FastRawViewer

Tips for a Quick Start
(version for Mac OS X)

LibRaw

Index

Tuning Preferences *(#1)*

Why do we have **Preferences** in FastRawViewer?

Preferences allow to set useful features, including tailoring to your needs the modes that facilitate file browsing, image inspection, further raw processing, image presentation, etc.
For example, to enable certain *Focus Peaking* modes, look into Preferences.

Spending some time on Preferences will help you understand FastRawViewer better and use it more efficiently:

- Press   ⌘,   *or*   **Menu** -> **FastRawViewer** -> **Preferences**

🍎	**FastRawViewer**	File	View	Window	Label	Help

About FastRawViewer

Preferences...   ⌘,

Services   ▶

Hide FastRawViewer   ⌘H
Hide Others   ⌥⌘H
Show All

Quit FastRawViewer   ⌘Q
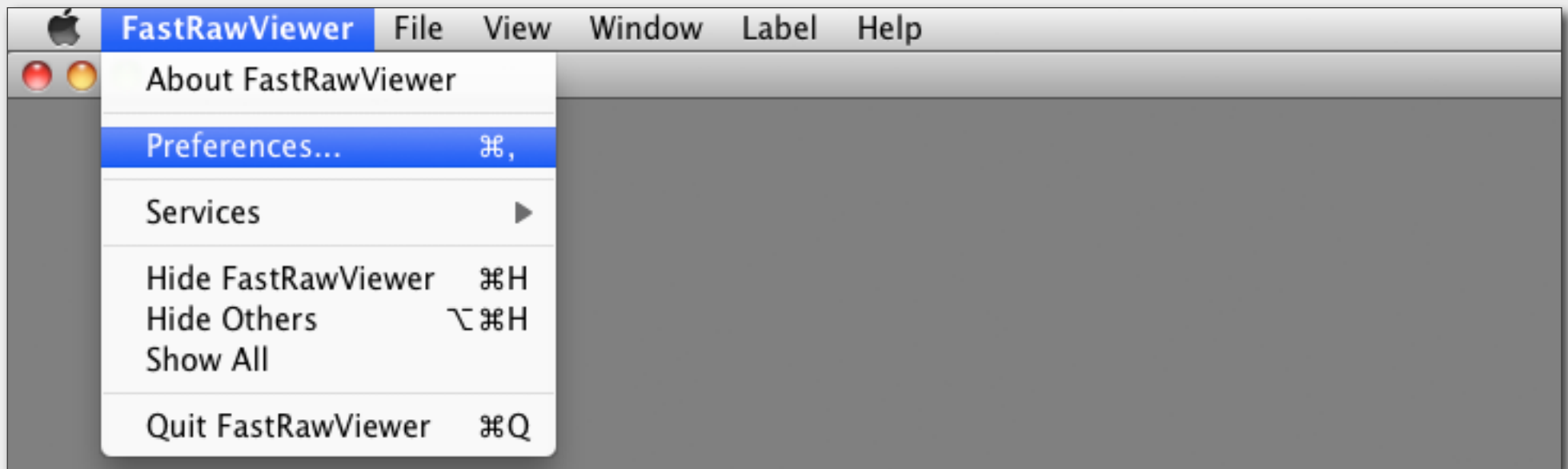
Tuning Preferences *(#2)*

If you feel that some feature is missing or inconvenient, or you don't know how to set it, please check the Preferences menu and adjust as necessary, and if it is not there, please email us or visit our forum.
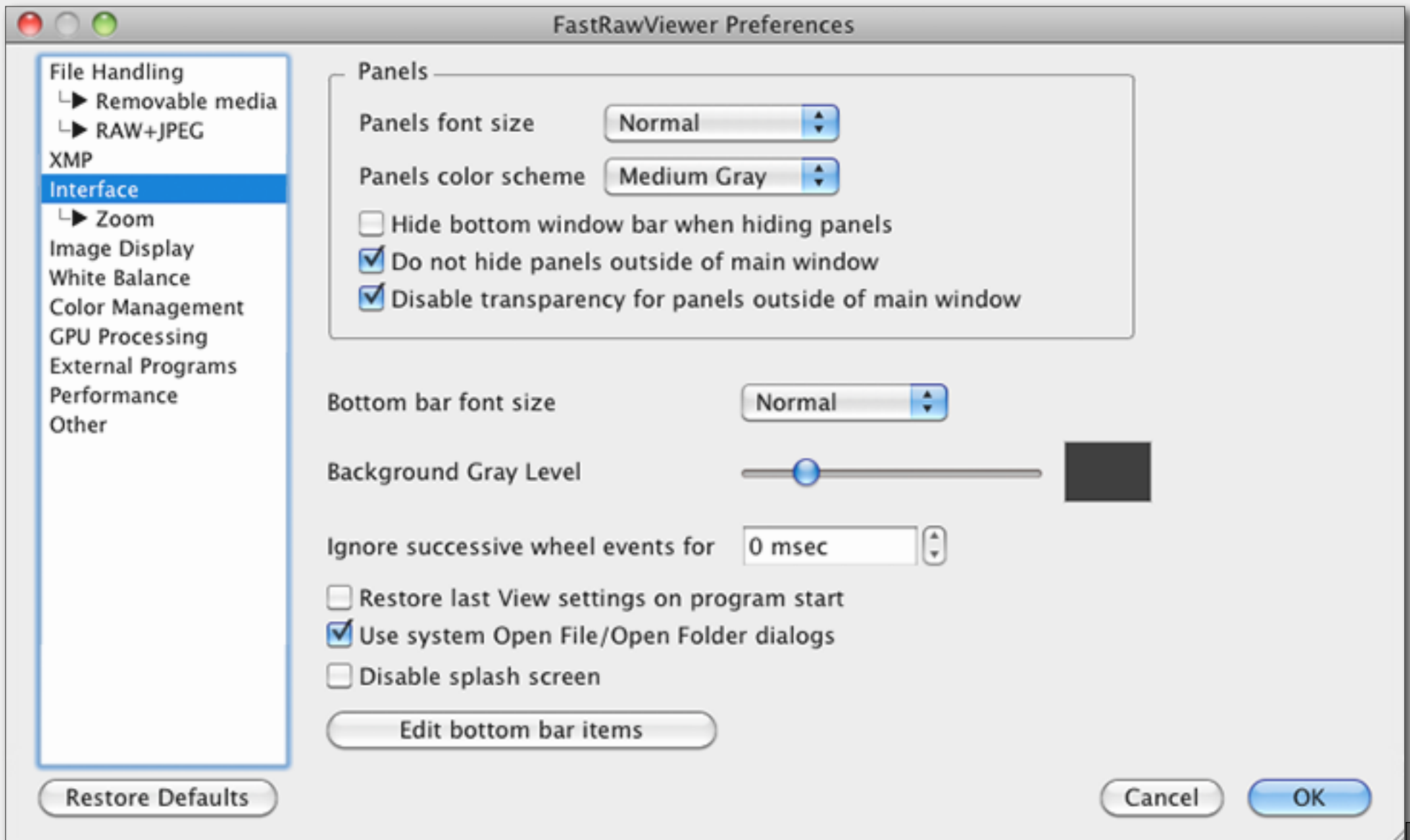
Tuning Keyboard/Mouse Controls *(#1)*

FastRawViewer is designed to be controlled mostly with keyboard and mouse, without much reaching for menus.

You can examine the default/current key/mouse control combinations and change them to your preferred ones anytime:

- Press ⌘K *or* **Menu** -> **File** -> **Keyboard Shortcuts**
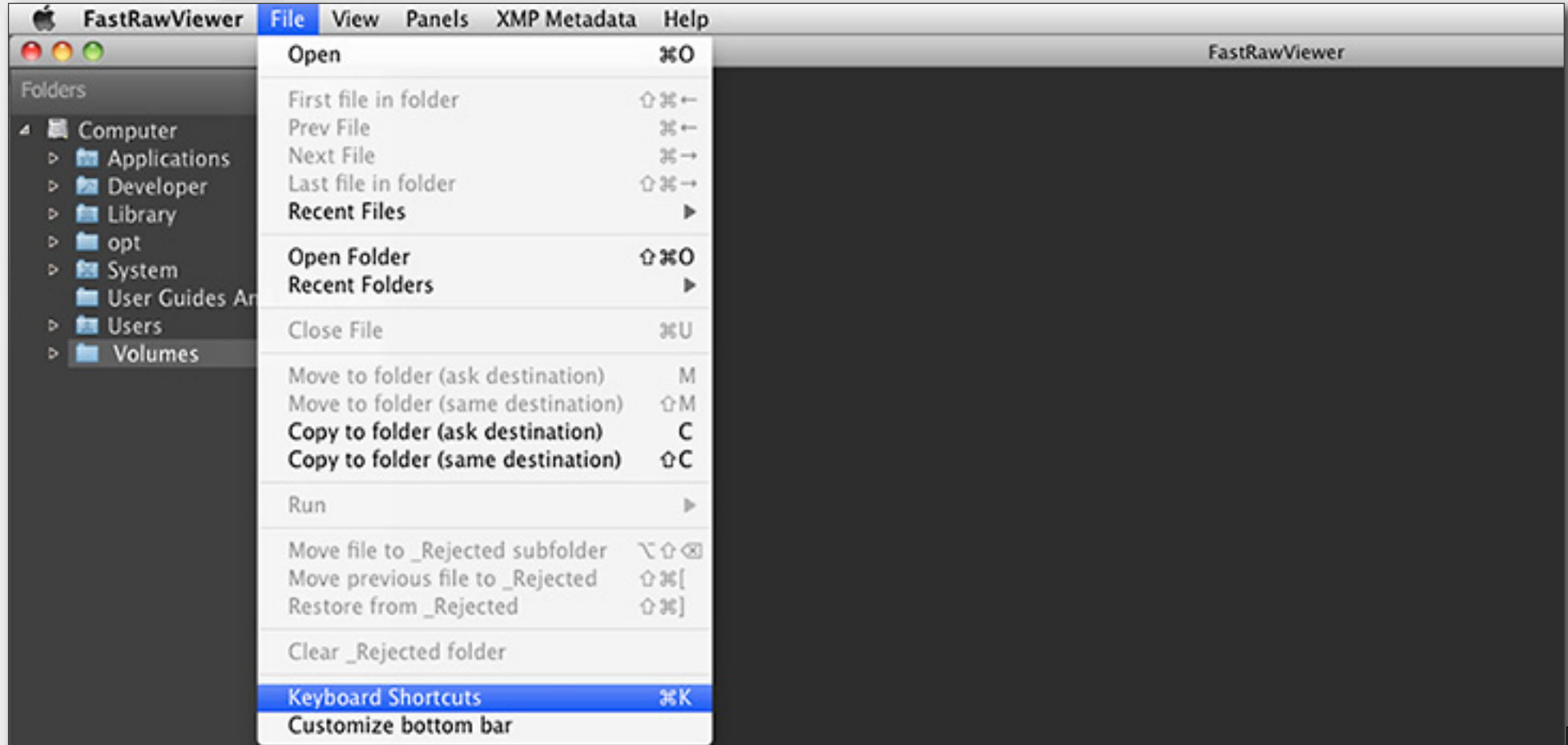
Tuning Keyboard/Mouse Controls *(#2)*

