

Adobe Photoshop Lightroom is a great tool for preparing images that are to be used in a slideshow. Of course, Lightroom has its own Slideshow module which is adequate for displaying images but is not intended for production of AV presentations such as those from “Pictures to Exe”.

The features of Lightroom that are most helpful in this respect are:

1. The use of the quick collection and the ability to define other collections.
2. The ability to create virtual copies so that the original images are not changed.
3. The flexibility of the crop tool in Lightroom.
4. Using Export to produce the jpeg images needed for the show, at the correct size, with the correct display profile and with the appropriate amount of sharpening.

How to use these features is the substance of this tutorial.

Selecting images to use in the show.

1. Using grid mode in the Library (shortcut key G), Ctrl-click on the images you wish to use and press the B key. This adds the images to the “quick collection”.
2. Should you make a mistake; a second press of the B-key removes a selected image from the quick collection.



3. Select all of the images in the quick collection (shortcut Ctrl A).

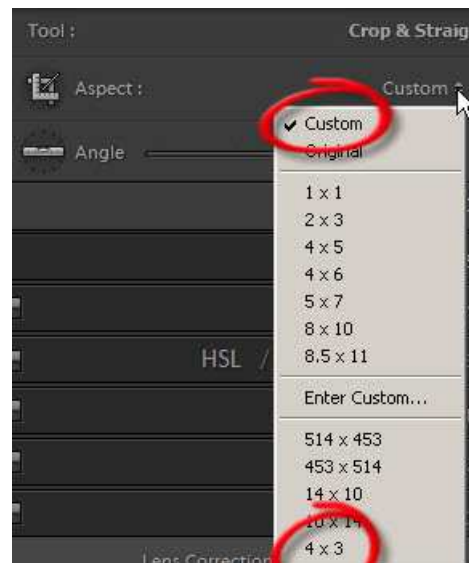
Prepare a “regular” Collection of the selected images.

1. Clicking on the + sign next to “Collections” opens the dialogue box shown below.
2. In this example, I’ve named the new collection as “Rievaulx Abbey Slideshow”.
3. Ticking “Include selected photos” & “Make new virtual copies” ensures that all the selected images (from the quick collection) are included as copies. This means that the original images remain untouched.

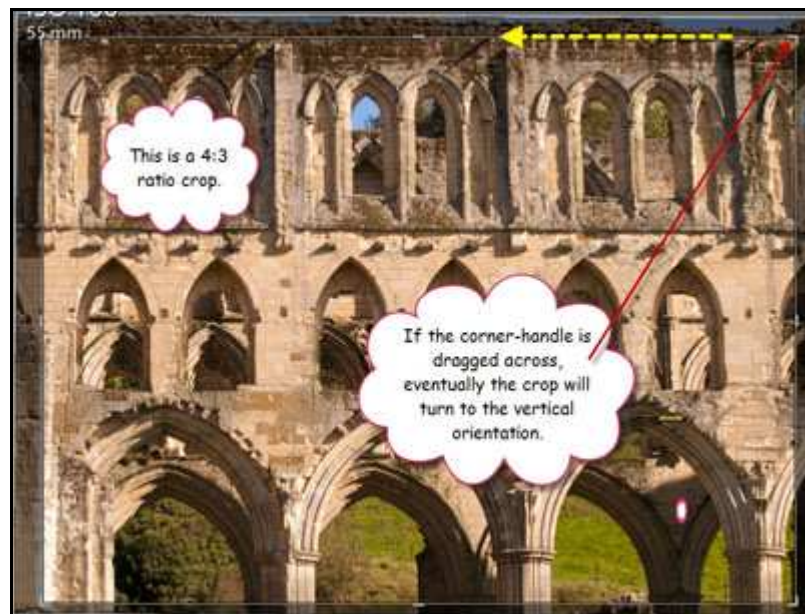


Crop to chosen aspect ratio.

1. The crop tool can be accessed using the keyboard shortcut R.
2. For display using a 1024 x 768 pixel projector, a 4 x 3 crop is appropriate.
3. Once the crop size has been set, the image can be dragged behind the cropping marks for “fine tuning” its position.
4. To get a vertical crop from a landscape image, see below.



As the crop tool is dragged across the screen, the aspect will flip from landscape to portrait format.



The result of dragging the right-hand crop guide to the left...



