



LIGHTROOM EDITING

PRE-SETS [CORE SECTIONS](#) – Here is a streamlined guide



1. Presets: Your Creative Starting Line

Presets are "one-click" filters that apply a predetermined set of edits to your photo. They are a collection of saved editing instructions that instantly change your photo's look.

- **How to use:** Open the Presets panel and hover your mouse over different options to see a live preview on your image.
- **Pro Tip:** After applying a preset, use the **Amount slider** at the top of the panel to dial back the intensity if it looks too heavy-handed.
- **Types:** Use **Recommended** for AI-suggested looks, **Premium** for professional styles, or create **Yours** by saving your own manual edits.
- **Best Use:** Use them for high-volume editing (like wedding shoots) to ensure a consistent "vibe" across every shot.



2. Edit The Foundation of Light and Colour (The Basics)

This is where the heavy lifting happens, primarily through the **Light**, **Colour** and **Effects** tabs.

- **Light Panel:**
 - **Exposure** sets the overall brightness, while **Contrast** pulls the darks and lights apart for more "pop."
 - **Highlights & Shadows** recover lost details (like clouds in a bright sky or textures in dark clothes).
 - **Whites & Blacks** set the absolute "end points" for the brightest and darkest pixels in your image.

- **Colour Panel:**
 - Adjust **Temp** to fix "too blue" or "too orange" shots. Use the **Saturation** slider for a blunt boost in colour, or **Vibrance** for a more natural lift that protects skin tones. **Temp & Tint** fix "white balance" (e.g., removing the yellow cast from indoor lighting).
 - **Vibrance** is smarter than Saturation; it boosts dull colours while protecting skin tones from looking orange.
 - **Effects:**
 - Use **Texture** and **Clarity** to add "punch" or "grit," but use them sparingly to avoid a crunchy, over-processed look.
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3. Crop & Rotate: Perfecting the Frame

This section is for fixing your composition and straightening wonky horizons. More than just cutting edges, this tool fixes the physical structure of your photo.

- **Aspect Ratio:** Choose **1:1** for Instagram, **4:5** for portrait posts, or **16:9** for wide cinematic looks. Use the **lock icon** to keep these proportions fixed while you resize.
 - **Straightening:** Click **Auto** for an instant fix or use the **Angle slider** to manually level the horizon.
 - **Overlays:** Tap 'O' on your keyboard to cycle through guides like the **Rule of Thirds** or **Golden Spiral** to help place your subject perfectly.
 - **Flip/Rotate:** Use the icons at the bottom of the panel to mirror your image or rotate it 90 degrees.
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4. Masking: (Local Adjustments)

Masking lets you "layer" edits onto specific areas without touching the rest of the photo.

- **AI Selections:** Use **Select Subject** or **Select Sky**. Lightroom will automatically find them, allowing you to brighten a person or darken a sunset independently.
- **Linear Gradient:** Best for landscapes; drag it from the top or bottom to smoothly transition an effect (like darkening a foreground). Or use **Radial** to create a custom "spotlight" around a face.
- **Brush:** Manually "paint" an edit onto a specific area, like whitening teeth or sharpening eyes.
- **Range Masks:** These allow you to target areas based only on their **Colour** or **Brightness (Luminance)**—perfect for changing the colour of a specific flower or brightening only the dark trees.



5. Healing & Remove: The Digital Eraser

These tools clean up your image by removing distractions like a digital eraser for distractions.

- **Generative Remove:** This uses AI to "imagine" what should be behind an object you erase, making it the best choice for removing entire people or large objects.
- **Heal vs. Clone:** **Heal** blends the texture and lighting from a donor area to fix small spots (like dust or blemishes). **Clone** makes an exact "copy-paste" of another area, best for fixing complex patterns.



6. Colour Mixer (HSL)

The Mixer allows you to manipulate individual colours (Red, Orange, Blue, etc.) one by one.

- **Hue:** Shifts the colour (e.g., turning a lime green field into a more autumnal orange-yellow)
- **Saturation:** Controls how intense a specific colour is. Use this to desaturate everything but your subject for a dramatic effect.
- **Luminance:** Adjusts the "inner brightness" of a colour. For example, lower the Blue luminance to make a sky look deep and moody.