

Shot Notes Lightroom Classic plugin (V 1.2.4)

- Windows only

Objective

Shot Notes allows you to associate voice notes, keywords and locations recorded in the companion app with the metadata of the corresponding photos in Lightroom Classic. The phone app stores this information as the pictures are taken, and this plugin reads that log to apply it to the image metadata.

Installation

See the installation documentation for Lightroom Toolbox plugins.

Workflow

Once the photo session is over and notes were recorded with the Shot Notes app, the work continues in Lightroom Classic. Before synchronizing, it is recommended to do the following:

- Transfer the data export generated by the app to the computer.
- Import the session photos, including the images used as time references.

1. Open the plugin.
2. Load the data generated by the app.
3. Perform the time synchronization.
4. Review the notes and photos and apply the metadata.
5. Confirm with OK to save the changes in Lightroom.

1. Open the plugin

1. In Lightroom, select the collection or folder containing the photos to work with. You can select only a subset of photos or leave none selected; in that case, the plugin assumes that all photos in the collection or folder will be used. Synchronization will only be applied to the selected photos.
2. From Lightroom's Library menu, choose Plugin Extras and then Shot Notes -> Sync Notes. The plugin window will open with three tabs.

2. Load the data generated by the app

After exporting the synchronization references, comments and keywords from the app, the next step is to load that file into the plugin.

1. Go to the Load Data tab and press Select File.
2. Find the file generated by the app and select it. The interface will show the number of notes and synchronization references loaded.

3. Time synchronization

The app performs temporary synchronizations. Each one consists of taking a photo with the camera at the same moment that the synchronization function is used in the phone. The image has its timestamp according to the camera clock, while the app records the time according to the phone clock. This difference is used to correct the times and correctly link each note to the corresponding photo.

1. Go to the Synchronize Clocks tab. You will see two panels: on the left, the synchronization references recorded in the app; on the right, the photos.
2. In the left panel, navigate between synchronization points. There you will see the timestamp according to the phone clock and the comment you recorded.
3. Then you must indicate the actual camera time:
 - If you took a synchronization photo, the filename was probably stored as the comment. Search for that photo in the right panel using the navigation buttons or a filter to find it faster. For example, if the image is called `_DSC1432.ARW`, you can type `1432` in the filter field. When the correct image is visible in the right panel, press Sync With Photo and the plugin will take the timestamp from that photograph.
 - If you saved the exact time of the synchronization point as a comment, use Manual Sync and enter the date and time. This method is less precise and not recommended, and it can also be confusing depending on the timezone configuration of the camera and the phone.
 - You can delete the synchronization and redo it as many times as necessary if you selected the wrong photo or entered the wrong time.
4. Repeat this process for the rest of the synchronization points.

You can use more than one temporary synchronization point. The plugin uses the last correction prior to each photo. If no previous point exists, it uses the correction from the first available point; if there are no synchronization points, the time is not adjusted.

Synchronization points must remain in chronological order. For example, there may be one point where the camera shows 10:02:06 and the phone shows 10:03:17, and another where

the camera shows 21:45:10 and the phone shows 21:46:20. This helps compensate for small slow drifts between both clocks. You should not change the camera time during the session or within the interval covered by the synchronization points, because that would break the relationship between the two clocks.

Note: the navigation buttons shaped like > move one item at a time, >> moves multiple items, and >| jumps to the end. There are equivalent buttons for moving backward.

