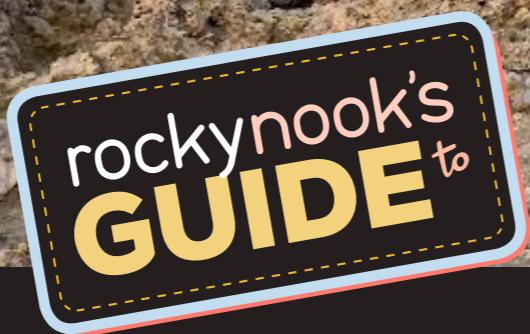
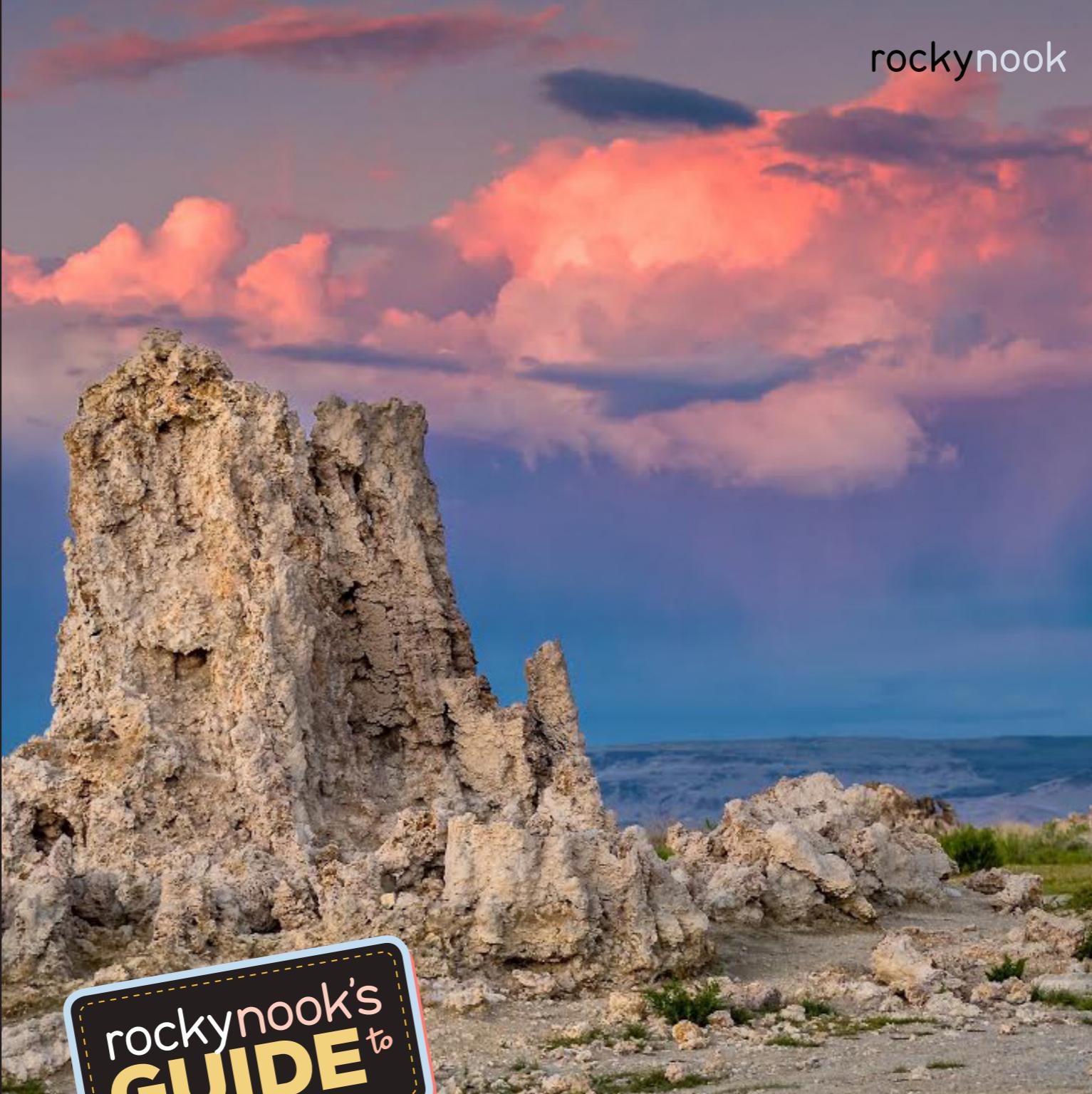


rockynook



Moving to Capture One Pro

FROM LIGHTROOM OR APERTURE

DERRICK STORY

Moving to Capture One Pro

FROM LIGHTROOM OR APERTURE

DERRICK STORY

Switching from one photo management application to another is a traumatic endeavor in a photographer's life. It's like changing schools as a child. You don't know any of the other kids, and you don't know where anything is. It's just lonely. At least at first.

But I'm here to help you with that. Think of me as the kid who slides up next to you at the lunch table and asks your name.

"Hi, I'm Derrick. Are you new here?"

Yes, a new friend on the first day of school. What a relief. Followed by your first insider tip.

"Oh, and don't even think about eating that meatloaf. There are horrible things in there."

Maybe things are going to be alright after all.

You see, I've been that new kid, too. I was happily rolling along using Aperture to run my photography business in Northern California, when one day I received an email from Apple.

"We wanted to let you know that we will no longer be developing Aperture."



What?! That's like dad coming home and telling the family that we're moving to Wisconsin. Nothing against that great cheese state, but I haven't a clue about the place. For all I know, they might not even make cheese anymore.

That's the way I felt about the news from Apple.

I then proceeded to go through the five stages of grief. First, denial. "There's no way they're really going to pull the plug." Next, anger.

"Those dirty son-of-a-guns. How dare they take away my livelihood." Then bargaining, depression, and finally...acceptance.

And that leads us to this e-book. After months of research and testing, I decided that Capture One Pro would be the new home for my photos. And now that I've been here for a while, I'm really quite comfortable. Yes, I still miss my old friend Aperture. He was a great guy. But there's nothing I can do about that (acceptance).

So here we are, together, poised to do one of the hardest things in modern photography: making the move from one software to another. I'll start by providing a little background about Capture One Pro. Then, I'll cover strategies for making the move. And I'll augment our time together with a few insider tips to steer you away from danger.

I'm glad you're here. I think we're all going to get along just fine.

What Is Capture One Pro?

In all honesty, it's not that much different from Lightroom and Aperture, at least not on the inside. Capture One Pro is a database-driven, non-destructive photo editor and image management system. The RAW files are preserved in their original state. Any edits

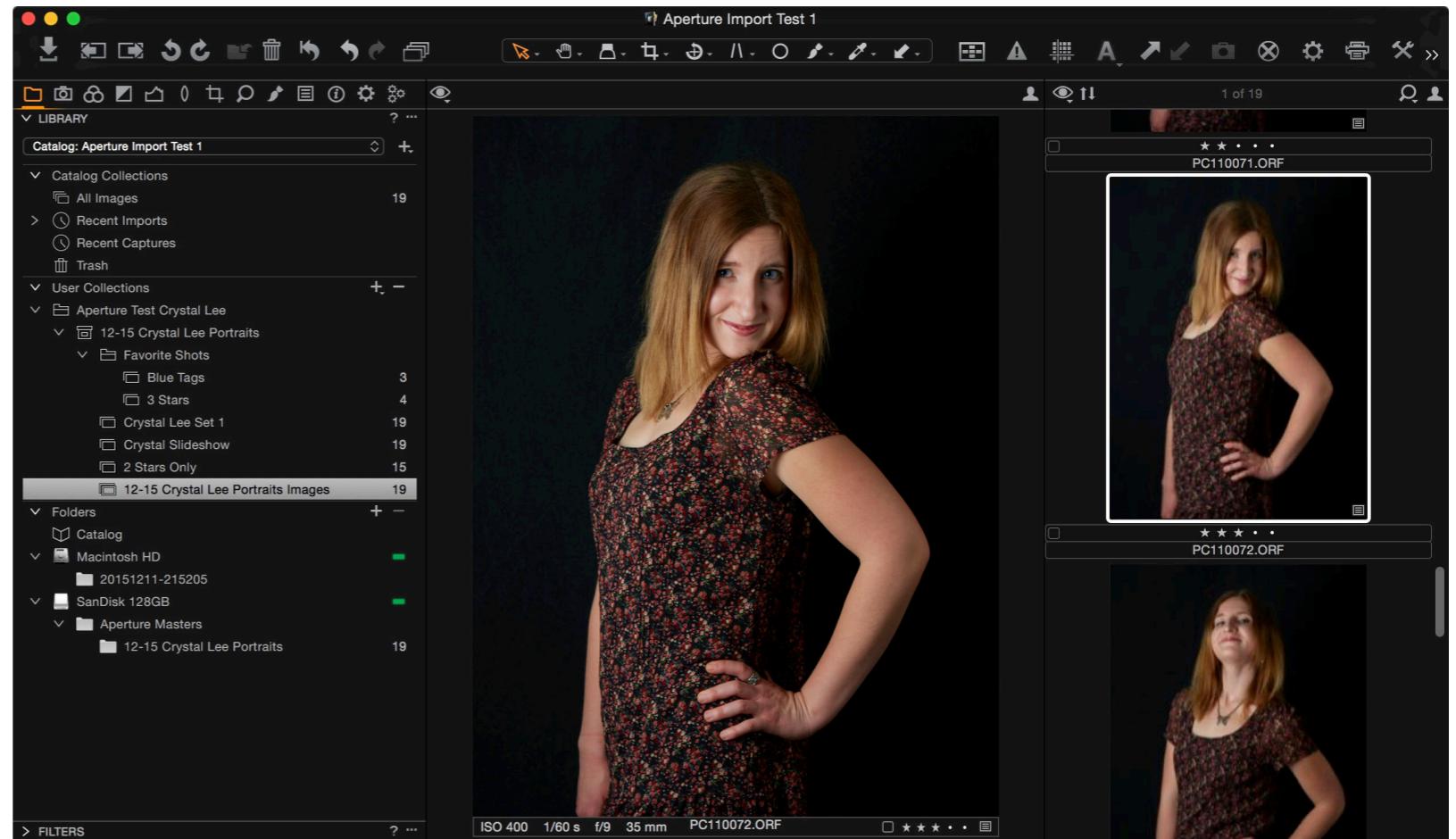


Figure 1: Capture One Pro's interface

that you do are recorded as instructions, which are then reflected visually in a fresh new preview file.

You can add metadata, change the appearance of the photo, and output to a variety of file formats. In the Library tab, you can organize your work by folders (called Groups), projects, and albums. Your master images can be stored inside the Capture One catalog container (the managed approach) or stored on a separate hard drive (a referenced catalog).

The interface of the application can be adapted to your personal tastes (Figure 1). As you move from left to right in the Tool Tabs area,

you'll encounter a series of icons, each containing a set of tools. The Color and Exposure tabs, for example, contain the sliders that you'd expect, such as white balance and contrast, respectively. Not only can you change the order of these tabs, you can also add and subtract tools within them.

If your camera is supported (and more than 400 are), you can edit your RAW files here. Plus, Capture One handles TIFFs and JPEGs, too, but not Photoshop files (your first insider tip). So if you're a heavy Photoshop user, this will be a problem for you.

You can make virtual copies of your images. They are called variants. And they behave much like their counterparts in Lightroom and Aperture. So, for example, you can perform basic edits on a picture, then make variants with different crop proportions.

Speaking of edits, there are two general types of edits available: global and local. The global edits change the entire picture. So if you increase the warmth of an image, that's reflected corner to corner. If you want to work on a specific area, then go to the Local Adjustments tab, and select one of the tools available there (Figure 2).

To help you organize your images, you can apply star ratings, color tags, and keywords. You can also create a nested structure with projects and albums to help you keep track of your images. This all happens in the Library tab.

