

How To Speed Up Lightroom



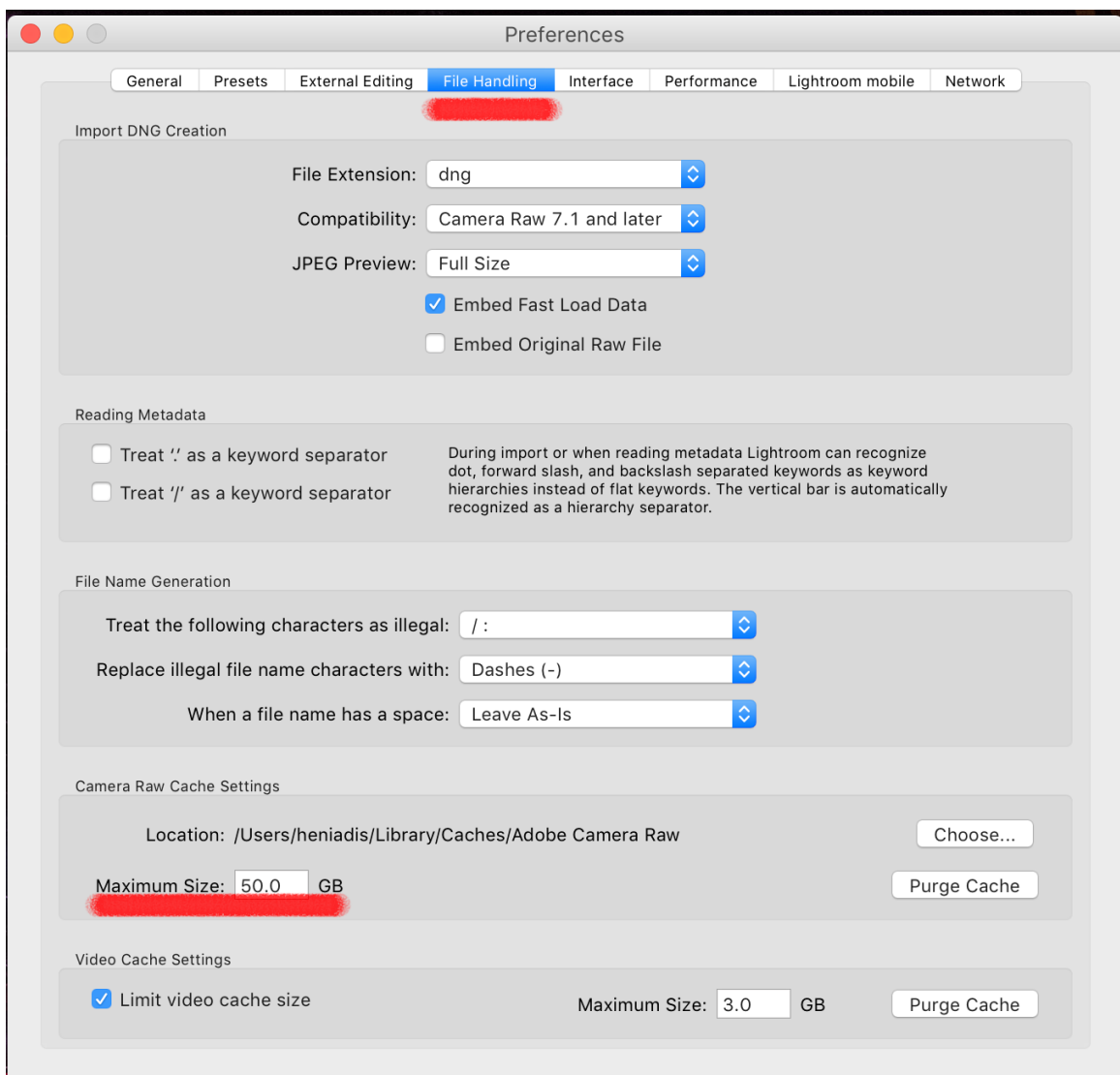
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Optimizing Lightroom Preferences

