

The South Bay Mug

MAGINTOSH

A Monthly Cupful For South Bay Apple Mac User Group Members, May 2008

MACHinations

A personal view from Bob

Adobe Photoshop Lightroom
when speed and workflow are important

Lightroom is a program designed by and for serious photographers and professionals who take hundreds or thousands of pictures and want an end-to-end solution to handling their photographic images. It streamlines the workflow process from importing, sorting, labeling and storing to editing and exporting. It's particularly useful when shooting in RAW format where images are not compromised by in-camera processing. Lightroom is an image database and processor that goes far beyond iPhoto to provide a workflow solution for managing, editing, and presenting your work. There's extensive support for viewing and editing metadata, hidden tags that describe how, when and who created an image. Images can be imported from a camera, memory card, CD or hard disk and stored anywhere on your computer or an external drive — even left on a CD or DVD.

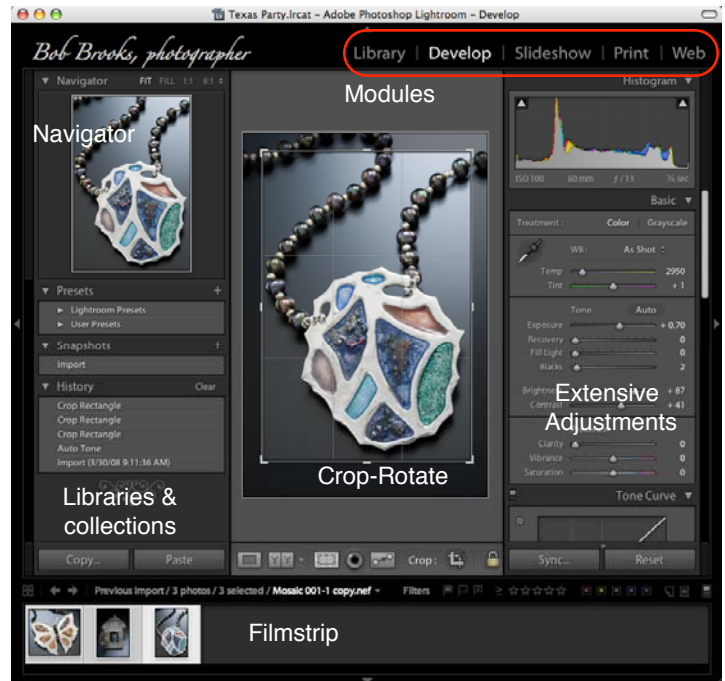
Nondestructive editing: Lightroom does not duplicate or alter the original photo when it's edited. It simply creates a small file containing the editing steps to be applied when exporting the photo — printing, creating a slide show or posting to the web. You can create virtual copies of any photo and apply different edits. View multiple images side-by-side for critical comparison.

Lightroom is about speed. It supports cloning, healing and red-eye reduction but is not a pixel-level editor like Photoshop (reviewed Jan 08). Most photos require only a small part of Photoshop's extensive editing capabilities — cropping and straightening, adjusting hue, brightness and saturation and sharpening or noise reduction. The two programs complement one another. When pixel-level editing is needed, Lightroom can hand off images to Photoshop and return them to Lightroom.

Lightroom's five modules:

- **Library:** Import and catalog images. Add keywords, ratings and flags and add/modify metadata. The image database supports multiple libraries and collections (albums) and keeps track of everything.

LR



- **Develop:** A very extensive collection of editing functions, only partially shown above. Notable is the Targeted Adjustment tool, that lets you click and drag within an image to adjust specific colors. Use it with the tone curve, hue, saturation, lightness, and gray scale.
- **Slideshow:** Includes many templates for presenting images as a slideshow.
- **Printing:** The only module I haven't used.
- **Web:** Export an image collection as a web page, either HTML or Flash. Upload to a web sever or to a drive.