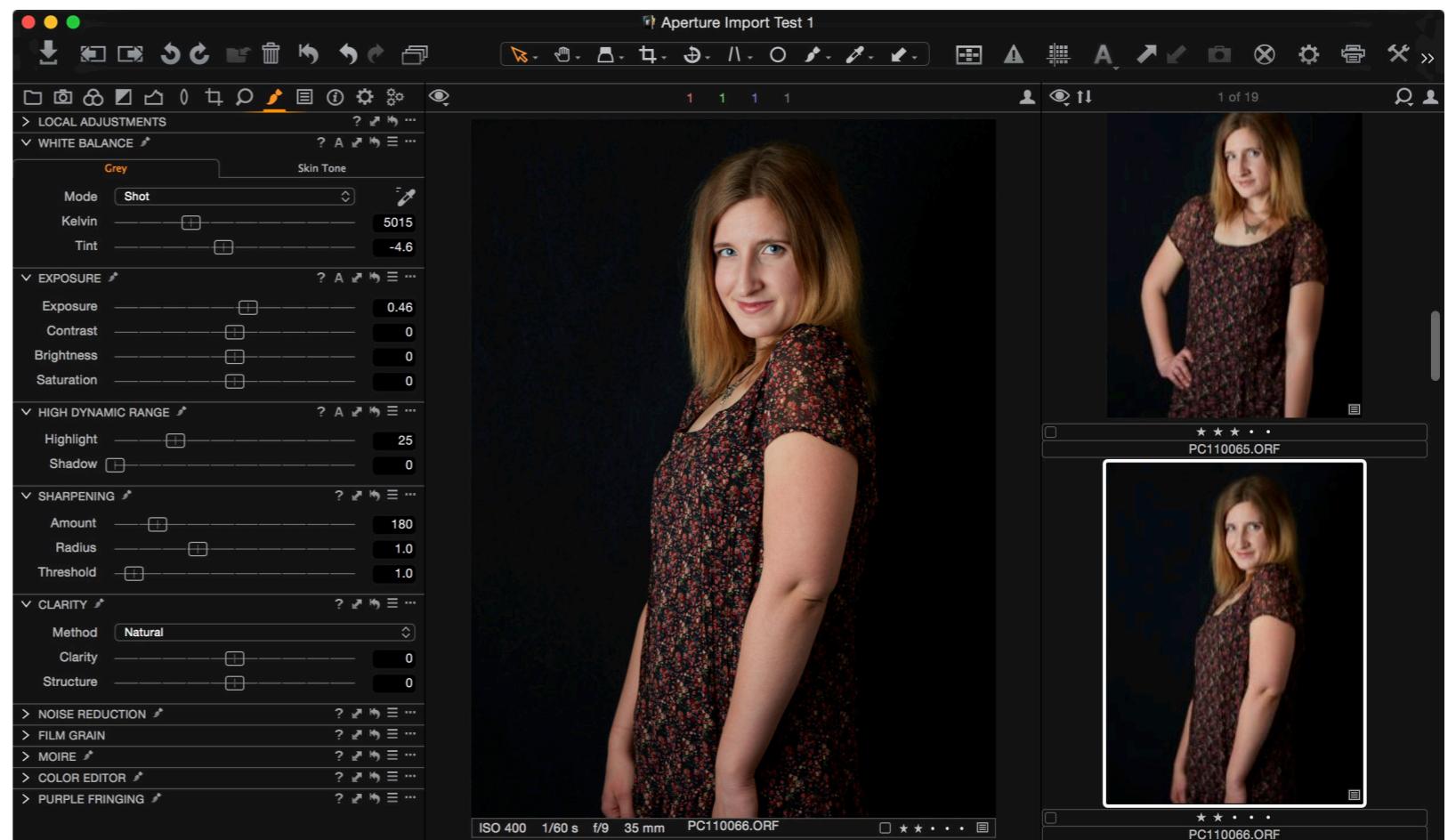


Figure 2: Lots of local adjustments are available in Capture One Pro

When it's time to share your work with the world, you have two basic export options: You can select Export Images under the File menu, or you can use a Process Recipe from the Output tab. In fact, you can output a photograph in multiple formats all at the same time by applying more than one process recipe. How nifty is that?

I'm sure this all sounds great, maybe even familiar. But how do you try these tools on a few of your images? Excellent question. I'll cover that next.

Transition Strategies

Let's start with what I think you should avoid: I recommend that you should *not* try to move your entire Lightroom or Aperture library into Capture One Pro at one time. The results of this approach are often disastrous. Trust me, it's worse than eating school meatloaf.

Instead, what I recommend is that you create a test library (or test catalog in Lightroom) that is a small subset of the existing catalog, then import that into Capture One (Figure 3). Why? Because you're creating an opportunity to learn and experiment. There will be surprises. And you don't want to risk your precious image library

while learning the ropes. I will go so far as to say that if you don't adopt the test library approach, please stop right here. I hope you follow my advice on this matter.

I will help you create these test libraries. I've written this guide for both Lightroom and Aperture users. Each of you get your own sections covering the steps required for learning how to import small libraries into Capture One Pro.

After testing, consider the wisdom of moving your entire existing image catalog to Capture One Pro. My recommendation is that you don't. Instead, bring over select batches of photos from your old application, then use Capture One Pro for your new stuff moving forward.

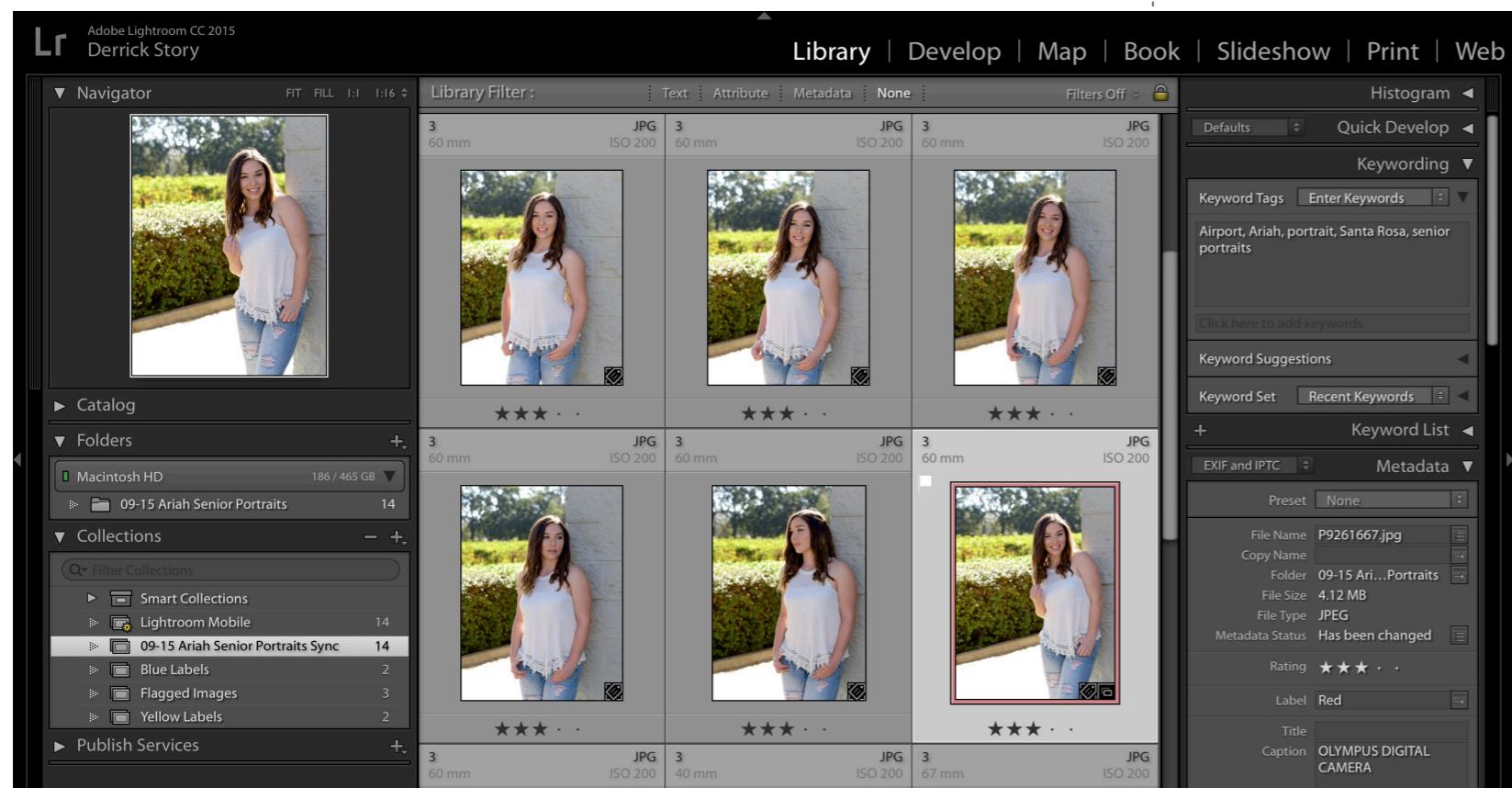


Figure 3: A Lightroom test catalog

As for the remainder of your legacy work housed in Aperture or Lightroom, I would opt for setting up an older computer to handle these archives. Then, just export content from them as needed. I understand that this is a conservative approach. But it's also a sane one. At least think about it as you read on.

Creating a Test Library in Aperture

Find an album in your existing Aperture library that contains 15–30 images. Create a library from this album by right-clicking on its icon and choosing Export > Album as New Library from the popup menu (Figure 4).

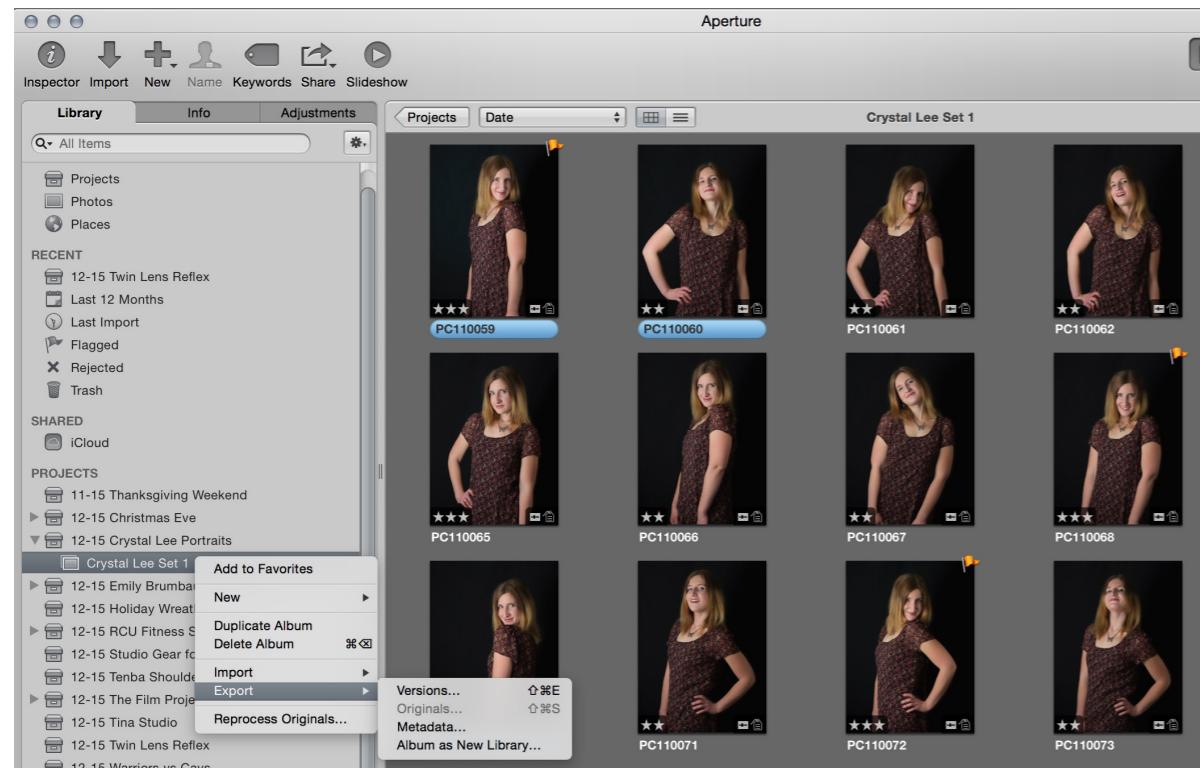
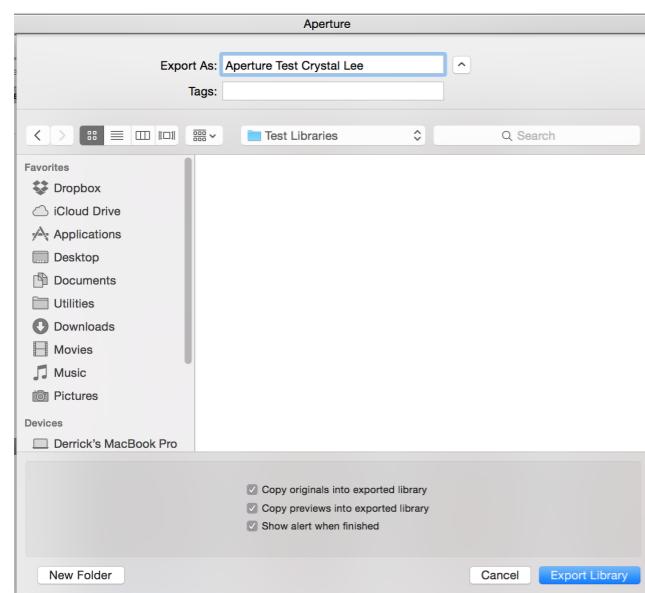


Figure 4: Selecting an album to export as a New Library

In the dialog that follows, you'll be asked to give it a name and choose its location (Figure 5). Be sure to give it a distinctive "test" name so you don't confuse it with your regular work. I keep my test libraries in a folder on the desktop, then discard them once I've completed a trial run.