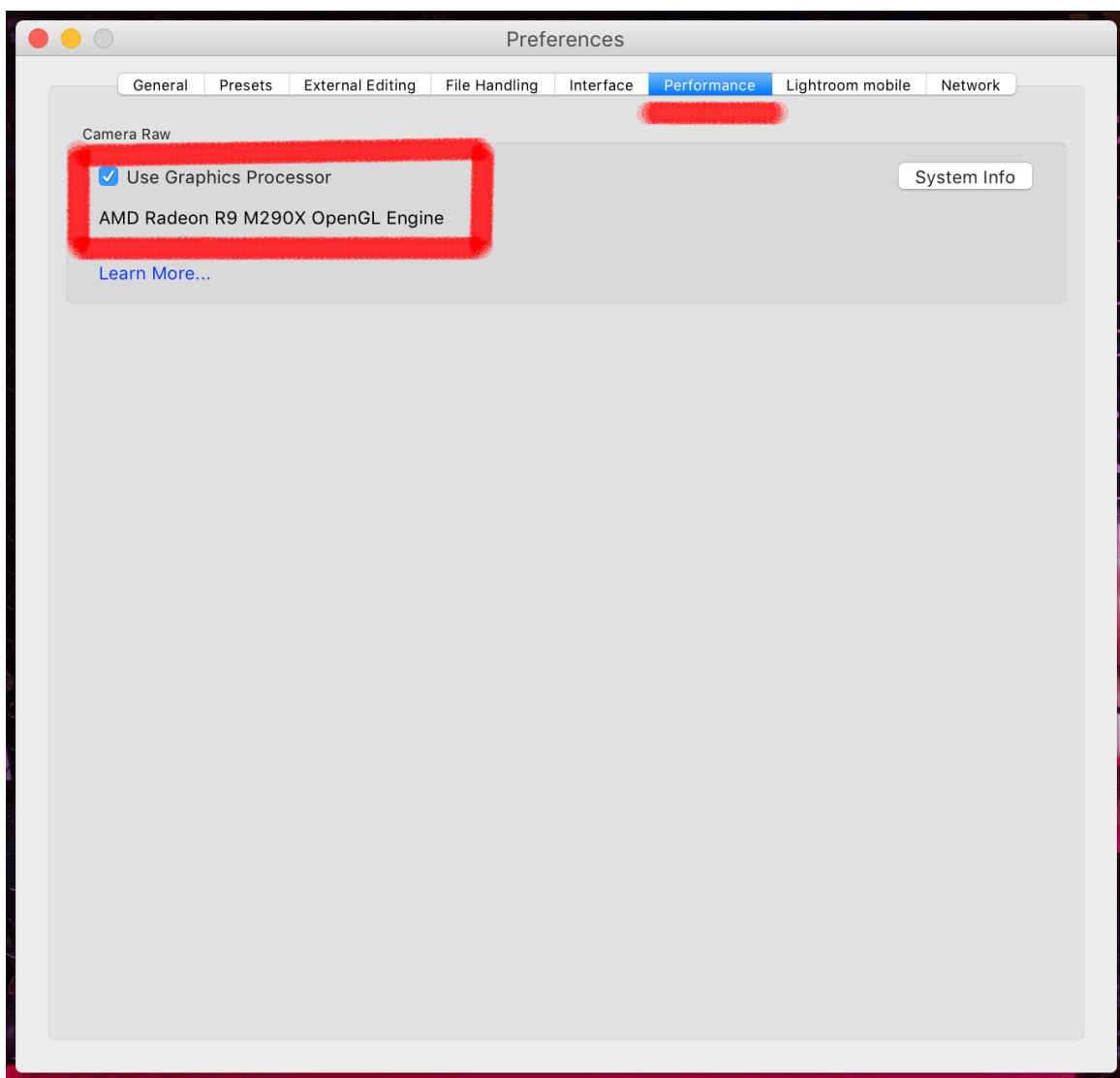
Increase Your Camera RAW Cache

1. Open Lightroom
2. From the menu bar, open the Preferences
 1. Mac: Lightroom > Preferences
 2. Windows: Edit > Preferences
3. In the Preferences window, click the “File Handling” tab
4. Under “Camera RAW Cache Settings” increase the Maximum Size to at least 20 GB.



