

HOW TO CREATE LIGHTROOM CATALOG WITH SMART PREVIEWS

This Guide will show you how to create LR catalog
with Smart Previews, the benefits of using them
and transferring process



WHAT IS LR CATALOG WITH SMART PREVIEWS?

SMART PREVIEWS

Smart Priviews are the low resolution compressed DNG file from your original RAW or JPEG photos. Smart Priviews are much smaller than original photos. For example 500 RAW files can occupy 14 Gb disc space, Smart Priviews from the same photos will occupy 500 Mb of disc space.

This is the most suitable way of working with images. It allows to edit images that are not physically connected to the computer. Also it helps to exchange files much faster, because of their compressed size.

NOW I WILL WALK YOU THROUGH THE PROCESS WORKING WITH SMART PREVIEWS

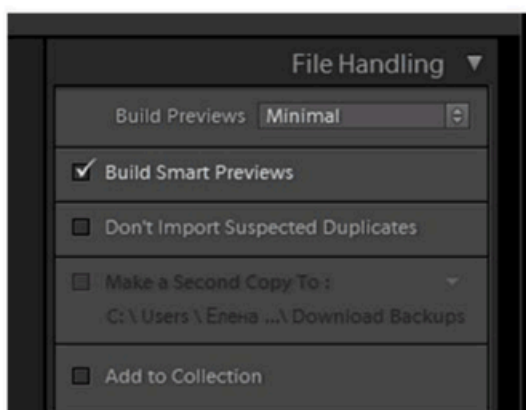
1

First step is to create Lightroom catalog with Smart Priviews. There are several ways to generate Smart Preview files:

1. With import
2. With export (recommended)
3. On the fly

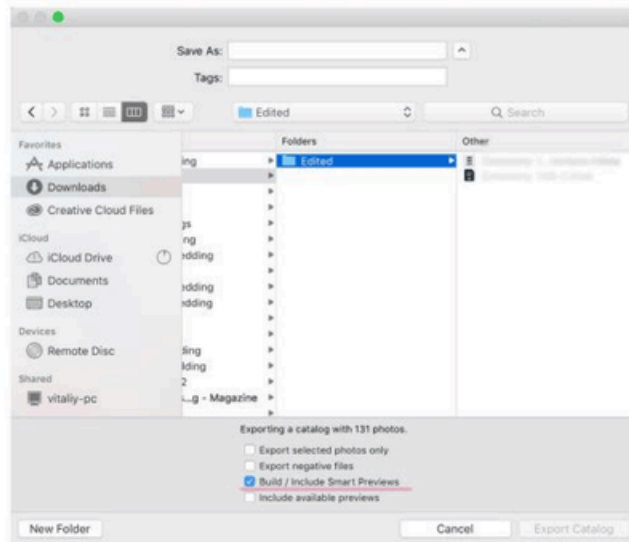
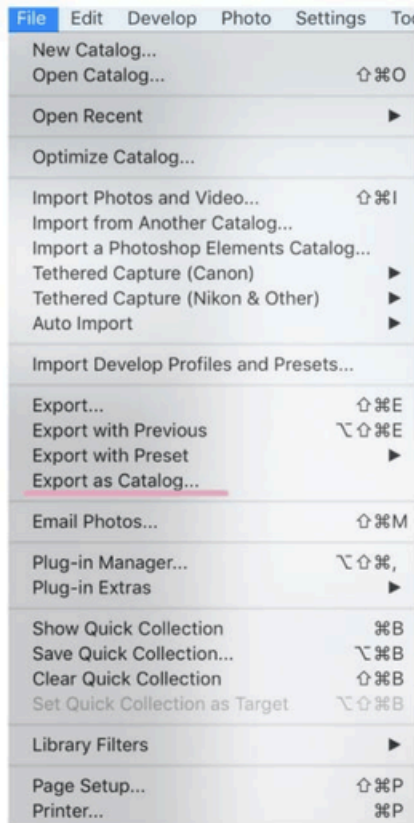
WITH IMPORT

When you import new images into your catalog, select **Build Smart Priviews (Import dialog > File Handling section)**. Smart Priviews are created for all the images imported into the catalog.