In that same dialog, check all three boxes at the bottom. By doing so, you'll ensure that all the necessary components of the library are in one container, and that you'll be notified once the export is complete. Then click the blue Export Library button.

Figure 5: Choosing a location for your test library

Once you've been notified that the process is complete, you can switch to that test library for some fine-tuning. In Aperture, go to File > Switch to Library > Other/New. A new dialog will present itself with all of the available Aperture libraries. Highlight your test library on the list and click Choose (Figure 6). Aperture will open it.

The next step is to create a mini version of your standard Aperture library. Make sure all of the images in this test have star ratings and keywords. Add color tags to some and flags to others. Create additional albums and nest them in a folder. Create a slideshow.

Even though you only have a handful of images, you can use them to build a scaled version of the structure that you use in your main library on a grander scale. We're doing this so you can compare what you created in Aperture to what later appears in Capture One Pro.

Ready for another one of those insider tips? Smart albums won't make the journey to Capture One. You can test this for yourself, but trust me, it doesn't work. So if you have content in smart albums that you want to bring over, select all of the images in the smart

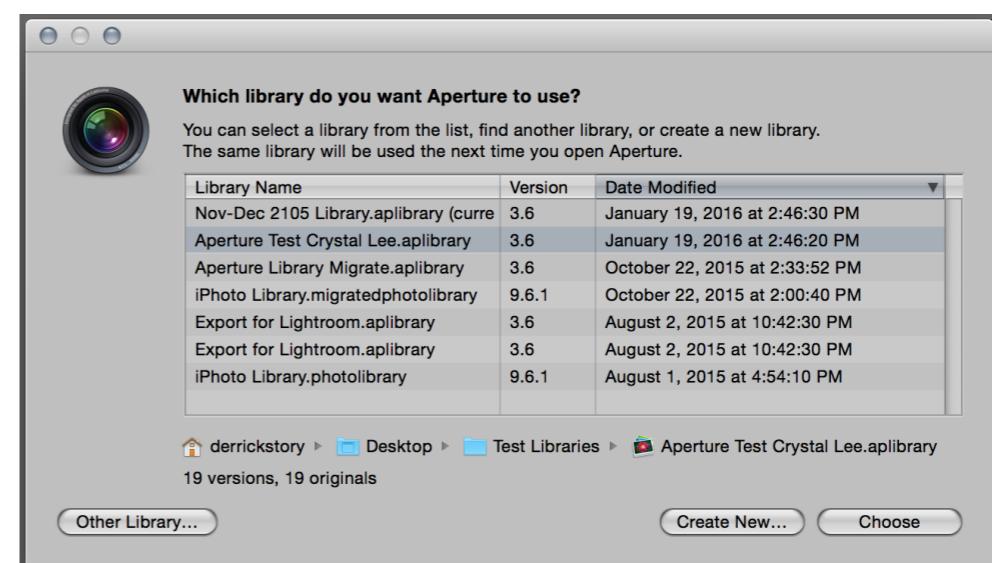


Figure 6: Opening your test library in Aperture

album and create a regular album from them (File > New > Album, or Command-L).

If you have a lot of smart albums in your library, I realize that this can be a rock in your shoe. It's one of the tasks to consider when deciding how much content to bring from one application to another.

Once you've finished fine-tuning your test library, close Aperture. You're now ready to import it into Capture One Pro and review the results.

Importing an Aperture Library into Capture One Pro

Now that you have a test library ready to go, you can see how well Capture One Pro's import tool works. Start by opening a fresh Capture One Pro catalog. Hold down the Option/Alt key while launching the application (Figure 7).

After a few moments, a dialog should appear. Click on New Catalog in the lower left corner. When the next dialog appears, give your catalog a name, choose a location, and click OK. A fresh, new Capture One catalog should appear (Figure 8).

On the left side of the interface, the Library tab should be highlighted in the Tool Tabs with the following listings in that pane:

- Catalog Collections
- User Collections
- Folders

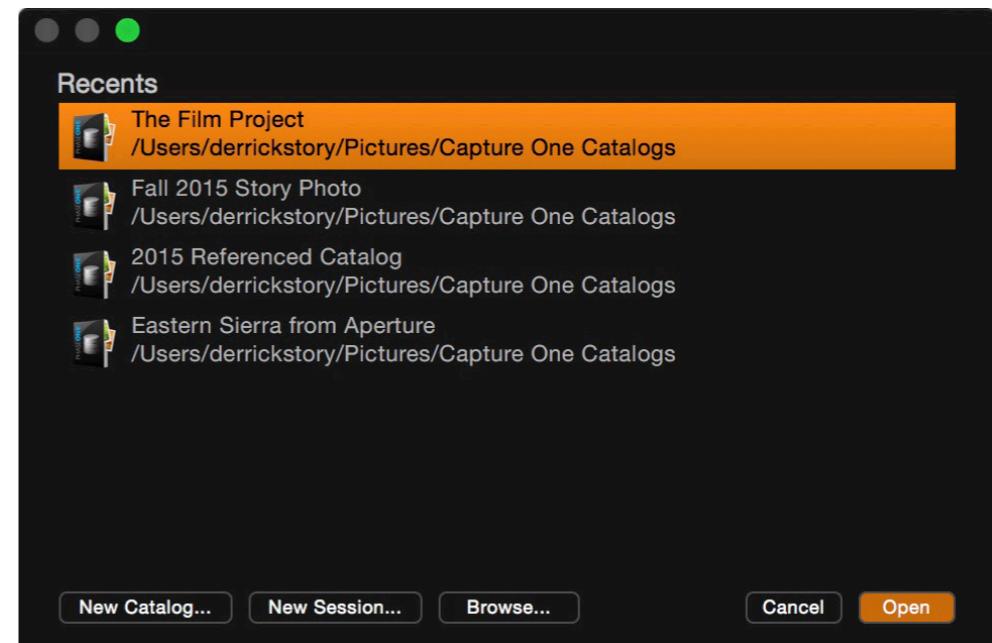


Figure 7: Hold down the Option/Alt key while launching the application to open this dialog box

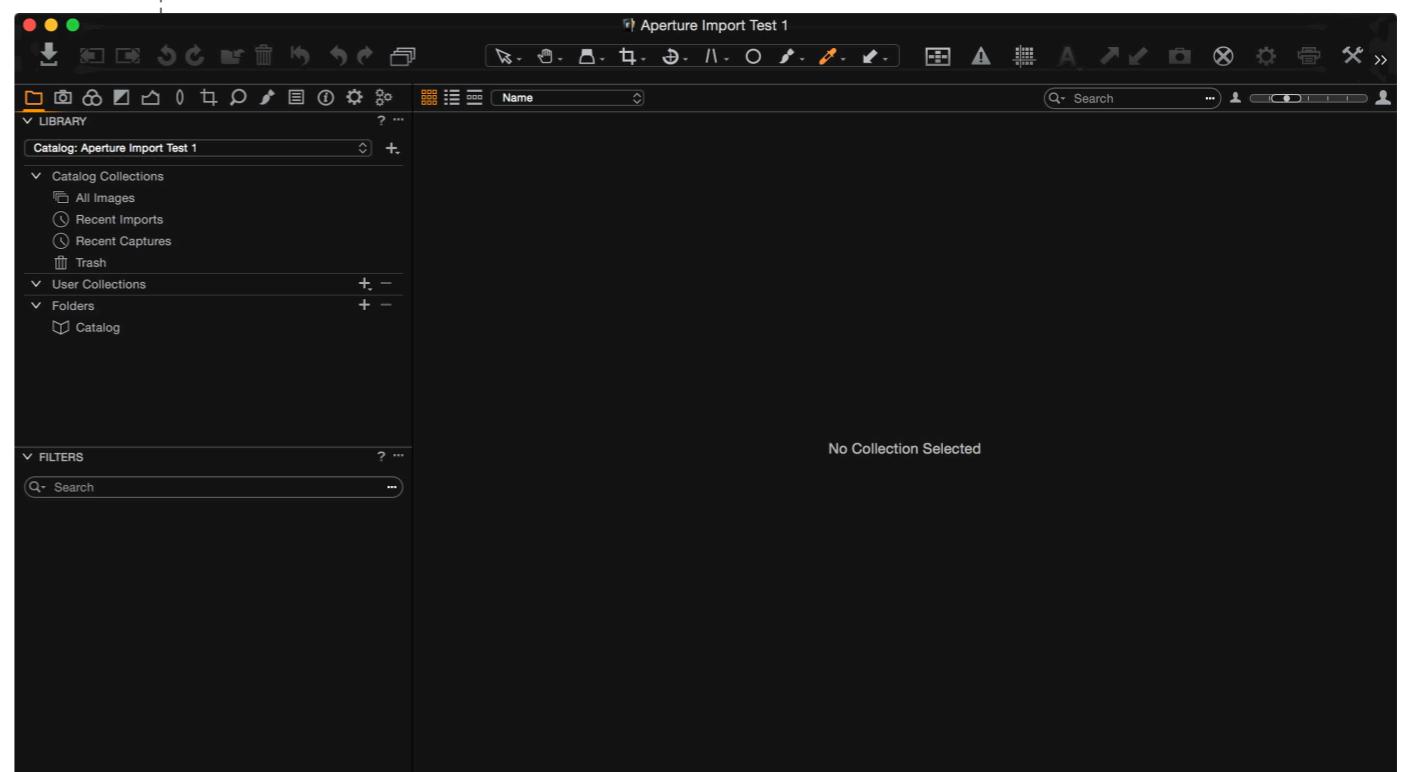


Figure 8: A fresh Capture One catalog before importing pictures

Catalog Collections are set by the application. They include standard ways to look at your pictures, such as All Images and Recent Imports.

User Collections is the area where you'll organize your catalog. Here's where you can create a structure with projects and albums.

Folders shows you what's happening on the hard drive where your masters are stored. If you're using a managed catalog, then everything is stored within the Catalog icon. If you choose to run a referenced catalog, then you'll see a hard drive with the file folders that contain your master images.

So let's bring in some pictures and see how this works. Go to File > Import Catalog > Aperture Library (Figure 9). You'll be greeted with a nice little information pane that tells you what's going to happen next. Read it, then click Continue.

Navigate to your Aperture test library and click the Open button. Capture One will import the contents, and a Group (which looks

