



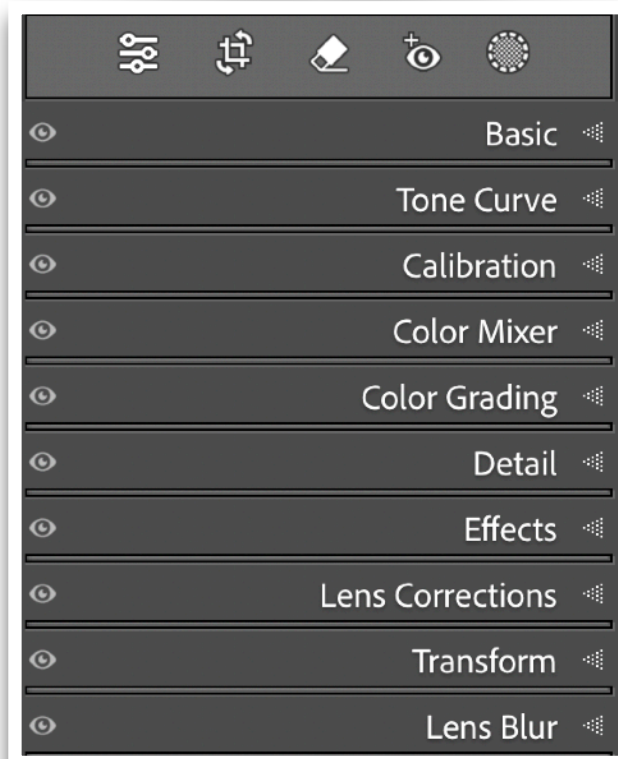
Complete RAW Photo Editing Guide:

This guide walks you through a simple, intentional RAW photo editing workflow designed to remove guesswork from the process. RAW images often appear flat and muted at first, which leads many photographers to over edit or jump between tools without a clear plan.

By following this step by step approach, you'll learn how to bring your images to life using a consistent, repeatable process that focuses on what actually matters and ignores what doesn't.

Lightroom Setup: Customize Develop Panel

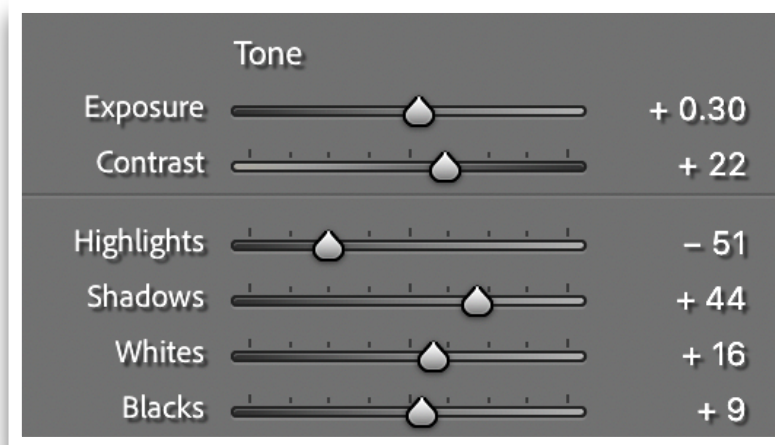
Organize the Develop Panel in the order in which you edit photos, working from top to bottom. This ensures a logical workflow and prevents missing steps.



Step 1: Balance Exposure

Adjust exposure using a combination of:

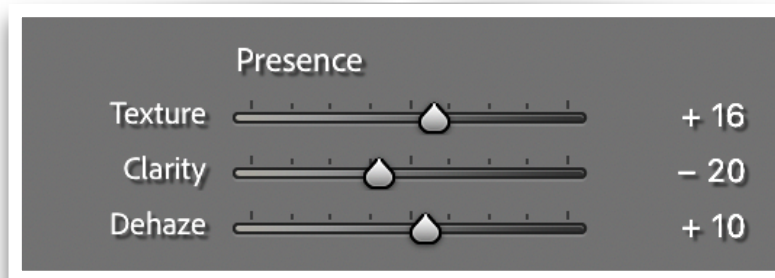
- Exposure
- Contrast
- Highlights & Shadows
- White Point & Black Point



Step 2: Enhance Detail

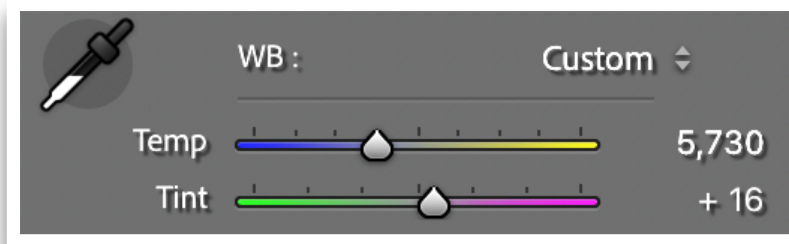
Apply Clarity, Texture, and Dehaze to refine details:

- Clarity enhances large details.
- Texture enhances smaller details.
- Dehaze reduces fog or atmospheric haze.



