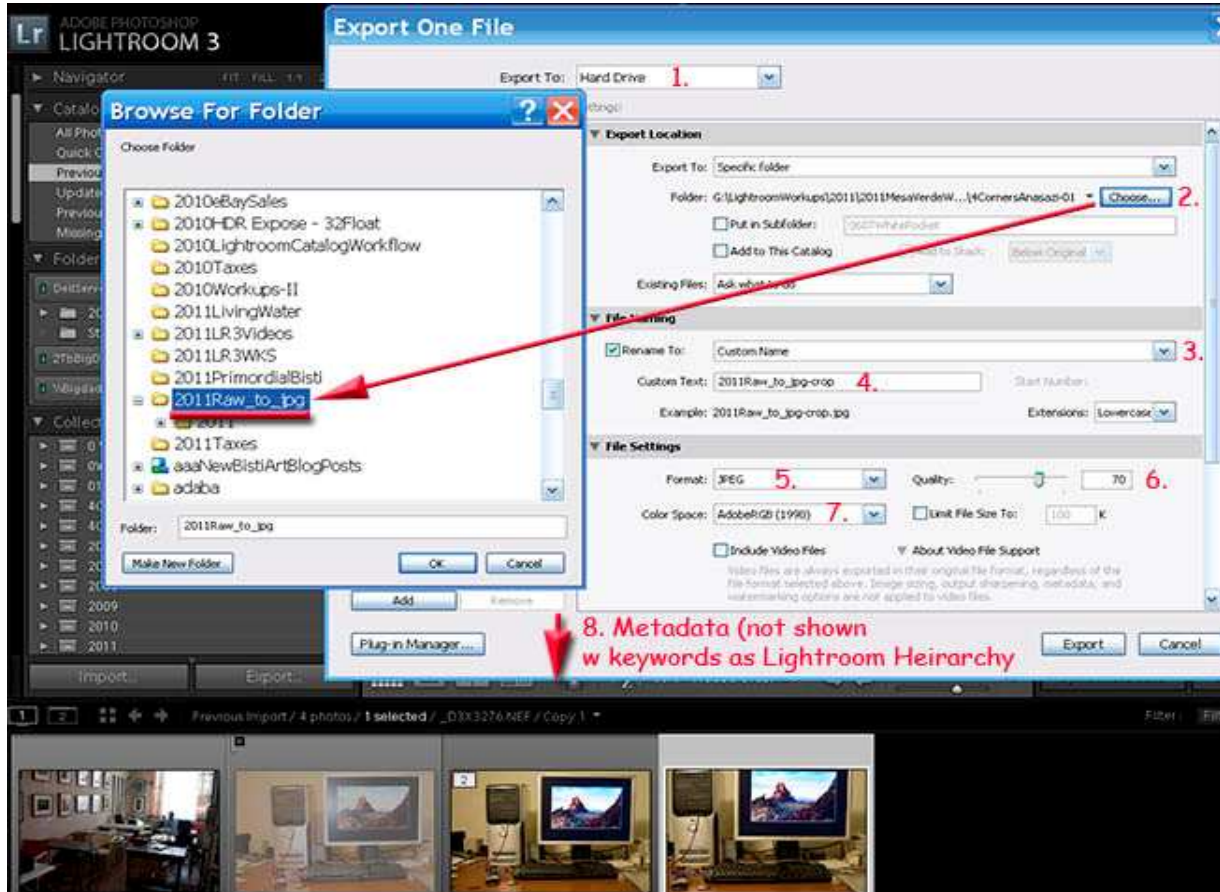
Notice, that just above the original copy it says `_D3X3276.NEF/Copy 1`. That's the actual raw file name I want. Where it says virtual copy, that's Copy 1 part of that file name.

2. Click the Crop button.

3. Choose the Crop space so you include only the appropriate image. Just drag little white lines or corners until you've focused on Crop area.