Like most Adobe products, Lightroom has such extensive capabilities that you must invest time to learn it. Adobe makes great software but poor documentation, although Adobe and others have posted many excellent tutorial videos on the Internet. Still, the first thing I did was to buy Scott Kelby's "The Adobe Photoshop Lightroom Book".

In Summary: After a photo shoot I love using Lightroom to quickly view and process my photos.



Bob Brooks

Helping Beginners

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Welcome to South Bay Apple Mac User Group

You and your friends are invited to attend our next meeting. Our membership dues are only \$35 per year, entitling you to this newsletter each month and many more benefits. If you would like to become a member or get more info on SBAMUG, feel free to check out our web site at: www.sbamug.com

P. O. Box 432
Redondo Beach, CA
90277-0432

310-644-3315
Email: info@sbamug.com

Meetings are held at the

Redondo Beach Community Center
320 Knob Hill, Redondo Beach
(see map & directions on page 7)

Officers & Volunteers:

President:.....LJ Palmer
Vice President:.....Jim Pernal
Secretary:.....Wayne Inman
Treasurer:.....CW Mitchell
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Raffle Chairman:.....George Griffiths
Raffle Director:.....Chuck Mulvey
RefreshmentCoordinator:..Louise Polsky, Taffy Rath

Membership Report:

(You may notice your name is in larger letters on your card. That is so it can be used as a name tag at the meetings.)

Your Membership Cards are in the mail!)

Current Membership - 151

Welcome New Members- Arnold Silver, Manuel Salera.

Thank You Member Renewals-

Robert Witte, Walter Whirry, Paul Sako, Ed Dietz, Bruce Brown, E.N. Hondrick, Dick & Taffy Rath.

Remember, if your name is not spelled right or your expiration date is wrong, contact cwmitchell@sbamug.com for correction.

MONTHLY CALENDAR

1st Sat - SBAMUG Core Group Mtg @ announced locations, 10 am
1st Thur - LB Mug @ Emerson School, Palo Verde & Willow, Long Beach, 7 pm
1st Sat - Orange Apple UG, Orange Coast College, Chem Bldg, Costa Mesa, 8am-1pm
3rd Sat - Adobe Tech Exchange Toyota Bldg on Grammercy near 190th, 9 am; \$10
Last Wed - SBAMUG Monthly Meeting
Last Tues - WOCMUG @ Emerson School, Palo Verde & Willow, Long Beach, 7 pm
Last Sat - TRW / Northrop Ham Radio & Computer Swap Meet, 7 am - 11:30 am

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Members are invited and encouraged to submit articles and original artwork for publication. Newsletter deadline is the last Wednesday of the month. Articles may be edited to fit in available space.

Please send to: dhweeks@sbamug.com

SBAMUG MAY 2008 PD CD

Nine programs this month. Four of them are freeware so there is no shareware fee on these.

Bean-Install.dmg This program was recommended by Bob. Freeware word processor. Has word count, and uses the Mac OS X dictionary. OSX 10.4 to 10.5 Freeware

CheckBook.dmg Finance manager program. Single window design. Has account summaries and scheduled entries. OSX 10.3.9 or better.

gc61ub.dmg Graphic Converter continues to be a great graphic program, so as you know, I will post the updates. More formats and bug fixes with this version. Remember that as well as graphic conversion, this program can do slide shows, batch conversion with multiple rules, browse images, and has a decent set of image manipulation tools. OSX 10.4 - 10.5

Hamilton.zip Savings bond program I talked about last month. Updated version now handles 1941-1980 E series, and can now understand the serial number and what that means.

HyperDither 1.2.zip Freeware. Takes color or grayscale images and makes dithered one-bit black and white images out of them. Uses the technique used in Bill Atkinson's HyperCard scan program. Claimed to be better than most current techniques.

MacEtegami.2.03.dmg A program based on the Japanese art of watercolor for postcards. Lets you create and email these images. Freeware. OSX 10.4-10.5

MacFamilyTree 5.1.6.dmg Another regular customer here. This genealogy program has new updates. Database with sound and image storage.

