

Excerpted from

# Photoshop Lightroom Adventure

Mastering Adobe's next-generation tool for digital photographers

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## The Library Module Revealed

At first glance, Lightroom's Library module has similarities to Adobe Bridge and other image "browsers." Scalable previews in the viewing area can be easily sorted, edited, and have keywords and ratings applied. But, as you will see, there is much more to the Library module.

The Library module consists of the view control panel on the left, the activity control panel on the right, and the main viewing window in the middle. *Figure 3-1* The left and right panels are divided into panes with specific functions. Near the bottom of the window is the toolbar and filmstrip. As we learned in Chapter 1, the panels, toolbar, and filmstrip can easily be hidden or, in some cases, resized, maximizing the viewing area.

Let's take a quick look at the basic components of the Library module, see what they do, and then get into specific Library module-related tasks.

### The Left Panel (View Controls)

The left panel consists of the Navigator and other panes through which you can control and refine what is displayed in the main viewing window.

#### The Navigator Pane

The Navigator pane displays the current active selection. *Figure 3-2* (While several images can be *selected* at once, only one image is considered *active*." (See "Selecting Thumbnails in Grid View & Filmstrip," later in this chapter.) Clicking on the image in the Navigator pane immediately takes you from the thumbnail (or Grid) view in the main viewing area into the single-image Loupe view where different magnification levels can be quickly applied. (Press the G key



Figure 3-1



Figure 3-2

**NOTE** It's possible to import and integrate one catalog (or part of a catalog) with another catalog. To do this select File→Import from catalog and navigate to a catalog. After you select open, the Import from Lightroom catalog dialog box will appear, where you can further refine your import options.

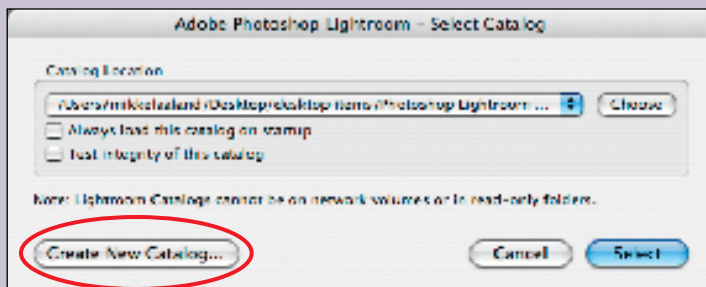


Figure 3-3

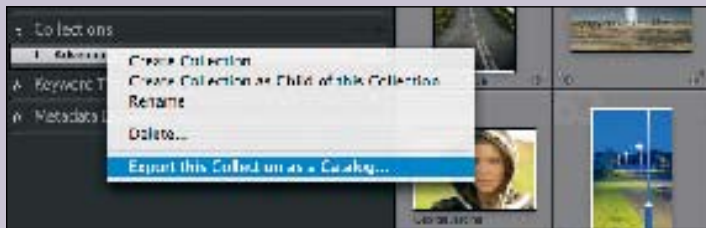


Figure 3-4

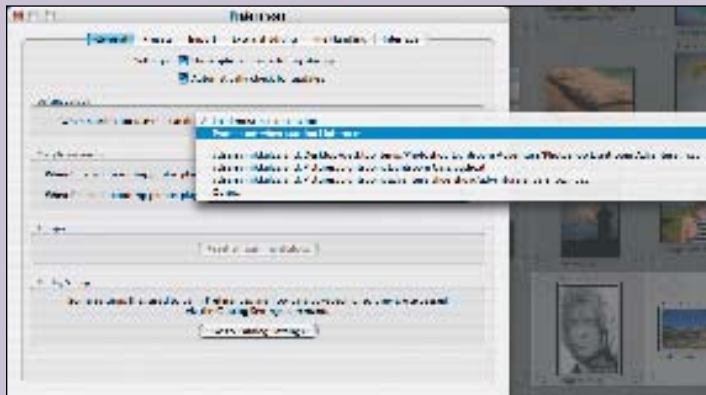


Figure 3-5

## Lightroom Catalogs

Lightroom saves its image database as a *catalog*. (In earlier versions of Lightroom the database was called a *library*.) You can create multiple catalogs, but only one catalog can be open at a time. Catalogs can be created (or integrated with each other) as a backup strategy or as a way of sharing all or parts of a collection of images between, for example, an in-the-field laptop and a desktop unit, or between users of the same computer.

