



Photoshop Mastery

Taking Photoshop to the next level

■ BY BEN WILLMORE

Digital Photographers' Frustration Fixer

This article is dedicated to wiping out those nasty little surprises that pop up when you switch to digital. From getting photos into your computer to running the obstacle course known as Photoshop, the way is fraught with booby traps. Here's how to overcome the first 10 hurdles.

1. iPhoto wants your attention. iPhoto loves to launch whenever you connect your camera or card to your Mac. If you don't use iPhoto, then launch a program called Image Capture that's located in either your Applications or Utilities folder, choose Preferences from the Image Capture menu, click on the Camera tab, and tell your Mac what to do when you connect your camera to your computer.

2. The Browser is blind to CDs. You're excited to view your images directly from a Compact Flash card or CD, but Photoshop's File Browser doesn't seem to notice that you've inserted a CD. To jolt the Browser into taking a fresh look at newly inserted media, choose Refresh from the Browser's View menu (or press the F5 key).

3. Nikon wants your RAW files. You open a Nikon NEF file and get a tiny dialog with next to no options. To prevent this Nikon dialog from appearing, navigate your hard drive's folder maze to the Photoshop CS>Plug-Ins>Adobe Photoshop Only>File Formats folder and delete the Nikon NEF Format file, which is preventing the Camera Raw dialog from appearing.

4. Can't save RAW files as JPEGs. The JPEG file format isn't available as a choice when saving many of the RAW files you've opened. I bet you used the 16-bit choice in the lower left of the Camera Raw dialog. Choose Image>Mode>8 Bits/Channel and then try to JPEG it again.

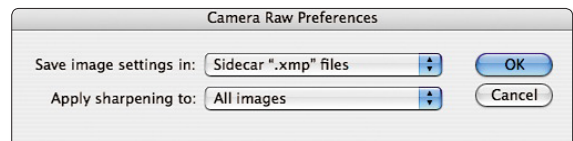
5. Images look like %!# on the Web. That's because Web browsers make an assumption about what the colors in your image

should look like. Choose Image>Mode>Convert to Profile, set the Profile pop-up menu to sRGB (the one with all those numbers at the end of it), and then click OK. The image is now ready to be saved for the Web.

6. RAW settings infect your images. You rightly consider your original RAW files precious film negatives that should be kept in pristine shape. But after opening an image in the Camera Raw dialog, the settings seem to stick like glue. You can always get back to the original RAW file by choosing Camera Default from the Settings pop-up menu near the upper right of the Camera Raw dialog. To do that to many files, select them in the File Browser, Control-click (PC: Right-click) on them, choose Apply Camera Raw settings, and set the pop-up menu that appears to Camera Default.

7. You've lost your RAW settings. You just adjusted a folder full of images, but Photoshop seems to have forgotten the Camera Raw settings you used. With default settings, Photoshop stores the Camera Raw settings you use in a database. If you manually change the name or location of a folder or file outside of Photoshop, then Photoshop won't know which RAW settings should go with that file.

The fix? Open any RAW format image so the Camera Raw dialog appears, choose Camera Raw Preferences from the Photoshop menu (PC: Edit menu) at the top of your screen, and set the Save Image Settings In pop-up menu to Sidecar ".xmp" files. Then any time you copy or move an



individual RAW file, make sure you also copy the .xmp file of the same name in that folder and everything should be fine.

8. Browser is forgetful of previews. After moving a folder, the File Browser wants to re-create all of the preview images you let it create in an earlier session. Before you move or rename a folder of images outside of Photoshop (or burn a CD), choose Export Cache from the File menu in the File Browser. That will put all of those previews in a file that gets copied with your images when you move them or burn them to a CD.

9. Converting hundreds to JPEG = torture. You've adjusted all of your RAW images and now simply need to convert 1,000 of them to scaled-down JPEGs for a client. But Photoshop seems to want to force you to do it one image at a time! To avoid turning into a slave to Photoshop, visit www.russellbrown.com and download Dr. Brown's Image Processor, which will do the job while you go refill your coffee mug.

10. You're tired of this digital stuff. Close your eyes, take a nap, and come back fresh in a few hours. ■

Ben Willmore is on tour with his hit seminar "Photoshop for Photographers" and is author of the international bestseller Adobe Photoshop CS Studio Techniques. Check out the free Photoshop tips at Ben's website, www.digitalmastery.com.