We suggest that you spend some time familiarizing yourself with the shortcuts with the help of the **Keyboard Shortcuts Menu**, **tips**, and **FastRawViewer Manual**; it is not just an overview of the program (that is, showing what can be done in FastRawViewer), but will also help you to do more things in less time.
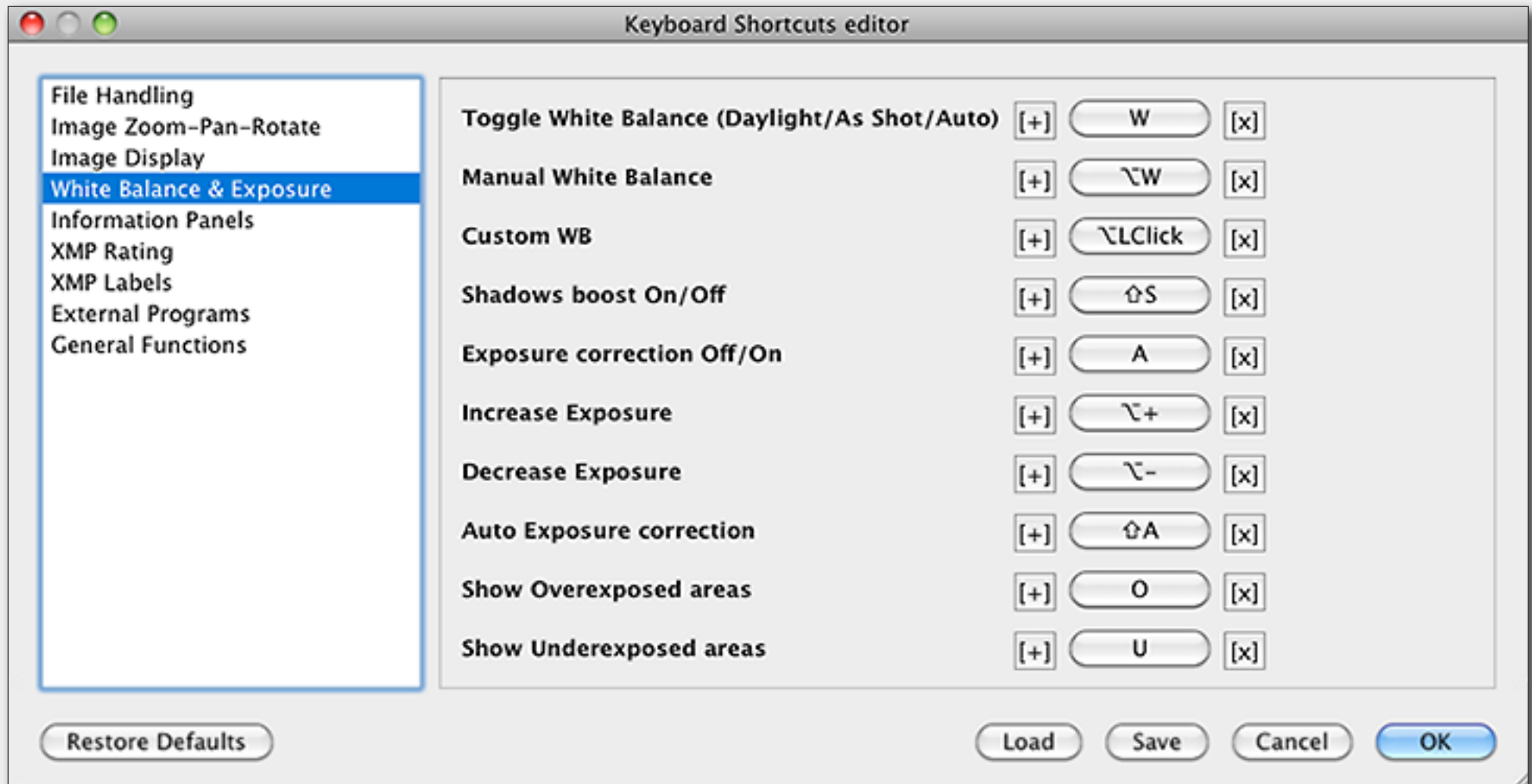
If Some Useful Feature is Missing or Inconvenient to Reach

Many features are already pre-programmed and assigned to shortcuts. You can change the short-cuts so that they will be similar to the ones you use with other graphic programs. If you feel that some feature or shortcut is missing or inconvenient, please check the Shortcuts menu and adjust as necessary, and if it is not there, please let us know.
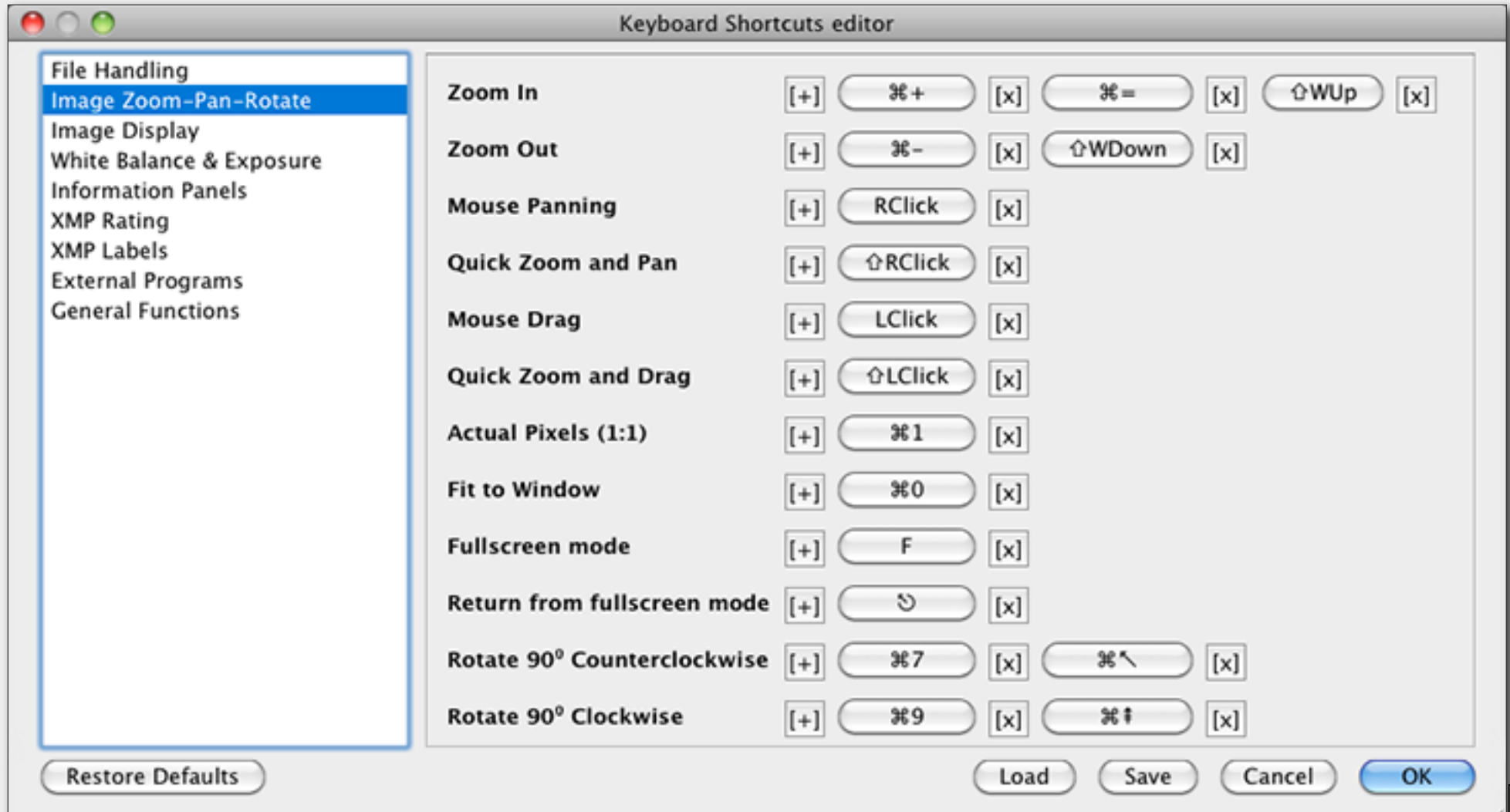
Changing Background, Panels Color Scheme and Font Size

Menu -> **FastRawViewer** -> **Preferences** -> **Interface**

The background or panel color scheme can be changed to any shade of grey, from black to white. Also, the bottom bar or panel's font size can be changed.
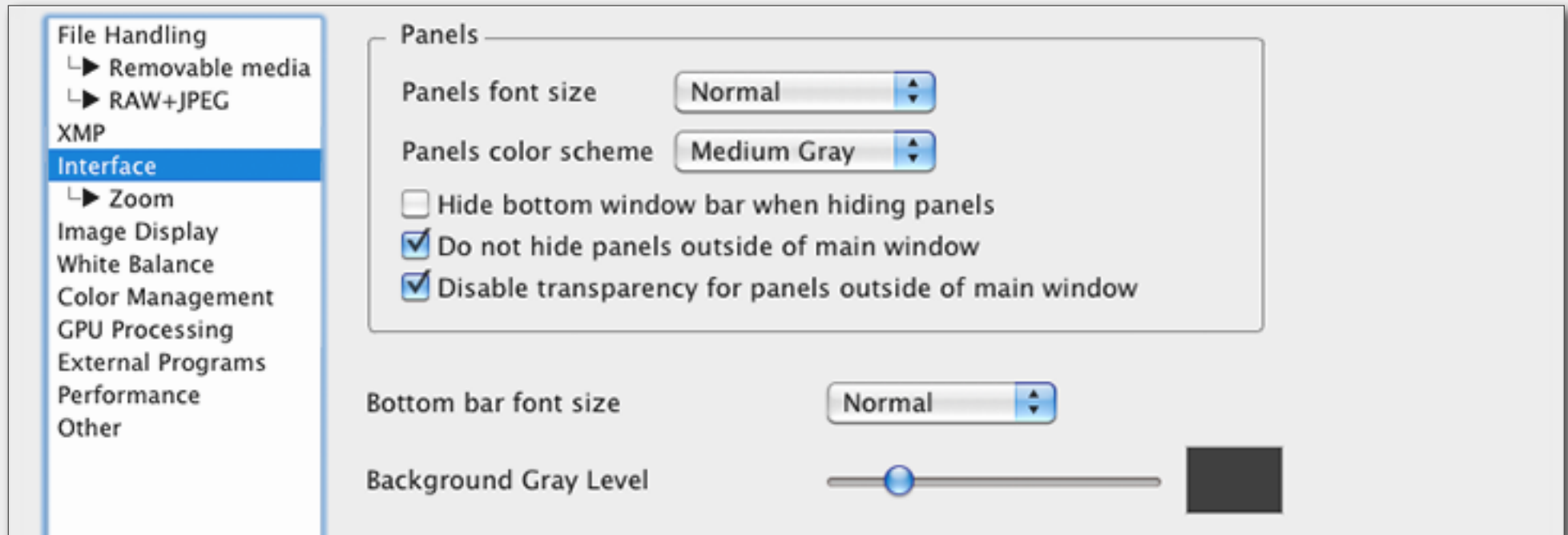
Panels and Filmstrip Settings Customization

A little gear icon at the top right corner of a panel *(or the top left corner of the filmstrip placed at the bottom)* allows customization of the panel or bar.

Arranging Thumbnails

1. The adjustable filmstrip can be placed anywhere on the screen or even other monitor — *just drag-and-drop it where you want it to be.*

2. If the filmstrip is outside the program window, it can be easily organized into a light-table.

3. Moved filmstrip can be docked at the top, bottom, or left side of the program window — *just press an arrow button at the filmstrip top right or left corner.*

   It will be docked at the most recent docking position.

4. A little gear icon at the top right corner of a thumnails panel *(or the top left corner of the filmstrip placed at the bottom)* provides access to thumbnail size settings.