You can create a new catalog while Lightroom is running by selecting File→New Catalog from the menu, or, on startup of the application hold the Option (Alt) key and select Create New Catalog from the Select Catalog dialog box. *Figure 3-3* Name the catalog what you want but be sure to keep, or add if necessary, the .lrcat extension.

Selected images can also be exported as a Catalog (File→Export as Catalog). Collections or Folders located in the left panel can also be exported as a Catalog (Right-click on the Folder or Catalog name and select Export...this Folder as a Catalog from the contextual menu.) *Figure 3-4*

To open an existing catalog, go to File→Open Catalog or File→Open Recent. Choose a catalog, and Lightroom will relaunch and open with the new catalog (after making sure that's what you want to do). You can also hold the Option (Alt) key while launching Lightroom and choose a Catalog from the Select Catalog dialog box. This dialog box will open automatically if you set your Lightroom preferences as shown in *Figure 3-5*.

## Quick Collections

Think of a Quick Collection as a temporary holding area during an edit session. Select a thumbnail and use the B key to place the image in the Quick Collection. Type B again to remove it. Quick Collections can be saved and renamed and then included as a permanent Collection category. (File→Save Quick Collection). *Figure 3-6* To empty a Quick Collection, select File→Clear Quick Collection. To display the contents of a Quick Collection, click on Quick Collection in the Library pane or use the menu command File→Show Quick Collection. If you have set your Library module View Options (View→View Options) to Include Quick Collection Markers, a shaded dot (circled) will appear in the thumbnail, designating its inclusion. *Figure 3-7* Clicking this dot will remove the image from the Quick Collection. Click it again to add it back to the Quick Collection.

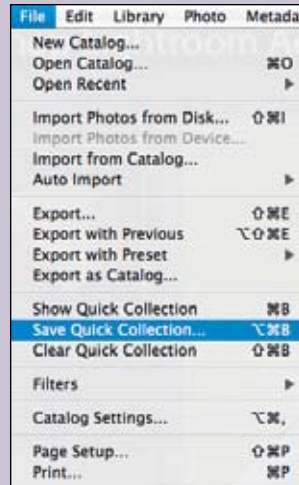


Figure 3-6



Figure 3-7

to return to the Grid view.) Clicking and holding on the image in the Navigator will temporarily put you in Loupe view. Releasing the mouse will put you back in Grid view.

### Library Pane

In the Library pane—not to be confused with the Library module—you'll see several categories. (Three are always showing, but if you have missing files, duplicate images, or a previous export, at least three other categories will appear.)

*Figure 3-8* If you click on any of the categories, the appropriate thumbnails will be displayed in the main viewing window.



Figure 3-8



Figure 3-9

- **All Photographs** is a total accounting of all the images in your active library.
- **Quick Collection** shows the number of images you've placed in the Quick Collection. (See previous sidebar.)
- **Previous Import** includes only the images from the last import.
- **Previous Export as...** includes images last exported as a new catalog.
- **Missing Files** includes those files whose original files are off-line or otherwise not available. This category will not show up unless you have missing files. Missing files are also marked with a question mark (circled) on the thumbnail frame. *Figure 3-9*
- **Already in Catalog** appears when you have duplicate files in your catalog. You can erase them by right-clicking on the pane and selecting Remove this Temporary Collection.

