User Guide

Auto-crop and rotate for scanned photos, albums, negatives, slides, and more in Lightroom Classic

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Welcome

Cropwright is a plug-in for Adobe Lightroom Classic. You scan or photograph your prints, Polaroids, slides, negatives and album pages the way you always do, bring them into Lightroom, and let Cropwright find the edge of each photo, crop it, straighten it and, if you like, turn it right side up. When a page holds several photos, Cropwright can also pull each one out as its own picture.

This guide shows you how to install Cropwright, activate your license, and get the best results from each command.

> **Your originals are safe.** Cropwright works as a normal Lightroom edit, or as a virtual copy. It never changes your original scan file. If you are not happy with a result, use Undo Cropwright to put the photos back.

What you need

- Adobe Lightroom Classic (the desktop version, not Lightroom on the web or mobile).
- Windows or Mac.
- An internet connection to activate your license. Cropwright re-checks your license about once a week; it keeps working offline for up to 30 days between checks.
- Scans or camera captures of your photos, ideally on a plain, evenly lit background.

In this guide

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- 2. Your first batch
- 3. The commands, one by one
- 4. Getting the best scans
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- 6. Undo, flags and troubleshooting
- 7. Updating Cropwright

1. Install and activate

Get your download

Every plan starts with a 14-day free trial. When you start your trial or buy a plan, you receive an email with your license key and a link to download Cropwright. The same download is always available from your customer portal on Polar, the secure checkout used for Cropwright. One download works for every plan: your license key decides which commands are unlocked.

Install

- Remove any older version first. In Lightroom Classic choose File > Plug-in Manager, select the old Cropwright (or Auto-Crop Scans) plug-in and click Remove. Your settings carry over.
- Unzip the file you downloaded. You will see a folder named Cropwright.lrplugin.
- Move that folder somewhere permanent, for example Documents > Lightroom Plug-ins. Lightroom needs the folder to stay in the same place, so do not leave it in Downloads.
- In Lightroom Classic choose File > Plug-in Manager, click Add, select the Cropwright.lrplugin folder, then click Done.

Activate your license

Choose Library > Plug-in Extras > Cropwright License..., enter the license key from your email, and click Activate. Each license covers a set number of devices, depending on your plan. Every computer you use Cropwright on needs its own activation. The License window also shows which plan you have.

> **Free trial.** You can try Cropwright free for 14 days before your first payment. Need to move to a new computer or have trouble activating? Email info@getcropwright.com.

Where to find Cropwright in Lightroom

Everything lives under Library > Plug-in Extras. You will see the commands for each kind of scan, followed by Auto-Rotate Photos, Undo Cropwright, Cropwright Settings and Cropwright License. The commands are only available when at least one photo is selected.

2. Your first batch

Try Cropwright on a small group of scans first so you can see how it behaves.

- Import your scans into Lightroom Classic as usual.
- In the Library module, select the photos you want to process. Click the first, then press Ctrl+A (Cmd+A on a Mac) to select all, or Ctrl-click to pick several.
- Choose Library > Plug-in Extras and pick the command that matches what you scanned. For regular prints and Polaroids, that is Auto-Crop & Rotate Prints and Polaroids.
- A progress bar appears in the top-left corner of Lightroom while Cropwright works. Larger batches take longer.
- When it finishes, a message tells you how many photos were cropped and how many were turned. Photos Cropwright was not sure about are flagged so you can check them.

> **Tip:** Cropwright crops and straightens in the same pass as it turns each photo upright, so you do not need to run two commands. If your photos are already the right way up, set Crop & Rotate: check which way is up to No in Settings. It will be faster.

Reading the result

- Cropped photos now show the new crop in the Library grid. Open one in the Develop module and press R to see or adjust the crop handles.
- Flagged photos need a quick look. Use the Library filter bar: Attribute > Flagged.
- Virtual copies (named “Photo 1”, “Photo 2”, “Picture”) appear next to the original in the grid. They are small edit records, not extra large files.

3. The commands, one by one

Pick the command that matches what you scanned. The menu names in Lightroom begin with "Auto-Crop"; your plan decides which ones you can use.