Arranging Other Panels

1. All panels can be moved from the right-side bar to any part in or outside the program window, or even onto another monitor.

2. When a panel is moved from the right-side bar, you can manipulate its size and opacity *(press a little gear icon at the top right corner of the panel to access settings menu)*, or you can dock it to the most recent docking position by pressing *an arrow icon.*

   XMP Metadata
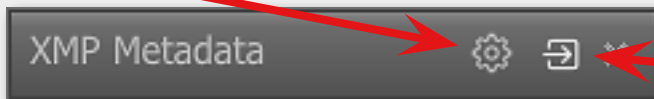
3. The Tab key toggles all panels open and close together.

Bottom Bar Customization

1. At the lower right corner of the Bottom Bar:

Edit Preferences
Edit Keyboard shortcuts
Customize bottom bar

*Press here to open
Bottom Bar Customization Menu*
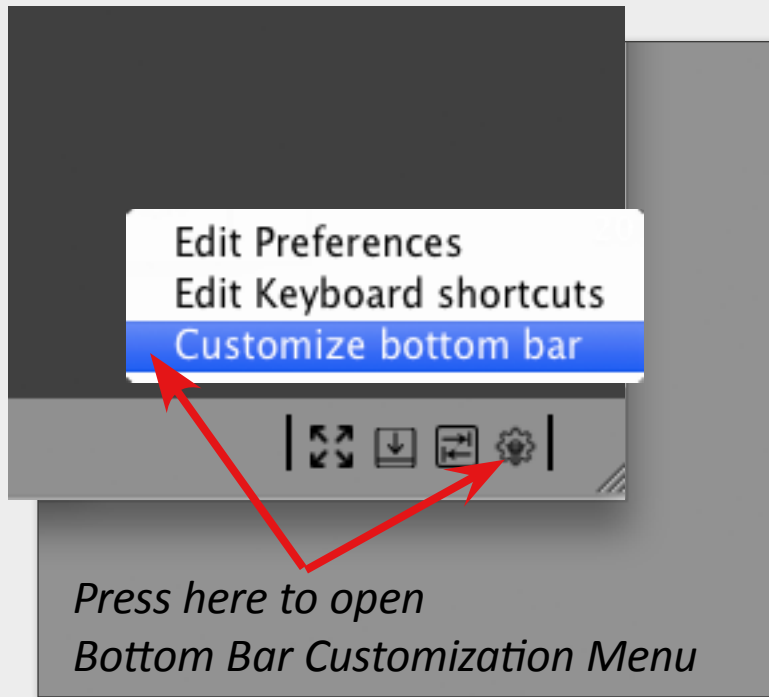
2. Choose Bottom Bar options to be displayed
   (see the image to the right).

3. To change the bottom bar font size, please look at:

Menu -> **FastRawViewer** -> **Preferences** -> **Interface**

Set bottom bar items visibility

	Visibility		
Bottom bar item	always	if fits	hide
Open File button	●	○	○
File navigation buttons	●	○	○
Current folder	○	○	●
Current filename	○	●	○
Current image size	○	○	●
EXIF summary	○	●	○
Zoom ratio and zoom buttons	○	○	●
File load/processing time	○	○	●
RAW/JPEG switch buttons	●	○	○
R–G–B–BW channel selector	○	○	●
Focus peaking and shadow boost	●	○	○
Exposure control buttons	●	○	○
Over/Underexposure buttons	●	○	○
White balance presets	●	○	○
White balance manual tune	○	●	○
Contrast curve selector	○	●	○
Rotation control buttons	○	●	○
XMP Rating buttons	○	○	●
XMP Label indicator	○	○	●
XMP Label buttons	○	○	●
Fullscreen, hide dock, and customize buttons	●	○	○

Defaults   Cancel   OK

Color Management

Menu -> **FastRawViewer** -> **Preferences** -> **Color Management**

If you use Custom monitor profile

Do not override if the system color profile is already the one you want to use; in this case "***Use color profile of display***" is enough.

☑ Use color profile of display upon which FastRawViewer launches

(Profile description: ib_macbook_PrePress.icc)

Override display color profile: `path to ICC/ICM profile` `...`
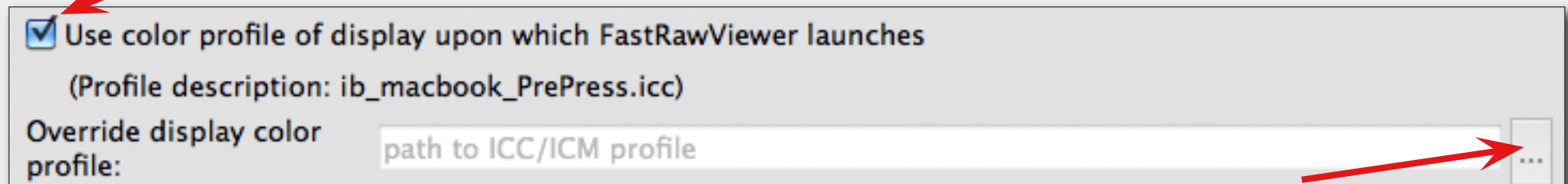
If you use a Wide Gamut monitor

Try to use **Adobe RGB** as the selected color space *("RAW processing color space" field)*

RAW processing color space   ✓ sRGB
                              Adobe RGB
Color space for untagged JPEGs   ProPhoto RGB
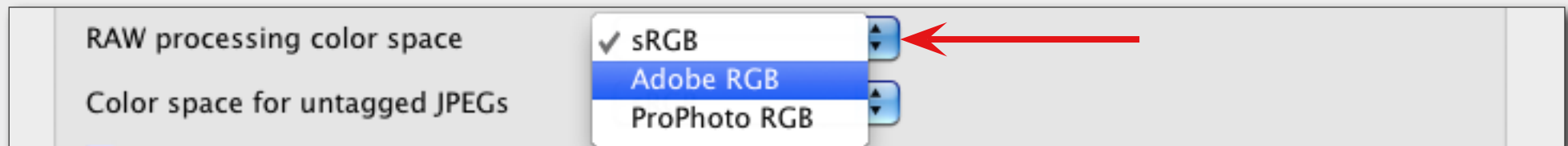
If your Custom monitor profile is accurate

You may benefit from selecting **ProPhoto RGB** *("RAW processing color space" field)*

If you use a generic monitor with a canned profile

The image may look better with color management **off**

(leave the box "Enable Color Management" at the top of Color Management Menu unchecked)

☐ Enable Color Management
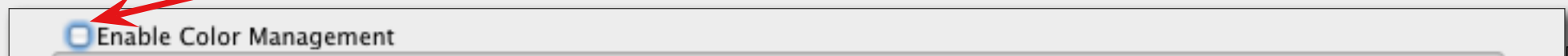
Customization of EXIF Fields display

1. At the top right corner of the EXIF Window:

EXIF

EXIF Display Preferences

Press to open EXIF Display Menu

2. Choose EXIF fields to be displayed
   (see the image to the right).

Select EXIF tags to display

↑↓ **Exposure summary**
☑ Shooting data: Exposure, correction, flash

↑↓ **What, Where, When**
☐ Image UniqID
☑ DateTime
☑ GPS: Position and altitude
☐ Doc.Name: Document name
☐ Img.Descr: Image Description tag
☐ Comment: User Comment tag
☐ Pana.Title: Panasonic additional title tags

↑↓ **Shooting Equipment**
☑ Camera: camera make and model
☑ Lens: lens data
☐ FW/SW: firmware or software version
☐ Computer: HostComputer tag
☐ Unif.Camera: Unified camera model
☐ Uniq.Camera: UniqueCameraModel tag
☐ Loc.Camera: LocalizedCameraModel tag

↑↓ **Shooting Parameters**
☑ Lens at: Focal length and aperture used
☐ Dig.Zoom: DigitalZoomRatio tag

☑ Do not show empty values
☑ Show row labels

Defaults   Cancel   OK

Access Files and Folders Using Folders Panel

Folders and files can be accessed through a folder tree.

Working with a memory card

1. When you mount removable media in your system, it will immediately appear in the folder tree.

2. If you don't need it anymore, you can eject it directly through the Folder panel *(right click on removable media folder name and choose "Unmount removable media)*

3. You can have the most recently created subfolder on the removable media be opened in the DCIM folder:
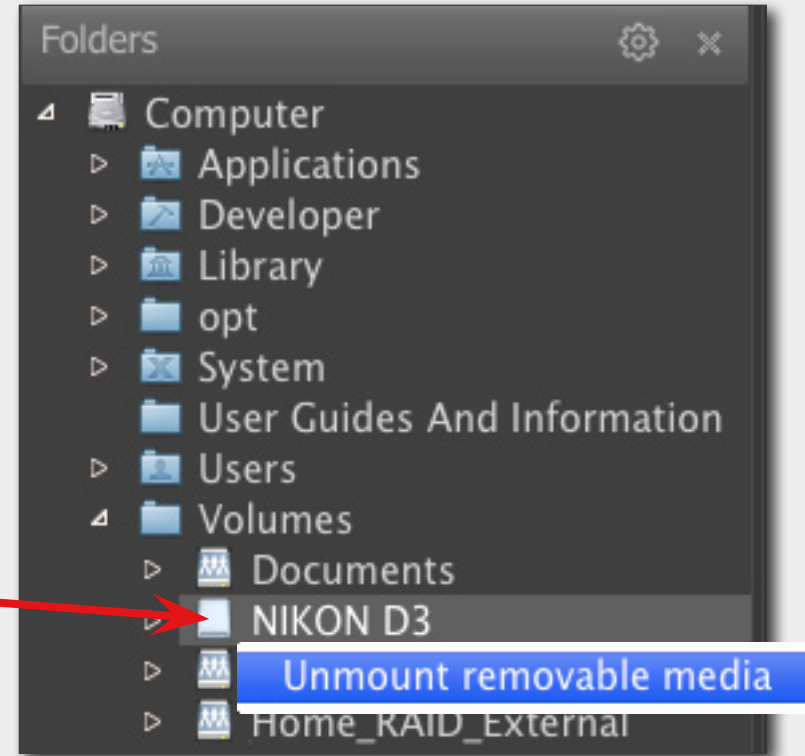
FastRawViewer -> **Preferences** -> **File Handling**
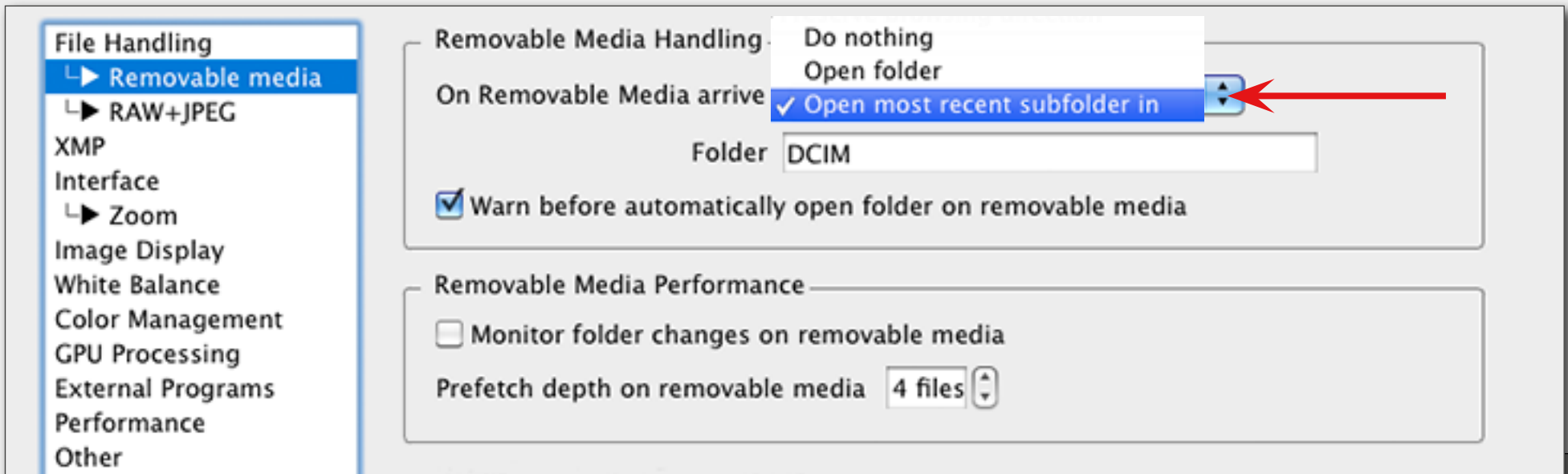
Working with the Favorite Folders Panel

   This panel allows one to keep a list of often-used folders, and lets one readily access them.