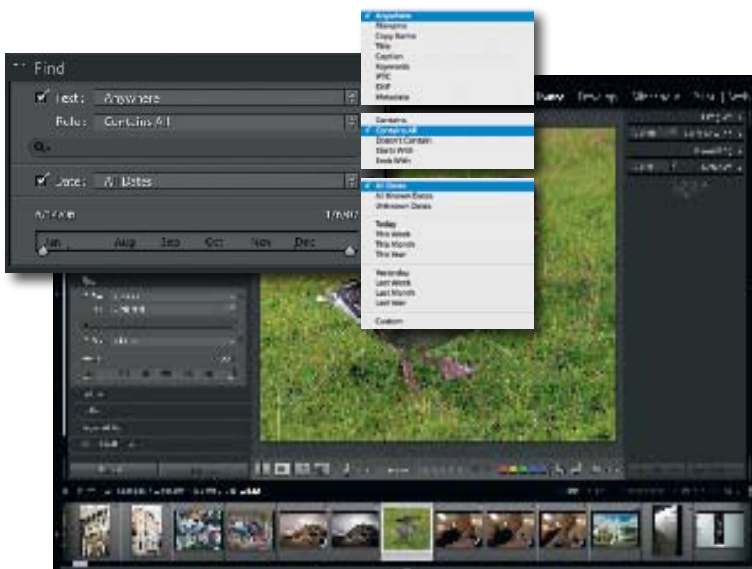


Figure 3-10

### Find Pane

As your catalog of images grows, it gets harder and harder to find a specific image. The Find pane is a sophisticated search feature that allows you to search for a single or multiple images using different criteria based on text and/or date. With a search criteria selected, only those images that meet the criteria will be displayed in the display window. You can search your entire catalog, or select a specific folder or collection to search. Shown here I typed in the words Lightroom Adventure, selected Text/Anywhere, Rule/Contains All and a Date/All Dates. *Figure 3-10* (Other search capabilities are found in the Keyword Tags and Metadata Browser panes.)

## Folders Pane

The Folders pane displays a folder/data hierarchy based initially on your import settings. The number to the right of the folder name tells you how many files are in that folder. Click on the folder name and the corresponding thumbnails will appear in the main display window. *Figure 3-11*

You can move and change the folder order—and even rename folders in the Folders pane—but do this knowing Lightroom must actually change and/or move the original folders on your hard drive.

To rename a folder, place your cursor over the name, double-click, and type, or right-click on the name and choose Rename from the pop-up menu. *Figure 3-12* Then type in the new name.

Lightroom automatically changes the name of the original folder on your disk as well. If the folder is missing, its name will be in red characters. Right-click on the folder name, and then select Locate Missing Folder from the contextual menu. *Figure 3-13*

To move a folder, hold your cursor over the folder name, click, and drag it to a new location. You can drag it on top of another folder to create a subfolder or “child.” You can also use the contextual menu (right-click) and select Create Folder as a Child of this Folder. A triangle next to the folder name indicates that there is a subfolder. You can have subfolders within subfolders. Use the contextual menu to delete unwanted folders.

When you move a folder to a new location, Lightroom needs to move the original folder as well. *Figure 3-14*