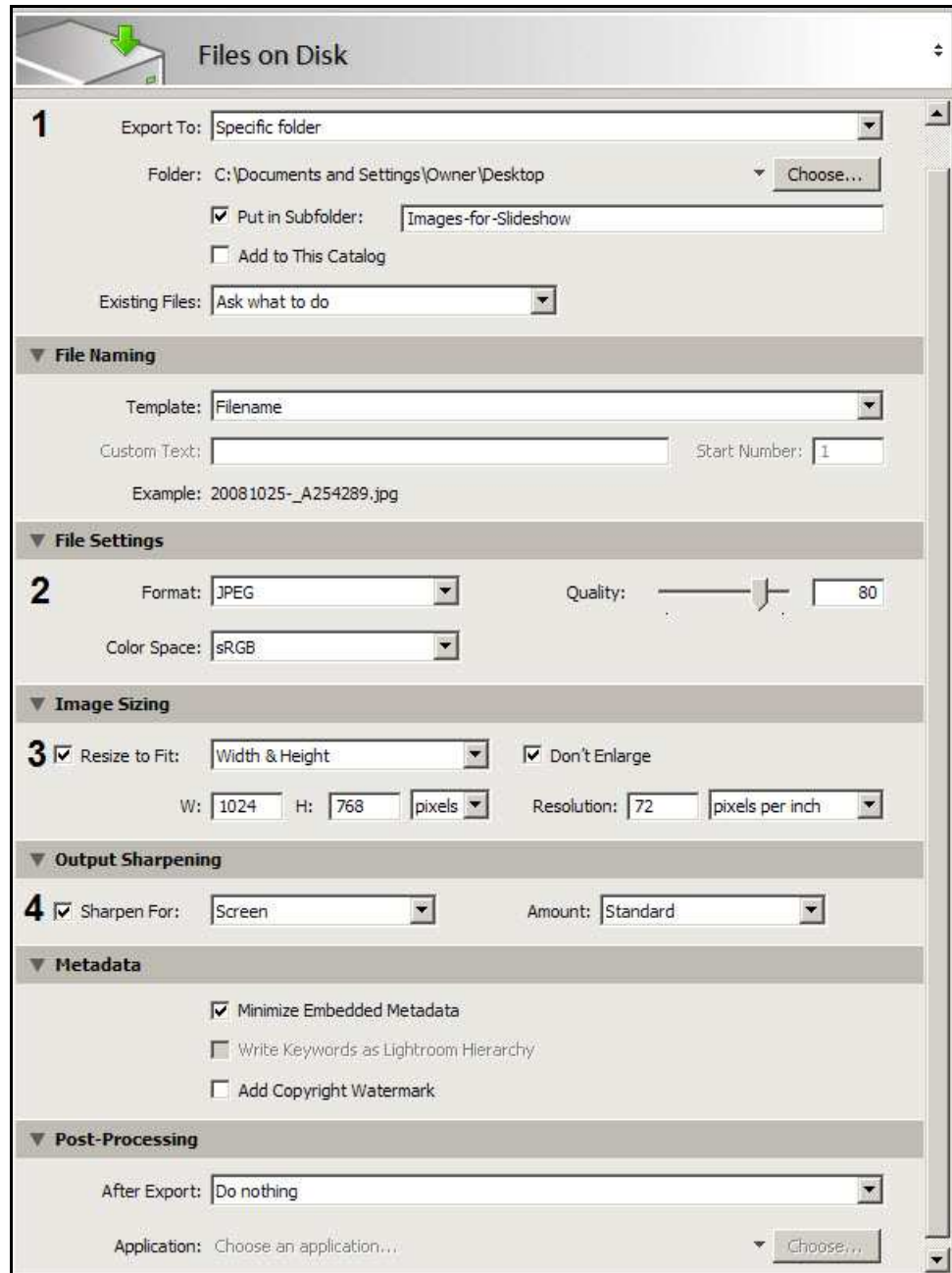
Exporting the selected images in jpeg format.

1. Once the images in the collection have been cropped as required, the final step is to export these.

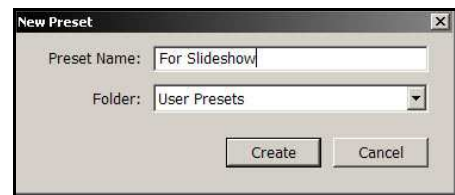
In Library view (shortcut R), select all of the images (Ctrl A) then click the Export button at the foot of the left-hand panel.

2. This brings up the large dialogue box shown below.

Note the points 1, 2, 3 & 4.



Once these settings have been entered, it is possible to save them as a preset for next time...



That's the preparation completed.

