

Introduction to Corel AfterShot Lab

Corel AfterShot Lab is a RAW image editing application built into PaintShop Pro 2023, providing advanced features and tools for optimizing images in the RAW file format, without needing to run separate applications. AfterShot Lab is non-destructive, so your original image files remain untouched.

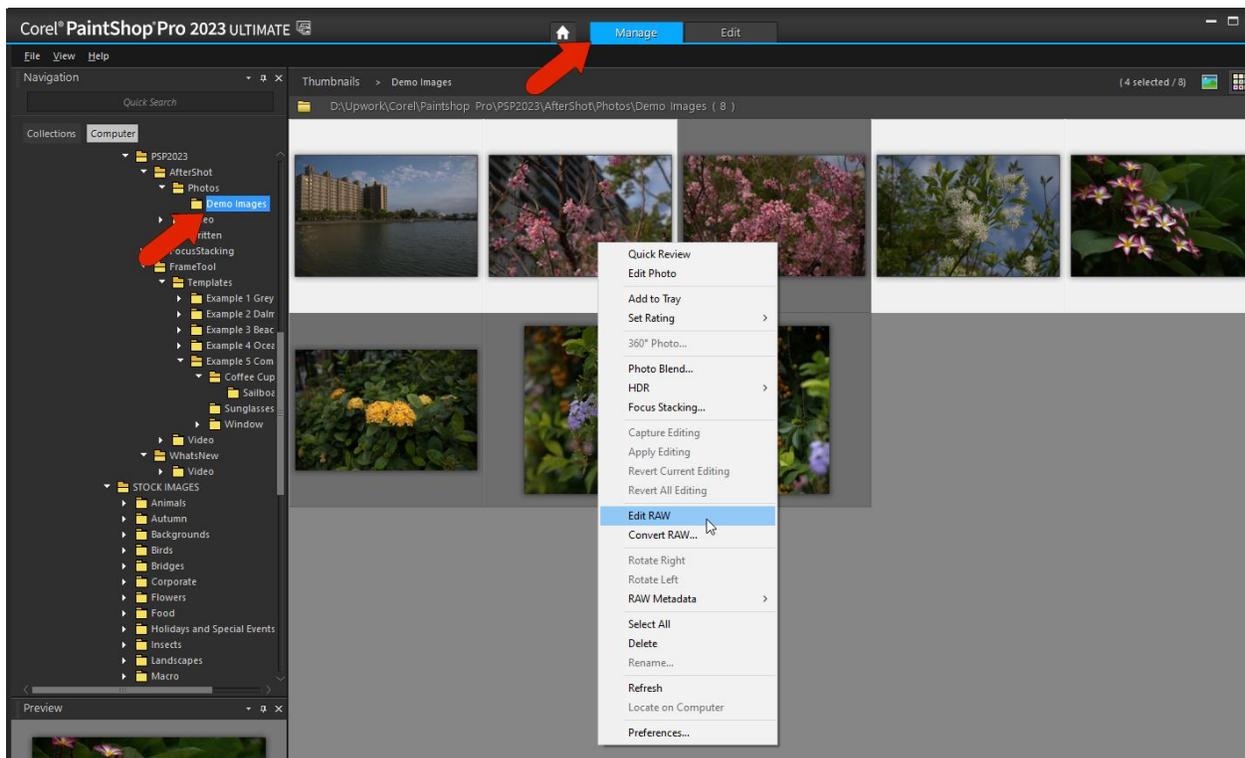
This tutorial will present an overview of what you can do with AfterShot Lab.