Add a Folder to Favorite Folders

1. Right-click on the selected folder in the Folder tree and use the appearing context menu.
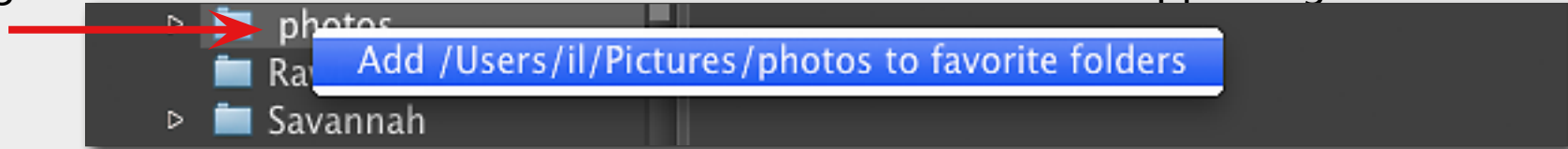
2. Highlight the selected folder in the *Folder Tree* and press the **Gear** icon on the *Favorite Folders* panel to access the context menu.
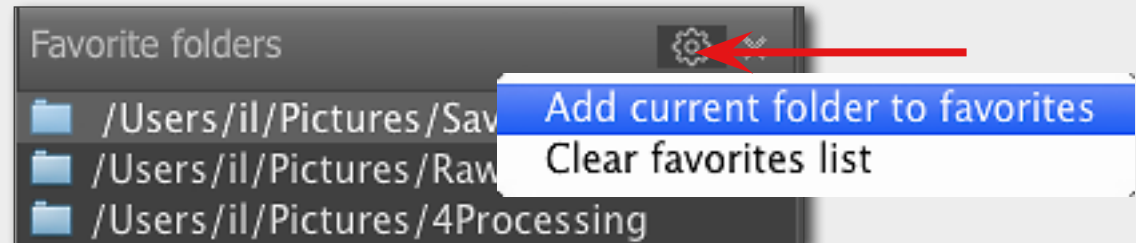
Remove a Folder from Favorite Folders

1. Right-click on the selected folder in the *Favorite Folders* and use the appearing context menu.
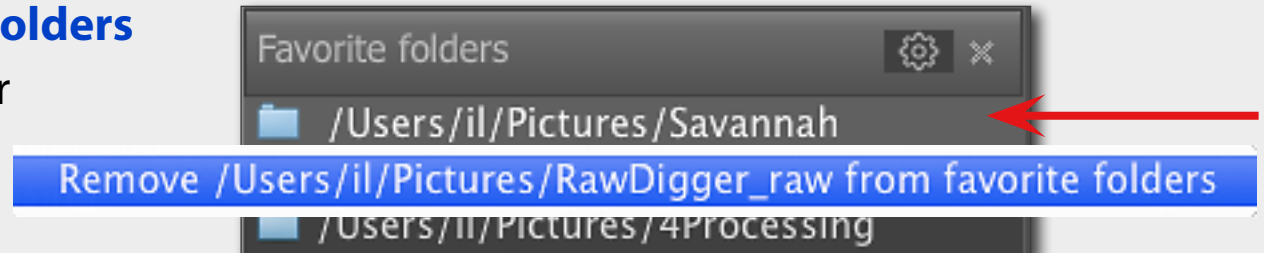
Open folders

2. A click on an item *(folder)* in this list opens the chosen folder in the *Filmstrip/Thumbnails* panel

3. A double-click opens an item in the *Filmstrip/Thumbnails* panel and loads the first file in the main window.

Clear Favorite Folders List

1. Press the **Gear** icon on the *Favorite Folders* panel to access the context menu.

File Sorting Order / EXIF Timestamp

Files can be sorted according to different criteria:

FastRawViewer -> **Preferences** -> **File Handling** -> *File sort order*

```
┌─ File Browsing ─────────────────────────────
│  ☑ Warn on broken RAWs
│  ☐ Remember last opened file in folder
│
│  File sort order          ✓ Filename, alphabetical
│                             Filename, reversed
│  Additional RAW extensions  Modification time, newest to oldest
│  (space separated)          Modification time, oldest to newest
│                             File type (extension)
│  Ignore extensions when file EXIF timestamp, newest to oldest
│  browsing (space separated) EXIF timestamp, oldest to newest
│
│  Open Folder dialog starts at
└─────────────────────────────────────────────
```
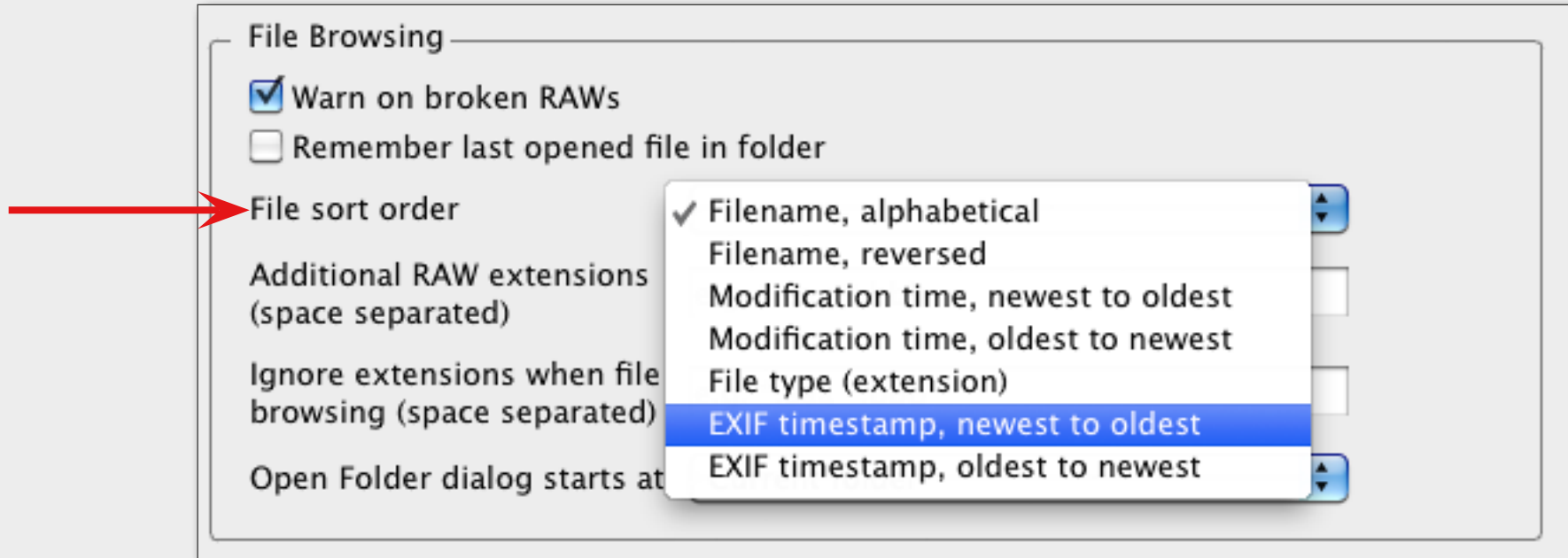
Sorting the File List by the EXIF Timestamp

For this sorting, **FastRawViewer** reads the *DateTimeOriginal* and *SubSecTimeOriginal* EXIF tags.
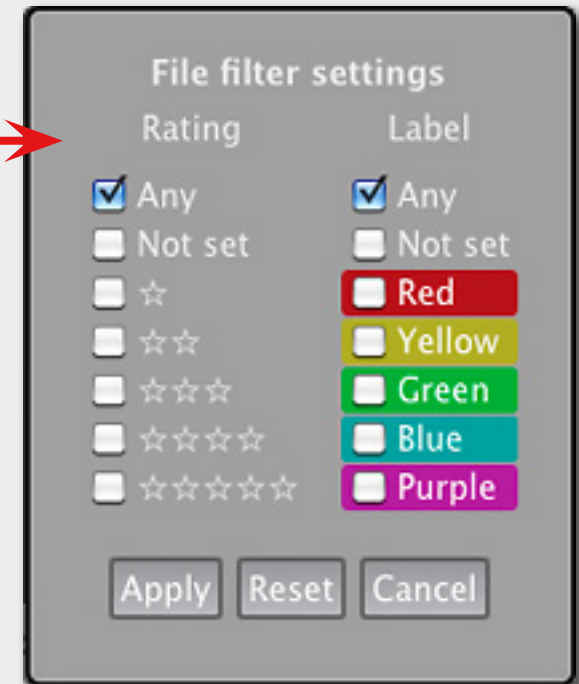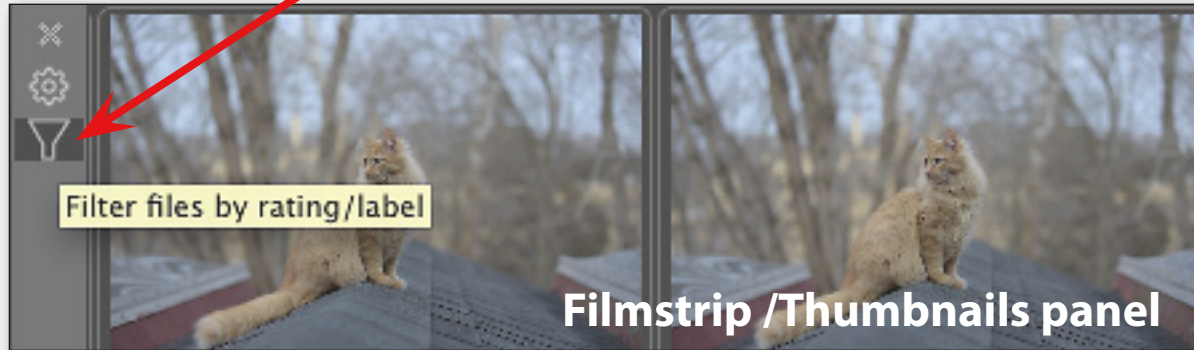
- If this sorting is turned on, then the first time a folder with files is accessed, **FastRawViewer** will read EXIF data from all of the files in the folder. At the same time, XMP blocks in the files and XMP sidecar files will be analyzed *(on slow discs/cards, this reading might take a while)*.

- Files with **EXIF Timestamps** will be sorted alphabetically within a second.

