

AI-01464 Adobe Lightroom Classic vs MacOS Photo App

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In Lightroom classic, explain what happens to a folder and subfolders of my thousands of pictures when I import using "Add". The files are in my c:drive

When you use the **"Add"** option to import your photos into Lightroom Classic, here's what happens:

1. **No Movement of Files:** The photos remain in their original location on your C: drive A. Lightroom Classic adds references to these files in its catalog without moving or copying them A.
2. **Subfolders Included:** If you have subfolders within your main folder, Lightroom Classic will also add references to these subfolders and their contents A. This means all your photos, regardless of their folder structure, will be accessible from Lightroom Classic A.
3. **Catalog Organization:** The imported photos will appear in the **Previous Import** collection within the Catalog panel A. You can also find them in the Folders panel, where you'll see the folder structure as it exists on your C: drive A.
4. **Editing and Organizing:** Once imported, you can easily edit, organize, and manage your photos within Lightroom Classic without altering their original file locations A.

Does this help clarify things for you?

I have not imported the pictures but I can see it under the Folders side bar, what is the difference of importing it or just leave it as is.

When you see your photos under the Folders sidebar without importing them in Lightroom Classic, it means that Lightroom is simply showing you the folder structure on your drive. However, the photos are not yet part of the Lightroom catalog and can't be edited or managed within Lightroom.

Here are the key differences:

Without Importing:

- **Visibility Only:** You can see the folder structure and your files, but you cannot edit, organize, or manage these photos in Lightroom.
- **No Metadata:** Lightroom does not generate previews or read metadata (like EXIF data) from these photos.
- **No Smart Previews:** Without importing, you can't create smart previews, which are helpful for editing when the original files are not accessible.
- **No Backup:** Lightroom does not include these files in its backup routine, since they are not part of its catalog.

After Importing:

- **Full Access:** The photos become part of the Lightroom catalog, allowing you to edit, organize, and manage them.
- **Metadata Reading:** Lightroom reads and can display metadata, helping you with organization and searches.
- **Previews:** Lightroom generates previews and can create smart previews, making editing more efficient.
- **Backup:** Imported photos' metadata and edits can be included in Lightroom's catalog backups.

Summary Table

Feature	Without Importing	After Importing
Edit Photos	No	Yes
Organize & Manage	No	Yes
Read Metadata	No	Yes

Generate Previews	No	Yes
Backup in Catalog	No	Yes

Importing your photos into Lightroom Classic allows you to leverage the full power of the software to manage and edit your photo library effectively. Would you like any help with the import process?

I'm using MacOS Photo App and it seems working for me to organize my 70k plus dslr pictures, I'm just a regular Nikon dad, not a Pro, do I need to use Adobe Lightroom Classic, I have it and I just don't know if the effort is valuable.

It sounds like you've already found a system that works well for you with the MacOS Photo App, especially with such a large collection of over 70,000 DSLR photos. Here are some considerations to help you decide if switching to Adobe Lightroom Classic would be worthwhile:

Advantages of Lightroom Classic:

- **Advanced Editing:** Lightroom Classic offers powerful editing tools that go beyond what the MacOS Photo App provides, allowing for more precise adjustments and creative edits.
- **Non-Destructive Editing:** All edits in Lightroom are non-destructive, meaning your original files remain unchanged, and you can revert to the original at any time.
- **Organizational Features:** Lightroom offers extensive organizational tools like keywords, collections, and smart collections, which can help you manage and categorize your photos more effectively.
- **Presets and Batch Editing:** You can create and apply presets to multiple photos at once, saving time on repetitive edits.
- **Integration with Photoshop:** If you ever need more advanced retouching or compositing, Lightroom integrates seamlessly with Adobe Photoshop.

Considerations:

- **Learning Curve:** Lightroom Classic has a steeper learning curve compared to the MacOS Photo App. It may take some time to get comfortable with its features.

- **Time Investment:** With such a large photo library, importing and organizing your photos in Lightroom could be time-consuming initially.
- **Cost:** Adobe Lightroom Classic requires a subscription, which might be a consideration if you're content with the free MacOS Photo App.

Summary Table

Feature	MacOS Photo App	Adobe Lightroom Classic
Basic Editing	Yes	Yes
Advanced Editing	Limited	Extensive
Non-Destructive Editing	Partial	Yes
Organization Tools	Basic	Extensive
Presets and Batch Editing	No	Yes
Photoshop Integration	No	Yes
Learning Curve	Low	Moderate to High
Cost	Free	Subscription Required

Recommendation:

If you find the MacOS Photo App meets your needs for organizing and making basic edits to your photos, sticking with it is perfectly fine. However, if you're looking to explore more advanced editing techniques, improve your organizational workflow, or take advantage of Lightroom's professional features, it might be worth investing the time to learn Lightroom Classic.

What kind of edits or organizational tasks are you typically looking to perform? That might help determine if Lightroom would add value for you.