WITH EXPORT

When you export a set of photographs as a catalog, you can choose to build and include Smart Previews in the exported catalog. Click **File > Export as Catalog**, and then select the **Build/Include Smart Previews** checkbox.



ON THE FLY

You can create Smart Preview files on demand. Select the files for which you want Smart Previews, and then click **Library > Previews > Build Smart Previews**

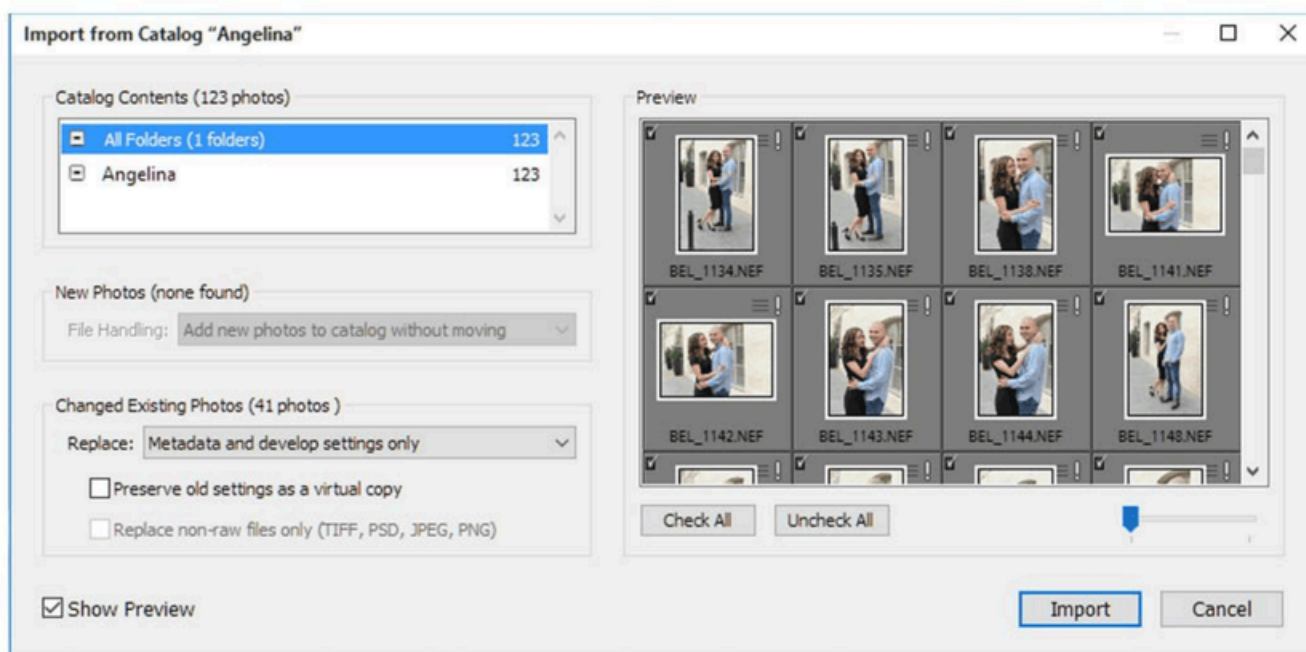
Note: Smart Previews are stored in the [Catalog Name] Smart Previews.lrdata file, located in the same folder as the catalog.

If you are confused and don't know which way to create Smart Previews, I would recommend to use the second one - "With Export".

NEXT STEPS:

- 2 Transfer this catalog folder without the original (RAW) files accompanying it. You can send via WeTransfer, Google Drive, Dropbox, etc.)
- 3 I will do my job and edit the wedding.
- 4 You will receive the edited version.
- 5 Replace the files. You will receive catalog file. Just drag and drop this file into the Lightroom and replace "Metadata and develop settings".

In the image below you can see the settings which appeared after I dragged and dropped the edited catalog of the engagement photoshoot.



Lightroom dialog menu

Once the smart preview returns to the location of the original file (your Lightroom), the previews is then associated with the original file and all the changes are applied to the full image. Then you can export the images as usual.

HOW WE CAN BEGIN?

Send me a few unedited samples (10-15 images) of your work along with some edited images or your signatute presets you would like me to use to my email: **elena@elenabila.com**. I will work for free in order to learn your style.

Thank you!