Step 3: White Balance

Use the Eyedropper Tool to select a neutral target, then fine-tune color temperature and tint as needed.

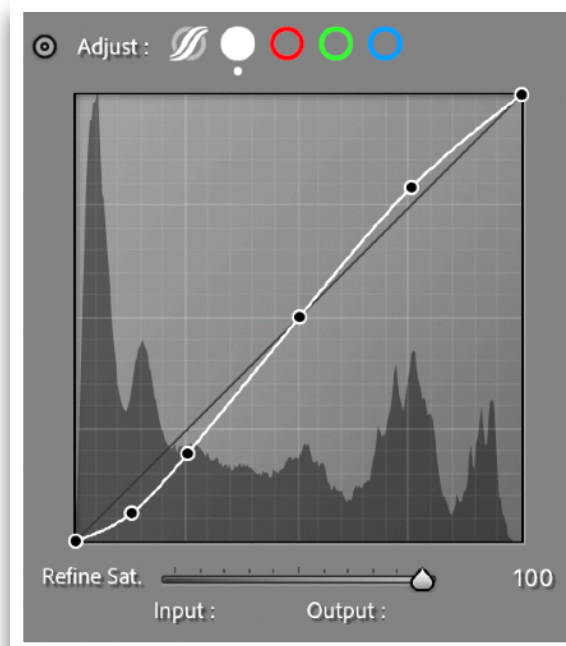


Step 4: Crop

Apply an initial crop to improve composition. Adjust later if necessary.

Step 5: Tone Curve

Refine contrast and brightness with the Tone Curve to make targeted tonal adjustments.



Step 6: Calibration

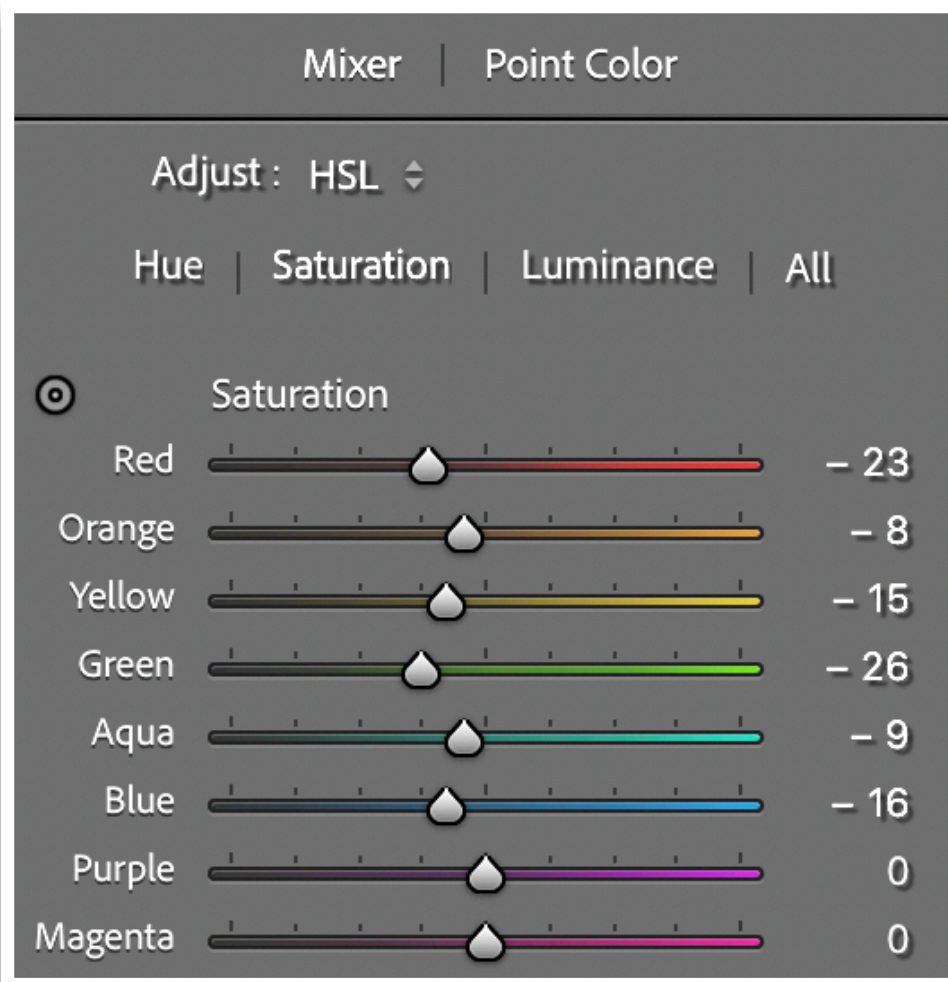
Enhance color tones by adjusting the Red, Green, and Blue Primary sliders to achieve a balanced look.