Filtering the File List by the XMP Ratings and Labels

1. To choose XMP ratings and labels for the filtering

   Menu -> **File** -> **Filter Files by rating/label**   *or*   Shift-F

   or   press the **Funnel** icon on the **Filmstrip /Thumbnails** panel

Filter files by rating/label

Filmstrip /Thumbnails panel

File filter settings

Rating	Label
☑ Any	☑ Any
☐ Not set	☐ Not set
☐ ☆	☐ Red
☐ ☆☆	☐ Yellow
☐ ☆☆☆	☐ Green
☐ ☆☆☆☆	☐ Blue
☐ ☆☆☆☆☆	☐ Purple

Apply   Reset   Cancel

Filter Settings Dialog

2. To set navigation control options for filtering:

   FastRawViewer -> **Preferences** -> **File Handling**

   ☑ Go to next file if current one is filtered out

3. To account for the labels/ratings in XMP blocks embedded into RAW files*:

   FastRawViewer -> **Preferences** -> **XMP**

   ☑ Read ratings/labels from XMP blocks embedded into RAW files

* Some RAW files contain embedded XMP blocks:
   a) DNG files, which have the label and/or rating set in Adobe programs (Bridge, Lightroom)
   b) RAW files, which have the label and/or rating set in the camera

Of course the composition is a priority while sorting images. If the image you are viewing is composed well next thing you want to know is: if the technical quality of the image good enough.

FastRawViewer offers essential **Image Assessing Tools**:

FastRawViewer Image Assessing Tools

RAW Histogram

Over- and Underexposure Indication and Statistics

Exposure Compensation

White Balance

Focus Peaking

Shadow Boost

Contrast *(Tone)* **Curve**

Using these tools is super easy. They can be activated and deactivated through the **Shortcuts**, or the **Bottom Bar**, or through the **Menu**. Parameters for the tools are set through the **Preferences**.

The detailed information about these tools can be found in FastRawViewer manual. They also briefly covered in tips.

Matching FRV Image Display to Adobe CameraRaw/Lightroom

Defaults should be adequate, if you need to restore just these ones, here are the settings:

At the **Menu** -> **FastRawViewer** -> **Preferences** -> **Image Display**:

1. Contrast curve is set to *Adobe Linear* or *Standard Tone* *(see Contrast Curve drop-down menu)*

2. "**Apply Adobe hidden exposure correction**" is on *(check the proper box)*

3. Choose *No correction* from the drop-down **Exposure correction on file open**
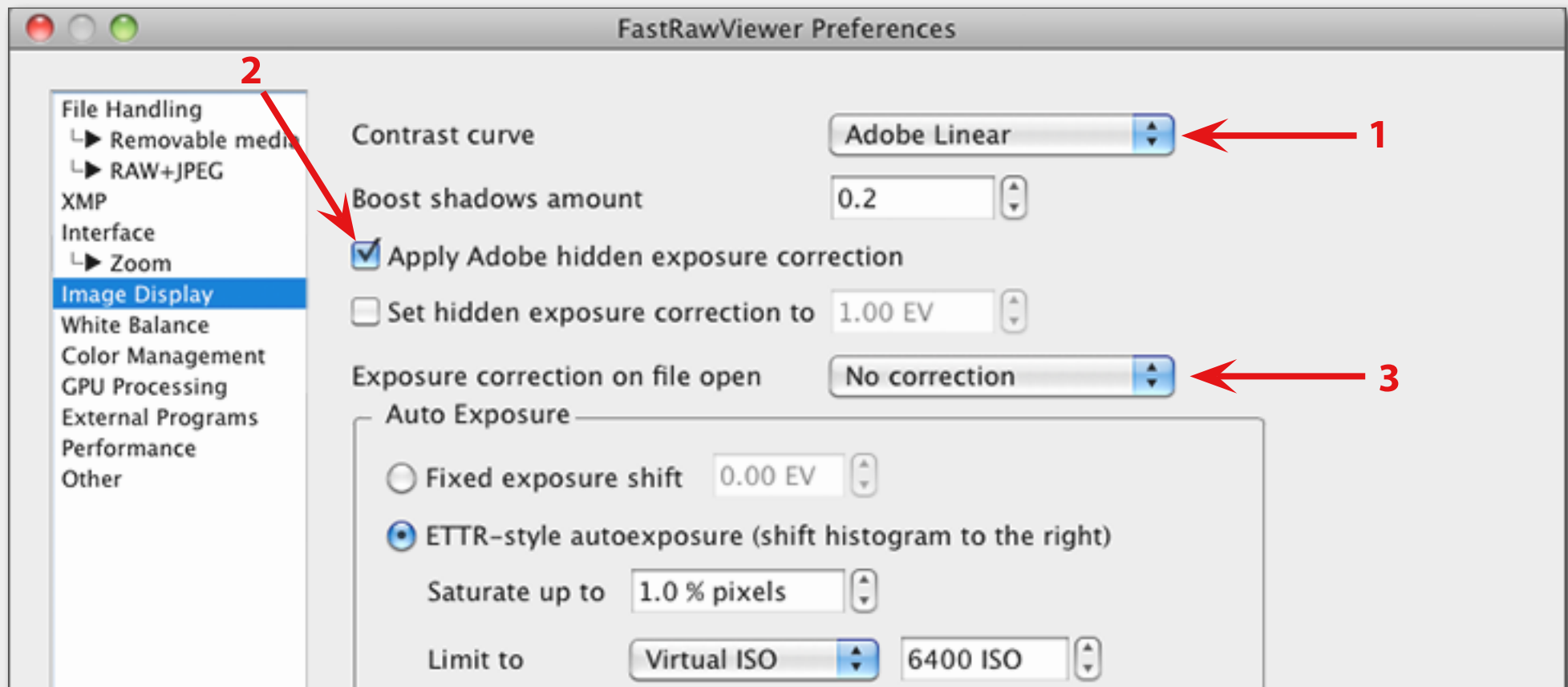
Matching FRV Image Display to RAW Converter

If the image display in FastRawviewer does not match the display in Adobe ACR/Lr or other converter *(brightness is different, color is off, etc.)*, please check the following:

Disable Auto Exposure Correction

- Press A   *or*   Toggle Exposure Correction button at the **Bottom Bar**

| 1/200 f/7 @ISO200 24mm | E D S | ⊟ 0.00 EV ⊞ | OE UE | Auto ▼ | 2775K/-91 |

Exposure correction on/off

Bottom Bar
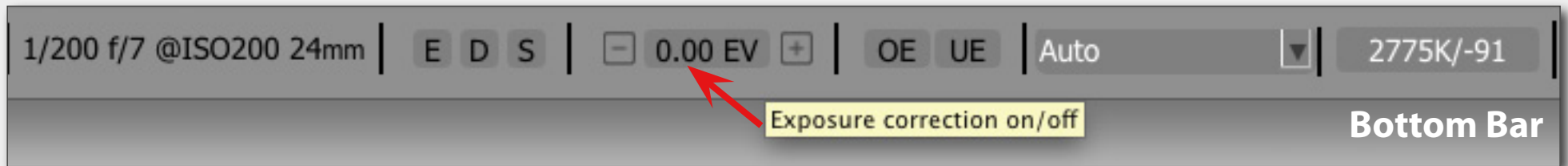
Enable Color Management

- **Menu** -> **FastRawViewer** -> **Preferences** -> **Color Management** -> *check the box* *"Enable Color Management"*

☑ Enable Color Management
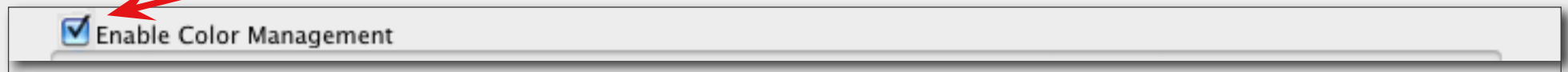
Choose correct Montor Profile

If colors still look off, please check at the same **Color Management** menu that you've chosen the correct Monitor Profile

☐ Use color profile of display upon which FastRawViewer launches
   (Profile description: ib_macbook_PrePress.icc)
Override display color profile: path to ICC/ICM profile   ...
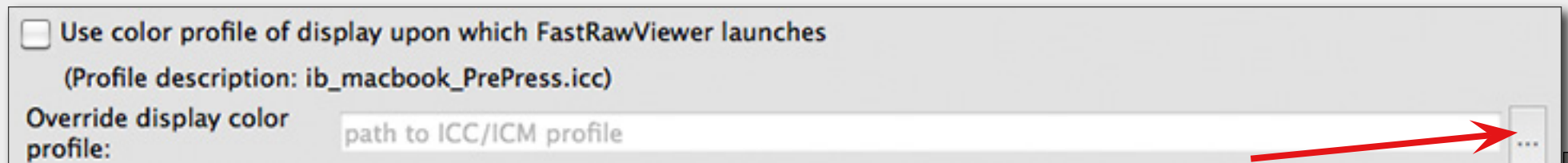
Checking for Over- and Underexposure

Toggling Over- and Underexposure Indication

- **O**   *or*   **Menu** -> **View** -> **Overexposure Display**

- **U**   *or*   **Menu** -> **View** -> **Underexposure Display**

E D S | ⊟ 0.48 EV ⊞ | OE UE | Shade, 8000K ▼ | 3508K/-123 | sRGB ▼

Toggle Overexposure   *Toggle Underexposure*

Bottom Bar

Over- and Underexposure Statistics

At the Information Windows Dock you can find
Over- and **Underexposure Statistics Window**
(see the picture to the right)

Exposure Stats	⚙ ⇥ ✕		
	UnExp		**OveExp**
R	7k	0.2%	0	0%
G	0	0%	0	0%
B	16k	0.5%	0	0%

Setting Underexposure Detection Limit

Menu -> **FastRawViewer** -> **Preferences** -> **Image Display** -> **Underexposure Detection Limit**

Underexposure detection limit   8.00 EV ⬍ below sensor saturation

You can save a lot of time spent on adjusting images in Lr/ACR, Capture One, or RPP, if you select and apply adjustments to Exposure, White Balance, and Orientation right in FastRawViewer, while browsing and save the applied settings in sidecar XMP and/or RPPS files. Raw converter program will be picking up those sidecar files prepared in FastRawViewer as the starting point for conversions.

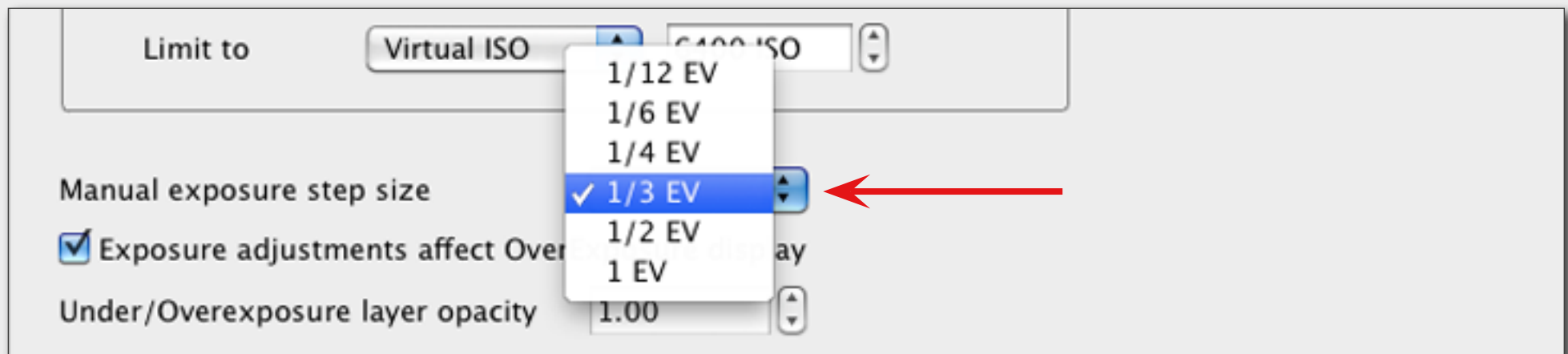This technique works well in combination with **Propagation** *(see the tip "Time-saver: Propagation")*