Opening RAW Files

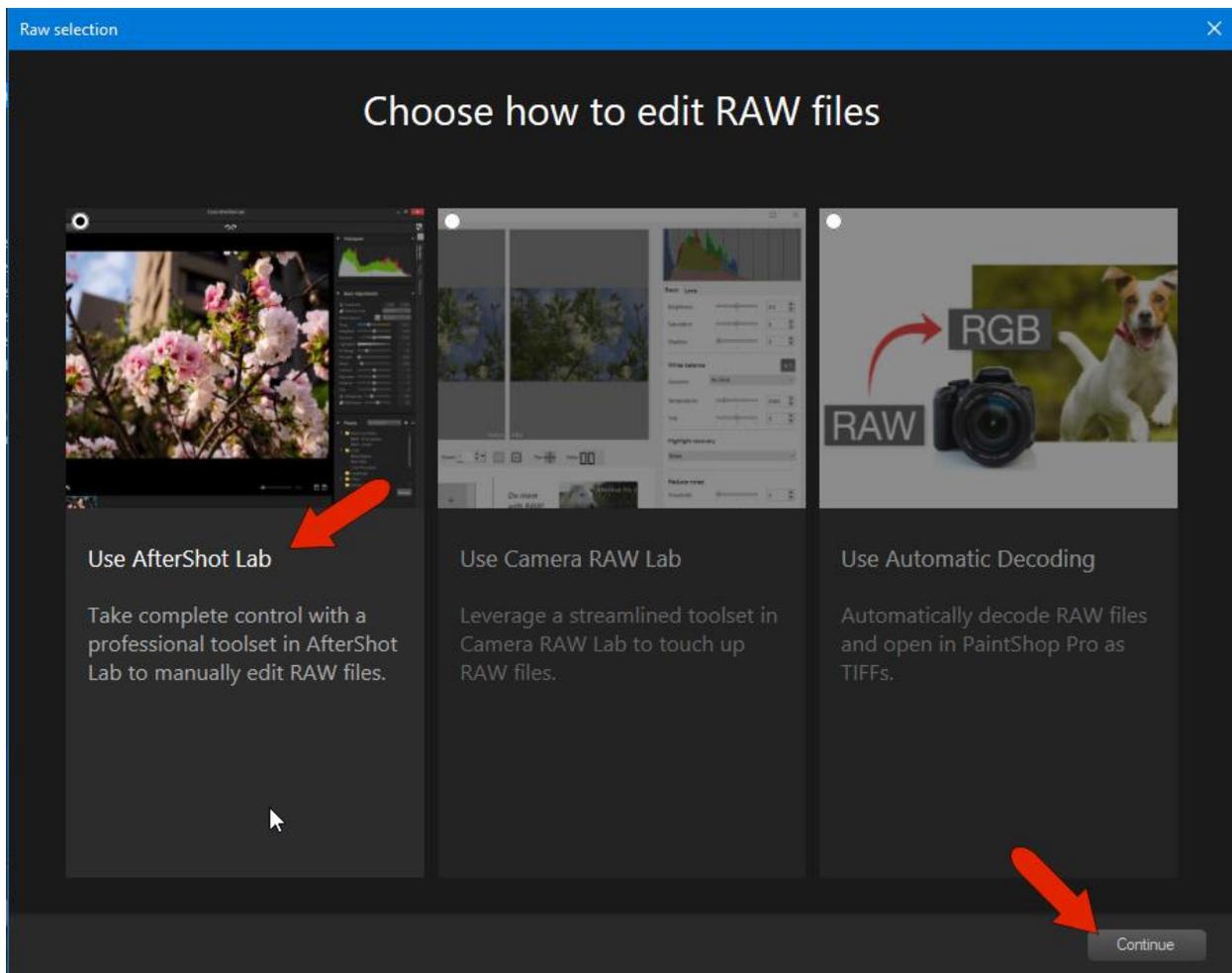
We're starting in the **Edit** tab of the PaintShop Pro **Complete** workspace, though AfterShot Lab can be launched from all workspaces in the following ways:

- Use **File > Open** to find one or more images in the RAW file format.
- Drag one or more RAW files from their folder directly into the PaintShop Pro workspace.
- Use the **Organizer (Shift + F9)**, available in the **Complete** and **Essentials** workspaces, to open files.

The **Complete** and **Essentials** workspaces also have a **Manage** tab. Use the **Navigation** pane to browse to the folder with your RAW images. Select one or more images in the workspace, right-click on a selected image, and choose **Edit RAW**.



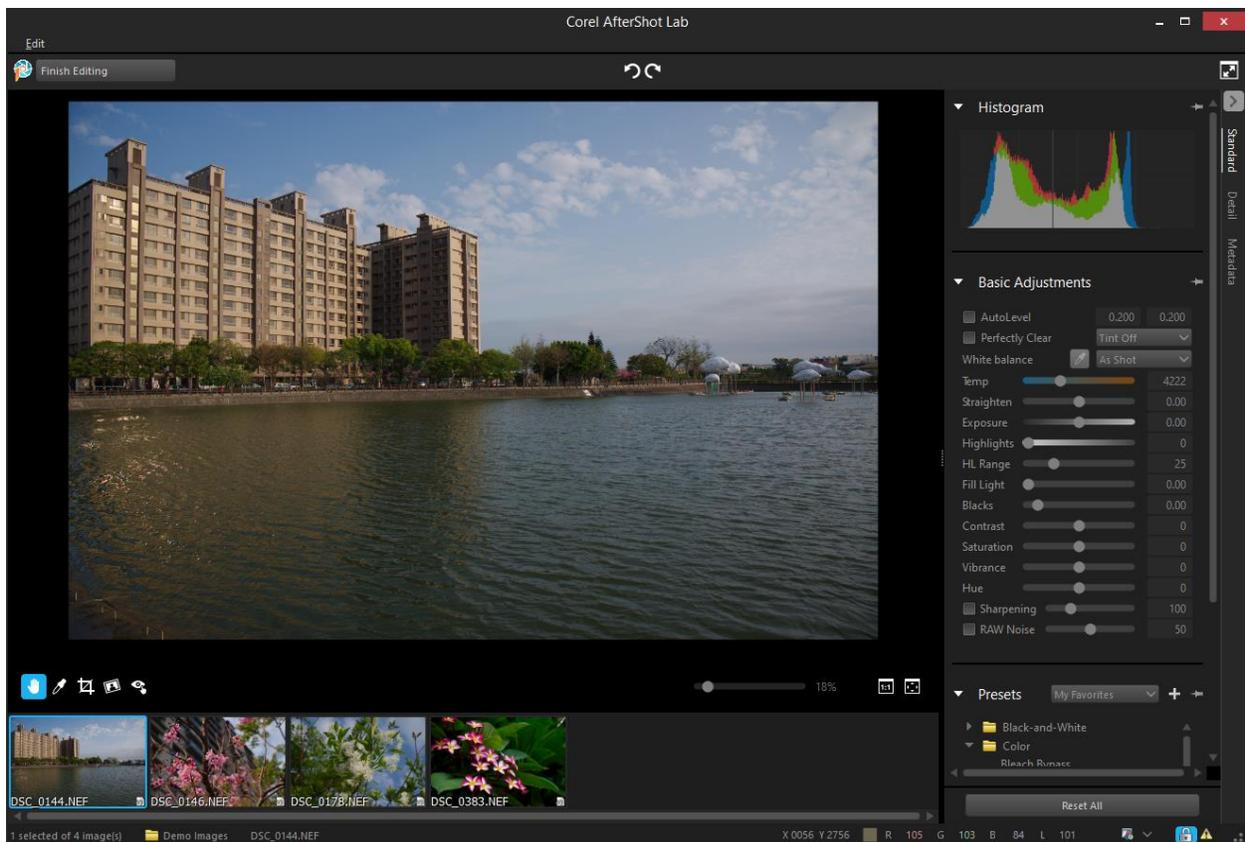
With any of these file-opening methods, you'll be asked how you want to edit RAW files. Choose **Use AfterShot Lab** and click **Continue**.