Command	Use it for	What you get
Auto-Crop & Rotate Prints and Polaroids	Regular prints and Polaroid or instant prints scanned on a dark or contrasting background.	Each photo cropped to its edge, straightened, and turned upright. The white print border is kept by default, including the thicker bottom border of a Polaroid.
Auto-Crop & Rotate Scalloped, Oval & Odd-Shaped Photos	Photos with decorative wavy edges, oval prints, cut corners and other unusual outlines.	The whole photo, edge included, with an even thin border of your backdrop around it. Shoot on black.
Auto-Crop & Rotate Mounted Slides (keep mount/writing)	Slides still in their cardboard or plastic mounts.	The picture cropped inside the mount. If the mount has writing, the original keeps the whole slide and a virtual copy named "Picture" holds just the image.
Auto-Crop & Rotate Color Slides	Color slides, mounted or not, that you want cropped to the picture.	Each slide cropped to its image, straightened and turned upright.
Auto-Crop & Rotate Ephemera (new image)	Letters, cards, tickets, colour charts and small objects.	A new image stacked with the original: the item levelled, on a contrasting background, with a margin and a thin line round its edge. The original scan is not changed.
Auto-Crop & Rotate Negatives (already converted)	Negatives you have already converted to positives.	Cropped to the frame, straightened and turned upright.
Auto-Crop, Rotate & Convert Negatives	Raw colour negative scans.	Cropped, turned upright and converted to a positive. After conversion, Lightroom's Basic sliders work in reverse (Exposure to the right makes it darker); use the Tone Curve for fine adjustments.
Auto-Crop, Rotate & Convert Disc Negatives	Kodak Disc film negatives.	The same as above, tuned for the disc frame.
Auto-Crop & Rotate Album Pages (extract individual photos)	Album pages with several photos, including magnetic albums and Polaroids.	The original is cropped to the whole page, followed by every photo on it as its own virtual copy ("Photo 1", "Photo 2"…), cropped and upright. Polaroids keep their whole white frame.
Auto-Crop & Rotate Whole Album Page	Scrapbook pages and album pages you want kept whole.	A slanted page squared up and cropped to the page. No photos are pulled out.

Command	Use it for	What you get
Auto-Rotate Photos	Photos that only need turning.	Turns each photo upright without cropping.
Undo Cropwright (put photos back)	Starting over.	Puts the selected photos back as they were.

Which commands are in my plan?

Plan	Commands included
Essentials	Prints and Polaroids, and scalloped, oval and odd-shaped prints.
Pro	Everything in Essentials, plus slides (mounted and color), ephemera and negatives (already converted, convert, and disc).
Studio	Everything in Pro, plus album pages: extract individual photos, and whole album page.

Auto-Rotate Photos and Undo Cropwright are included in every plan.

Command notes

Prints and Polaroids

Select the scans and run the command. By default Cropwright keeps the white border of a print and crops to its outer edge. Polaroid and instant prints are kept whole, including the thick bottom border, whether they are on their own or in an album. If you prefer the picture only, change Prints: white border in Settings.

Scalloped, oval and odd-shaped photos

Cropwright keeps the whole decorative edge and leaves an even border of your backdrop around it, so you see the full shape of the photo. This works best with a black backdrop. Adjust the thickness of the border in Settings.

Mounted slides and color slides

Cropwright finds the picture inside the mount. By default, if the mount has writing on it, the original keeps the whole slide (mount and notes) and a virtual copy named Picture is cropped to just the image. In Settings you can choose to always keep the mount, or never. Use Color Slides for color slides you want cropped to the picture.

Ephemera

For letters, cards, tickets and objects. Cropwright makes a new image next to the original, levelled and on a solid background that contrasts with the item (black behind light items, white behind dark ones). Shoot on a plain contrasting backdrop for best results.

Negatives

Use (already converted) if you have already turned your negatives into positives. Otherwise use Convert Negatives. You can set how colour is balanced and how much extra to trim from each side of the frame in Settings. Click the clear film border or a neutral area when you want to fine-tune white balance in Develop.

Album pages: extract individual photos

The original page is cropped to the page itself (no backdrop or grid mat around it). Right after it come the photos found on the page, in order from top left to bottom right, each as its own virtual copy. Leave a little space between photos on the page if you can. A message appears before the run explaining what will happen; click Continue. This command takes longer than the others because it looks at every page carefully.

Whole album page

Squares up a slanted page and crops to the page. Use it when you want the page as a whole, such as a scrapbook page with notes and captions.

What if photos on an album page overlap?

When photos overlap, or sit on a magnetic page with no clear contrast between the photos and the page, Cropwright may not be able to tell where one photo ends and the next begins. For the best results, spread the photos out a little before scanning, and scan on a contrasting background. If a page still comes out wrong, run Whole Album Page instead and crop those photos by hand in Develop.