Controlling Exposure Correction *(#1)*

Switch Auto Exposure Correction "on"

- Press ⇧A   *or*   **Menu** -> **View** -> **Auto Exposure Correction**

Choosing the Step Size for Exposure Correction

- **Menu** -> **FastRawViewer** -> **Preferences** -> **Image Display** -> **Manual exposure step size**
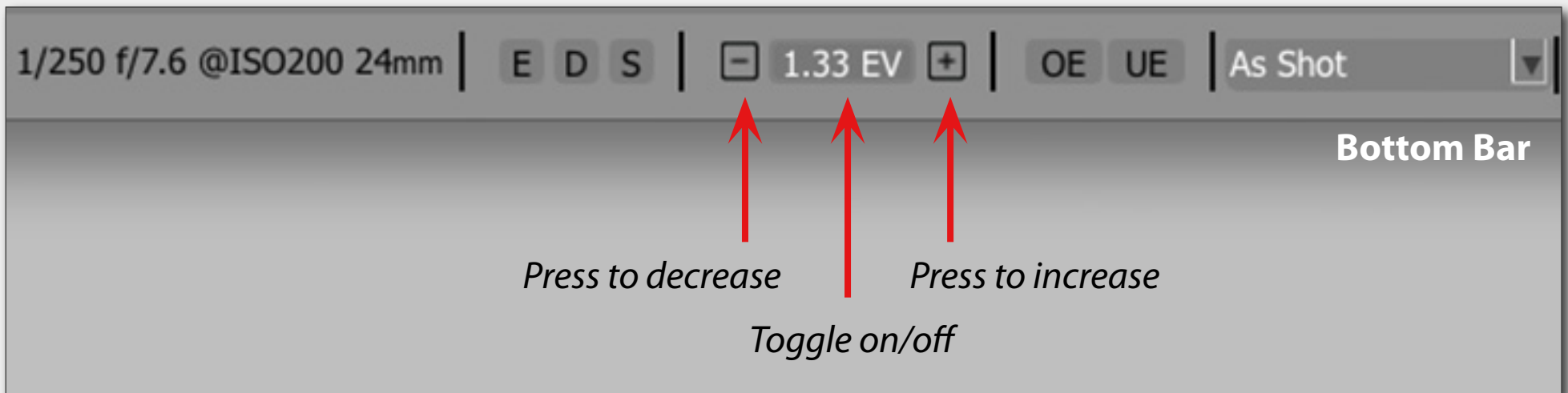
Controlling Exposure Correction *(#2)*

Switch Exposure Correction on/off

- Press ⎡A⎤ *or* **Menu** -> **View** -> **Exposure Correction** *or*

  Press the **Exposure Correction Value** field at the **Status Bar**

Increase/Decrease Exposure Correction

- Press ⎡⌥+⎤ / ⎡⌥−⎤ *or*

  Click ⎡+⎤ / ⎡−⎤ at the lower **Bottom Bar**

1/250 f/7.6 @ISO200 24mm | E D S | ⊟ 1.33 EV ⊞ | OE UE | As Shot ▾

Bottom Bar

Press to decrease   *Press to increase*
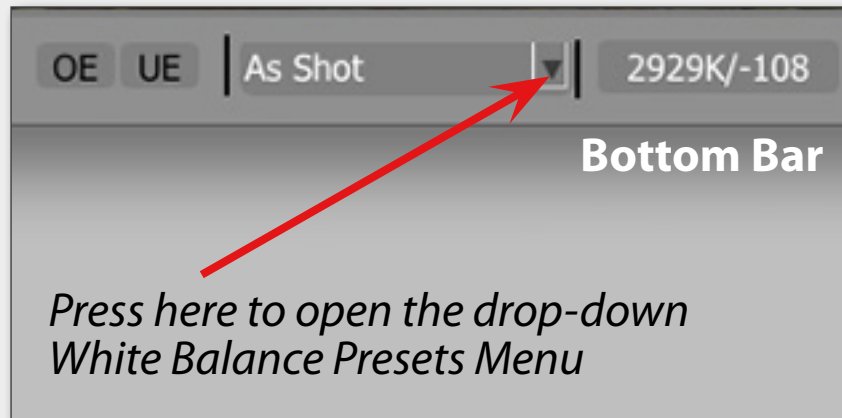
Toggle on/off

Quick Way: White Balance Presets

Cycle between Auto/As Shot/Daylight/Custom White Balance Presets

- Press W   *or*   **Menu** -> **View** -> **Exposure Correction**

More White Balance Presets

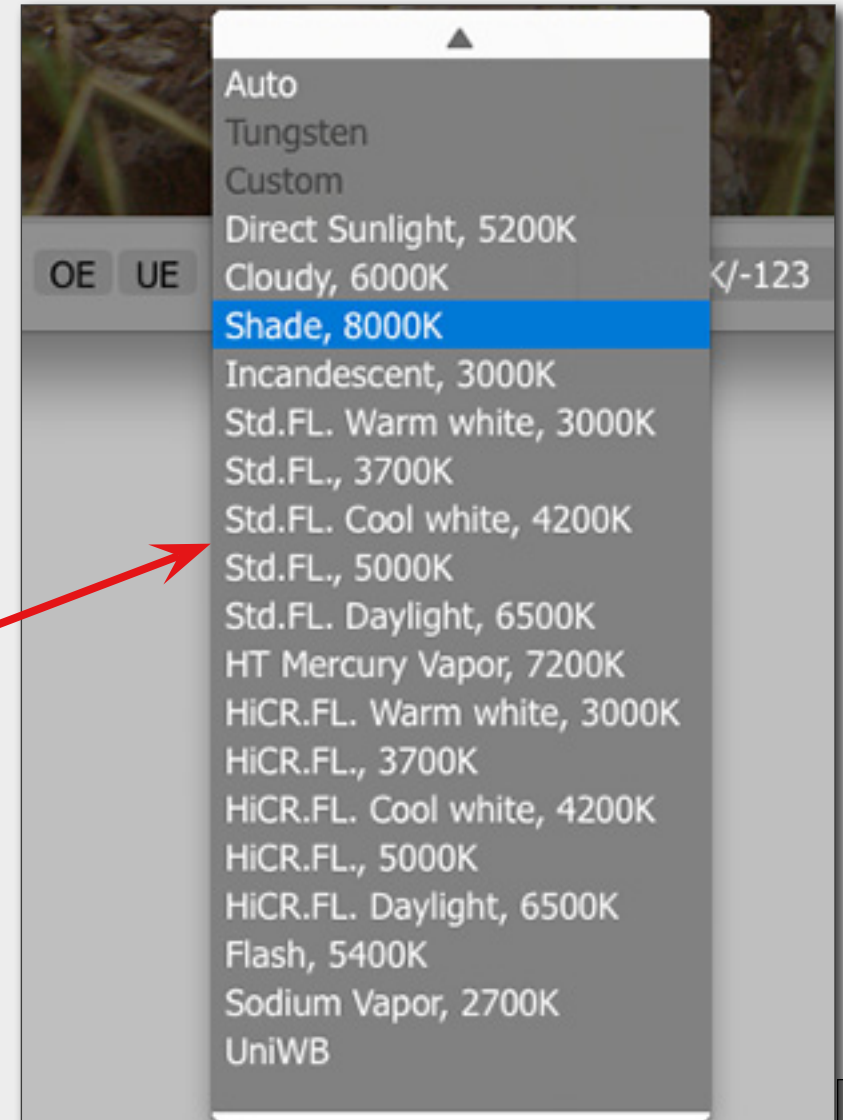1. At the Bottom Bar:

OE UE | As Shot ▼ | 2929K/-108

Bottom Bar

Press here to open the drop-down White Balance Presets Menu

2. choose one of the White Balance presets
    (see the image to the right).

    Note: UniWB preset switches white balance *off* completely.

Auto
Tungsten
Custom
Direct Sunlight, 5200K
Cloudy, 6000K
Shade, 8000K
Incandescent, 3000K
Std.FL. Warm white, 3000K
Std.FL., 3700K
Std.FL. Cool white, 4200K
Std.FL., 5000K
Std.FL. Daylight, 6500K
HT Mercury Vapor, 7200K
HiCR.FL. Warm white, 3000K
HiCR.FL., 3700K
HiCR.FL. Cool white, 4200K
HiCR.FL., 5000K
HiCR.FL. Daylight, 6500K
Flash, 5400K
Sodium Vapor, 2700K
UniWB