Figure 3-11

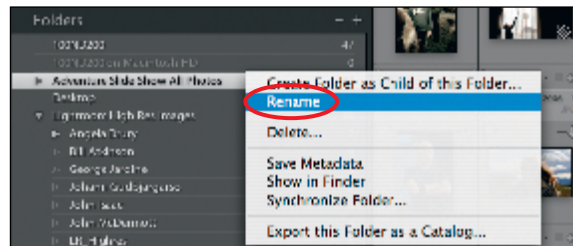


Figure 3-12

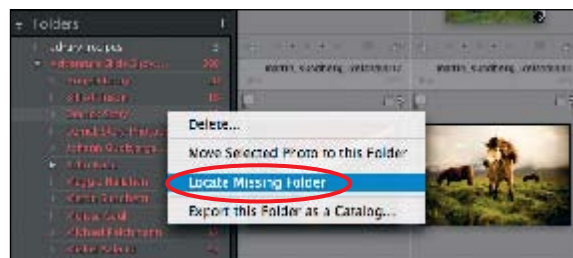


Figure 3-13

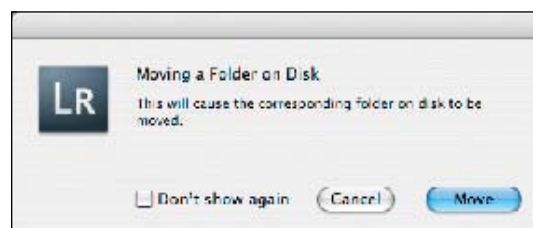


Figure 3-14

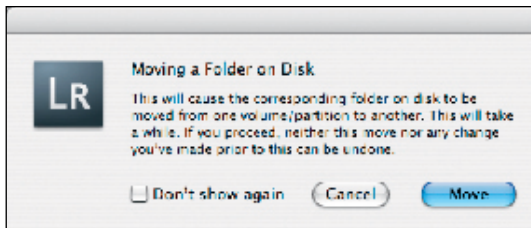


Figure 3-15

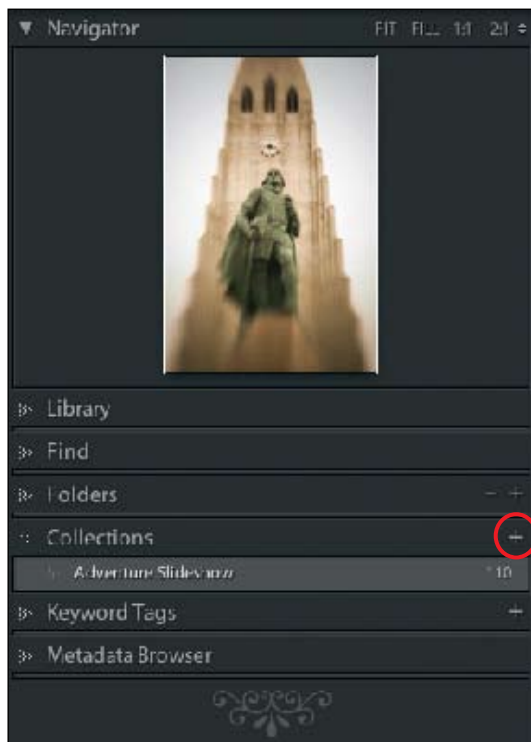


Figure 3-16

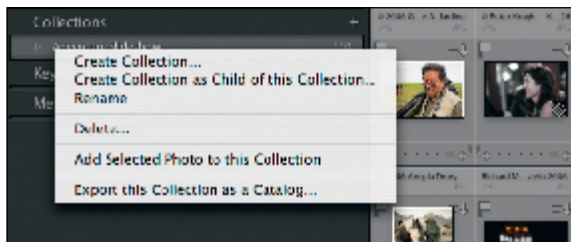


Figure 3-17

If you try to move a folder whose original folder is located on one disk to another location on the same disk you'll get a dialog box informing you that the corresponding folder will move as well. If you try to move a folder whose original folder is located on one disk to another separate disc you'll get a dialog box warning you this move may take time and cannot be undone. *Figure 3-15*

### Collections Pane

Collections are just what the name implies: collections of images based on particular criteria determined by you. When you first start up Lightroom, there are no collections in the Collections pane until you create one. *Figure 3-16* You can create as many collections as you want, and an image can reside in multiple collections. To create a new collection click on the plus sign (circled) and type in a name, or right-click and choose Create Collection from the pop-up menu. You can change the name of a collection later by double-clicking its name or right-clicking and choosing Rename from the pop-up menu. *Figure 3-17* You can also move collections around and create subdirectories, or "children." Simply drag a collection on top of another collection, or use the contextual menu (right-click) to Create Collection as Child of this Collection. You can have subdirectories within subdirectories. When you click on a collection name, the main display window shows only those images in that specified collection. You can create a new Lightroom catalog based on a specific collection by using the Export this Collection as a Catalog command from the contextual menu.