4. Getting the best scans

- Use a plain, even background. Black works best for most photos, scalloped edges and ephemera. A dark backdrop makes white borders stand out.
- Keep the lighting even and avoid shadows across the photo.
- Leave space between photos on the same scan. Photos that touch or overlap are harder to separate.
- On album pages, use a background that contrasts with the page, especially for magnetic pages.
- Faded photos or a backdrop close to the photo's colour? Set Edge sensitivity to High in Settings.
- Textured or unevenly lit backdrop? Set Edge sensitivity to Low.
- Photos already the right way up? Set Crop & Rotate: check which way is up to No for a faster run.
- Try a few first. Run a small batch, check the result, adjust a setting if needed, then process the rest.

Camera scans and flatbed scans

Cropwright works on camera captures as well as flatbed scans. For camera captures, keep the camera square to the photo so edges are straight, and use the same distance and lighting for the whole batch.

Sideways and upside-down photos

Cropwright looks for faces and scene clues (the ground, the sky, people) to decide which way is up, and turns the photo when it is sure enough. Choose how sure it must be with Crop & Rotate: turn a photo when. A photo it is not sure about is left as it is and flagged for you.

5. Settings reference

Open Library > Plug-in Extras > Cropwright Settings..., change what you need and click OK. Settings apply to every run until you change them. The defaults work well for most batches, so change one setting at a time and test on a few photos. Settings are listed here in the order they appear in the window.

Cropping and edges

Setting	Choices (default in bold)	What it does and when to change it
Edge sensitivity	High · **Normal** · Low	How strongly Cropwright looks for a photo's edge. Choose High for faded photos or a backdrop close to the photo's colour. Choose Low for a textured or unevenly lit backdrop.
Snap crops to the exact photo edge	**On** · Off	Fits each crop onto the photo's real edge and trims leftover backdrop bands. Leave on unless you want the looser, first-guess crop.
Straighten tilted photos	**On** · Off	Turns on straightening of tilted photos. The two settings below only apply when this is on.
Max tilt to correct (deg)	1 to 20 (**10**)	The largest tilt Cropwright will correct. Raise it for badly crooked scans; lower it if it straightens photos that were meant to be slanted.
Reverse straighten direction	On · **Off**	Turn on only in the rare case that tilted photos come out more crooked after a run.
Preview size (px)	400 · **500** · 800	The size of the preview Cropwright analyses. 400 is fastest, 500 is recommended, 800 is the most precise but slower.

Prints, Polaroids and album photos

Setting	Choices (default in bold)	What it does and when to change it
Prints: white border	**Keep the white border** · Crop inside the white border	Keep crops to the outer edge of the print, white border included. Inside crops to the picture only.
Prints: trim inside edge (%)	0 to 5 (**0.5**)	Trims a little more off the edge of a print, for a cleaner crop. Raise it if a thin sliver of backdrop remains; lower it if the crop cuts into the border.
Polaroid / instant prints	**Whole print (keep the white frame)** · Picture only	Whole keeps the entire Polaroid frame, including the thick bottom border. Picture only crops inside the white frame. Applies to single scans and album pages.
Album photos: white border	**Outside the border** · Inside the white border	Outside shows the photo corners and keeps the border. Inside crops to the picture only.
Album pages: original page	**Keep it (no mark)** · Mark it Rejected (X)	After the photos are extracted, either leave the original page alone or mark it Rejected so you can remove it with Delete Rejected Photos. Undo Cropwright clears the mark.

Scalloped, oval and whole album pages

Setting	Choices (default in bold)	What it does and when to change it
Scalloped & odd-shaped photos: black border (%)	0 to 10 (**3.5**)	How much of your black backdrop is left around the photo, so the whole decorative edge shows.
Oval photos: black border (%)	0 to 10 (**1.5**)	A thinner border of backdrop around an oval photo.
Whole album page: trim inside edge (%)	0 to 5 (**0.3**)	Trims a little off the edge of the page.
Whole album page: fix slant	**Full** · Auto · Off	Full squares up the page. Auto is a lighter correction. Off leaves the slant alone.

Negatives and Kodak Disc

Setting	Choices (default in bold)	What it does and when to change it
Negatives: colour balance	**Neutral balance per photo** · Classic	Neutral fixes red and blue casts frame by frame. Classic uses the average of the whole frame.
Negatives: trim inside edge (%)	0 to 5 (**1.0**)	Trims the edge of the negative frame to clear the pinkish film edge.
Negatives: extra trim per side (%)	Left, Top, Right, Bottom: 0 to 25 (**0** each)	Trim more from one side of the frame, for example to remove a film number or sprocket edge.
Disc negatives: trim per side (%)	Left, Top, Right, Bottom: 0 to 25 (**0 / 2 / 14 / 0**)	Trims for the Kodak Disc frame. The defaults suit most disc scans; adjust only if the crop is off on every disc.