4. Apply metadata

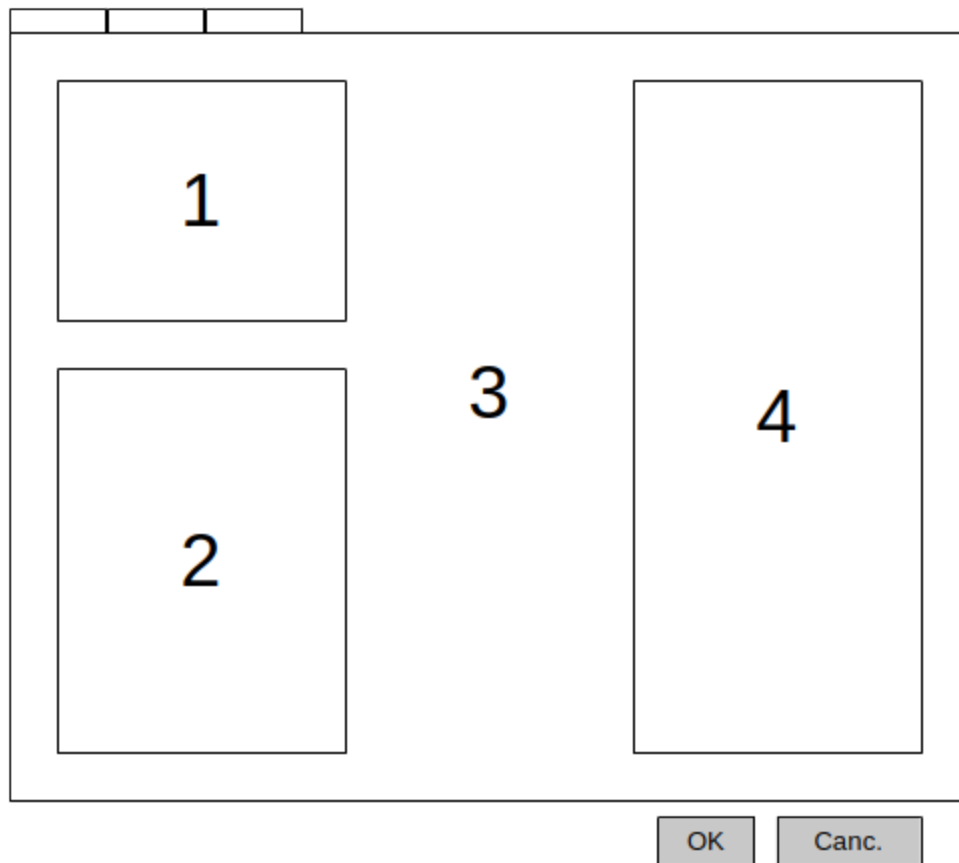
The general idea is to select a note generated in the app and the associated photo to copy the comment, keywords and GPS data to the image metadata, or to use that data as a reference for manual editing. The plugin offers several ways to navigate between notes and photos and to move information from one to the other.

The workflow assumes that a note created in the app and a photograph taken with the camera are associated when:

- the note was recorded after the photo;
- the photo is the last one taken before the note;
- the note is the first one created after that photo.

In practical terms, that means there were no other notes or photos between them. In addition, a maximum time threshold can be applied to avoid associating a note with a photo that is too old.

Go to the Synchronize Comments tab. The interface is made of several panels, as shown in the figure:



Panel 2 is for notes. At the top it shows the phone time and the corrected time so it matches the camera clock. It also includes the navigation buttons to move forward or backward through notes. There is a central button with the letter O that shows, when it exists, the note related to the photo visible in panel 4. Below the navigation controls appear the comment, keywords and recorded location. In the upper-right area of the comment and keyword blocks there is a small button to copy the content to the clipboard.

Panel 4 is for browsing photos. It shows a thumbnail and the navigation buttons. The central button marked O allows you to go directly to the photo associated with the note currently being reviewed in panel 2. At the bottom it shows the title, caption, current keywords and GPS data. The first three fields can be entered manually; the keywords must be separated by commas or written on separate lines.

The central buttons in panel 3 allow copying data from the note visible in panel 2 to the metadata of the photo shown in panel 4. These buttons are self-explanatory: Comment -> Comment, Comment -> Caption, Keywords -> Keywords and GPS -> GPS. The Restore Original Metadata button restores the original metadata of the photo before starting to edit it with the plugin.