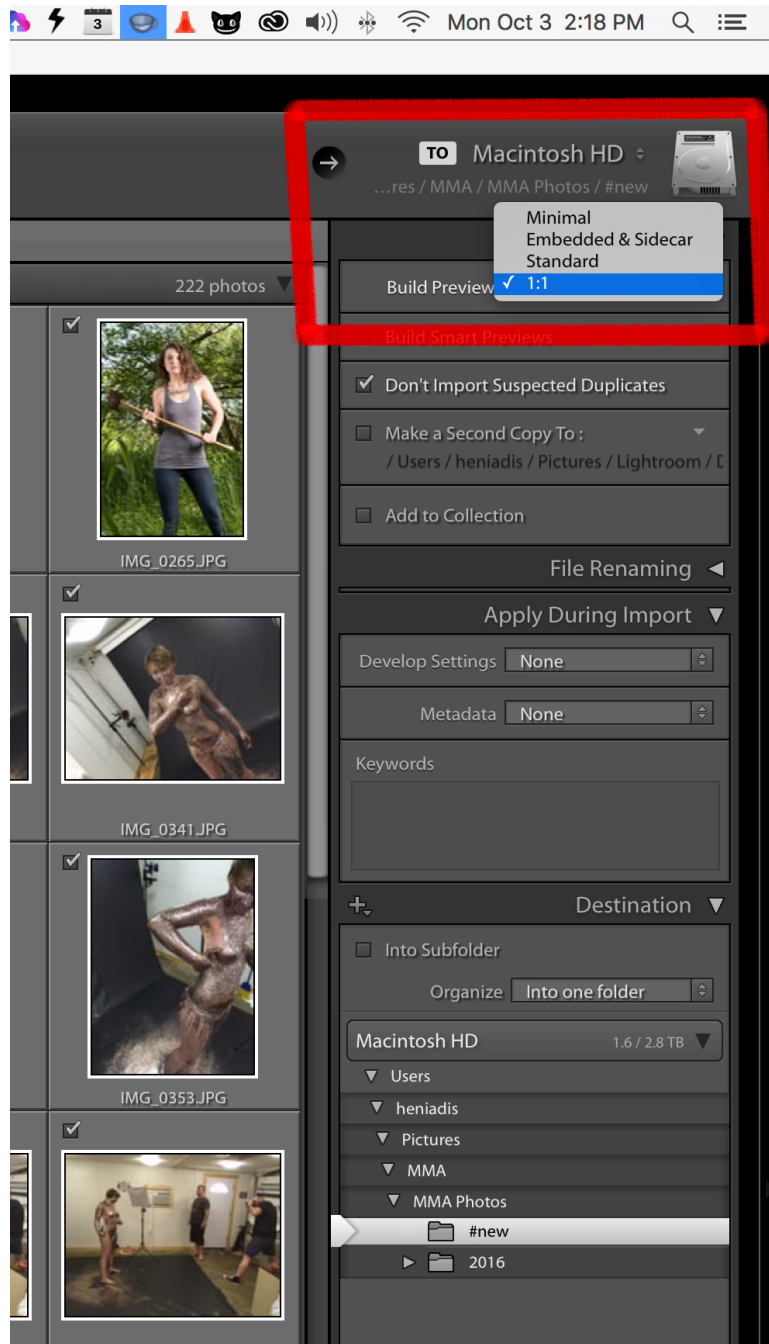
Allow Lightroom To Use Your Graphics Card Processor

1. Open the Preferences (if it's not already open)
2. Navigate to the “Performance” tab
3. Check the “Use Graphics Processor” option



Build Full Size Previews On Import

1. Click the “Import” button to open the Import Window.
2. In the upper right corner of the import window, click the dropdown menu next to “Build Previews”
3. Choose the “1:1” option



Breaking Up Your Catalog

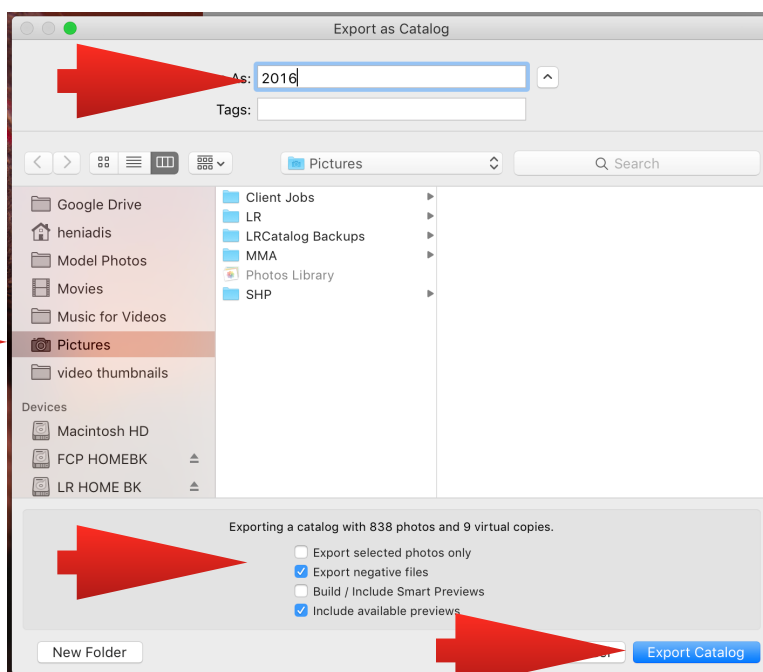
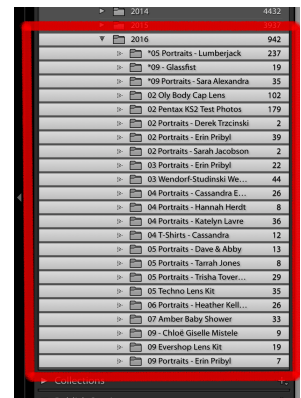
Planning The Breakup