Mounted slides and color slides

Setting	Choices (default in bold)	What it does and when to change it
Mounted slides: keep whole slide	**When the mount has writing** · Always · Never	When the mount has writing, the original keeps the whole slide and a virtual copy named Picture holds just the image. Always does this for every slide. Never gives picture only.
Mounted slides: spotting writing	High · **Normal** · Low	How easily writing on the mount is noticed. High catches faint pencil. Low ignores small printing and stamps.
Mounted slides: trim inside window (%)	0 to 6 (**1.5**)	Trims a little inside the slide window, which clears rounded corners.

Ephemera

Setting	Choices (default in bold)	What it does and when to change it
Ephemera: background	**Contrast** · Always black · Always white	Contrast puts white behind dark items and black behind light ones.
Ephemera: margin (%)	0 to 40 (**10**)	The margin left around the item, as a percent of its longer side.
Ephemera: line width (%)	0 to 3 (**0.35**)	The thin line drawn round the item's edge.
Ephemera: new image size	**3000 px** · 4500 px · Full size · 2000 px	The long edge of the new image. 3000 px is recommended; Full size is slower; 2000 px is fastest.

Rotation and flags

Setting	Choices (default in bold)	What it does and when to change it
Crop & Rotate: check which way is up	**Yes** · No	Yes turns sideways and upside-down photos. No skips the check for a faster run when your photos are already upright.
Crop & Rotate: turn a photo when	Very sure · Fairly sure · **Somewhat sure** · Best guess	How sure Cropwright must be before it turns a photo. Very sure gives the fewest wrong turns and more flagged photos. Best guess turns almost everything.
Rotated photos: Re-check rotation handling	Button	Resets rotation handling so the next rotated photo is checked again. Use it if turning seems stuck on a wrong result.
Mark photos that need a look	**Flag them** · Red, Yellow, Green, Blue or Purple label · Don't mark	How photos Cropwright is unsure about are marked. Flag is recommended; labels are useful if you already use flags for something else.

6. Undo, flags and troubleshooting

Undo

Select the photos and choose Library > Plug-in Extras > Undo Cropwright (put photos back). For album pages and mounted slides, the virtual copies are marked Rejected. To remove them from your catalog, choose Photo > Delete Rejected Photos and then Remove from Lightroom. This removes only the virtual copies; your original files stay.

You can also press Ctrl+Z (Cmd+Z on a Mac) straight after a run.

Photos that were flagged

Cropwright flags a photo when it is not confident about the crop or the rotation. Those photos keep their original crop. Filter by flag in the Library filter bar, open the photo in Develop, and crop it by hand if needed.

Common questions

Problem	What to try
The commands are greyed out.	Select at least one photo first. The commands need a selection.
Cropwright does not appear under Plug-in Extras.	Open File > Plug-in Manager and check Cropwright is listed and shows as enabled. If it says the plug-in could not be found, the folder was moved: click Add and choose the folder again.
A message asks me to connect to the internet.	Cropwright verifies your license about once a week. Connect to the internet once and it will carry on.
The crop is a little too tight or too loose.	Adjust the trim setting for that type of photo in Settings (for example Prints: trim inside edge) and run again on a few photos.
The crop is wrong on faded photos.	Set Edge sensitivity to High and run again.
Photos on an album page overlap or are not separated well.	Spread the photos out and scan on a contrasting background. Or use Whole Album Page and crop by hand.
Tilted photos come out more crooked.	Turn on Reverse straighten direction in Settings.
Photos are turned the wrong way.	Choose Very sure for Crop & Rotate: turn a photo when, or turn the check off and use Auto-Rotate Photos on the few that need it.
It is slow.	Choose a smaller Preview size, and set Crop & Rotate: check which way is up to No when photos are already upright.
I want everything back the way it was.	Select the photos and run Undo Cropwright.

7. Updating Cropwright

Cropwright checks about once a week whether a newer version is available and, when there is one, shows a short message once. To update:

- Download the new version from the link in your license email or from your customer portal on Polar.
- In Lightroom Classic choose File > Plug-in Manager, select Cropwright and click Remove.
- Unzip the new download, move the Cropwright.lrplugin folder to your permanent location, then click Add in Plug-in Manager and choose it. Your settings and license carry over.

Contact

Questions or feedback? We would love to hear how Cropwright works for you.
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