ACCESSING BRIDGE, CAMERA RAW, and PHOTOSHOP PREFERENCES

To access the Preferences menus for Adobe Bridge and Adobe Photoshop launch the application and navigate to

*Edit > Preferences* (Windows) or *Photoshop > Preferences* (macOS).

The Preferences menu for Adobe Camera Raw is include in sub-sections of the Preference menus for Bridge and Photoshop.

Most of the items in the Preferences menus include a brief “hint” that can be seen when the cursor hovers over the item. Detailed information about any item in the Preference menu is available online.

There are far too many preference settings to provide details for them all. The majority can remain at the default value but there are a few that are critical to performance or ease of use. Those are the settings covered in this document.
ADOBE CAMERA RAW PREFERENCES

There majority of *Camera Raw Preferences* settings can be left at the *default* values. However, there are some settings that have a direct impact on *application performance* or *user experience*. Those settings will be discussed below.

The *Camera Raw Preferences* dialog can be accessed in several ways:

1. From within *Camera Raw*, click on the underlined link in the *Apply Bar* (at the bottom of the application frame). This will open the *Camera Raw Preferences* dialog.

2. From within *Adobe Photoshop*, choose *Edit > Preferences > Camera Raw* (Windows) or *Photoshop > Preferences > Camera Raw* (macOS).

3. From within *Adobe Bridge*, choose *Edit > Camera Raw Preferences* (Windows) or *Photoshop > Camera Raw Preferences* (macOS).

**PERFORMANCE**

In the *Camera Raw Preferences* dialog, select the *Performance* tab to open the *Performance Options* panel. The settings for *GPU acceleration* may allow you to increase application performance.

**Use Graphics Processor**

When your computer has a *Graphics Processor Unit* (GPU), the *Use Graphics Processor* option is enabled in Camera Raw preferences, and the name of the available *GPU* will be displayed. Below the name of the GPU, the status of *GPU acceleration* in Camera Raw is displayed. If you cannot view this information, you need to either install a new driver for your GPU or your system does not meet the minimum requirements.
**Performance Preferences dialog**

**Customizing GPU acceleration**

Your system may automatically support *limited* or *full* acceleration. If your system automatically supports limited acceleration, you may be able to enable full acceleration when you select the *Custom* option in the **Use Graphics Processor** drop-down.

Acceleration may be turned off because your system does not support it, or due to an error. If acceleration is turned off and an error message appears, then your GPU hardware, driver version, or operating system version may not meet the minimum requirements.

You can turn off GPU acceleration with the *Custom* option if you observe problems that Camera Raw did not automatically detect.

The **Use Graphics Processor** field has the following options:
• **Auto** - Camera Raw automatically determines the level of GPU support to use. This is based on your system’s hardware and operating system configuration (this is the default option).

• **Custom** - You can customize how Camera Raw uses your GPU by selecting a supported option:
  - Use GPU for display
  - Use GPU for image processing (Processing Version 5 or higher)
  - Use GPU for Open and Save

• **Off** - Camera Raw will not use the GPU.

See What features in Camera Raw use a GPU to learn more about GPU acceleration.

**WORKFLOW**

In the Camera Raw Preferences dialog, select the Workflow tab to open the Workflow Options panel. Any options you chose are applied to images when they are opened into Photoshop (the original files are not altered). Note that the choices you make in this dialog become the new default settings, so they apply not only to the current photo, but also to subsequent photos that you open from Camera Raw.

You can choose to apply a Preset, as well as choosing which Color Space, Image Sizing, and Output Sharpening options will be applied.

![Workflow Options dialog](image)

*The Workflow Options dialog.*
1. If you want to apply a **Preset**, choose it from the **Preset** drop-down menu.

   To create a **new Preset** change any of the **Color Space**, **Image Sizing**, **Output Sharpening**, and **Photoshop** settings to the desired values, then select **New Workflow Preset** from the **Preset** drop-down menu. Name the new preset, then click **OK** to save the preset, or click **Cancel** to exit the dialog without saving.

   To **rename** an existing Preset select the Preset from the **Preset** drop-down menu, then select **Rename ‘(preset name)’**. Enter the new name and click **OK** to save the preset, or click **Cancel** to exit the dialog without saving.

   If you selected a preset, and then changed any of the settings in the dialog, the word “Custom” is displayed as the preset name. If you want to permanently update the current preset with your new custom settings, from the **Preset** menu, choose **New Workflow Preset** and enter the new preset name.

   To **delete** an existing Preset select the Preset from the **Preset** drop-down menu, then select **Delete ‘(preset name)’**.

2. From the **Color Space** options menu, choose an **RGB** color profile to be applied when images are opened into Photoshop.

   The available **RGB color profiles** will be grouped at the top of the profile list: **Adobe RGB (1998), ColorMatch RGB, Display P3, ProPhoto RGB, Rec. 2020**, and **sRGB IEC61966-2.1** (or “sRGB,” for short) are the current options.

   The menu also lists **output profiles** for **printers** and **displays**, as well as any other profiles that you have installed in your system. It is not recommended to choose an output profile to be applied.

3. The **Depth** menu allows you to control the amount of color and tonal information in your photos. Choose **8 Bits/Channel** or **16 Bits/Channel**. If you choose **16 Bits/Channel**, more of the original capture information will be preserved in your photos as you edit them in Photoshop, but they will also have a larger file size requiring more disk space and a fast system with a lot of RAM for processing.

4. The **Intent** options control how colors will change in a photo when it is converted to the chosen profile. If you select any profile from the **Color Space** menu other than one of the available RGB color profiles listed above, then you are asked to choose **Perceptual** or **Relative** from the **Intent** menu.

