

Adobe Bridge was designed to be a conduit between all the applications in Adobe's Creative Suites. For photographers working with images in Photoshop, using Bridge can make the experience much more productive. From Bridge you can view, organize, rate, keyword and search through your images. To make the Bridge experience more worthwhile, you can customize its look and feel to suit your workflow. You can even create and store different Bridge workspaces that may be used for different tasks!

Bridge allows for the rearrangement of panes and the adjustment of thumbnail

sizes. It also comes with several preset customizable views: Lightbox, Metadata, Filmstrip and more. These optional workspace arrangements are found under Window>Workspace—decide if any of them work for you or use one preset as a starting place and modify it to meet your needs.

If none of the presets are suitable, rearrange the workspace manually by grabbing the vertical divider bars and dragging them either left or right; or the horizontal dividers and moving them up or down. The panes themselves can be dragged from one side or the other. And the thumbnail size can be increased or decreased by moving the slider in the lower right.

Not all panes have to be visible at all times. Choose which panes you want seen by checking them off in the top menu under Windows. This allows the elimination of rarely used panes—no sense having them clutter your desktop. Drag any often-used folders to the Favorites panel to make access quicker and easier. Once you have a Bridge arrangement you like, save it by going to the main menu: Window>Workspace>Save Workspace.

Customize Bridge and save the different configurations for different tasks. For example, I have one setup where I can view a huge preview and my images in the folder are shown one at a time in the content area. I can use the down arrow key to go through all the images in the folder and then do a "Quick Edit" of the whole folder. I use this for fast reviews of newly shot images, rating the images I am interested in working with and then later

working with only the rated images. (To quickly rate images use the keyboard shortcuts—Mac: Command [CMD same as Apple key] + 1-5 for star ratings; Windows: Control [CNTRL] + 1-5 for star ratings). The Label menu can also be used to add those same ratings.

I designed another workspace that I use for my general browsing and editing. It still shows a fairly large preview of my image and gives me enough space to compare two or more images. But it also shows me 12 to 20 images in the content area, depending on my monitor size, so I can choose which images I want to compare. I also arrange all but my Content panels on the left side so that two thirds of my Bridge view is devoted to my images. I have saved differently sized versions of these workspaces so that when I am giving a presentation on a low resolution projector I can use the smaller versions of these workspaces so that they fit on the screen.

Bridge can be further customized through the Preferences Menu—Mac: top menu under Adobe Bridge in CS3 or CS4; Windows: top menu under Edit. Choices under the General tab in Preferences allow changing the colors of the user interface, the image backdrop and the accent color. Bridge also allows the user to choose which preset folders show up in the Favorites pane. In the Thumbnails tab, select what info should appear under the thumbnails in the Content pane. All these selections allow unique workspaces tailored to specific needs.

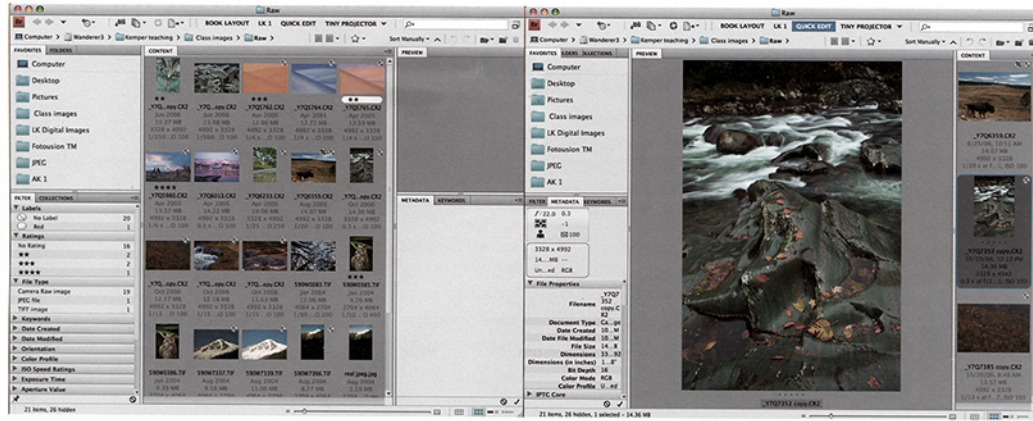
One real advantage of Bridge is the ability to have multiple Bridge windows

Lewis Kemper specializes in nature and wildlife photography. He is a member of Canon's Explorers of Light, a group of some of the country's most influential photographers. Lewis's computer-enhanced images have been used in advertisements, magazines, books, cards, bookmarks and calendars throughout the world. He teaches digital imaging seminars for Palm Beach Photographic Centre, Santa Fe Workshops and the Lepp Institute. Lewis sells his Photoshop® training DVDs at www.LewisKemper.com.



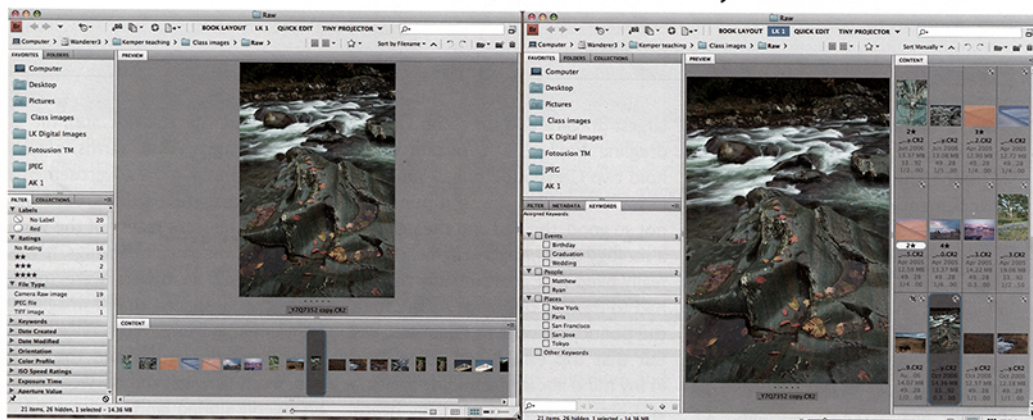
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Adobe's Default

My "Quick Edit"



Adobe's Filmstrip

My "General Browsing"

open at one time. You can view images in more than one folder simultaneously or the same images with two different workspaces—sounds complicated but once you try it, you'll find that these options really can help you with your editing tasks.

If you design your own custom Bridge workspaces, your workflow can become much more streamlined. After all, Bridge was created to give you the most efficient access to your images. You can also use Bridge to view all the different types of files you may have in a folder

including videos, documents, PDF and Excel spreadsheets. Bridge was built to accommodate the flexible needs of its users. Take advantage of all it has to offer and it might just make working with your digital files a little easier!

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