

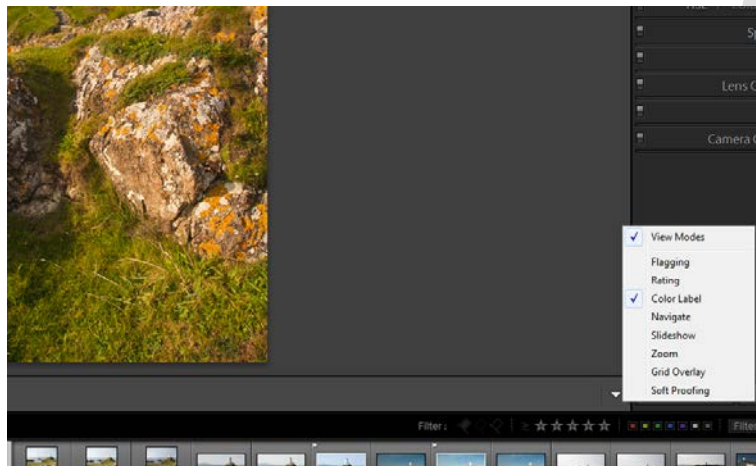


Lightroom Bitesize: Loupe Overlays

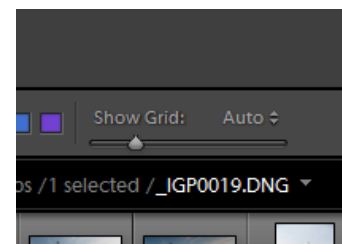
In the Lightroom Bitesize tutorial 'Straightening & Cropping' I showed how an overlay could be added during the crop operation to aid compositional selection. This is sufficient in most cases but there may be times when you would like a grid to be visible in either the Library or, more likely, the Develop module. Here's how to do it.

Note: The screenshots used are all from the Develop module because I think that's the most likely place to use a grid overlay. However, the process is very, very similar when in the Library module.

Open your image and click on the drop-down arrow on the lower-right:

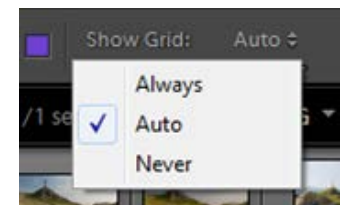


Now check the 'Grid Overlay' option and a Grid Overlay tool will be added to the toolbar.



You will notice that there are three options:

- Always = the grid will always be visible
- Auto = the grid is only visible when you hover over the slider bar
- Never = You can turn the grid off





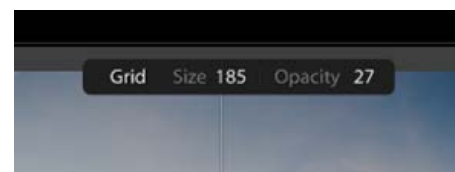
The grid can be resized using the slider bar. Go to the left and the grid is very small.....



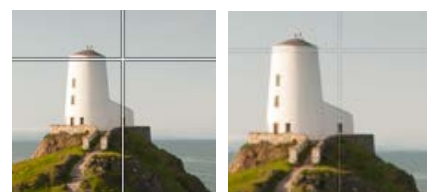
..... whereas to the right the grid gets much bigger. The grid will always be centred on the image though.



If you want to adjust the opacity of the grid lines and make them more, or less, noticeable then press and hold the Ctrl key (Cmd on a Mac) and a new box will open at the top of the screen.



Just hover over 'Opacity', left-click and slide the mouse to the right to make the grid more pronounced and left to make it less noticeable.



Note: You can also adjust the grid size here – but you may as well use the slider bar.

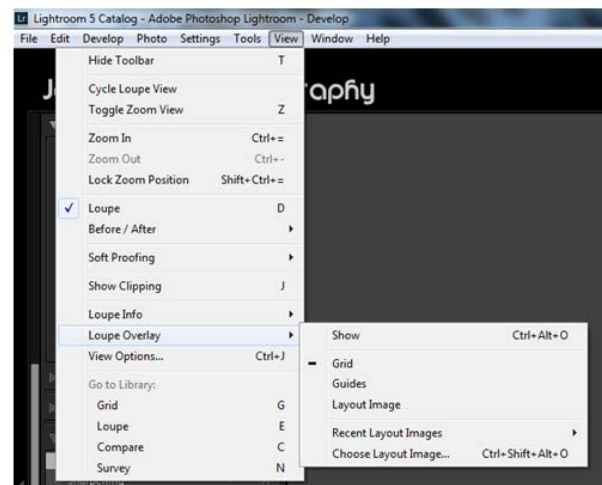


Another useful tool is called 'Guides'.

This draws a horizontal and vertical line in the image which can then be dragged to a position of your choice. It is useful for simultaneously checking alignment in the horizontal and vertical plane.

Note: There is no shortcut for this option so we have to go through the menu.

Choose View -> Loupe Overlay



A new option box will appear. Now click on 'Guides'. The guide lines will appear on the image.

To move the position of the guide, click and hold the Ctrl key and drag the circle that appears at the lines intersection.

Here I have centred the guides so that I can check the level of the sea and the vertical alignment of the tower at the same time.



To remove the guide, go through the same process as above, and click on 'Guides' again to deselect it.



So there are a couple of extra tools to help both your composition and the straightness of your images. I hope that you find them useful.



If you found this tutorial useful please let me know by leaving a comment on my Facebook page (or just 'Like' it) at <https://www.facebook.com/johnhallettphotographs/> . Thanks

Lightroom Bitesize

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