Pacifist 2.5.2.dmg This utility lets you extract specific applications to install from within a major installer or update. Say you deleted your

Safari browser, or wish to install an earlier copy of Quicktime. This utility will do the trick. OSX 10.3.9 or better.

RapidoResizer.dmg Final program this month, and it's freeware. Resizes images with a simple drag and drop interface. OSX 10.4 and 10.5

CD for this month will be at the June 2008 meeting as the May-June 2008 CD.

Catch you at the May meeting.
Jim Pernal PD Editor

Address Book: See Which Groups They're In

If you have a contact that appears in more than one Group, you can instantly see which of your Groups this individual appears in by simply clicking on his or her contact and holding the Option key. When you do this, every Group that they appear within will become highlighted.



This is handy if you want to clean up your Groups by deleting extra instances of people who appear in multiple Groups.

Courtesy of apple.com

After just about two years as your SBAMUG newsletter editor, I'm signing off and turning it over to our very talented Fran Pullara. I know she'll do a wonderful job and learn so much, as I did. Thanks for all your help and support!

Dorothy Weeks

Text Editors

by *Tim Verpoorten*, www.surfbits.com

Text editors come in all shapes and sizes. They can be 800-pound guerrillas like BBEdit (www.barebones.com), or they can be as simple and as plain as Vi. What is it about editors that interest us so much? Why do we search the file archives and download almost every new text editor we hear about? I think a text editor is like a good pair of shoes, we love them when we find the right fit, but a text editor that doesn't fit our needs can become a real sore spot in a hurry. Plus, like shoes, we need a different one for different occasions. All this is my prelude for this month's freeware article, the topic is text editors and I'm going to share my favorite freeware editors with you. As always, I want you to share your favorites with me.

Before we get started, I'd be remiss not to mention the freeware text editor that comes with OSX, and that's TextEdit. The best background information on TextEdit is found in Wikipedia. It says this about TextEdit, "TextEdit is a simple, open source word processor and text editor, first featured in NeXT's NEXTSTEP and OPENSTEP. It is now distributed with Mac OS X since Apple Inc.'s acquisition of NeXT, and available as a GNUstep application for other Unix-compatible operating systems such as Linux. It is powered by Apple Advanced Typography and has advanced typography features not found in even high-end word processors such as Microsoft Word. It replaces the text editor of previous Macintosh operating systems, SimpleText. TextEdit reads and writes documents in Rich Text Format, Rich Text Format Directory and plain text files, Microsoft Word document format and HTML, and can open (but not save) old SimpleText files. It also has access to the operating system's built-in spell-checking service. The version included in Mac OS X v10.3 added the ability to read and write documents in Word format, and the version in Mac OS X v10.4 the ability to read and write Word XML documents. The version included in Mac OS X v10.5 includes OpenDocument Text read and write support."

That being said, I have to admit that TextEdit is a

rock solid editor. A lot of Mac users take advantage of its features and are quite happy with its performance. Before you go out and spend any money on shareware, give TextEdit a fair shake, you might like its speed and OSX integration.

Let's start with the editor I use most often, Bean: <http://www.bean-osx.com>. Bean likes to call itself a "Rich Text Editor" because of its love for the .rtf format over the plain .txt format. Bean is Open Source, fully Cocoa and very feature rich, while still launching fast and staying lean. I like the ability to work off a black background with bright orange text. You can use any colors you want, one of the many options I spoke of. Others include a live word count, a Get Info panel for in-depth statistics, a zoom-slider to easily change the view scale, an Inspector panel with lots of sliders, date-stamped backups, auto-saving, a page layout mode, an option to show invisible characters (tabs, returns, spaces), selection of text by text style, paragraph style, color, a floating windows option (like Stickies has), easy to use menus and so much more. Bean has always been in my top freeware applications list. Download and see if you agree.