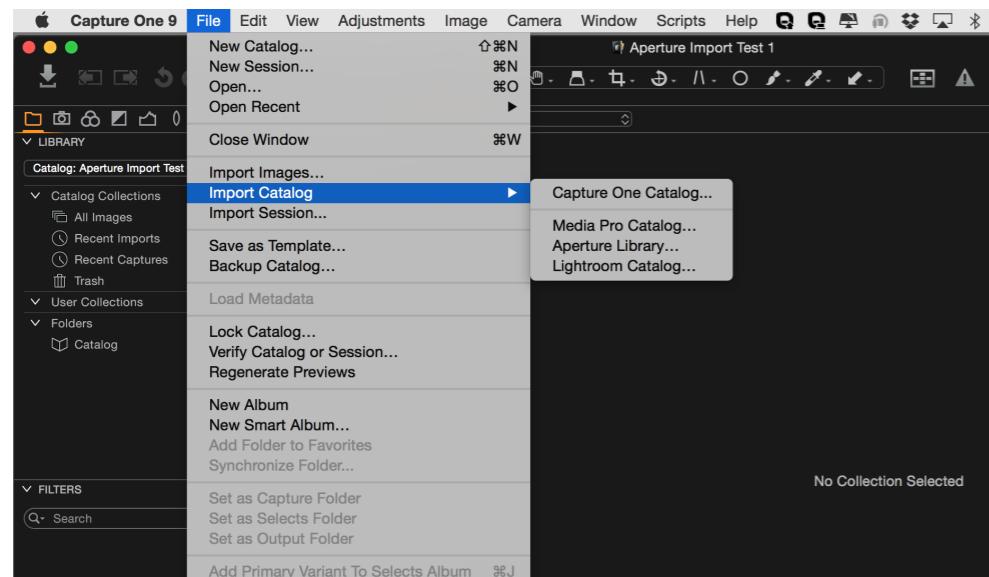


Figure 9: The command to import your Aperture test library

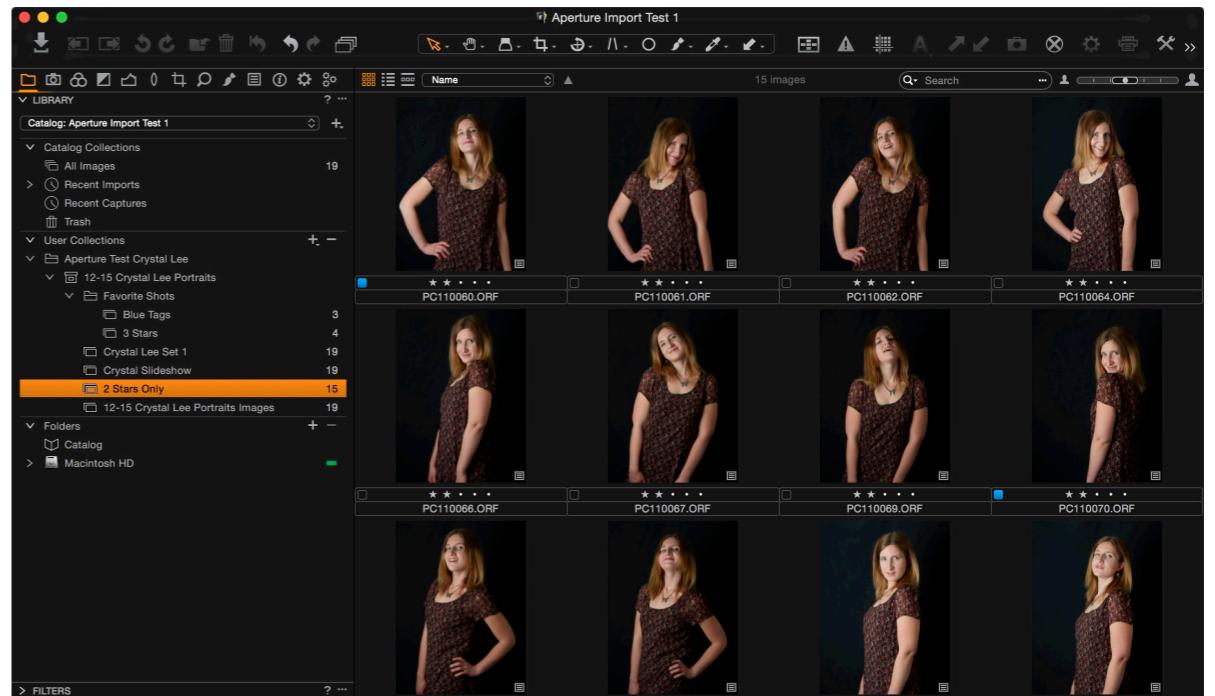


Figure 10: A successfully imported Aperture library

like a folder) will appear under User Collections. Open the Group and everything beneath it by clicking on the angled brackets to the left of the icon. You should see a project container and your albums (Figure 10).

Click on any of the albums, and thumbnails should appear in the viewer window. Capture One Pro will build its own previews for these images. You can enlarge any thumbnail by double-clicking on it. The image will enlarge and a filmstrip of thumbnails will be placed below it. This is the default location for the thumbnails. If you'd like your thumbnails to be placed on the right side, go to View > Place Browser Right. Most photographers like this better for portraits.

Some of your image edits from Aperture should be reflected in these imported photos: crop (or straighten), rotation, flip, exposure, brightness, highlights & shadows, definition, saturation, and B&W adjustments.

You can return to the all-thumbnail view by clicking Option/Alt-Command-V. You can control the size of the thumbnails via the Zoom Tool in the upper right corner of the interface. Take a few moments to peruse your pictures. My experience has been that they looked at least as good as they did in Aperture, if not better.

Let's return to the Library tab on the left side. Take a look at the structure that Capture One created based on the information in your Aperture library. The contents should look very similar.

The first time I did this, I was really impressed with the results. And generally speaking, the Capture One structure has been very close to what I created in Aperture.

After spending some time reviewing User Collections, take a look at the Folders area. Here you'll see a Catalog icon. That's where the database, previews, and other components in the catalog are stored.

Below that, you should see a hard drive icon. Open it by clicking on the angled bracket to its left, and you should see a folder labeled by a numbered sequence. This is where your master images are currently stored on the drive. You can see them by clicking on the folder.

By default, Capture One sets up a referenced catalog when importing Aperture libraries. To see the location of this folder, right-click on it and choose Show Folders Hierarchy. If you were running a managed library in Aperture, you would be taken into its depths. Right-click again and choose Hide Folders Hierarchy to collapse the structure.

The bottom line here is that when you use the Import from Aperture command, Capture One leaves the masters in their current location. So, if you have a managed Aperture library, the masters

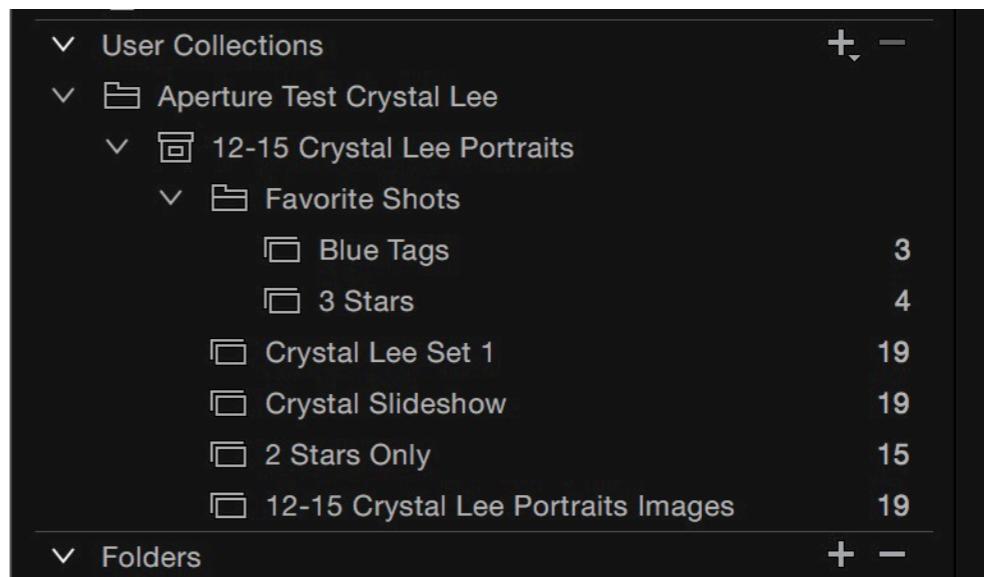


Figure 11: An external hard drive that will be the new home for your master images

stay inside the Aperture library container. If you're running a referenced library, then Capture One honors that structure, too. You can test this by creating a referenced library in Aperture and performing another dry run.

That being said, what are our options for the current import? First, you could leave the images where they are in the Aperture container. Understand that the Aperture container must remain available in this scenario. You can't throw it away.

Second, you could move that numbered folder out of the Aperture container to a more suitable location, such as to a connected hard drive (Figure 11).

You can perform this task right here in Capture One Pro. Here are the steps:

1. Connect an external hard drive to your computer that you wish to contain the masters.

2. In Capture One, click on the + icon to the right of Folders (in the Library tab), and navigate to the external hard drive you just connected.
3. Click the blue Add button, and the drive should be added to the list in Capture One, right there beneath your computer hard drive icon.
4. Click on the external drive once to highlight it (in the illustrations here, it's labeled SanDisk 128GB), the click the + icon again to add a folder to the drive.
5. Create the new folder by clicking on the New Folder button in the dialog, then give it a name, such as Aperture Masters. Click the blue Add button. (If you want additional nested folders inside the Aperture Masters folder, create that now, too. I created one called "12-15 Crystal Lee Portraits".)

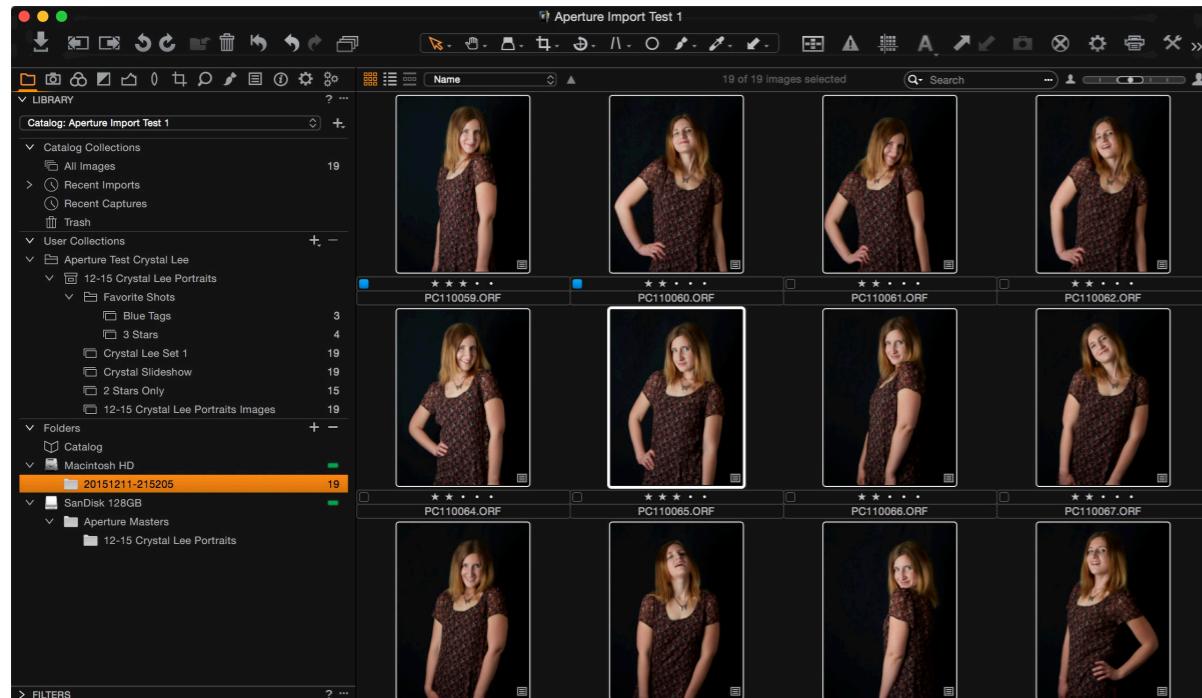


Figure 12: Selecting all the images to move

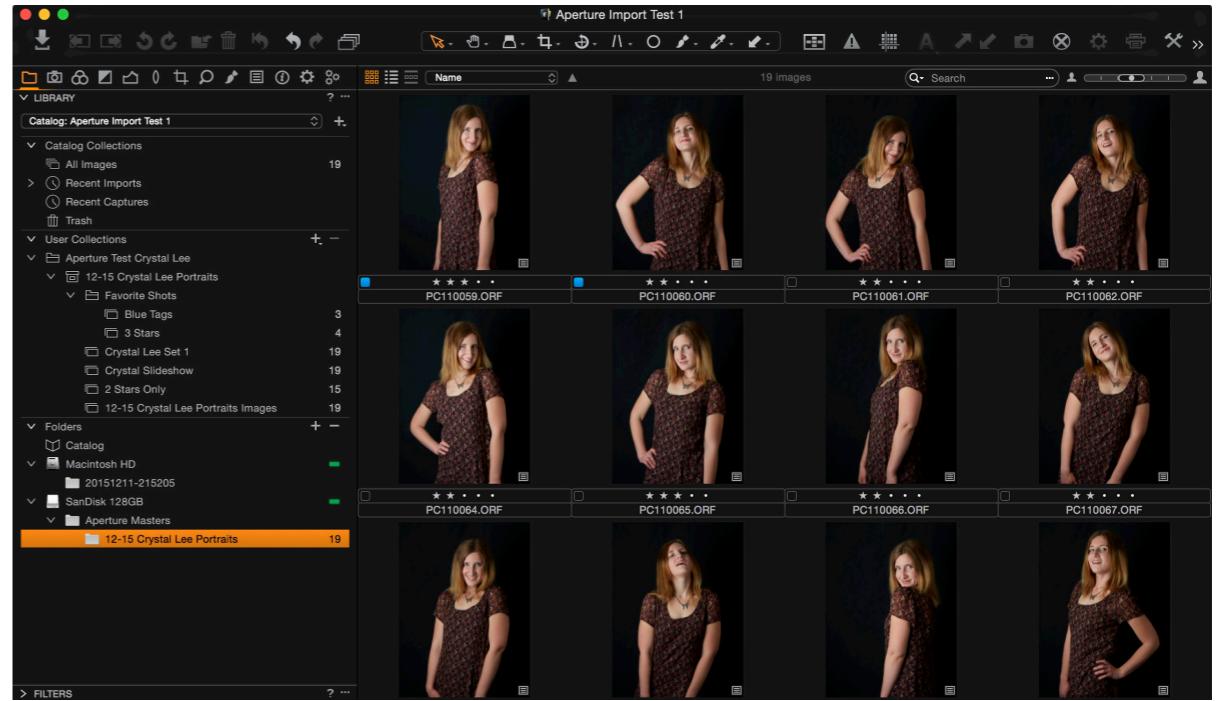


Figure 13: The images successfully relocated to the external hard drive

6. Perform the actual move of the masters. This happens in Capture One. Click on the folder with the images in it to display them in the browser. In the illustration, that folder is labeled "20151211-215205."
7. Select all of the images in the browser (Command-A), then drag them to the new folder in the library pane (Figure 12). In my case, that folder is "12-15 Crystal Lee Portraits."
8. Capture One will relocate the masters to their new home in the folder you've created (Figure 13).