Step 7: Color Mixer

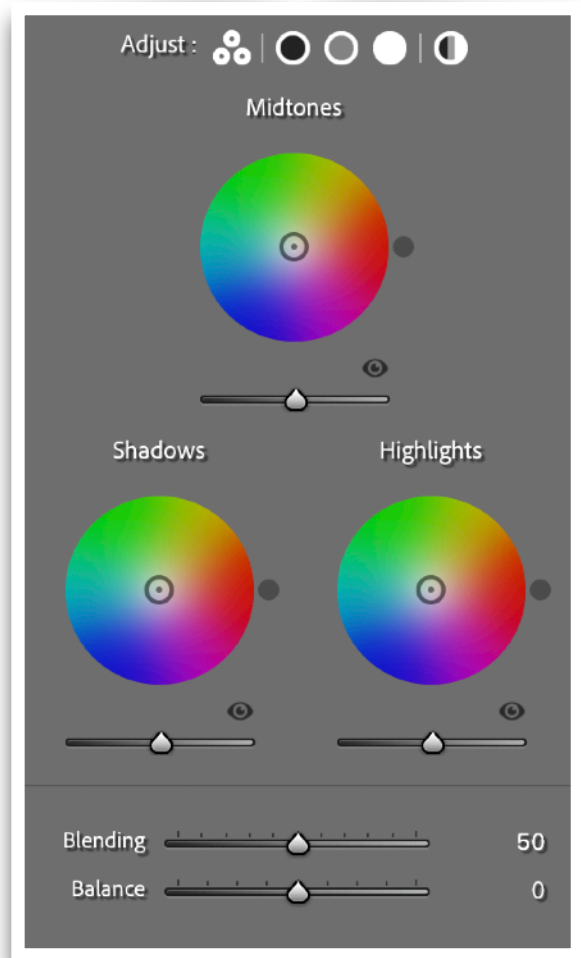
Fine-tune individual colors using:

- Hue (color shift)
- Saturation (color intensity)
- Luminance (brightness of specific colors)



Step 8: Color Grading

Here you can tint the Shadows, Midtones, and Highlights a certain color to create a unique look.



Step 9: Masking

Use Linear and Radial Filters, along with the Adjustment Brush, to apply localized edits and enhance specific areas.

Step 10: Vignette

Create a natural vignette using:

- Vignette Tool (for subtle darkening around edges)
- Inverted Radial Filter (for more customization)

Step 11: Clean-Up (Spot Removal)

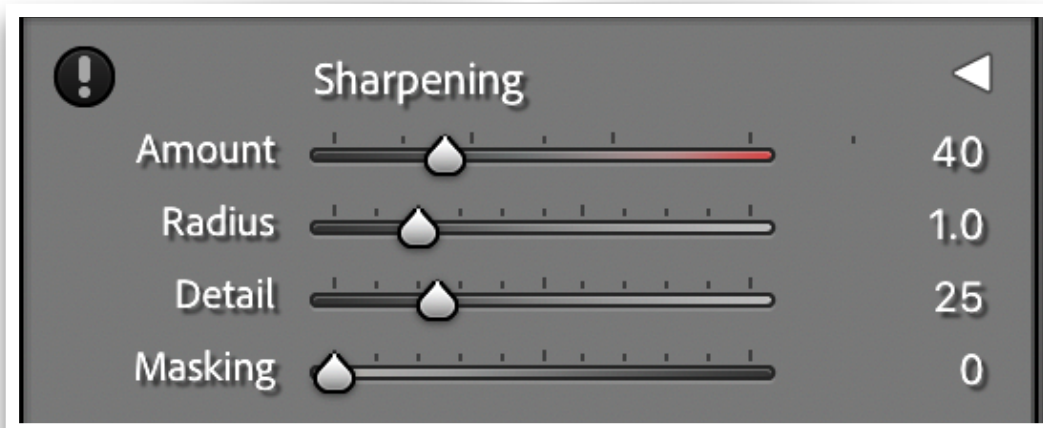
Remove distractions such as dust spots, small rocks, or unwanted objects using:

- Clone Tool
- Heal Tool
- Content-Aware Remove Tool

Step 12: Detail (Sharpening)

Apply sharpening carefully to enhance image crispness without introducing noise and artifacts.

- Less is often more when sharpening.



Step 13: Walk Away

One of the most crucial steps. Take a break for a few hours or overnight. Fresh eyes help you spot adjustments you might have missed.

Step 14: Export

Save and Export your final image in the appropriate format:

- PNG (higher quality, lossless compression)
- JPG (smaller file size, great for web use)

By following this structured workflow, you're not just improving a single edit. You're building a repeatable, non-destructive process that leads to more consistent, high-quality results every time you sit down to edit.