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FastRawViewer 1.3

What is New in FastRawViewer 1.3

(video transcript)

If you watched our previous videos or already use FastRawViewer, you're probably familiar with most of its tools and features. Now, we're going to very quickly show you the most important tools and features that were added in FastRawViewer version 1.3.

The Major Changes are:

1. Grid Mode View and Select/Deselect Operations
2. Operations with multiple files
3. Undo; reversing file operations
4. Highlight Inspection Mode
5. Sharpening for display
6. Contrast Curve modes
7. The speed of FastRawViewer 1.3's performance on modern computers is 10-20% higher than for previous versions.

Now when you launch FastRawViewer, it will, by default start in **Grid Mode**. This means that when you plug in a memory card or open a folder from your hard drive, the main window will display a grid of thumbnails of the raw and jpeg images that are contained in the current folder.

Grid Mode is meant for quick preliminary browsing, and allows one to perform operations with multiple files. So, in Grid Mode you can:

- Browse images (*you can switch on the raw histogram and statistics for better evaluation*);
- Select and deselect;
- Perform labeling, rating, copy, and move operations, as well as run external programs on a group of selected files.

Images in the Grid can be filtered by rating and label (*press this small funnel icon*).

Now, for a quick but still reliable evaluation of RAW images, even in Grid Mode, FastRawViewer will, for every RAW image presented in Grid mode, allow you to see:

- The Raw histogram;
- The raw exposure statistics;
- Detailed EXIF data.

To activate the display of these data you have to press this small graph icon at the top right corner of the **Grid panel**. Of course, these panels should be opened beforehand.

You can toggle the display of the aforementioned data with the keyboard shortcut **Shift-G**, *graph* icon, or using the menu.

To **select/deselect an image** from the grid

- Ctrl-Click on the image's preview thumbnail;
- Set a checkmark in the checkbox in the upper-right corner of the preview thumbnail (*the checkbox appears for the files that are currently unmarked when you hover a mouse over its preview; the checkbox is permanently visible for those files which are already marked*);
- Through the actions in Menu -> Select/Batch or using the corresponding shortcuts.

You can also **select a consecutive group of images**. All you have to do is to choose the first image in the group (*by Ctrl-Clicking on its thumbnail or using a keyboard shortcut*) and the last image (*by Shift-Click on its thumbnail*). If the first file in the group was not chosen than group starts from the first file in the folder.

You can **invert the selection** that was made using a keyboard shortcut (**command/ctrl-I** by default) or through **Menu-> Select/Batch -> Invert selection**.

If you need to **select all of the files in the folder**, just use a keyboard shortcut (**command/ctrl-A** by default) or through **Menu-> Select/Batch -> Select all files**

The selection can be saved to the file or loaded from a file.

As you see, the previews of the marked files have a different background color. This color can be changed through **Preferences – Interface – Selected files background**.

You can perform **batch operations** with a group of selected images, such as:

- Assign label and rating;
- Copy or move;
- Open the selected images in external program for further processing.

If you changed your mind after performing some operation, now you can **undo**:

- All file operations (*copy/move/rejected*);
- All operations performed with ratings/labels;
- Group orientation changing.

How to Undo? **Menu -> File -> Undo** or **Ctrl-Z**.

By the default setting, the depth of the Undo history is 50 steps. The Undo history is cleared when the folder that is being looked at is changed. These default settings can be changed in the **Preferences - Copy/Move/Reject**.

You can tune the Grid View features and appearance (*as usual, this is accessible through the gear icon*).

You can switch to **Single File View** at any time by double-clicking on any image from the grid or pressing the **G** key. Toggling the G key allows you to switch between Grid View and Single file view mode.

By the way, you can perform all selection and batch operations using the Filmstrip the same way you can with the grid.

Also file context menu (*Right click*) is available both on Grid or Filmstrip view.

That was about browsing and working with multiple files.

We have also added a couple of very useful tools for evaluating raw images.

From the very beginning, FastRawViewer offered a tool to evaluate shadows based on raw data - **Shadow Boost**. Now, we've added another raw-based tool, this one to evaluate the highlights - **Highlights Inspection**.

Incidentally - when culling with raw, images that are underexposed may look "better" - more contrast-y, more saturated, more attractive. This is why we recommend culling based on the histogram and the statistics, not the look of the image.

Using **Highlight Inspection** tool, one can reliably evaluate if there is enough detail in highlights and if it is worth it to try and recover these highlights.

It can be accessed through the Bottom Bar - just to the right of the Shadow Boost, or using a keyboard shortcut (*by default it's Shift-H*) or through the menu.

The same as with the Shadow Boost amount, the Highlights Inspection amount can also be tuned and controlled through **Preferences -> Image display -> Highlight inspection** section.

We've also added an **On-screen Sharpening** tool.

While being processed in a RAW converter, RAW images generally have some sort of sharpening algorithm applied to them (*this is true for both out-of-camera JPEGs and offline RAW conversion*).

In FastRawViewer, the sharpening is applied only for display. This tool allows you to estimate how much one can expect the image to be improved by applying the sharpening tool in a raw converter or some image editing software.

The button for it is right here at the Bottom Bar in the same group with Focus peaking, Shadow Boost and Highlight Inspection. The sharpening tool is also available through **Menu -> View -> Screen sharpening** or a keyboard shortcut (*the default shortcut is S*).

FastRawViewer allows you to create two presets for sharpening by choosing the radius and amount of sharpening. Also, you can choose if you want to apply on-screen sharpening to JPEGs as well. You can tune the on-screen sharpening tool through the same **Image Display tab** in the **Preferences** section **On-Screen sharpening**.

Now, about the **adjustment of the Contrast Curves**.

FastRawViewer allows you to select either: 1 of 4 standard "colorimetric" tone curves (*sRGB, Gamma 1.8 and 2.2, L**), or to use **Variable Contrast Tone Curves** (*default setting*). To switch between those two types, you can use **Preferences - Image Display - Contrast Curve Type**.

Variable Contrast mode allows you to adjust the image contrast in "grades" - 11 standard values for "normal contrast" (*from -5 to +5*), and 6 "Ultra contrast" values (*from U+0 to U+5*).

In Variable contrast curves mode one also can choose the 'Contrast setting on next file'.

In this mode, contrast can be changed with the arrow-shaped buttons at the bottom bar (*this replaces the dropdown with the list of tone curves that used to be there in previous versions*) or through **Menu -> Adjust - Increase Contrast** (keys: *K, Shift-+*)/**Decrease Contrast** (*Shift-K, Shift--*).

You can now also save Variable Contrast Curve adjustment to decrease time spent during the conversion stage. To record Variable Contrast Curve adjustment into an XMP sidecar file format that is acknowledged by Adobe converters, turn on **Preferences -> XMP -> Write Adobe-compatible Contrast/Blacks into XMP file**.

You can read in detail about all of FastRawViewer's tools and features mentioned (*as well as not mentioned*) in this video in the Manual, which is included in FastRawViewer distribution and also available on FastRawViewer web site for reading and download in .pdf format. Also useful the Quick Start Tips which always pop up upon the first launch of FastRawViewer and are also always available through **Menu -> Help -> Usage Tips** or in .pdf format at the FastRawViewer website.

As per increased speed of performance, please check it for yourself - just download 30-day fully functional trial version of **FastRawViewer 1.3** and give it a try.

As always we appreciate your feedback, comments, and suggestion. Please send us an email or join our forum. We will try to meet your expectation.

email: support@fastrawviewer.com

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