### Keyword Tags Pane

Any keyword associated with an image will appear under the Keyword Tags pane.

**Figure 3-18** The numbers to the right tell you how many images in your catalog include that particular keyword. Click on the keyword and the corresponding images will be displayed in the display window. Keywords can be grouped hierarchically by dragging and dropping one keyword on top of another. To expand and view a grouping, click on the triangle to the left (circled). Dragging a keyword from the Keywords Tags pane to an active image in the display area will apply that keyword to that image. Right-click on a keyword to bring up more options from the contextual menu. (More on assigning and using keywords later in this chapter.)

### Metadata Browser Pane

Another useful way of finding or organizing images is via the Metadata Browser. **Figure 3-19** Here you can search for images by data automatically supplied by your camera's EXIF data or other metadata embedded in an image file. You could, if you want, find all the images with an assigned ISO of 1600, or all images in your collection shot with a particular focal length, or by camera model or serial number. When you click on a metadata criteria, the images meeting that criteria will be displayed in the image display window. You can establish multiple criteria if you wish. For example, if you want to find images taken at a certain focal length, contained in a particular folder or collection, hold down the ⌘ key (Ctrl key in Windows) and click on the folder and collection. Now the search includes both the focal length, folder, and



Figure 3-18



Figure 3-19

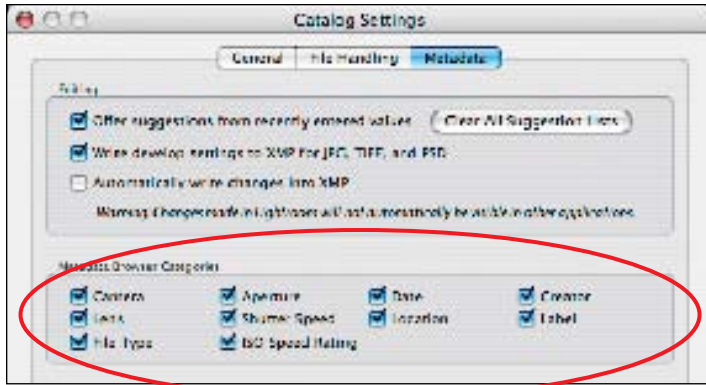


Figure 3-20

collection criteria. You can keep clicking while holding the ⌘ key (Ctrl key) through as much criteria as you want. To deselect, click on the criteria again, holding the ⌘ key (Ctrl key).

**NOTE** You can choose which metadata criteria is displayed in the Metadata Browser by going to the Catalog Info dialog box, under the Metadata tab (File→Catalog Settings). *Figure 3-20*

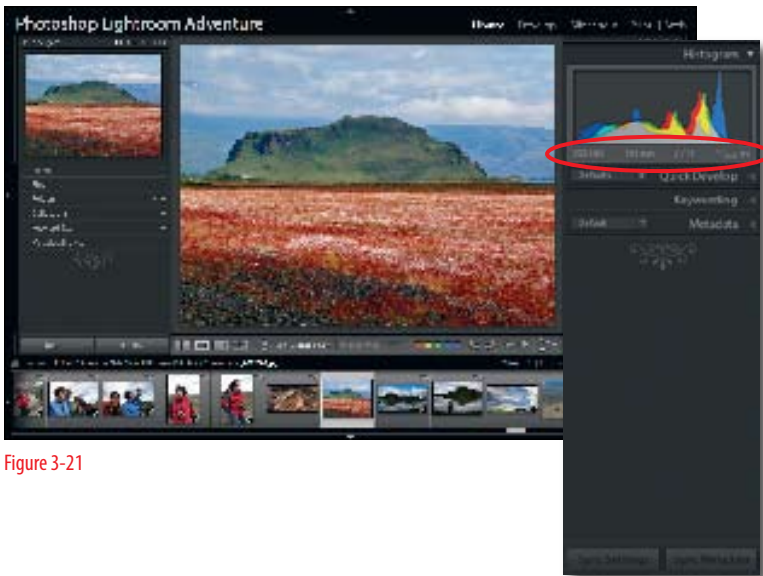


Figure 3-21

**The Right Panel (Tools)**

Moving over to the right panel (sometimes called the “activity panel”), we find the Histogram, Quick Develop, Keywording, and Metadata panes. At the bottom of the panel are controls for synchronizing settings and metadata between images.