Here's the really important part! If you perform the above steps, your master images are no longer in the Aperture container. You have just moved them. If you want to use that library in Aperture, you will have to point the application to their new home. (In this example, that is the "12-15 Crystal Lee Portraits" on the external SanDisk drive.) This is one of the reasons why working with a test library is so important.

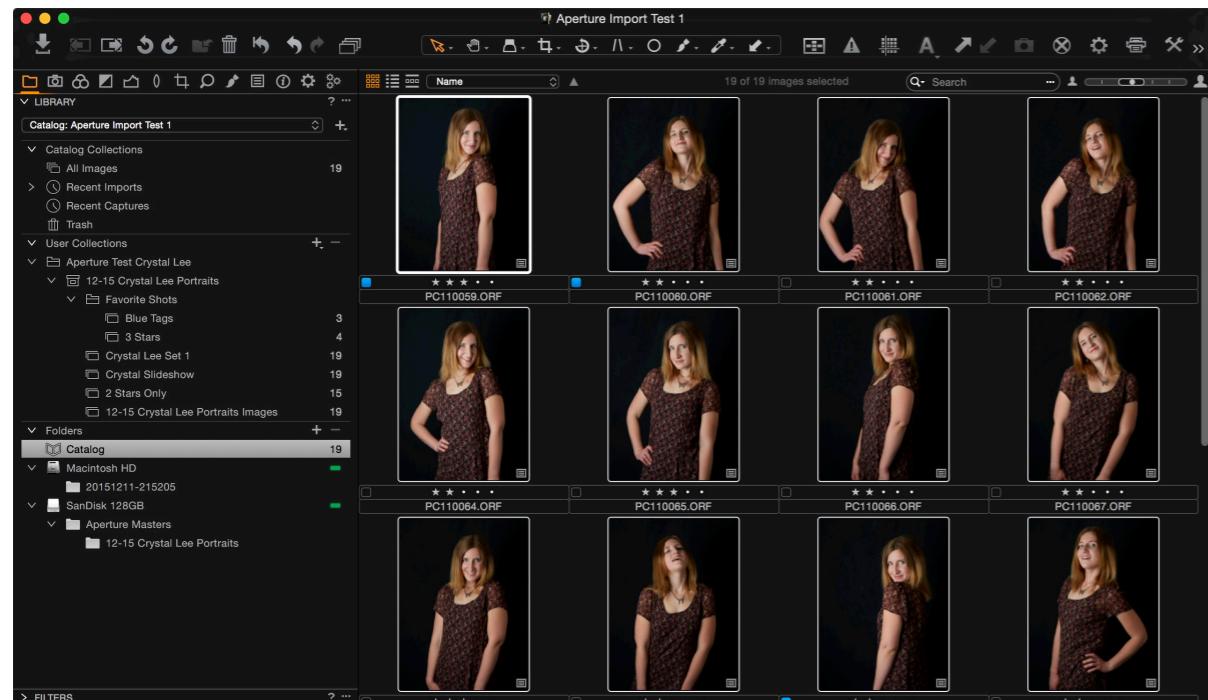


Figure 14: Images relocated to the Capture One Pro Catalog

Your third option is to create a managed catalog inside Capture One Pro. This is quite easy. Just select all of the thumbnails again, and this time drag them to the Catalog icon. They will now be stored in the Capture One Pro Catalog (Figure 14). They no longer reside on your external hard drive.

None of this activity affects what happens in the User Collections area. All of your 3-Star albums and other virtual collections will behave the same. That's because Capture One Pro is database-driven. So it's keeping track of these masters despite all the moves we've made.

The important point to remember is to make these moves inside the Capture One interface. If you go behind its back and work on the Finder level, then links will be broken and problems will surface. So stay within the interface, and everything will be all right.

A Note About Importing Referenced Libraries

If you've been using a referenced library in Aperture—in other words, storing your masters outside the Aperture library container—then importing a test library into Capture One Pro is even easier.

Capture One will leave the masters where they're currently stored, and point to them in the Folders area of the Library tab (Figure 15).

You still have the same flexibility for relocating the masters, as I discussed earlier. Just keep in mind that you'll want to do all of your organization within the Capture One interface.

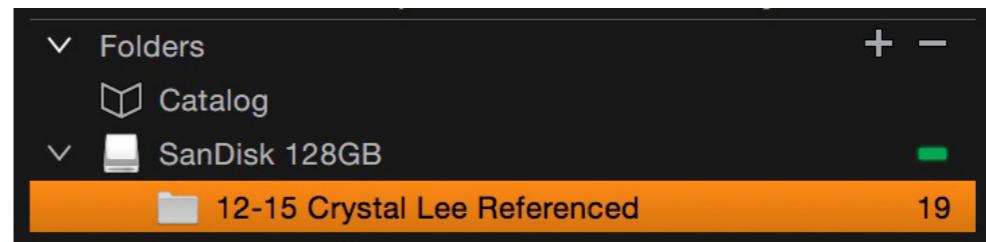


Figure 15: Masters from a referenced Aperture library will be left in their current location and Capture One will show you that location in the Folders area of the Library tab

Creating a Test Catalog in Lightroom

Find a collection in your Lightroom catalog that contains 15–30 images. Right-click on the collection name and choose Export this Collection as a Catalog (Figure 16).

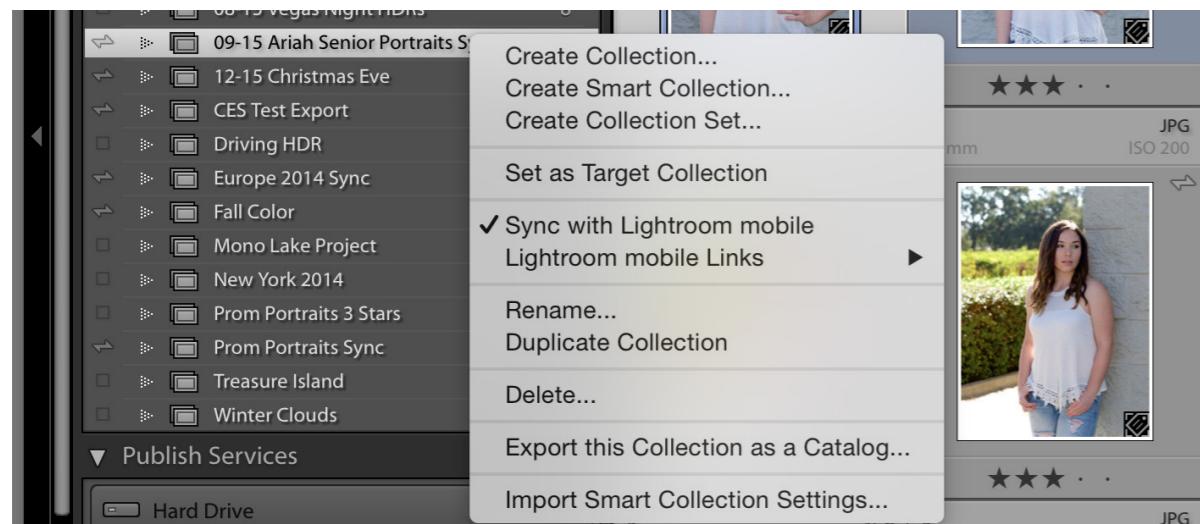


Figure 16: Exporting a collection as a catalog

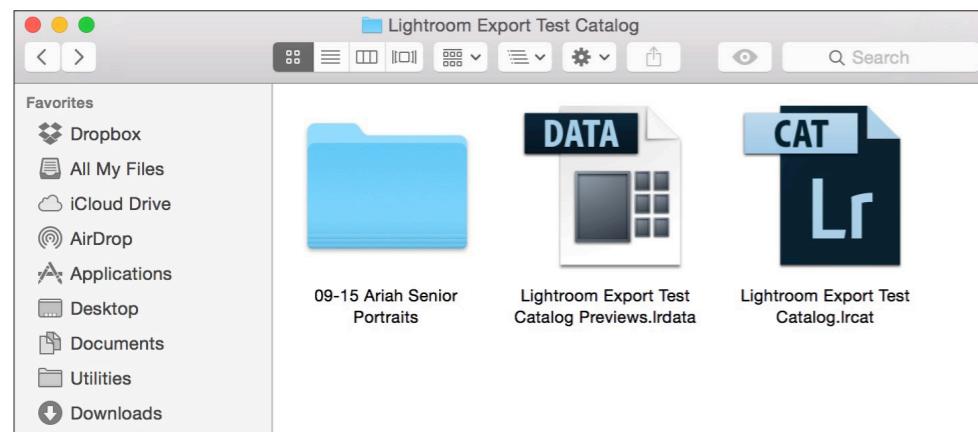


Figure 17: Lightroom's exported files

Designate a location, such as a folder on your desktop, and give it a distinctive test name so you don't confuse it with your everyday Lightroom catalogs. I also recommend that you check the boxes next to the options to "Export Negative Files" and "Include Available Previews." Then click the Export Catalog button. Lightroom will place three items in a folder in your designated location: a catalog file, a data file, and a folder containing the masters (Figure 17).

Double-click on the catalog file (.lrcat) to open it in Lightroom. You'll want to do a little housekeeping now to clean up the catalog and add any goodies that you want to test for importing into Capture One Pro.

What you want to do is create a mini version of your standard Lightroom catalog. Make sure all of the images in this test have star ratings and keywords. Add color tags to some and flags to others. Create additional collections. Make a little slideshow.

Even though you only have a handful of images, you can use them to build a scaled version of the structure that you use in your main catalog on a grander scale. We're doing this so you can compare what you created in Lightroom to what later appears in Capture One Pro (Figure 18).

Ready for another one of those insider tips? Smart collections won't make the journey to Capture One Pro. You can test this for yourself, but trust me, it doesn't work. So if you have content in smart collections that you want to bring over, select all of the images in the smart collection and create a regular album from that selection.

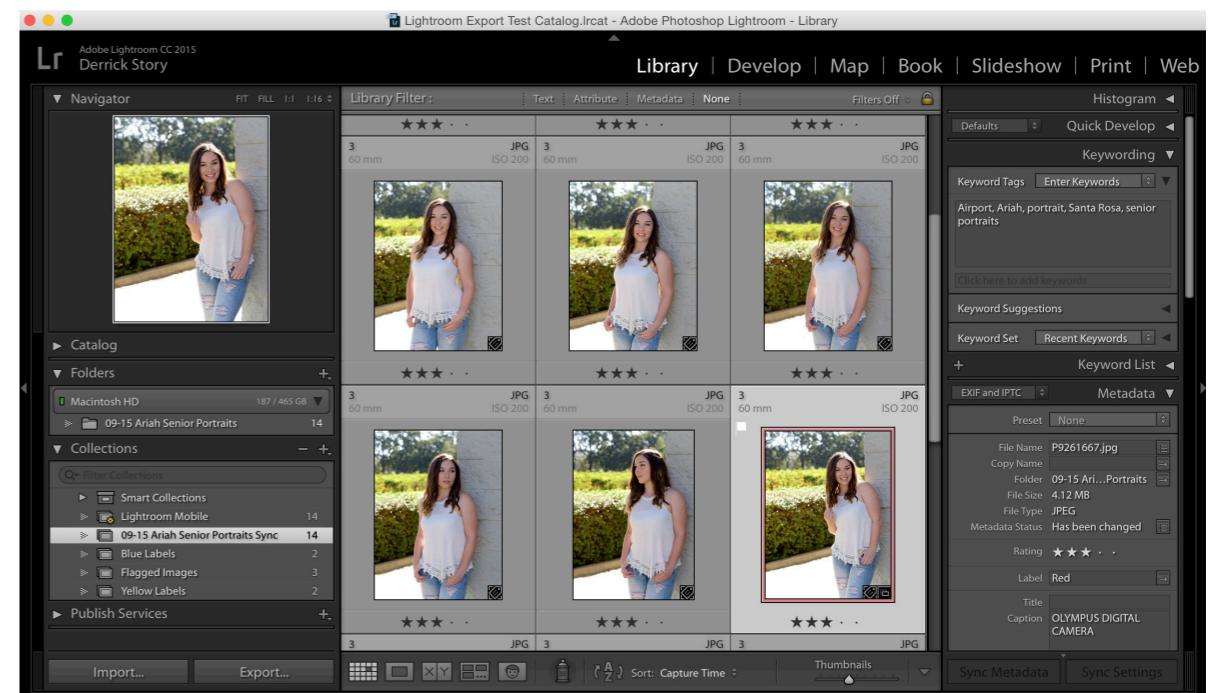


Figure 18: Try to create a mini version of your Lightroom catalog so you can test the variables that are important to you

If you have a lot of smart collections in your catalog, I realize that this can be a rock in your shoe. It's one of the tasks to consider when deciding how much content to bring from one application to another.

