



# Photoshop Mastery

Taking Photoshop to the next level

■ BY BEN WILLMORE

## Work with Camera Raw Files in the File Browser

Shooting in RAW format in your digital camera lets you take advantage of the Photoshop CS Camera Raw dialog; but there's more to working with Camera Raw than simply adjusting your images. Let's look at how you can efficiently work with RAW files in the File Browser.

**A**lthough you've shot a few hundred images, only a portion of those will be worth spending time on. You can set up the File Browser in a special way to view these images.

### Review and Flag images

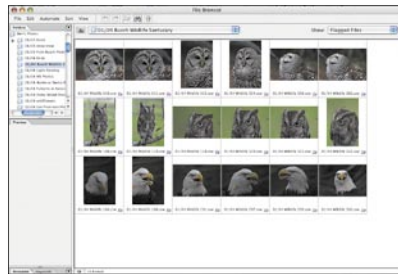
To open the File Browser so it fills your screen, hold the Command (PC: Control) key as you click the File Browser icon in Photoshop CS's Options Bar. Start by double-clicking on the Folders and Metadata tabs to collapse them and make room for the Preview tab. Then click-and-drag the vertical divider bar between the preview and the thumbnail images to the right until you see one column of thumbnails.

As you'll probably be using this setup frequently, choose Window>Workspace>Save Workspace and give this layout a name. Next time you need to review images, you can get this layout by choosing its name from the Window>Workspace menu.

Now that you have set up the File Browser with huge preview images, use the Down Arrow key to run a slide show of the images you're browsing. As you come across images that are in sharp focus and have good composition, press Command-' (PC: Control-' ) to Flag them so they'll be easy to find later.

### Arrange into groups

Next we'll get the File Browser back to normal: From the Window>Workspace menu, choose Reset Palette Locations. Reopen the browser. Click on the Show drop-down menu (upper right in the Browser) and choose Flagged Files, so you're only looking at the images you just flagged. Now change the order of the images by dragging them into groups of similar brightness, contrast, and color (as shown). You could end up with four or five groups depending on the number of images.



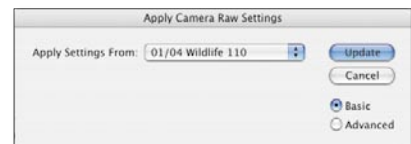
### Update with Camera Raw

Hold the Command (PC: Control) key and click on the first image from each group so that you end up with multiple images highlighted. Then, let go of the Command key and double-click on any one of the images you just selected. This should bring up the Camera Raw dialog, where you can adjust the image before it's opened in Photoshop.

Adjust the first image until you have optimal settings for that specific image, then you can apply those settings to the image without actually opening it in Photoshop by Option-clicking (PC: Alt-clicking) on the OK button, which will be relabeled Update. Once you've

done that, the next image should open in the Camera Raw dialog. Repeat this process until you've optimized each image with the best Camera Raw settings you can come up with.

Now look back at the groups you made in the File Browser and select the first group of images, Control-click (PC: Right-click) on one of the images, and choose Apply Camera Raw Settings. In the Apply Settings From menu, choose First Selected Image and then click OK, which will apply the settings you applied to the first image to the rest of the images in that group. Repeat this process with the rest of the groups until they all update in the File Browser.



Now when you open individual images, the Camera Raw dialog will open with the settings you've already applied to the image, allowing you to fine-tune each one. To bypass Camera Raw and use previously assigned settings, hold down the Shift key when double-clicking an image. If you don't like that the File Browser stays open after opening an image, hold the Option key (PC: Alt key) when double-clicking on an image to force the browser to close as the image opens. ■

*Ben Willmore is founder of Digital Mastery, a Colorado-based training and consulting company. He's also author of Photoshop CS Studio Techniques. Check out the free Photoshop tips and tutorials at Ben's website, [www.digitalmastery.com](http://www.digitalmastery.com).*



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