

LightroomToolbox

Frames Plugin (V 3.2) for Lightroom Classic (Windows only)

User Manual

Installation

Please refer to the LightroomToolbox plugin installation manual included with the files you downloaded.

In *Demo* mode, an X mark is randomly added to exported images. Some exports will not include this mark, but most will.

Overview

This plugin lets you add different kinds of borders and frames when exporting photos in Lightroom Classic (currently Windows only). Borders and frames are added to exported photos and do not affect Lightroom development settings or the catalog.

To use it, select the photos you want to export and click Export as usual. If you have not used a post-processing plugin before, you will see a panel at the bottom-left of the export dialog titled *Post-Processing Actions*. There you will find the **Frames** plugin. Select it and click **Insert**. A check mark will appear indicating it is enabled, and border options will appear among the export settings. You only need to do this once.

The plugin options appear in the last collapsible section on the right side of the export dialog. Choose the options you want, click **Export**, and your photos will be exported with your designed borders. It works like any Lightroom Classic export, so you can export one photo or a batch.

You can also design your border setup and save it as an export preset in the *Preset* panel at the top-left of the export window.

Lightroom Classic generates the exported image first, then the plugin adds the borders. Settings like *Watermarking* and *File Settings* apply only to the exported image before borders are added.

The plugin generates 3 types: **Inner Border**, **External Border**, and **Frame** and all of them can be combined. The following sections describe each one. You can use them individually or combine them.

Inner Border

This option generates a border that partially overlays the photograph.



Original



Solid inner border



Semi-transparent inner
border

If you use only this border type, final image size is determined by Lightroom's regular export size options (fit within a rectangle, long edge, etc.).

Inside the **Inner Border** tab you will find the configuration options:

- **Use Inner Border:** enables or disables this border type.
- **Color:** border color. Click the color box to open Lightroom Classic color selector.
- **Thickness (px):** border thickness in pixels.
- **Opacity (%):** 100% is fully opaque, 0% fully transparent, intermediate values are semi-transparent.

Then you will find contour line options. There are two contour lines: one closer to the photo and one on the outer edge.

- **Both lines equal:** both contour lines share the same settings.
- **Inner line:** enables the inner line.
- **Outer line:** enables the outer line.

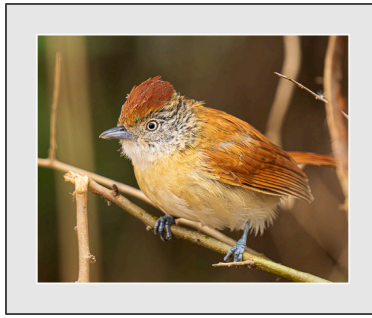
Line options include **Color**, **Thickness (px)**, and **Opacity (%)**.

External Border

This option generates an outer border around the photograph.



Original



Solid external border



External border with
blurred image

When using this border together with Inner Border, and while **Frame** is not used, final image size is determined by Lightroom regular export options. Since final size includes the external border, the photo itself becomes smaller.

Keep in mind final aspect ratio may differ from the photo original aspect ratio. For example, if the original photo is 5:4 (width:height), you set long edge to 700px, and external border thickness to 100px on all sides:

- The longest side remains horizontal, totaling 700px: 100px left border, 500px photo, 100px right border.
- Preserving aspect ratio, photo height becomes 400px, so the photo itself is 500px x 400px.
- Adding top and bottom borders gives total image height 600px: 100px top, 400px photo, 100px bottom.
- Final image including external border is 700px x 600px. Final aspect ratio is 7:6, different from the contained photo.

Inside the **External Border** tab you will find:

- **Use External Border**: enables or disables external border.
- **Color**: border color.
- **Opacity (%)**: opacity of the selected color. This is only applied when also using **Frame**, so the frame background can be visible.

External Border can also overlay the same photo over the chosen border color. The image is expanded to cover the full border area, and these options are applied before compositing:

- **Opacity (%)**: 100% is fully opaque and hides the background color; lower values make it semi-transparent.
- **Blur**: smooths detail so border texture does not compete with central photo.
- **Saturation (%)**: 0% makes it grayscale, 100% keeps original colors. Since this image is composited on top, transparency allows the selected **Color** to show through.

Then you will find contour line options. They are analogous to those described for **Inner Border**.

Then come options to define external border size:

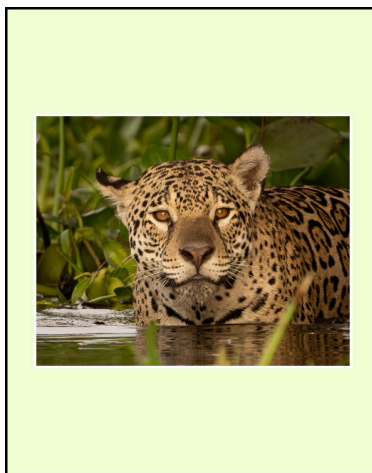
- **All sides equal:** same border thickness on all sides.
- **Edge Thickness (px):** when previous option is enabled, sets thickness for all sides.
- **Equalize left and right edges:** uses same thickness for left and right. If enabled, **Thickness (px)** appears.
- **Left (px) and Right (px):** set independent left/right thickness.
- **Equalize top and bottom edges:** uses same thickness for top and bottom. If enabled, **Thickness (px)** appears.
- **Top (px) and Bottom (px):** set independent top/bottom thickness.