Once you've finished fine-tuning your test catalog, close Lightroom. You're now ready to import it into Capture One Pro and review the results.

Importing Your Lightroom Test Catalog into Capture One Pro

Now that you have a test catalog ready to go, you can see how well Capture One's import tool works. Start by opening a fresh Capture One catalog. Hold down the Option/Alt key while launching the application (Figure 19).

After a few moments, a dialog should appear. Click on New Catalog in the lower left corner. When the next dialog appears, give

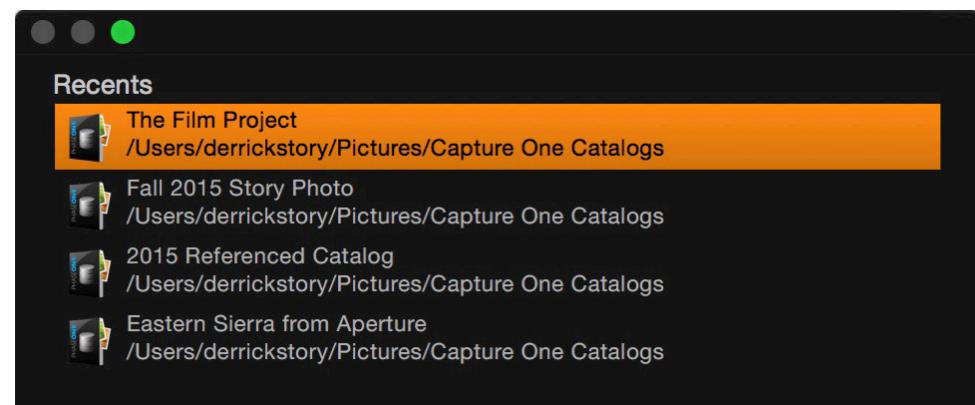


Figure 19: Hold down the Option/Alt key while launching the application to open this dialog box

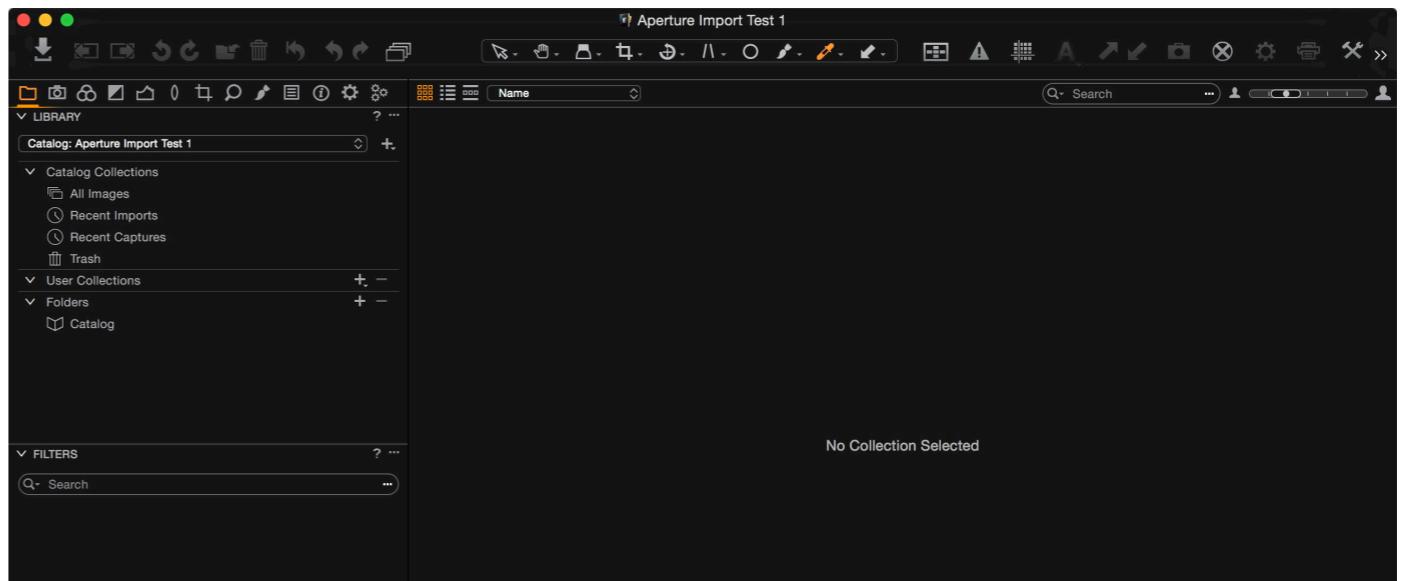


Figure 20: A fresh Capture One catalog before importing pictures

your catalog a name, choose a location, and click OK. A fresh, new Capture One catalog should appear (Figure 20).

On the left side of the interface, the Library tab should be highlighted in the Tool Tabs with the following listings in that pane:

- Catalog Collections
- User Collections
- Folders

Catalog Collections are set by the application. They include standard ways to look at your pictures, such as All Images and Recent Imports.

User Collections is the area where you'll organize your catalog. Here's where you can create a structure with projects and albums.

Folders shows you what's happening on the hard drive where your masters are stored. If you're using a managed catalog, then everything is stored within the Catalog icon. If you choose to run a refer-

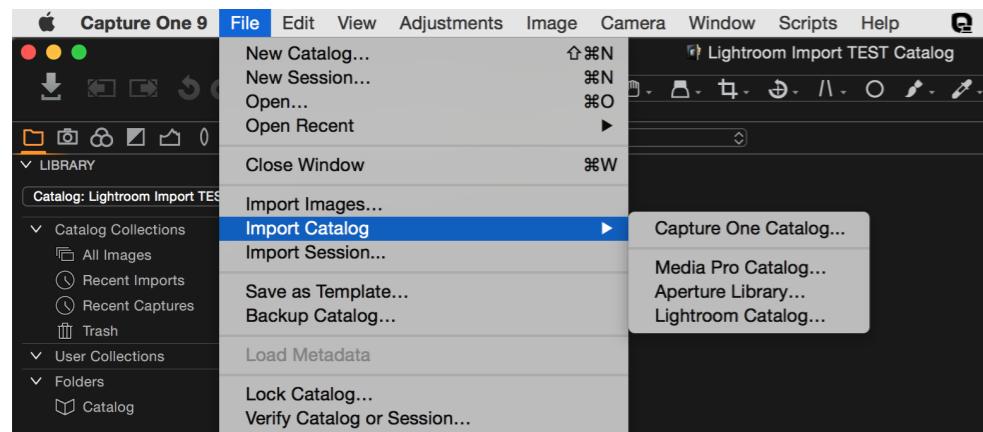


Figure 21: The command to import your Lightroom Test Catalog

enced catalog, then you'll see a hard drive with the file folders that contain your master images.

So let's bring in some pictures and see how this works. Go to File > Import Catalog > Lightroom Catalog (Figure 21). You'll be greeted with a nice little information pane that tells you what's going to happen next. Read it, then click Continue.

Navigate to your Lightroom test catalog (.lrcat) and click the Open button. Capture One will import the contents, and a Group (which looks like a folder) will appear under User Collections. Open the Group and everything beneath it by clicking on the angled brackets to the left of the icon. You should see a project container and your collections (Figure 22).

Click on any of the collections, and thumbnails should appear in the viewer window. Capture One will build its own previews for these images. You can enlarge any thumbnail by double-clicking on it. The image will enlarge and a filmstrip of thumbnails will

be placed below it. This is the default location for the thumbnails. If you'd like your thumbnails to be placed on the right side, go to View > Place Browser Right. Most photographers like this better for portraits.

Some of your image edits from Lightroom should be reflected in these imported photos: crop, rotation, orientation, exposure, white balance, saturation, and contrast adjustments. You should also see star ratings and color labels, but flags won't survive the trip.

You can return to the all-thumbnail view by clicking Option/Alt-Command-V. You can control the size of the thumbnails via the Zoom Tool in the upper right corner of the interface. Take a few

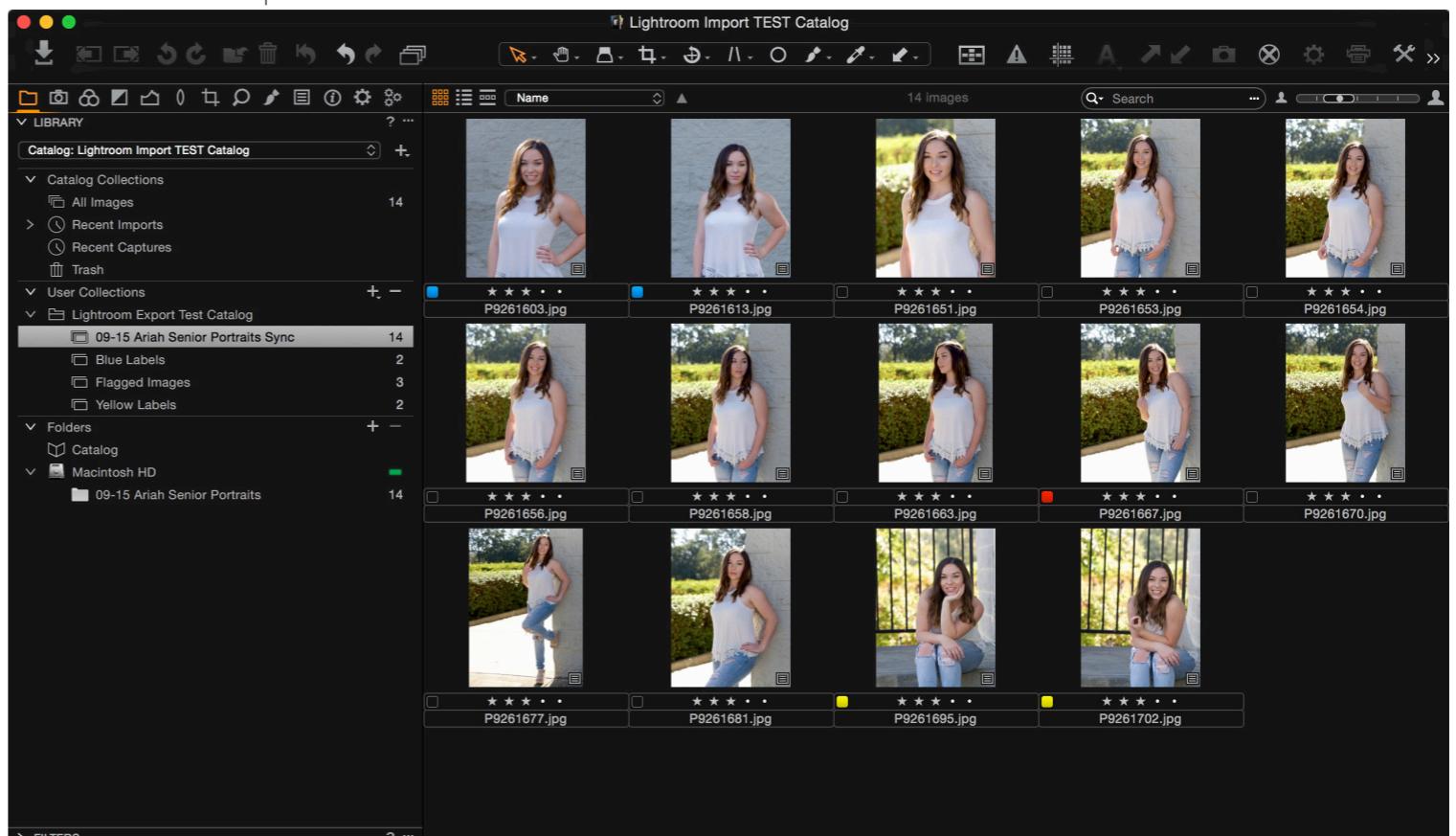


Figure 22: A successfully imported Lightroom Catalog

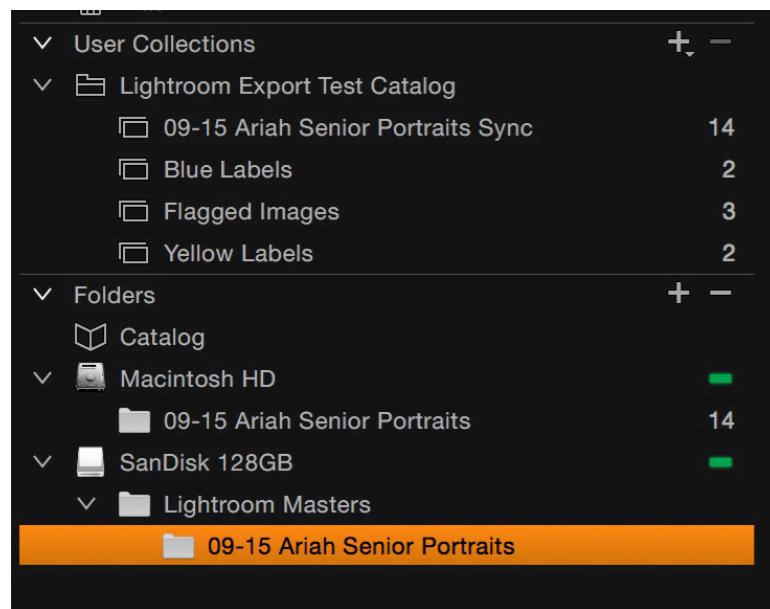


Figure 23: The new home for the master images is created and waiting to be populated

moments to peruse your pictures. My experience has been that they looked as least as good as they did in Lightroom, if not better.