Next is a freeware solution from our friends with the 800 pound guerrilla, Barebones software, it's TextWrangler: <http://www.barebones.com/products/textwrangler>. TextWrangler is BBEdit's little brother. It has the look and feel of BBEdit and many of its programming abilities. Among other things, it can open files from (and save them) to remote FTP servers, offers a significantly powerful grep engine, supports multi-byte and non-Roman text files, can perform Find Differences on pairs of files, and can be invoked from the Unix command line. TextWrangler is a different animal than we saw in Bean, but that's the way it should be, a tool for every job.

Another freeware text editor that I like is Smultron: <http://smultron.sourceforge.net>. Smultron is somewhere between the last two editors we discussed. It is a good choice for programming because of the colored text code, but it can be used for a fast and simple text editor

for a simple note. Smultron can open documents in a list with beautiful Quick Look icons on the left just like the finder so you can easily switch between many documents - you can also choose to display them as tabs if you prefer it that way. Smultron has a lot of fans and it's easy to see why.

You may want to take a look at this freeware option, mEdit: <http://www.medit.biz/en/index.html> The main editing functions in mEdit are nothing unique, although they are functional. The big draw for this text editor is it allows combining several documents (worksheets) as a file (workbook). One can switch between the worksheets via tabs on the workbook, similar to using Excel spreadsheets. If your work contains several small documents that turn into one larger file, then you hit the jackpot with mEdit.

Then we looked at a cross-platform editor that has many nice features for all you code jockeys out there. Editra: <http://editra.org> Editra is in it's Alpha state, but you can already tell it wants to be a big-boy editor. With the ability to handle plugins and a list of features that make you grin like code folding, word wrap, tabbed windows, many importing and exporting options, and as I mentioned before, plug-in support, this may be a real hidden treasure. I would visit their website and look at the features yourself. I'm impressed, and as soon as they get a little deeper into the beta testing, I'll do a full review on the podcast. (www.macreviewcast.com)

Here's another editor that does not receive the press it deserves, Komodo: http://www.activestate.com/Products/komodo_ide/komodo_edit_mhtml Komodo Edit is the free, open source application based on Komodo IDE. Everything you'd expect from an editor like auto-complete and calltips, multi-language file support, syntax coloring and syntax checking, Vi emulation, Emacs key bindings, and more. It has some great extensions like Firefox, and Browser-side technologies like CSS, HTML, JavaScript and XML. It supports Server-side languages like Perl, PHP, Python, Ruby and Tcl, and Web template languages like RHTML, Template-Toolkit, HTML-Smarty and Django. The feature list goes

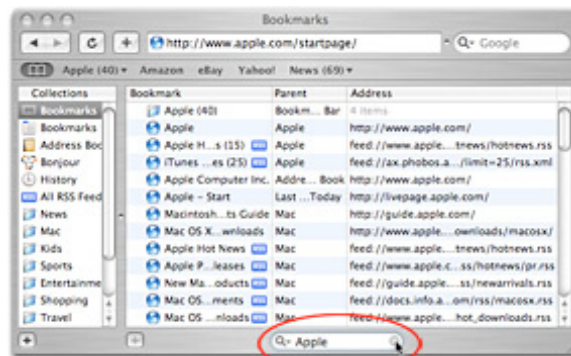
on and on. I think Komodo is a powerful editor and should be on your download list.

Finally, I wanted you to look at a unique text editor called Diamond: <http://www.geoffreyalexander.com/sotware> Diamond is an editor that marches to it's own beat. It operates on a work-flow theory with supplied automated work-flows to get you started. It uses spaces on your desktop to create a work-flow that fits your needs and is easy on the eyes, very Mac-like. Additionally, there's a directory of image files which are added as interesting backgrounds, blends, and such for use as Diamond Pages. This editor is a writer's tool more than a coder's tool. If this sounds like something that fits your needs, download it and give it a try.

As you can see, freeware text editors abound in the Mac community, I only skimmed the surface. Give these a try and let me know if you find something that works for you. If not, we'll just have to find a few more to talk about. Until next time, you can find us every week on the MacReviewCast podcast.