**The Histogram**

At the top of the right panel is the Histogram. *Figure 3-21* Here you’ll see a graphical representation of the color and tonal values contained in the active image. This histogram, unlike the one found in the Develop module, isn’t interactive. It is for information only. Just as useful, in my opinion, is an at-a-glance accounting of camera data as ISO, focal length, f-stop, and shutter speed (circled).

**Quick Develop Pane**

Under the Histogram is the Quick Develop pane. *Figure 3-22* Here you can apply some common image corrections to single or multiple images. You can also apply presets (created in the Develop module) and even apply proportional cropping. I’ll go into more detail on using Quick Develop later in this chapter.



Figure 3-22

### Keywording Pane

We saw in Chapter 2 how you can create and add keywords to a batch of images on import. With the Library module's Keywording pane, not only can you view which keywords are associated with any image, you can edit the keywords and even create as many Keyword Sets as you like. (A few premade Keyword Sets, including Outdoor Photography, Portrait Photography, and Wedding Photography are included with Lightroom.) *Figure 3-27* I'll go into more details on creating and applying keywords later in this chapter.

### Metadata Pane

Cameras generate metadata which is incorporated into an image file. In the Metadata pane, you can view this so-called EXIF data, and even correct some of it, such as the capture date and time. *Figure 3-28* You can also add metadata of your own using standard IPTC fields and create presets that will appear in the pop-up menu in the upper left of the Metadata pane. I'll get into this and more later in the chapter.

### Sync Settings and Sync Metadata

At the bottom of the right panel are the Sync Settings and Sync Metadata buttons, which are active when more than one image is selected. These controls are used when you want to synchronize a batch of images using the same develop settings or same metadata. I'll get into this in more detail later.

### Toolbar Menu Strip

The toolbar, found at the bottom of the viewing area, is where you'll find several useful, not so easily classified, tools and mode changing controls. *Figure 3-29*