OE UE   (/-123

Sampling Grey Point

Choosing the Sampler Size

- **Menu** -> **FastRawViewer** -> **Preferences** -> **White Balance** -> **White Balance Sampler Size**
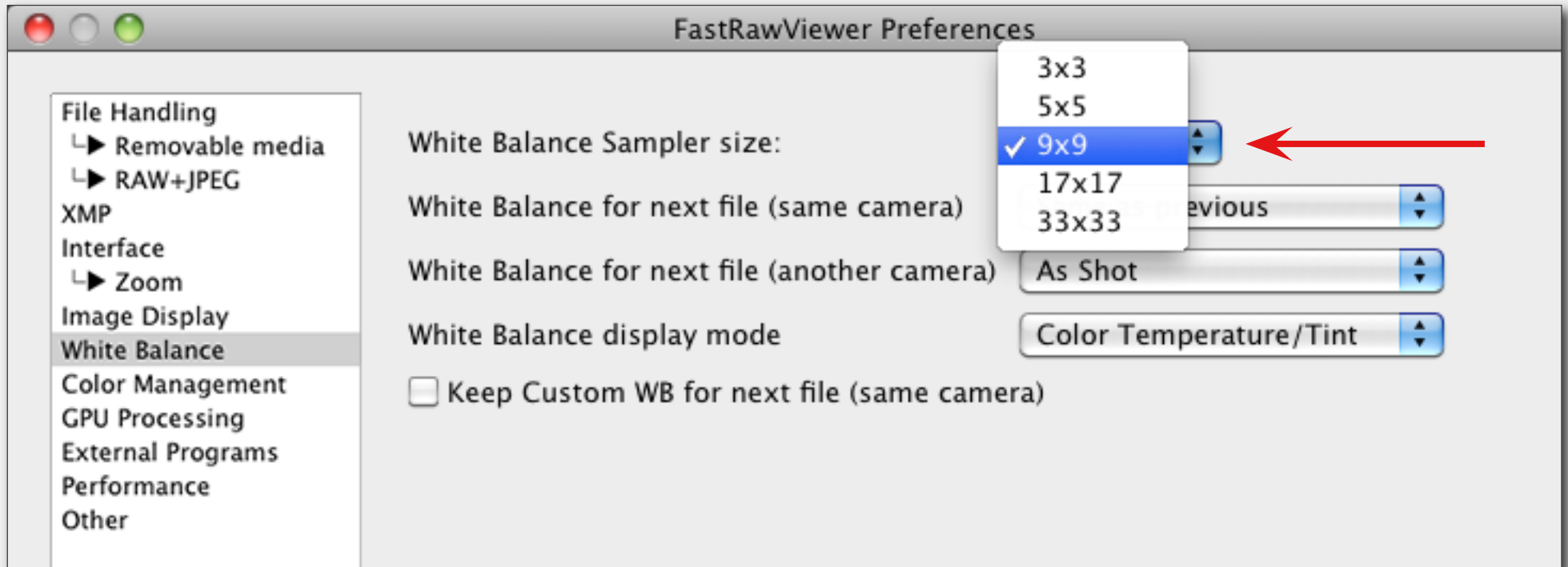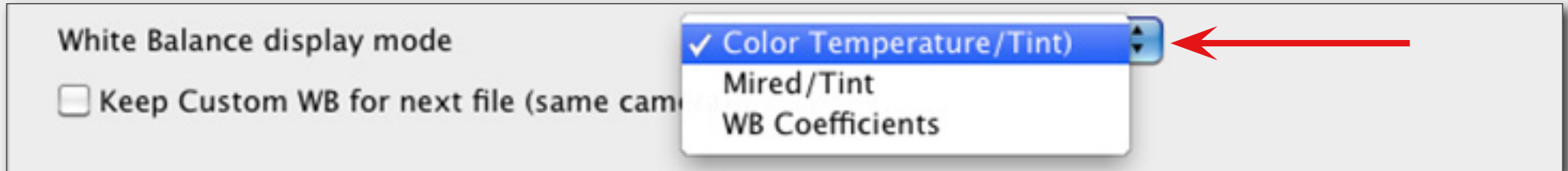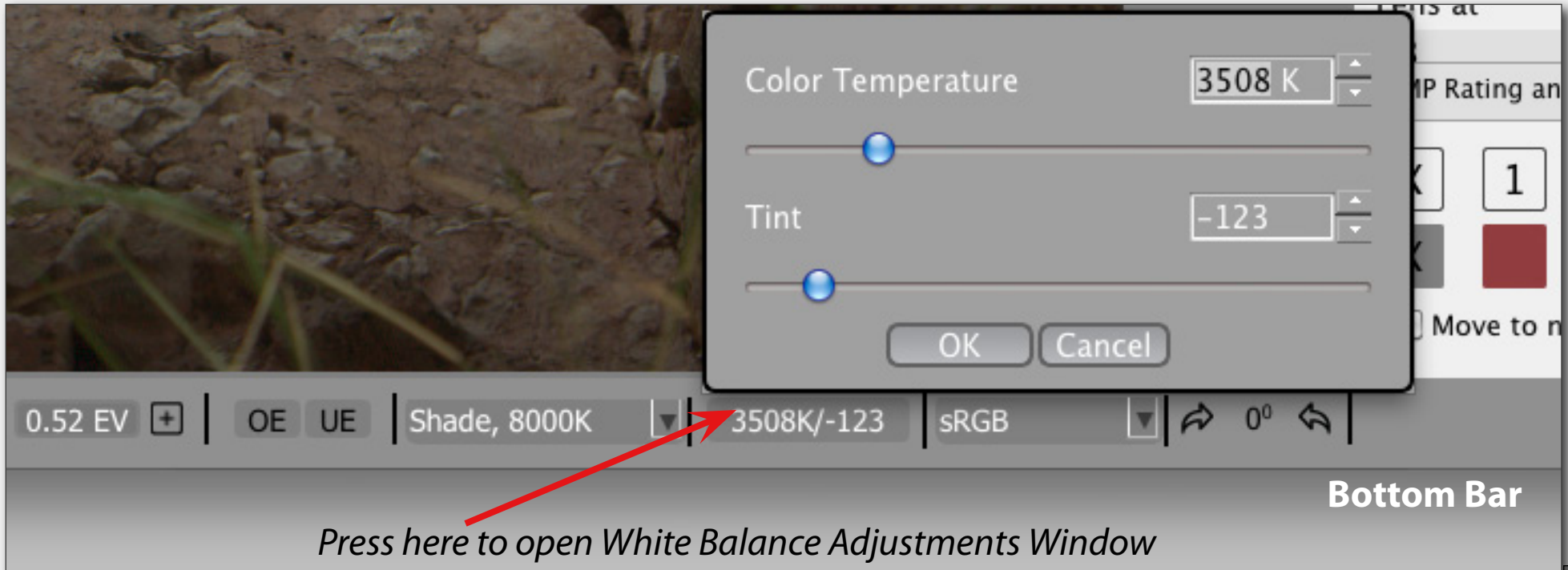

Setting the Grey Point

- Click on [⌥ LeftClick] on the image on something you designate as neutral.

Fine-tuning White Balance

- **Menu** -> **FastRawViewer** -> **Preferences** -> **White Balance** -> **White Balance Display Mode**

White Balance display mode   ✓ Color Temperature/Tint)

☐ Keep Custom WB for next file (same cam~~~~   Mired/Tint

                                        WB Coefficients

- Click **White Balance Display** to adjust white balance using sliders in the **White Balance Adjustment Window**

Color Temperature   3508 K

Tint   -123

OK   Cancel

0.52 EV ⊞ | OE UE | Shade, 8000K ▼ | 3508K/-123 | sRGB ▼ | ↱ 0⁰ ↰

Bottom Bar

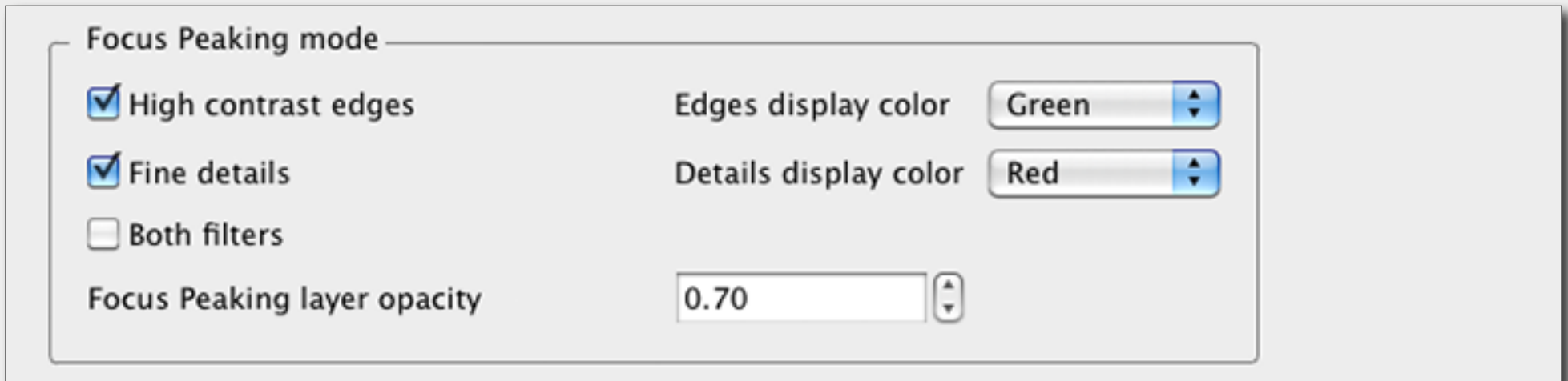*Press here to open White Balance Adjustments Window*

Focus Peaking

The Focus Peaking filter allows to assess the sharpness of the image and locate the areas where the **sharp edges *(E)*** and/or **fine details *(D)*** exist.
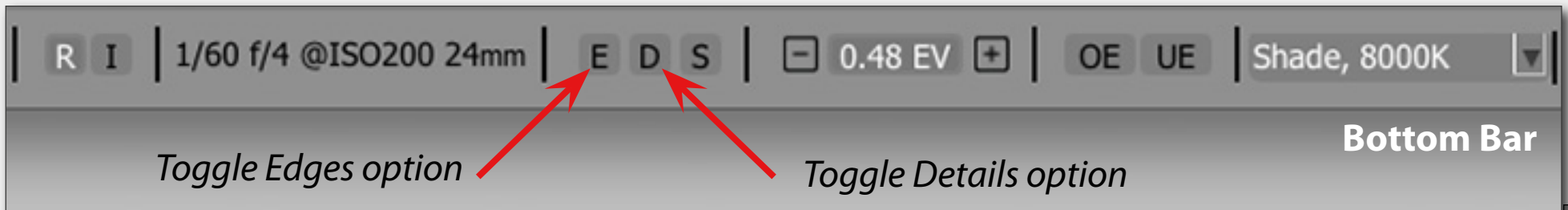
To Control Focus Peaking Options

- **Menu** -> **FastRawViewer** -> **Preferences** -> **GPU Processing** -> **Focus Peaking Mode**

Focus Peaking mode

☑ High contrast edges   Edges display color   `Green ▲▼`

☑ Fine details   Details display color   `Red ▲▼`

☐ Both filters

Focus Peaking layer opacity   `0.70 ▲▼`

Circle Focus Peaking (Edges/Details/Both/Off)

- Press `P` *or*   **Menu** -> **View** -> **Toggle Focus Peaking**   *or*

| R | I | 1/60 f/4 @ISO200 24mm | E D S | ⊟ 0.48 EV ⊞ | OE UE | Shade, 8000K ▼ |

Toggle Edges option   *Toggle Details option*   **Bottom Bar**

For ETTR practitioners or those who need to explore the shadows of an image, we have a tool ready for you - Shadow Boost; it lifts the shadows without clipping the highlights.

All you need to do is set the Shadow Boost amount, and apply it using ⇧S. This will allow you to see the level of noise in the shadows and to check if they are preserving details and colors well.
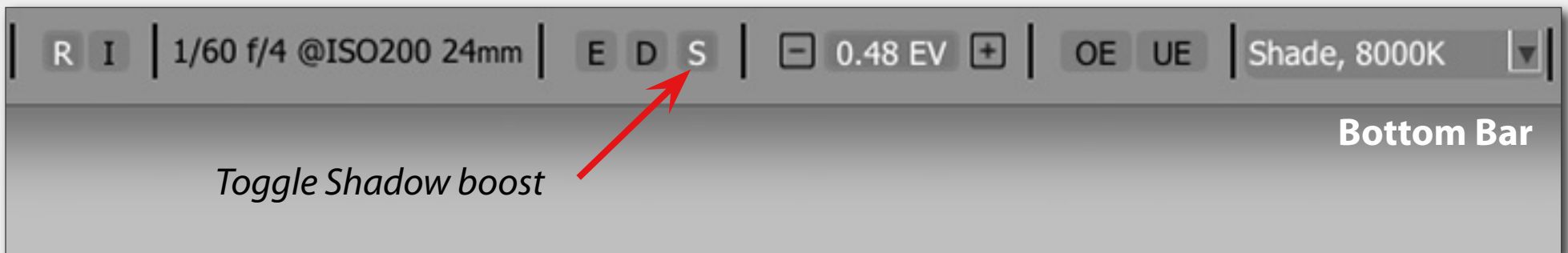
Boosting Shadows