4. When you hit the Close button, you've cropped the image!

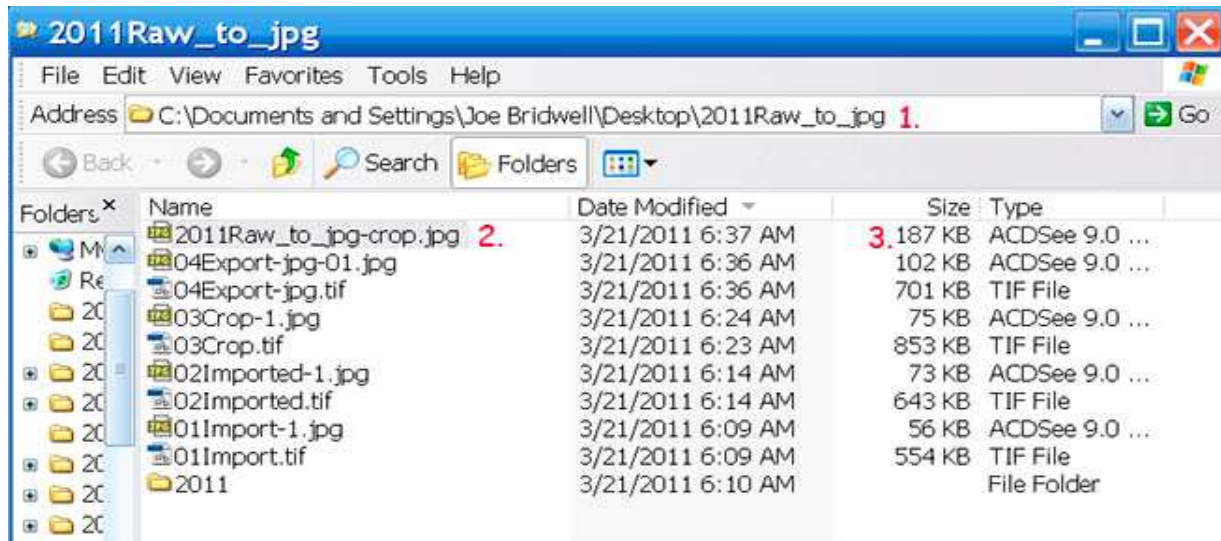
Export That Raw File as a JPEG



Drat; "Now I've got to learn a complex dialog box... Export File to Hard Drive!"

1. Make sure you're exporting to Hard Drive in the drop-down menu.
2. Choose lets you look anywhere on a system to Export that raw file. In this example, we're choose 2011Raw _to_jpg as a desktop folder.
3. Oops, I violated my own rule. I gave the file a custom name.
4. BUT I forgot to include camera shot number in the name. Oh well...!
5. Well, now I'm down to the hard part; I want a JPEG.
6. Quality lets me decide how much space I want to use on the hard drive. Here, I chose 70%. If I were submitting to ELCC, I might use 100%.
7. I want to save that JPEG in Adobe 1998 RGB color space.
8. Our screenshot wouldn't let us put the whole dialog box in. Nevertheless, under Metadata, check Export with Keywords as Lightroom hierarchy.
9. WOWSER; when I hit Export, a new JPEG file magically appears in that fabled desktop folder.

Bottom Line - Here's the JPEG I Was Working UP



So what do we know about this jpg file?

1. It's on my desktop. There's a specific path to 2011Raw_to_jpg folder.
2. It's called 2011Raw_to_crop.jpg
3. It's 187 kB in size
4. That's actually 10 x 7 inches in space!

So you see, this is how I simplify getting images from a CF card into a keyworded, copyrighted, Lightroom folder.



I must admit; without Scott Kelby's book, it would be much more difficult for me to learn Lightroom. With Kelby's book, every time my brain fails, I turned back to his lucid explanation, then keep on chuggin...

Next time, we're going to talk about getting it from a laptop as a project catalog to the central catalog on an external hard drive on the studio computer...

Hey guys, thanks for coming! Let me know if there's any way I can help you?
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