Searching Just Your Bookmarks

If you're trying to search for a particular bookmark, you'll want to know this trick: First, click on the Show All Bookmarks icon in the top-left corner of the Bookmarks Bar. Doing this makes the Collections column visible on the left side of Safari, but more importantly, it adds a Search field at the bottom center of the Safari window. When you type search terms in this field, it searches just within your bookmarks, so you get super-fast results. *Courtesy of apple.com*



MacTreat # 41: Archiving iTunes Links Followup + More iTunes Tips

Posted 2008-04-28 in Mac-Treat by Ed Shepard

Many Kibbles readers wrote in last week about my suggested work-around for keeping an iTunes wishlist. I didn't realize there are actually two better ways to keep an ongoing wishlist of iTunes Store songs and albums. Thank you to everyone who wrote in with this info! It was very helpful.

First, according to many readers (and Apple), you can add previews of any song in the iTunes Store to a regular iTunes playlist, and create a wish list of songs that you want to buy at a later date. First create a new playlist.



Then drag the individual song preview from the iTunes Store to the new wish list playlist. Listen to the song preview or buy the song directly from your playlist by clicking the Buy button. After you buy a song using the Buy button, the song remains in your wish list playlist, but double-clicking it plays the entire song instead of just the preview, and the price for the song no longer appears.

Second, I actually have 1-click purchasing enabled in the iTunes store, so I don't use the iTunes shopping cart. Here's what Manda K. wrote: "I just wanted to let you know: to save albums or songs that I want to revisit later, I just put them in my shopping cart in iTunes. Periodically I review my shopping cart and either purchase or delete its contents. The items seem to stay there permanently (or until iTunes stops carrying them, which did happen to me with one song). Just wanted to get that option out there." Thanks, Manda!

Here are some other favorite iTunes tips:

Explore Smart Playlists: I love Smart Playlists. These are a fun and powerful way to control and explore your iTunes library. For example, you can create a playlist that's no more than 5 gigabytes (GB) in size and includes your most highly rated polka songs. Or you could create a playlist of songs by a particular artist. When you import a new CD from that artist, the songs can be added automatically to the Smart Playlist. Website Internet Duct Tape has a tip for making a 'best of 2007' playlist.

While Podophile recommends a Smart Playlist for finding lost music. New to Smart Playlists? Check out Apple's helpful Smart Playlist tutorial.

Print CD Inserts: You can print a list of the songs in your library or a selected playlist to use as a CD jewel case insert, or simply to have a song or album list. Select your library or a playlist and choose File > Print. Choose whether you want to print a CD jewel case insert or song or album list. Select a printing theme from the Theme pop-up menu. Themes allow you to change how the information is printed. When you're done, click Print.

Use right-click in iTunes to speed up browsing (or Control-click for people with laptops, or people with one-button mice): You can right-click songs, playlists, column headings, and many other items in iTunes to do certain tasks more easily. For example, to see all the playlists that include a particular song, right-click the song, then scroll down to Show in Playlist.

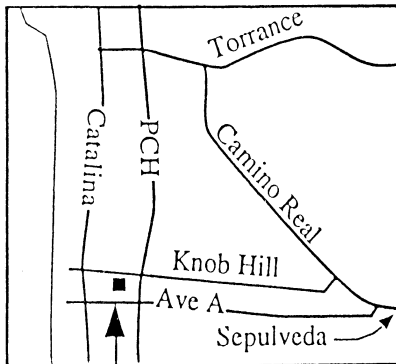
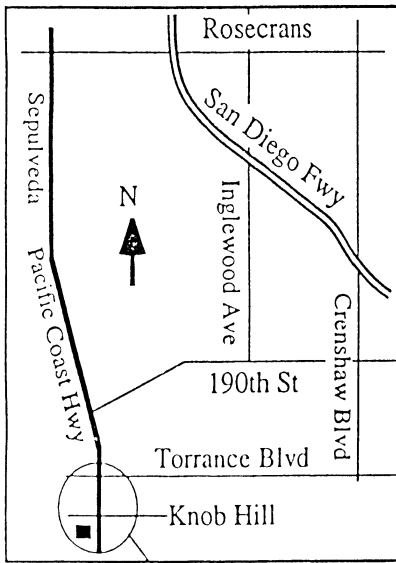
Add Individual Songs from a CD to a Playlist: You can create a new playlist and add a song (or songs) from a CD to it all in one step. Just select the CD in the Source pane and then drag a song (or songs) from the CD tracks list to the white area below all items in the Source pane. iTunes creates a new playlist, imports the song into your library, and then adds it to the new playlist. To add a song (or songs) from a CD to an existing playlist, drag the song from the CD tracks list directly to the playlist. iTunes imports the song into your library and adds it to the playlist.

