

from DARKROOM

WHEN STARTING OUT WITH DIGITAL IMAGE MAKING, IT IS INTERESTING TO SEE HOW THE STEPS FOLLOWED ARE BASED ON ANALOG ORIGINS.



Individual frames of film can be examined with a loupe.

IMAGE CAPTURE:

Camera and film. Film must be selected for black and white or colour prints. A latent image is produced, latent in that it is not immediately visible; instead it must be developed using chemicals before it can be seen. Bracketing exposures is important.

PROCESSING:

Film is processed chemically, producing a negative image.

VIEWING:

Contact sheets are made and individual frames can be viewed with a loupe. For closer examination, an individual negative can be placed in the negative carrier of an enlarger and projected onto the baseboard.

EDITING:

Contact sheets are marked up and notes are made on which images to enlarge/print.

ENLARGING/PRINTING:

Decisions are made on size, cropping, contrast, burning and dodging, and other variables. Retouching can be done on the print for more enhancements to the image.

FILING:

Dates and other notes can be attached to the negative sleeve. Filing systems suggested are archival acid free-boxes or binders.

to LIGHTROOM



Lightroom interface showing Library Grid View

IMAGE CAPTURE:

Camera and electronic sensor. Images are recorded in colour and seen immediately. It can be decided on the spot to keep the image or to delete it. Seeing the result right away helps the photographer determine what changes can be tried to improve the image.

PROCESSING:

Most cameras process the data recorded into JPEG files and store them in a memory card. If the RAW capture format is used, sometimes referred to as a digital negative, further processing is required later on.

VIEWING:

Images imported and viewed in Adobe Lightroom, appear first in the Library module. In the Grid view, the size of the thumbnails can be varied with the thumbnails slider. The Loupe view provides a magnified view of a particular image. There is also a Compare view, for comparing two images and a Survey view for viewing multiple images. The Filmstrip at the bottom of the screen is available in all modules and displays the images in the Library. Through the Print module a hard copy contact sheet can be made.

EDITING:

Images can be sorted, flagged, placed in folders, and included in collections. Favourites are selected and sorted for further treatment.

DEVELOPING:

In the Develop module the image can be cropped, the horizon line straightened, and minor spots and blemishes removed. Colour and a host of other manipulations are available. Lightroom works on data so the original pixels are not touched. Additional changes can be made by exporting to Photoshop.

FILING:

Lightroom offers several file handling, date and file naming options on import.