Figure 3-27

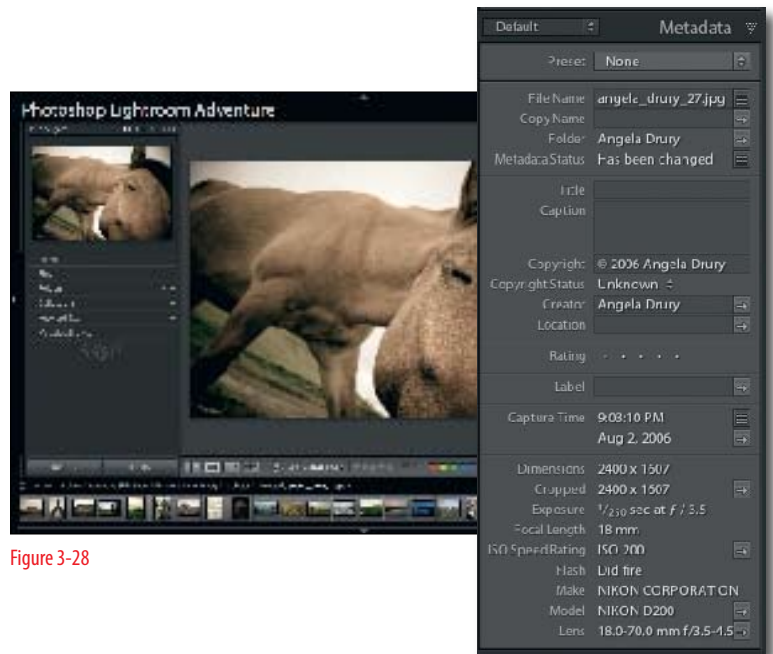


Figure 3-28

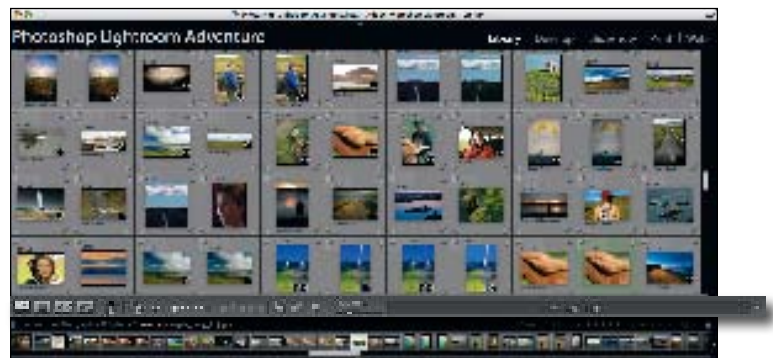


Figure 3-29

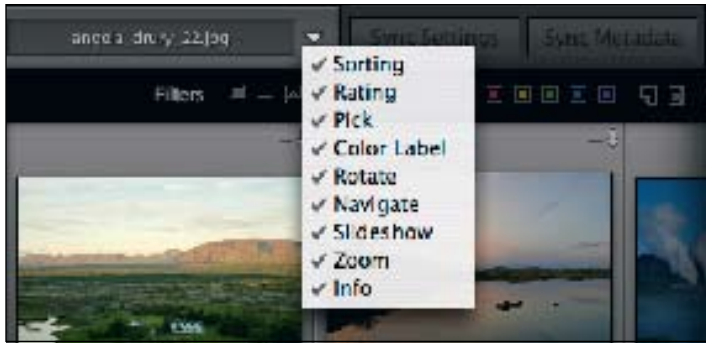


Figure 3-30

Why does my toolbar look different than yours? Well, if you are in the Grid view and click on the inverted triangle on the far right of the toolbar, you will get the list shown in *Figure 3-30*. (In the Loupe view, the list is slightly different.) Only the checked items will be displayed on the toolbar. You can selectively check and uncheck this list to customize the toolbar. Let's go over the icons, starting from the far left.



Figure 3-31

*Figure 3-31* These icons represent the view options: Grid, Loupe, Compare and Survey. Click to select.



Figure 3-32

*Figure 3-32* This is the Painter, used for spraying specific keywords, labels, ratings, flags, settings, rotation, and metadata on single or selected images. Presets can be sprayed on as well. (It's not available in the Loupe view.)



Figure 3-33

*Figure 3-33* This is where you set the Sort order for the Grid view and filmstrip. You have several choices ranging from Capture Time to Aspect Ratio.



Figure 3-34

*Figure 3-34* Here are the rating options. You can rate by star, Flag as pick, Flag as rejected, and color.



Figure 3-35

*Figure 3-35* The arrows change the orientation of images from clockwise to counterclockwise. Batch rotate is possible with multiple selections.



Figure 3-36

*Figure 3-36* Click this triangle to start an impromptu slideshow of the selected images. (The look and feel of the slide show is determined in the Slideshow module, covered in Chapter 10.)

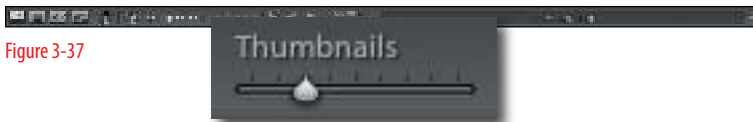


Figure 3-37

*Figure 3-37* Last but not least is the slider that controls the size of the thumbnails in the Grid view. (The Loupe view has a Zoom slider control.)

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