

Installation + Usage

❓ Installation

To install the downloaded plugin into Lightroom (please note that the plugin currently **only works in Lightroom 5!**):

1. **Unzip** the downloaded file. After unzipping, copy the file/directory **FocusPoints.Irplugin** into **any directory of your choice**. On **Windows** systems, there is one exception: **do not copy it into any subdirectory of C:\Program Files**, because that would lead to problems with the auto-updater later. A good idea is, for example, to copy the FocusPoints.Irplugin directory into C:\Users\yourUserName\Plugins.
2. Open Lightroom 5, go to Menu „**File**“, select „**Plug-In Manager**“
3. Click „**Add**“ in the **Plug-In Manager**. In the following dialog, select the **FocusPoints.Irplugin directory** from the directory where you stored it.

If everything is working correctly, you should see „This plug-in is enabled“ in the right side of the dialog, and „Show Focus Points - Installed and Running“ on the left hand side of the dialog.

Click „Done“ to close the dialog. The plugin is now installed.

- Optional: Note: if you want the plugin to be added automatically to the plugin manager (which means you can skip points 2+3 in the list above), put the FocusPoints.Irplugin directory into the following directory:

In Mac OS X (for the current user):	/Users/yourUserName/Library/Application Support/Adobe/Lightroom/Modules (you might have to create the Modules directory)
In Mac OS X (for all users):	/Library/Application Support/Adobe/Lightroom/Modules (you might have to create the Modules directory)
In Windows 7/8:	C:\Users\username\AppData\Roaming\Adobe\Lightroom\Modules

❓ How to use the plugin

Now you can use the installed plugin as follows:

1. Make sure you are in the **Library Module** of Lightroom. The plugin currently works **only** in the Library module.
2. **Select any photo** from your catalog made with any Canon or Nikon DSLR camera. Make sure you select a photo (RAW, JPG, DNG) which comes directly out of the camera and has not been exported/saved in another format, as that will often destroy the focus information metadata (photos which have changed Develop settings in Lightroom are OK).
3. Now, start the plugin by going to the **„Library“ Menu**. Select the **last menu entry, „Plug-In Extras“**, and there **„Show Focus Points“**. **Important:** Note that you need to use the submenu "Plug-In Extras" in the "Library" menu, **not the submenu "Plug-In Extras" in the "File" menu**.
4. The **plugin dialog opens** (as in the screenshots above). When you are finished with looking at the information for a particular image, you can **select another photo from the photo strip below**, or from another catalog directory. The plugin dialog will load and process the new photo (which takes a moment).

That's it!

F.A.Q.

❓ Which camera models are supported by the plugin?

Lightroom Focus Points plugin currently works for all past-2002 Canon EOS DSLR and all Nikon DSLR. It was successfully tested with images from Canon EOS 1D X / 1D C, 1D Mark 4, 1Ds Mark3, 1D Mark3, 1Ds Mark2, 1D Mark2 N, 1D Mark2 - 5D Mark 3, 5D Mark 2, 5D Mark2, 5D, 6D, 7D - 70D, 60D, 50D, 40D, 30D, 20D, 10D - 700D, 100D, 650D (Rebel T4i), 600D (Rebel T3i), 550D (Rebel T2i), 500D (Rebel T1i), 450D (Rebel XSi), 400D (Rebel XTi), 350D (Rebel XT), 300D (Rebel), M, EOS 1100D, EOS 1000D. Most Canon Powershot models should work fine too.

Nikon: D4s, D4, D3S, D3X, D3, D2Xs, D2HS, D2X, D2H, D1X, D1H, D1 - D750, Df, D810, D800, D800E, D700 - D610, D600, D300S, D300, D200, D100 - D7100, D5300, D5200, D5100, D7000, D5000, D90, D60, D40X, D80, D70s, D50, D70 - D3300, D3200, D3100, D3000, D40

❓ Is the software free?

The software is currently free.

❓ Which images work best?

The plugin can only show focus point information if the metadata of the image contains information about the focus points used. Usually, RAW images and also in-camera-JPEGs (JPEGs generated by the camera) contain the required information. So, if you work

with images directly downloaded from a camera, things should look good. However, most JPEGs that you can find on websites will usually NOT contain the required information. Also, if you use Lightroom to export one of your own images as a JPEG, Lightroom will strip the required focus information, which means the Lightroom-generated JPEG can NOT be used with the plugin.

In general, if you have both a RAW and a JPEG image, the RAW can be considered more reliable because it can only have been created by your camera.

❓ The plugin has been installed successfully in the plug-in manager, but I can't find it in my "Plug-In Extras" menu.

Note that you need to use the submenu "Plug-In Extras" in the "Library" menu, not the submenu "Plug-In Extras" in the "File" menu!