Before you break your catalog up, take a few minutes to decide HOW you're going to break the catalog up so that it's logical, and that you'll still be able to easily find the photos you want when you need them.

How you break your catalog up will depend entirely on your unique photo organization system, so make the breakout catalogs consistent with your system.

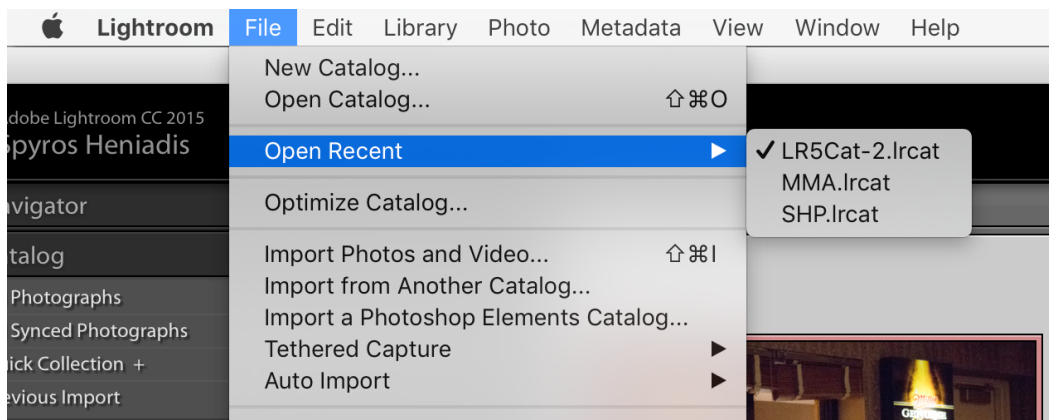
Exporting A Section Of Your Main Catalog Into A New Catalog

1. Select all the folders that contain photos to be exported into the new catalog. In the example to the right, I've selected all photos from 2016 to go into a new "2016" catalog.
2. In the menu bar click "File" and then "Export as Catalog..."
3. In the export dialog that opens do the following:
 1. Choose the folder for your new catalog (e.g. "Pictures" or "My Pictures")
 2. Name the new catalog. (e.g. "2016")
 3. Set the export options
 1. Uncheck "Export selected photos only"
 2. Check "Export negative files"
 3. Uncheck "Build/Include Smart Previews"
 4. Check "Include available previews"
4. Click "Export Catalog"



Verify The Catalog Export

1. On completion of the export, review any errors in the error log.
 1. The log typically only contains errors related to previews. If this is the case you can dismiss the dialog
 2. If there are other errors in the export process, do not proceed any further. You may need to consult Adobe support for help.
2. Open the new Lightroom catalog to verify the complete export
 1. In the menu bar click File > Open Catalog
 2. In the file browser locate your new catalog file and select it
 3. When prompted to relaunch Lightroom to open the new catalog, click “Relaunch”
3. Review the new catalog for completeness.
4. When satisfied, reopen your original Lightroom Catalog
 1. In the menu bar click File > Open Recent
 2. Click to choose your original catalog from the list
 3. Relaunch Lightroom when prompted.