Let's return to the Library tab on the left side. Take a look at the structure that Capture One created based on the information in your Lightroom catalog. The contents should look very similar. A few collections may be in a different position. But unless they were a smart collection previously, they should be present in the new catalog. The first time I did this, I was really impressed with the results.

After spending some time reviewing User Collections, take a look at the Folders area. Here you'll see a Catalog icon. That's where the database, previews, and other components in the catalog are stored.

Below that, you should see a hard drive icon. Open it by clicking on the angled bracket to its left, and you should see a folder labeled with your master images. This is where they are currently stored on the drive. You can see them by clicking on the folder.

You can leave your masters here, or you can connect an external drive and move them to that location. Here's how to do that:

1. Connect an external hard drive to your computer that you wish to contain the masters.
2. In Capture One, click on the + icon to the right of Folders (in the Library tab), and navigate to the external hard drive you just connected.
3. Click the blue Add button, and the drive should be added to the list in Capture One, right there beneath your computer hard drive icon.
4. Click on the external drive once to highlight it (in the illustrations here, it's labeled SanDisk 128GB), then click the + icon again to add a folder to the drive.
5. Create the new folder by clicking on the New Folder button in the dialog, then give it a name, such as Lightroom Masters. Click the blue Add button. If you want additional nested folders inside the Lightroom Masters folder, create that now, too. I created one called "09-15 Ariah Senior Portraits" (Figure 23).
6. Perform the actual move of the masters. This happens in Capture One. Click on the folder with the images in it to display them in the browser. In the illustration, that folder is labeled "09-15 Ariah Senior Portraits" under the Macintosh HD icon.
7. Select all of the images in the browser (Command-A), then drag them to the new folder in the Library pane (Figure 24). In my case, that folder was "09-15 Ariah Senior Portraits" under the SanDisk 128GB icon.
8. Capture One will relocate the masters to their new home in the folder you've created (Figure 25).

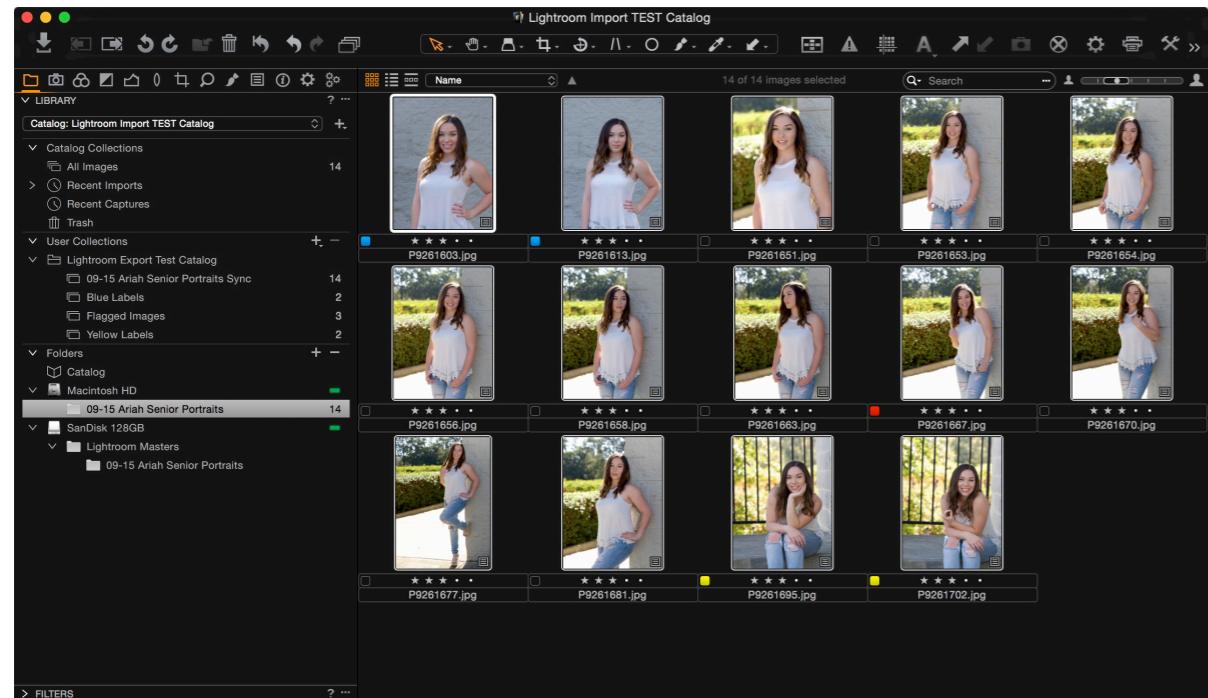


Figure 24: Pictures selected to move to the new location

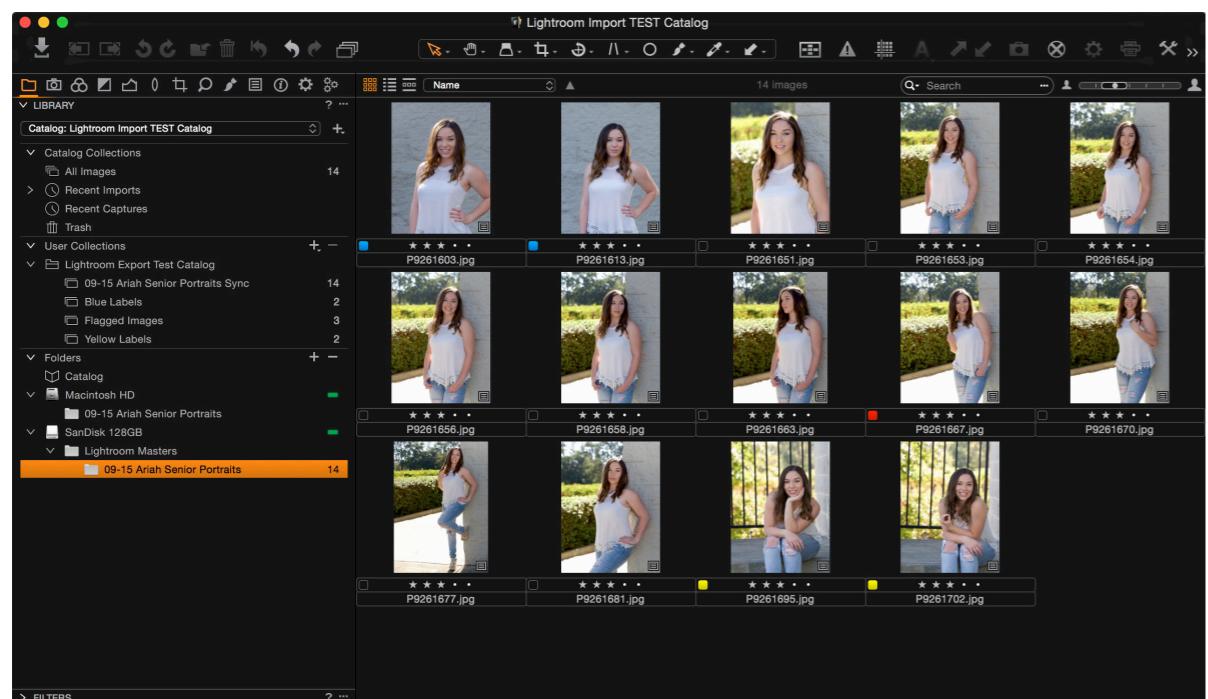


Figure 25: The images successfully relocated to the external hard drive

Another option is to create a managed catalog inside of Capture One Pro. This is quite easy and something new to Lightroom users. Just select all of the thumbnails again, and this time drag them to the Catalog icon. They will now be stored in the Capture One Pro Catalog (Figure 26). They no longer reside on your external hard drive.

None of this activity affects what happens in the User Collections area. All of your 3-Star albums and other virtual collections will behave the same. That's because Capture One Pro is database-driven. So it's keeping track of these masters despite all the moves we've made.

The important point to remember is to make these moves inside the Capture One interface. If you go behind its back and work on the Finder level, then links will be broken and problems will surface. So stay within the interface, and everything will be all right.

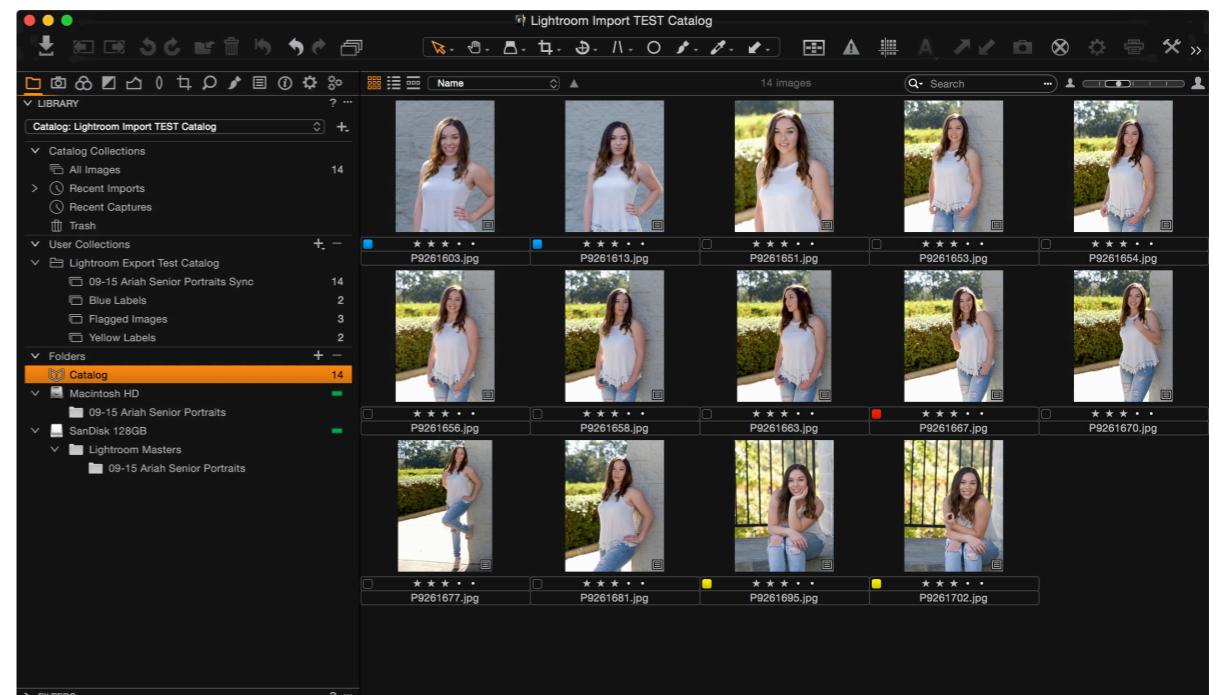


Figure 26: Images relocated to the Capture One Pro Catalog



Figure 27: You can see that both adjustments to the Exposure and Highlights sliders appear in this image imported from Aperture

A Closer Look at the Imported Image Edits

Before I leave you to your own devices, let's take a look at two more Tool Tabs: Exposure and Color. I chose to examine these because this exercise will give you an opportunity to see if any image edits survived the import process. We'll start with the Exposure tab.

The Exposure tab is four to the right of the Library tab we had been working in. By default, it includes tools for Exposure, High Dynamic Range (which is really just Highlights and Shadows), Levels, Curve, Clarity, and Vignetting.

As you can see in Figure 27, my adjustment to Exposure and Highlight were migrated to Capture One Pro. I'm showing you this now because I think it's worth testing. The transferable adjustments from Aperture include: crop (or straighten), rotation, flip, exposure, brightness, highlights & shadows, definition, saturation, and B&W. You may want to apply each of these in your Aperture test library, then see how they look in Capture One.

Next, we'll take a look at the Color tab. Let's see how a Lightroom import does. I've worked on one of the images in the test catalog, then reimported the catalog into Capture One to see how my edits transferred. The shot I worked on in Lightroom can be seen in Figure 28.