   If your photos tend to contain many colors that are outside the gamut of the chosen color space, **Perceptual** is the best choice because it attempts to preserve the appearance of colors as it shifts them into gamut.
If your photos contain few colors that are out of gamut, Relative is the best choice, as it preserves more of the original colors. Your photo will display as a soft proof (a simulation of print output from your target device).

5. If you chose a printer profile, check Simulate Paper & Ink to preview the photo using the range of black values that can be produced by that printer, on a simulation of white printing paper.

6. In you do not want to change the size, dimensions, or resolution of images when opened into Photoshop, uncheck Resize to Fit.

If, on the other hand, you want to resize images that you open into Photoshop, check Resize to Fit and choose an option from the Resize to Fit drop-down menu:

- Width & Height – enter values and choose pixels, inches, or cm
- Dimensions – enter values and choose pixels, inches, or cm
- Long Side – enter value and choose pixels, inches, or cm
- Short Side – enter value and choose pixels, inches, or cm
- Megapixels – enter value
- Percentage – enter value

For all options you can also choose to change the image Resolution by entering a new value and selecting pixels/inch or pixels/cm. (By default, Camera Raw applies a Resolution of 300 ppi (pixels per inch) to all photos as they are opened into Photoshop.)

7. Use options under Output Sharpening to apply predefined sharpening. Check Sharpen For, then, from the Sharpen For menu, select an output destination of Screen, Glossy Paper, or Matte Paper; and from the Amount menu, choose the desired level of sharpening (Standard is a good all-purpose choice).

   Note: If you want to control specific values when sharpening, uncheck Sharpen For, then apply sharpening using Photoshop’s sharpening tools.

8. The Open in Photoshop as Smart Objects option converts the Open Image button in the main Camera Raw dialog to an Open Object button, which opens your photo into Photoshop as a Smart Object. Or, change the Open Image button to Open Object in the main Camera Raw dialog (for any photo) by holding down Shift.

When the Workflow Options dialog has the desired settings, click OK. Your chosen workflow settings will be applied to all images that you subsequently Save or Open from Camera Raw (until you again change the Workflow options settings).
DEFAULT SETTINGS FOR RAW IMAGES

To set default settings for processing raw images, do the following:

1. In the Camera Raw dialog box, click the Open Preferences Dialog button (gear icon in upper right corner of application frame).
   Or, in Photoshop, choose Edit > Preferences > Camera Raw (Windows)
   or Photoshop > Preferences > Camera Raw (macOS).

2. Select Raw Defaults from the Camera Raw Preferences dialog categories, on the left.

3. From the Global drop-down, select one of the following:

   **Adobe Default**
   Select this option to apply Adobe default settings to your raw images.

   **Camera Settings**
   Select this option to keep the settings of the camera from which the raw image was captured. If you select Camera Settings, and there are no matching settings in Camera Raw, then the Adobe Default settings will be applied.

   **Choose Preset**
   Select this option and choose a preset to apply to your raw images.

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**Order in which default settings are applied**

If you have selected a preset as your default settings, all the settings in that preset will be applied to the raw image. If there is any setting that is not included in the preset, Camera Raw will look for that setting in the camera settings and apply that to your raw image. If no setting is found, then Camera Raw will use the Adobe Defaults setting.
So, if **Raw Defaults** is set to a custom preset, then the settings will be applied in the following order:

1. All the settings defined in the preset.
2. **Camera Settings** will be used for all those settings which are not specified in the preset.
3. **Adobe Defaults** settings will be used for the settings which are not defined in Camera Settings as well.

**SET RAW DEFAULTS BASED ON A CAMERA MODEL**

You can set default settings for your raw images based on the **camera model**. You can even specify different default settings for multiple cameras of same camera model, based on their **serial number**.

To set default settings based on **camera model**, do the following In the **Raw Defaults** section of the **Camera Raw Preferences** dialog:

1. Select **Override global settings for specific cameras**
2. Select a camera model from the **Available Cameras** drop-down. (This drop-down list contains the name of all the camera models from which you have imported raw images.)
3. (Optional) If you want to create default settings for a camera based on the serial number, select **Show serial numbers**. The **Camera** drop-down list now contains the name of camera models along with their serial numbers.

4. From the **Adobe Default** drop-down, select one of the following:

   **Adobe Default**
   Select this option to apply Adobe default settings to raw images captured in this camera model or specific camera serial number.

   **Camera Settings**
Select this option to keep the settings of the camera from which the raw image was captured.

**Preset**
Select this option and choose a preset to apply to raw images captured in this camera model or specific camera serial number.

5. Click *Create Default*.

MODIFY DEFAULT SETTINGS
To modify a default setting that you have created, do the following:

1. Select *Raw Defaults* from the *Camera Raw Preferences* dialog box.
2. Select the default setting that you want to modify.
3. Click the menu icon `***` next to the default setting.
4. Choose a new setting, or choose a Preset, from the pop-up menu.
5. Choose *Delete Default* to discard the selected default setting.

![Modify default settings dialog](image)

RESET CAMERA RAW PREFERENCES
1. Hold down the **command** key and select *Photoshop > Preferences > Camera Raw* (macOS) or hold down the **ctrl** key and select *Edit > Preferences > Camera Raw* (Windows).
2. Click *Yes* in the dialog that asks **“Delete the Camera Raw Preferences?”**
New preferences files, with Adobe’s default settings, will be created in their original location the next time you launch Camera Raw.