Get Information for CDs from Offline Imports: If you're connected to the Internet, iTunes automatically retrieves information about any CD you play or import with iTunes, including the name of the artist, album, and each song on the CD. If you're not connected to the Internet, you'll notice that all the songs you import will have generic names such as "Track 1," "Track 2," and so on. Once you connect to the Internet, you can replace them with the actual CD information—just select the songs and from the Advanced menu, choose Get CD Track Names. iTunes will retrieve the names of your selected songs and apply them automatically, even if the CD is no longer in your computer.

*Courtesy of Barkings! | The Small Dog Apple Blog
MacTreat # 41: Archiving iTunes Links Followup +
More iTunes Tips*

Apple's Smart Playlist tutorial:

<http://www.apple.com/support/ilife/tutorials/itunes/it2-2.html>



We're at 320 Knob Hill at
PCH • Free Parking

THIS MONTH'S MEETING

Wednesday May 28th, 2008 7:30PM

320 Knob Hill, Redondo Beach
(see map at left for directions)

Allison Sheridan (<http://www.podfeet.com>)
returns to teach us: **How to Make a Podcast**
Judging from her past visit, don't miss it!

And Of Course:

Come early (6:30) for Beginners Q & A Sessions!

We now have two:

One in the main hall hosted by Bob Brooks & Jim Pernal
and the other in the kitchen area hosted by LJ Palmer.

June 25th:

Virtual Reality, Tim Petros

Ever wonder how VR enables a 360 degree tour of a room,
home, office, building, or outdoor scene on a computer
screen or tv? Come and learn!

Thanks to our wonderful refreshment committee!
Please help out when you can.

GREAT RAFFLE PRIZES TOO, TICKETS ONLY \$1 EACH!

How Much Do You Benefit **from the SBAMUG?**

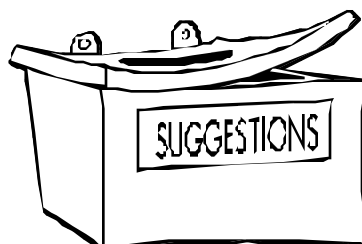
Can you help out by hosting a
Core Group meeting, bringing
some refreshments to the general
meeting, set up, clean up,
whatever! Please let us know.
This is a volunteer organization
and we all need to pitch in!

INTERNET ACCESS

Don't forget we have wireless internet
access at our meetings. Bring your wifi
capable laptop with you when you show
up for our next meeting!

Any comments or ideas for future
meetings? Write them down and drop
them in our Suggestion Box on the
refreshment table at our monthly
meetings, or speak to a Core Group
member.

We welcome
your input!



PERIODICALS

South Bay Apple Mac User Group
P. O. Box 432
Redondo Beach,
CA 90277-0432



SBAMUG Membership Application

South Bay Apple Macintosh User Group provides Mac owners and users with a local source of shared knowledge and experience through monthly meetings, training seminars and our monthly newsletter.

Individual and family membership is \$35 per year payable to SBAMUG.

New Member Member Renewal

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Email Address: _____

Special Computer Interest: _____

Model of Macintosh You Use Most: _____

How did you hear about SBAMUG?: _____

Comments: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Bring Application & Fees to Meetings or Mail to:
SBAMUG
P.O. Box 432
Redondo Beach, CA 90277