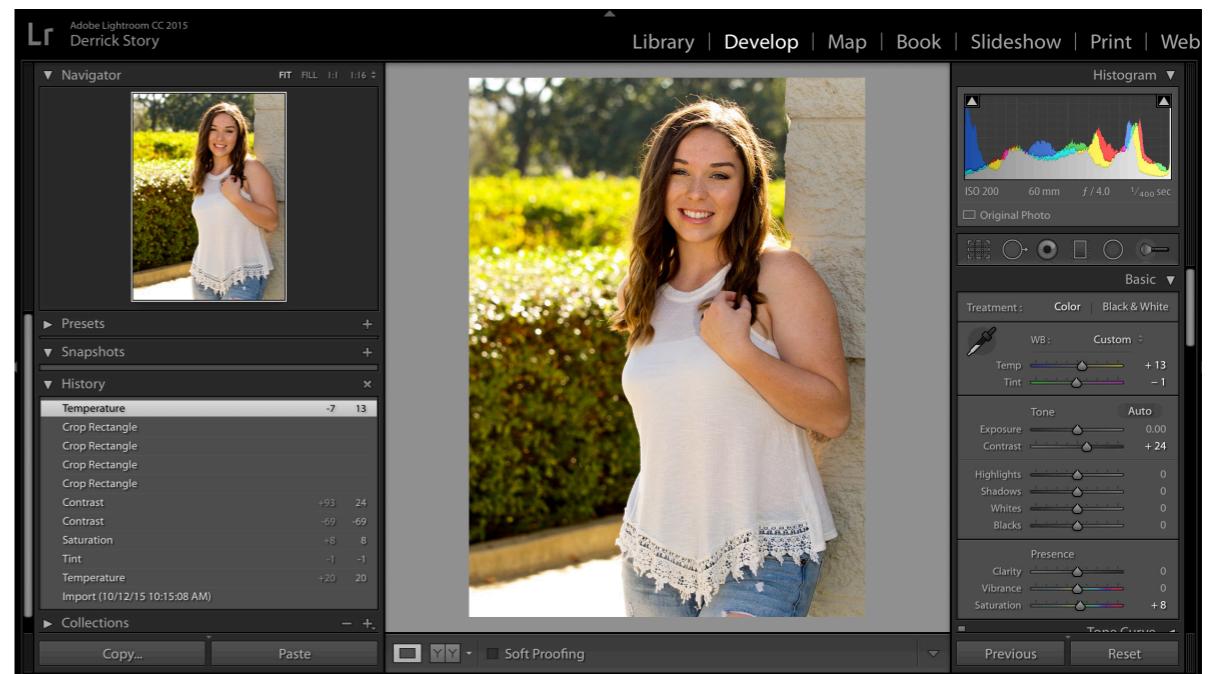


Figure 28: Edited image in Lightroom

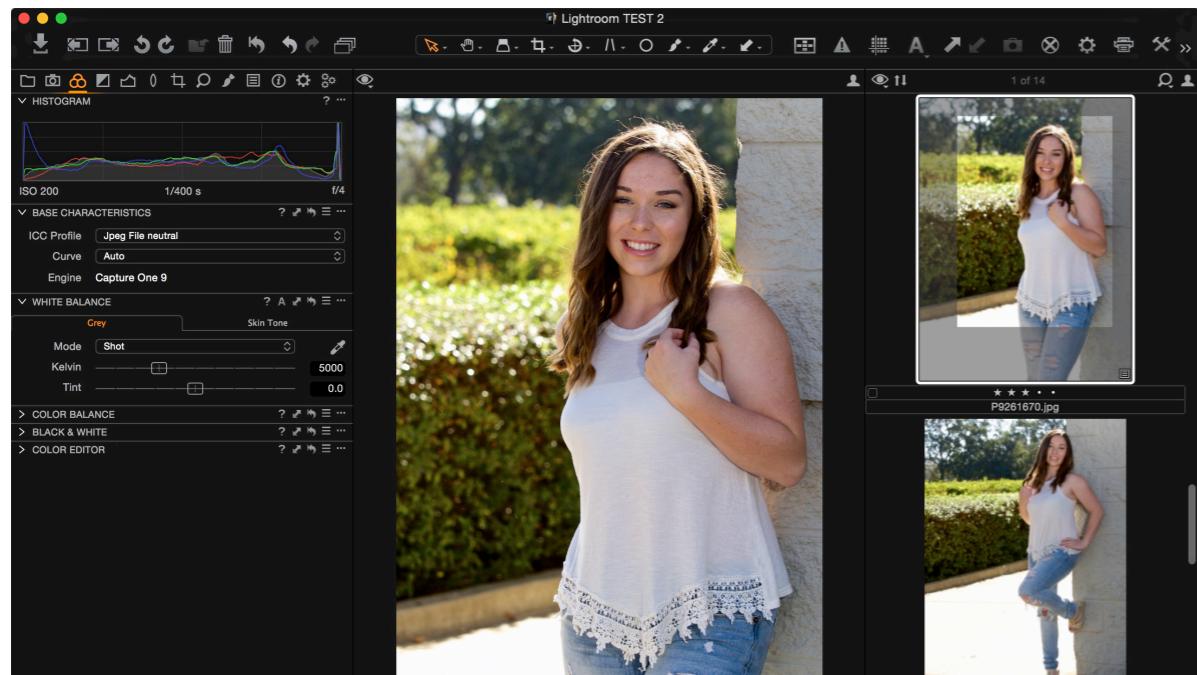


Figure 29: Here's the image after being imported into Capture One Pro

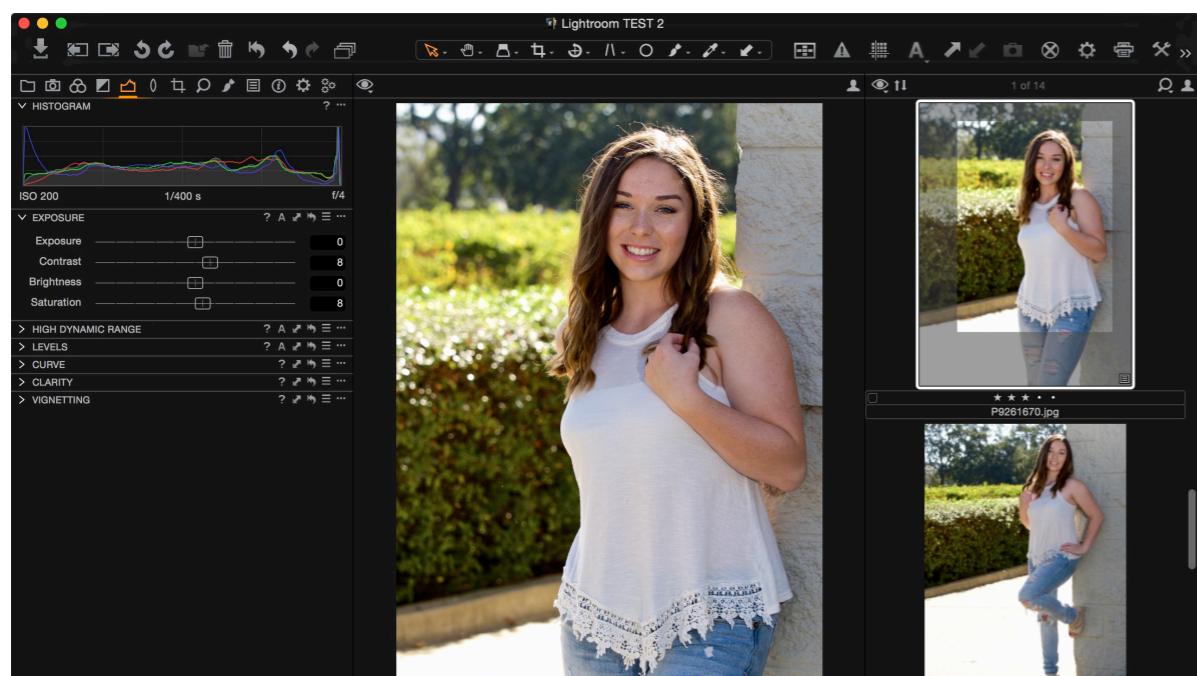


Figure 30: We did get Contrast and Saturation, however

Now take a look at Figure 29 to see how it looks in Capture One Pro.

We'll start in the Color tab, which is two to the right of the Library tab. The first thing I notice is that my White Balance change in Lightroom did not transfer to Capture One Pro. However, the crop did. In fact, take a look at the thumbnail (at the top right in Figure 29) that shows both the crop and the original image. Nice!

Moving back to the Exposure tab (Figure 30), I see that the Contrast and Saturation changes did come over, too. So, we got three out of four on this one.

So, here's the bottom line. You're not going to get all of your edits transferring over to Capture One Pro. But you will get some very important ones, such as cropping.

Where to Go from Here

Now that you have some test images in Capture One Pro, this is a great time to learn more about the application. I suggest that you purchase *Capture One Pro 9: Mastering Raw Development, Image Processing, and Asset Management*, published by Rocky Nook. This guide will help you master all of the editing functions of Capture One Pro...and a lot more.

I recommend that you learn these techniques using your test library. Take chances, move things around, try everything. You have nothing to lose.

After some practice, you'll be better equipped to decide what your strategy is going to be for making the move from Aperture or Lightroom. I've done it. And I couldn't be happier.

Author's Note

I wrote this e-book for two reasons. The first is because I want you to have a good understanding of how to begin the move from Aperture or Lightroom over to Capture One Pro. I hope I've helped.

Here's the second reason, which I also feel strongly about. Rocky Nook is a terrific publisher of photo books with many great authors. And I want more people to be exposed to their catalog. I'm hoping that this e-book will help with that.

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—Derrick Story

Rocky Nook's Guide to Moving to Capture One Pro from Lightroom or Aperture

Derrick Story

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Layout and Design: Charlene Will

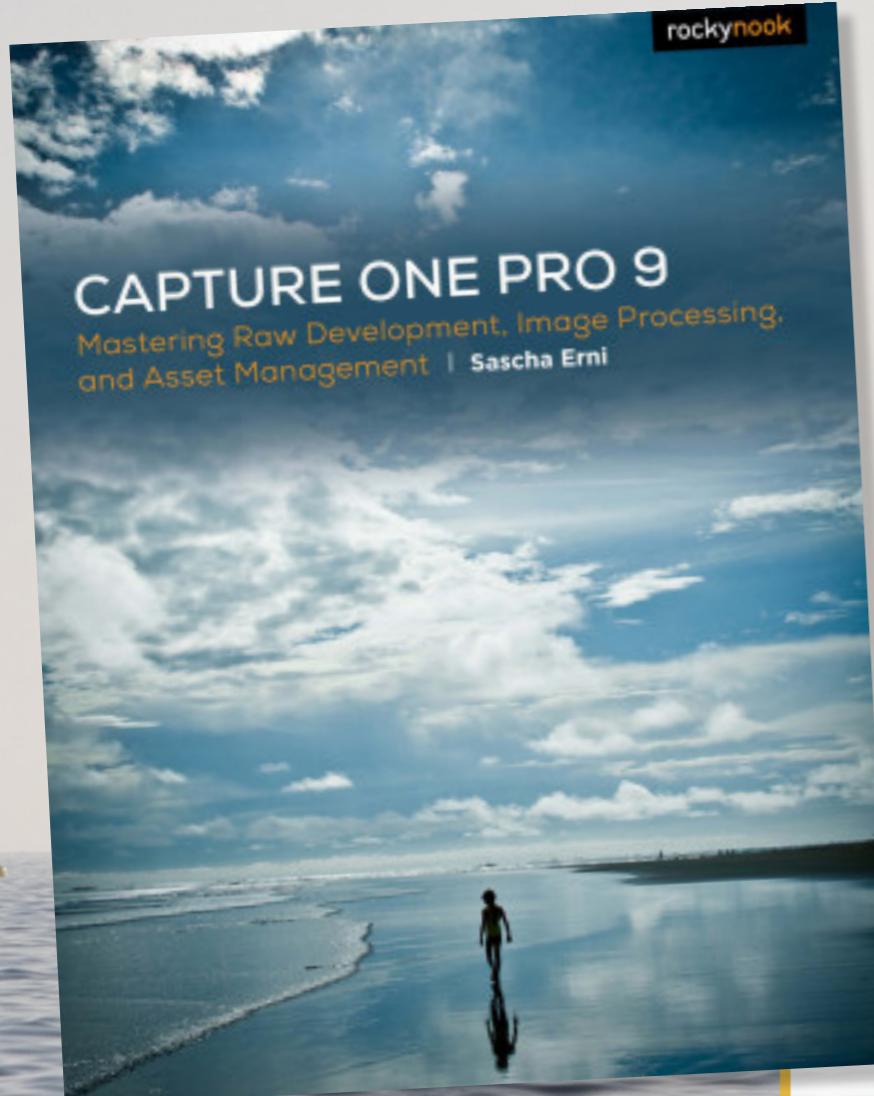
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