Frame

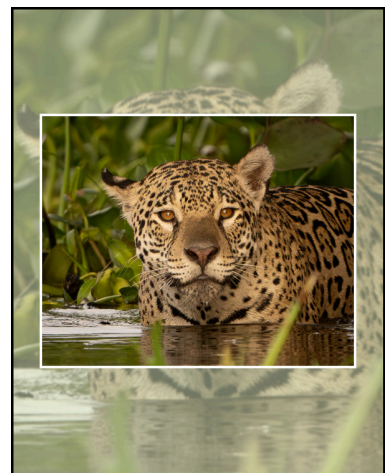
With this option, you define the final output size including **Frame**, and the photo (with inner and/or external border if used) is positioned inside that final frame. By setting final dimensions, you control the final aspect ratio.



Original



Solid color frame



Frame with
blurred image

With **Frame** enabled, final image size is defined in **Frame** options, and Lightroom export sizing options are ignored.

Frame options are:

- **Color:** frame color.
- **Use Image as Background:** equivalent behavior to External Border background image, with the same options (**Opacity (%)**, **Blur**, **Saturation (%)**).

Then you will find contour line options, equivalent to those in Inner Border and External Border.

Then options that define final image size:

- **Aspect Ratio:** final aspect ratio (width:height) for complete image (photo + frame). You can choose common ratios, **Free**, or **Custom**. If **Custom** is selected, fields appear to define it.
- **Wide (px)** and **Heigh (px):** final image size including frame. If aspect ratio is not free, changing one value updates the other.

Then options to define border thickness:

- **Contour thickness (px):** border thickness. Depending on aspect ratio, this border may be on sides or top/bottom.
- **Vertical alignment:** when one direction needs extra space to meet final size, choose top, center, or bottom placement.
- **Horizontal alignment:** analogous to vertical alignment; choose left, center, or right placement.

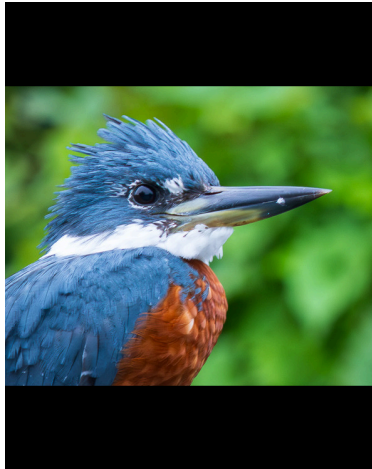
Advanced Use Examples

Examples for social media publishing. If your photos have different aspect ratios, it is hard to place them in a single Instagram carousel because all images must share one aspect ratio. Consider this set with a square, a landscape, and a portrait image:

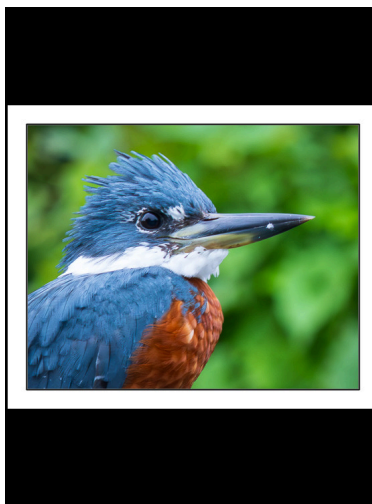
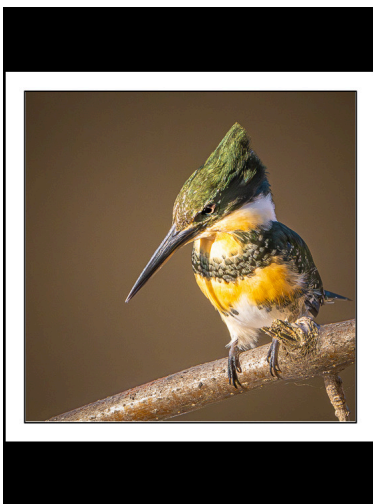


Suppose we want a 4:5 (width:height) post. We set the plugin to create an opaque black **Frame**, no contour lines, 4:5 aspect ratio, border thickness 0, and export the 3 photos together. The plugin adds black bands where needed to complete the desired aspect ratio.

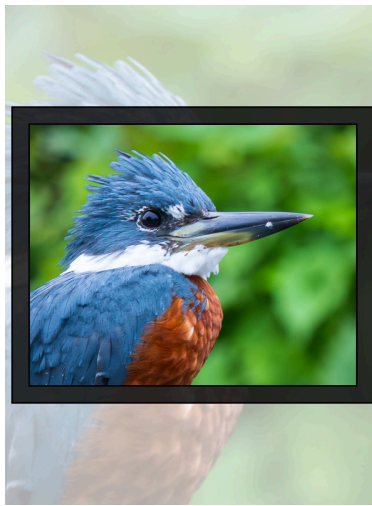
Since Instagram background is black, those bands blend in. In this example, one photo is already 4:5, so no bands are added to that one:



Now suppose we also want a white photo border. We use the same options as above and also enable **External Border**. In this example, external border is solid white. Exporting all three photos together produces images with black bands (to complete 4:5) plus the selected border. Again, for Instagram, black bands blend with the black app background:



You can also be more creative. In the following example, a white **Frame** is used with a blurred, translucent, slightly desaturated photo over it. An **External Border** with slightly translucent black is also added, allowing frame background to show through. The 3 photos are exported together and all outputs have matching size, ready to publish:



As a final example, we add a translucent **Inner Border** with an internal white line to get a more creative final look:



Possibilities are endless. Here we only showed a few conservative examples in terms of color and design.

External Software

This plugin uses ImageMagick (ImageMagick Studio LLC). You do not need to install it because it is included as part of the distribution. The ImageMagick program has not been modified. The license description is included in the plugin's Help folder.