To Set the Amount of Shadow Boost

- **Menu** -> **FastRawViewer** -> **Preferences** -> **Image Display** -> **Boost Shadows amount**
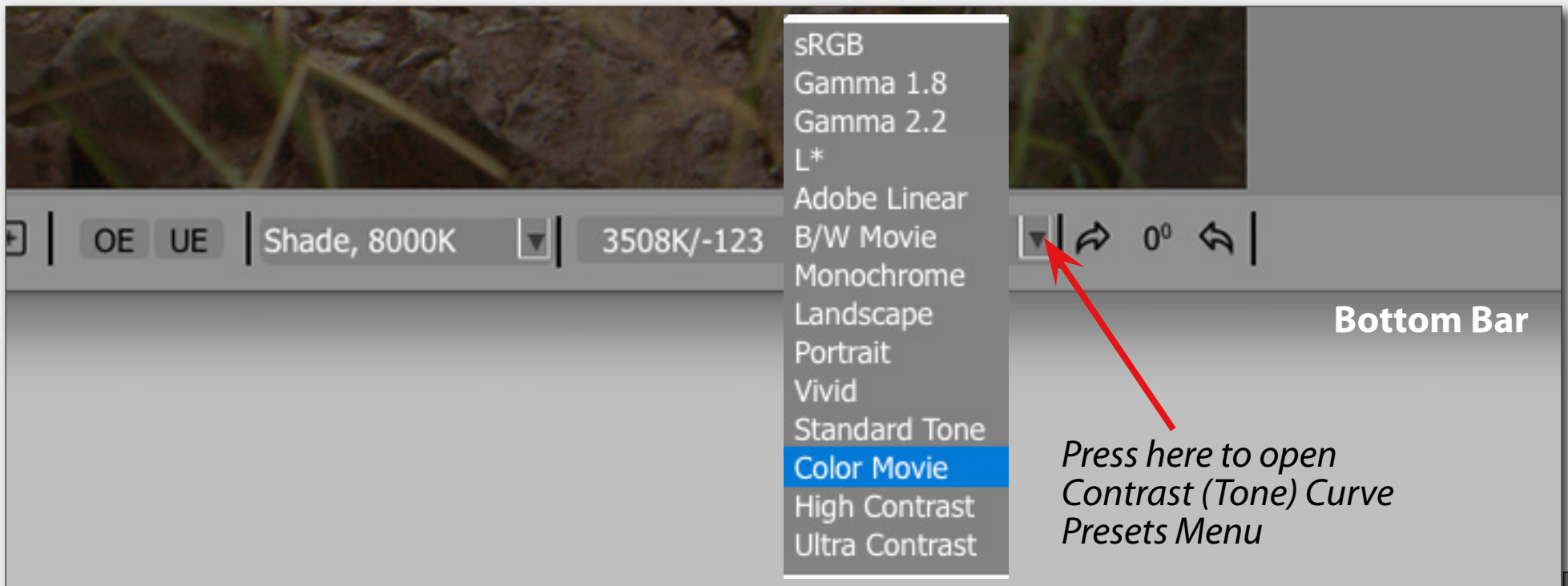
Boost shadows amount   `0.2`

Toggle Shadow Boost on/off

- Press ⇧S   *or*   **Menu** -> **View** -> **Shadow Boost**   *or*

R I | 1/60 f/4 @ISO200 24mm | E D S | ⊟ 0.48 EV ⊞ | OE UE | Shade, 8000K ▾

Bottom Bar

Toggle Shadow boost

If you want to add "bite" to the image display, or are opting for a flatter look for the scenes with high dynamic range (which helps see maximum details), you need to play with the contrast. To control the contrast, you can select one of the pre-programmed **Contrast _(Tone)_ Curves.** Don't shy away from the B/W Movie curve: it works well with color images too, adding a lot of contrast.

Choosing a Contrast (Tone) Curve

- **Menu** -> **FastRawViewer** -> **Preferences** -> **Image Display** -> **Contrast Curve** -> _Choose from the drop-down menu_   _or_

- At the **Bottom Bar**

sRGB
Gamma 1.8
Gamma 2.2
L*
Adobe Linear
B/W Movie
Monochrome
Landscape
Portrait
Vivid
Standard Tone
Color Movie
High Contrast
Ultra Contrast

OE UE | Shade, 8000K ▼ | 3508K/-123 ▼ | ↷ 0⁰ ↶

Bottom Bar

Press here to open Contrast (Tone) Curve Presets Menu

Customizing XMP or RPPS Settings to Match You RAW Converter

Many RAW converters and image browsers are using sidecar files to store non-destructive changes to the image as well as ratings, labels, comments, etc.

Choosing XMP Settings in Preferences

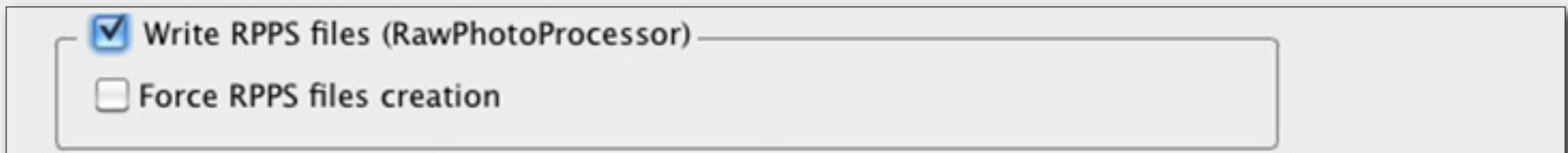- **Menu** -> **FastRawViewer** -> **Preferences** -> **XMP**

In XMP settings Window you will see several options tuning of which allows better communication between FastRawViewer and your preferred RAW converter.

Assigning Keyboard Shortcuts to XMP Rating and XMP Labels

- **Menu** -> **File** -> **Keyboard Shotcuts** -> **XMP Rating**

- **Menu** -> **File** -> **Keyboard Shotcuts** -> **XMP Labels**

For RPP Users

- **Menu** -> **FastRawViewer**-> **Preferences** -> **Other**

☑ Write RPPS files (RawPhotoProcessor)
☐ Force RPPS files creation

Adjusting Settings and Basic Conversion Parameters

If you are using Adobe ACR or Lr you should first:

0. Switch on "Apply Adobe Exposure Correction"

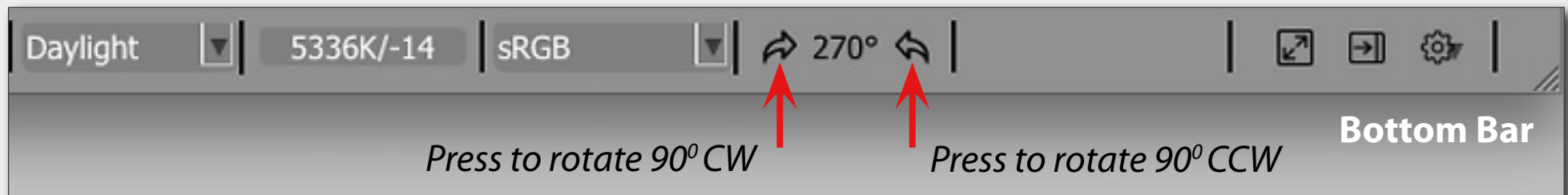- **Menu** -> **FastRawViewer** -> **Preferences** -> **Image Display**

☑ Apply Adobe hidden exposure correction

1. Tune White Balance *(see tips for 'Assessing the Image: White Balance')*

2. Adjust Exposure Compensation *(see tips for 'Assessing the Image: Exposure Compensation')*

3. Set Image Orientation

- Press ⌘7 *or* **Menu -> View -> Rotate 90⁰ CCW**

  Press ⌘9 *or* **Menu -> View -> Rotate 90⁰ CW**

- At the lower **Bottom Bar**

Daylight ▼ 5336K/-14 sRGB ▼ ↷ 270° ↶ | ⤢ ⇥ ⚙

Press to rotate 90⁰ CW   *Press to rotate 90⁰ CCW*   **Bottom Bar**

4. Check the Settings for Sidecar Files .xmp/.rpps *(please see the previous tip)*

It often happens that several files need the same adjustments to **White Balance**, **Exposure** and **Orientation.** To do so, FastRawViewer offers **Propagation Mode**: in this mode adjustments made to Exposure and White Balance are **automatically applied** to the next image you open in FastRawViewer.

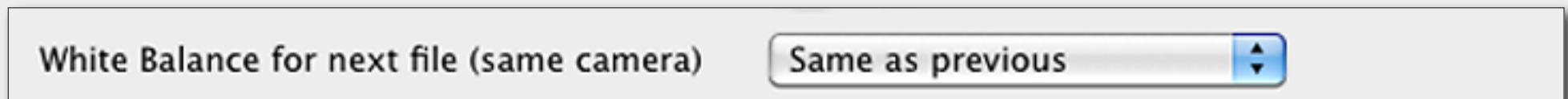**Propagation of Settings from the "Previous" Image to the "Next"** *(#1)*

Keep Exposure Correction for the Next Frame

- **Menu** -> **FastRawViewer** -> **Preferences** -> **Image Display**
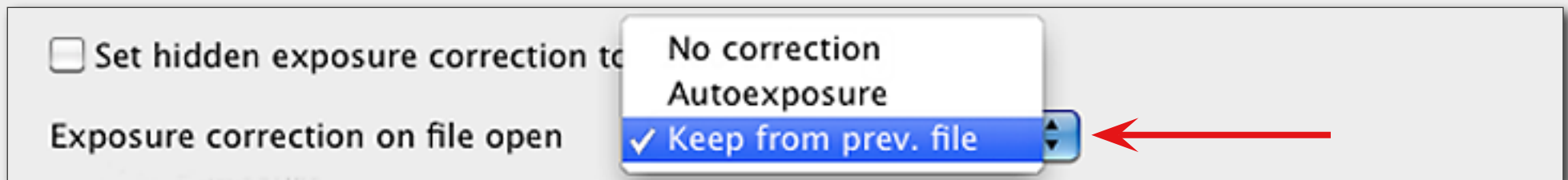
Keep White Balance for the Next Frame

- **Menu** -> **FastRawViewer** -> **Preferences** -> **Image Display** -> **White Balance**

Ignore EXIF Rotation Data

Depending on your camera, you may also choose:
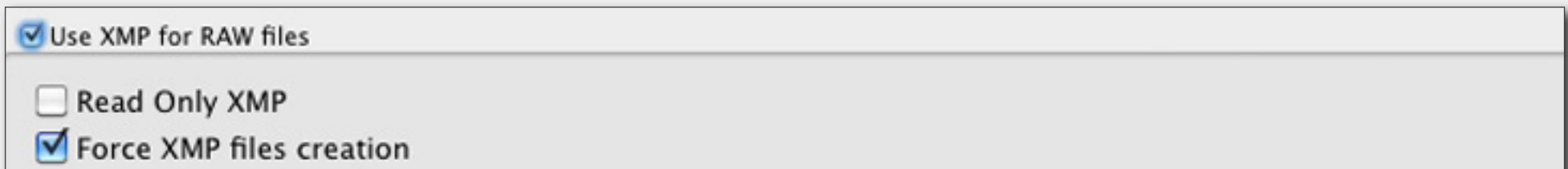
- **Menu** -> **View** -> **Ignore EXIF rotation data**   *or*   Press   ⌘8

When using Propagation you may choose **Forced Mode** of recording sidecar files. In this case even if no individual adjustments were applied to the image the sidecar file will be written containing all the changes you've made last time within the session. Thus all RAW files will have accompanying sidecar files with the parameter already set to be picked up by RAW converter.

Propagation of Settings from the "Previous" Image to the "Next" *(#2)*

Force XMP Files Creation

- **Menu** -> **FastRawViewer** -> **Preferences** -> **XMP**
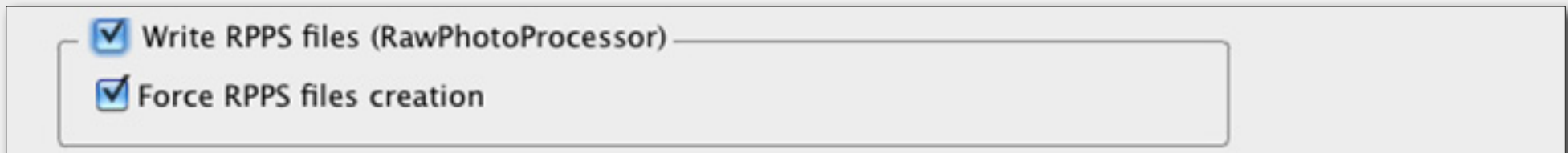
> ☑ Use XMP for RAW files
>
> ☐ Read Only XMP
> ☑ Force XMP files creation

Force RPPS Files Creation

If you are using RPP *(RawPhotoProcessor)* switch on the following:

- **Menu** -> **FastRawViewer** -> **Preferences** -> **Other**

> ☑ Write RPPS files (RawPhotoProcessor)
> ☑ Force RPPS files creation