❓ How about support for other cameras than Canon or Nikon?

Currently, only Canon EOS and Nikon DSLR cameras are supported. I hope to add more camera brands in the next few weeks and months.

❓ Sometimes the autofocus images seem to be of low resolution / a little blurry?

You can use the setting in the Plugin Manager dialog "Use higher-resolution images". Images will then use a higher resolution, but processing (i.e. the time needed to wait for the next image) will take a little bit longer. It's a matter of personal preference which setting you like better.

❓ Is there a keyboard shortcut to start the plugin more quickly?

On Windows, use the keyboard sequence: ALT+L, then U, then F (ALT+L is for the Library Menu, U for the submenu Plug-In Extras and F for starting the plugin - note that if you use Lightroom with another language than English, the combinations will be different!). Unfortunately, it does not seem possible to have a "one-key"-combination.

On Mac: through use of System Preferences -> Keyboard -> Shortcuts. Use "App Shortcuts". Select Adobe Lightroom 5 when asked for the application. For Menu, enter " Show Focus Points" without the quotes. NOTE: You need to type exactly three spaces before the word "Show", or it will not work. (Note that you need to enter a keyboard shortcut which is not in use otherwise. A combination that works well for me is ALT-CMD-P.)

❓ For images shot with the focus-and-recompose technique, how will the focus points be displayed?

If you have used the "focus and recompose" technique in any given image, the plugin will show correctly which focus points were activated, but their content (the part of the image they show) will not be identical with the part that was seen by the photographer when focusing, since the camera was moved after focusing. Technically, this is the only possibility, because the camera does not store any information about the recomposition movement of the camera.

❓ How should I navigate within the plugin? Can the focus information not be shown as part of the normal Lightroom photos, instead of being in a separate window?

The "normal" navigation for the plugin is to have the Lightroom filmstrip (the list of photos in the lower part of the main Lightroom window) open, and to click on photos there. The plugin remains open and successively displays the focus points for the images shown in the lower filmstrip. The plugin window is calculated and resized in such a way that the filmstrip should always stay visible. Of course, you can also change to other directories in the left-hand pane.

If you have a secondary monitor, one other option (currently only available in the Mac version) is to move the focus display to the secondary monitor. To do so, enable the option "Store window position after moving plugin window" in the Lightroom Plug-in Manager (File->Plug-in manager). Then move the plugin window (after starting the plugin) to the secondary monitor (you might have to disable Lightroom's secondary monitor first, with the monitor symbol "2" in the lower left-hand corner, otherwise the plugin window might be hidden between Lightroom's second monitor display). This way you can e.g. use the Grid View on your main monitor to select photos, while the plugin window remains open on the secondary monitor.

It is unfortunately not possible to show the focus points directly as an overlay in the normal Lightroom dialog (Lightroom doesn't permit plugins to do so.), nor to resize the window.

❓ My camera's photos are all marked 'white+red', i.e. focus pre-selected but not used/locked! (Back-button focus)

If you are using back-button focus (that is, pressing "AF-ON" (for Canon cameras) or a similar button on the back of the camera,

instead of half-pressing the shutter before taking the picture) the camera will record focus information in this way: the focus point will be pre-selected, because you pressed AF-ON (or a similar button) for measuring and locking the focus. However, the camera will not record this focus point as "used". The reason for this is that in the second or so when you moved your hand from the AF-ON button to the shutter button, the subject might have moved or the scene might have changed in other ways. Thus, at the moment when you finally pressed the shutter, the camera has no way of knowing whether your subject was indeed in focus or not, and prefers to record this as "autofocus not acquired". (Compare this with the "normal" mode of acquiring focus, which is to focus upon half-pressing the shutter and then pressing the shutter - it all happens in the same moment, so the autofocus is guaranteed to be "current".)

For all practical purposes, this is usually not a problem - you will most likely not have used back-button focus with a rapidly moving subject, and thus will know that the subject is in focus anyhow. But the camera (and the plugin) will report it differently, which is correct from the camera's point of view.

Note that if you are using back-button focus, there is the alternative to keep the AF-ON (or similar) button pressed until (while) pressing the shutter. This way the focus point will be recorded as both "selected" and "used".

❓ Known Windows 8 issue with Windows scaling option (connected to high-resolution monitors or tablets)

On Windows 8: the plugin currently cannot be used with the Windows 8 size scaling option higher than 125% (the default value). This can be adapted in Control Panel -> Appearance and Personalization -> Display. This is a setting which is more frequently used in conjunction with high-resolution monitors and, in one case, a 11' tablet system.

Contact

❓ If you have any questions or feedback, you can contact me at info@lightroomfocuspointsplugin.com. -Chris Reimold, author

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