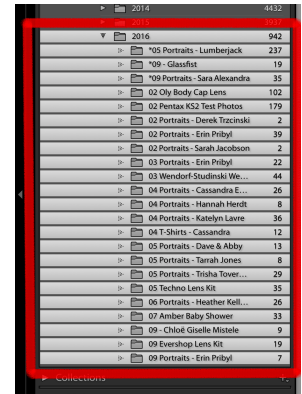
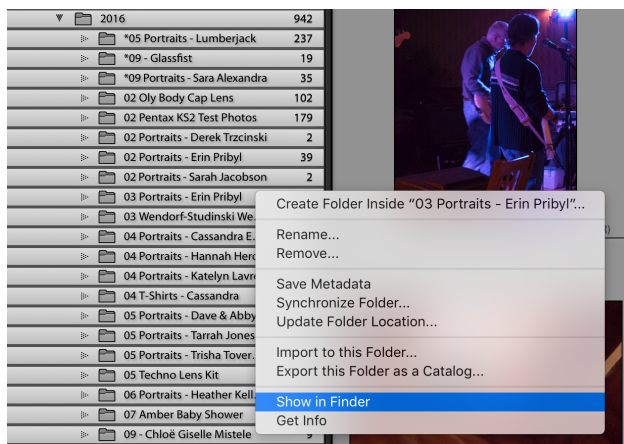


Remove The Photos From The Original Lightroom Catalog

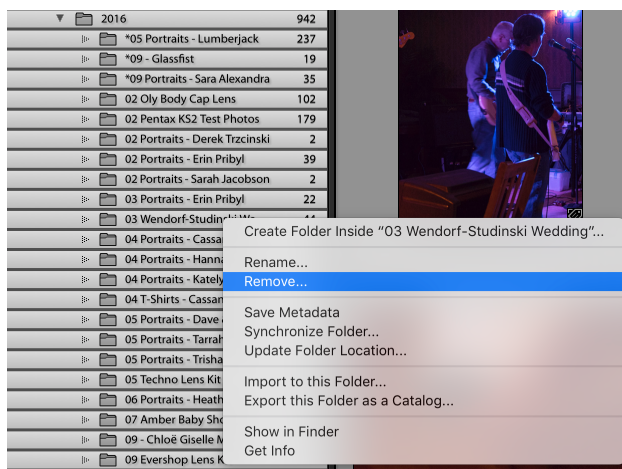
STOP!!!

BEFORE PROCEEDING ANY FURTHER DO A FULL BACKUP OF YOUR ORIGINAL CATALOG AND PHOTOS

1. Seriously. Stop right now and back up your original catalog and photos.
2. With your original Lightroom catalog open, re-select the folders you exported into the new catalog (example at right)
3. Right click on the top level folder of your selection and choose the “Show in Finder” (Mac) or “Show in Windows Explorer” (Win) option. This will open the file browser to the folder location on your computer where the photos are stored. **Do not close this window**



4. Go back to Lightroom and right click the highlighted folders again. This time choose, “Remove”



5. A new dialog will open asking you to confirm the removal of these photos from your Lightroom catalog. This **WILL NOT** delete the photos, it only removes them from your Lightroom catalog. Click “Continue” to remove the photos and folders from Lightroom.



Deleting The Duplicate Photos

IF YOU DID NOT BACK UP YOUR PHOTOS AS INSTRUCTED IN THE PREVIOUS SECTION, PROCEED AT YOUR OWN RISK. I AM NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR THE UNWANTED LOSS OR DELETION OF PHOTOS DUE TO FOLLOWING THESE INSTRUCTIONS.

1. Seriously, if you didn’t back up your photos and catalog in the previous section, anything you lose or delete by mistake is on you.
2. Once the photos are removed from Lightroom, reopen the new catalog you created.
 1. You can find the catalog under File > Open Recent
3. Return to the file explorer window opened in step 2 of the “Verify The Catalog Export” section
4. Delete the folders in the file explorer window that match with the folders in the new catalog in Lightroom.
5. The end!

If you want to create additional catalogs, repeat the steps in the “Breaking Up The Catalog” section of this guide

Conclusion

Thank you very much for taking the time to read this guide. Managing your photos in Lightroom can be a daunting task and I'm glad to be able to help you with that task. And, if you're still struggling with Manual Mode and understanding how your camera works, take a moment to check out my [Guide to Shooting in Manual Mode video course](#). It has everything you need to help you take control of your camera so that you can start taking photos that are so good people will stop scrolling past them on Facebook and Instagram and just stare. [Click here to check it out...](#)

...and then

**GET OUT THERE
AND TAKE
SOME DAMN
PHOTOS!**