Above those buttons, also in zone 3, there are two indicators. A green circle appears when the displayed note matches the associated photo, meaning that the photo is the last one taken before the note was recorded on the phone. Below it is a bar with triangles. The number of triangles indicates the time difference between the photo being taken and the note being created. If the note is later than the photo, the bar is green and points toward the note. If the note is earlier, the bar is red and points toward the photo. Since the normal workflow is to take a photograph and then record the note in the app, the correct relationship should be shown in green. It is also possible to add a note in the app that references another photo that is not the last one, and the comments can still be synchronized. Each triangle represents 5 seconds of difference; when the difference exceeds the number that can be represented, a square is shown at the end of the bar.

At the top of panel 1 there are mutually exclusive options to coordinate navigation between notes and photos:

- Independent: navigating between notes does not affect photo navigation and vice versa.
- Change note shows corresponding photo: when moving through notes, the plugin looks for and displays the associated photo if one exists. Then you can browse the photos without changing the note that is displayed.
- Change photo shows corresponding note: when navigating between photos, the associated note is shown when it exists.

A maximum time difference between note and photo can also be defined, which is useful to avoid associating notes with photos too far apart in time.

Further down in panel 1 there is a section to choose which elements will be copied in bulk into the metadata. Pressing Copy to Photo applies all selected elements at once. The Copy to Photo and Advance button does the same and then moves to the next note while showing the associated photo.

Quick workflow

Select the data to be copied in bulk:

1. Go to the first note in panel 1.
2. Go to the associated photo by pressing the O button in panel 4.
3. Copy the note data into the metadata and advance to the next note and its associated photo. There are three options:
 1. If you agree to copy everything without changes, press Copy to Photo and Advance.
 2. If you only partially agree on what should be copied, complete what is needed with the central buttons or with Copy to Photo, edit manually, and then advance to the

next note. It is useful to keep Change note shows corresponding photo enabled so that the associated photo of the next note is also displayed.

3. If you do not agree with anything, enter the data manually.
4. Repeat from step 2 until all notes are complete.

This sequence is very fast. The plugin does not include an option to process all notes automatically because the transcriptions or text entered can contain errors. Reviewing note by note allows these details to be corrected quickly and safely.

Workflow for several photos from the same situation and a single note in the app

Imagine a field outing where several photos of a kingfisher are taken and then a single note is created in the app with the corresponding keyword. Later, several photos of a puma are taken and a note is created for them as well. Each note is temporally associated with the last photo taken, but several photos share the same metadata. The plugin offers an agile workflow to apply those data to all related photos.

The method is:

1. Leave Change note shows corresponding photo enabled.
2. Go to the first note. The associated photo will be the last photo of the kingfisher.
3. Apply the relevant metadata using the note or by editing manually. In this example, the keyword is applied.
4. Move to the previous photo, which will be another image of the same subject.
5. Press Apply from the next photo and go to previous. This copies all metadata modified in the photo that has already received the keyword and then moves back one photo.
6. If more photos of the same subject remain, repeat step 5.
7. Move to the next note. The plugin will automatically show the last photo of the puma.
8. Apply the corresponding metadata.
9. Go to the previous photo.
10. While a puma photo is displayed, press Apply from the next photo and go to previous.
11. Repeat with the following notes until finished.

Operational notes

- Until OK is pressed, no changes are applied to the Lightroom catalog. If Cancel is clicked or the plugin window is closed, the changes made are lost and nothing is reflected in the catalog.

- For keyword assignment, the plugin checks whether the keyword already exists in the catalog. If it identifies an existing keyword unambiguously, it reuses it. If there are multiple keywords with the same name or the keyword does not exist, it creates it as a substructure under the LightroomToolbox keyword. Suppose the following keyword tree:

```
Football
  ball
  boots
Tennis
  shoes
  ball
```

If the keyword boots is applied, the plugin will use the one under Football. If the keyword ball is applied, the plugin cannot determine whether it belongs to Football or Tennis, so it creates a new ball keyword under LightroomToolbox to avoid ambiguity. If the keyword stadium is applied and it does not exist in the catalog, it will be created under the LightroomToolbox keyword.

- If the program is in demo mode, you cannot process more than 50 photos per invocation; please purchase a license and activate the plugin.