This opens AfterShot Lab in a separate window.

The AfterShot Lab Interface

The selected images are displayed in the tray below the **Preview** area, and the preview area shows the image selected in the tray.

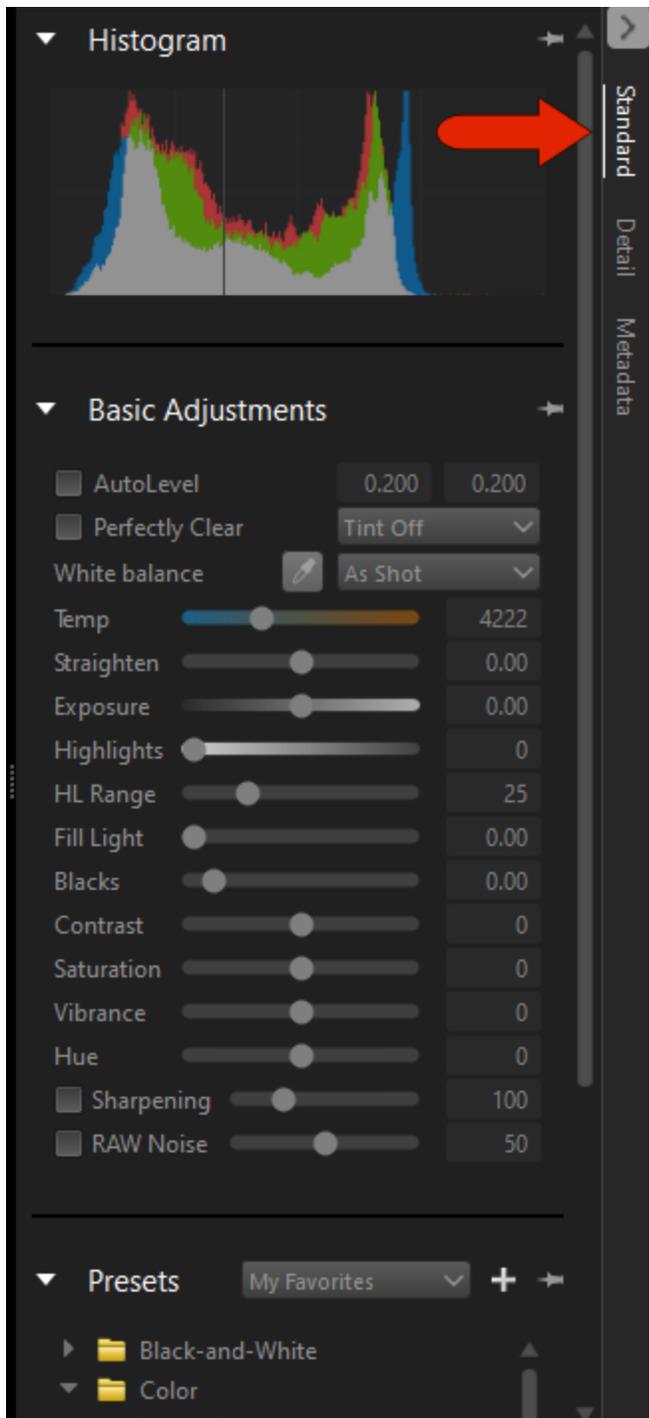


Toolbar icons are below and to the left of the preview area, for common tools such as **Pan**, **ClickWhite**, **Crop**, **Straightening**, and **Red Eye Removal**. To the right of the toolbar are **Zoom** controls, and above the preview are **Rotate** icons.

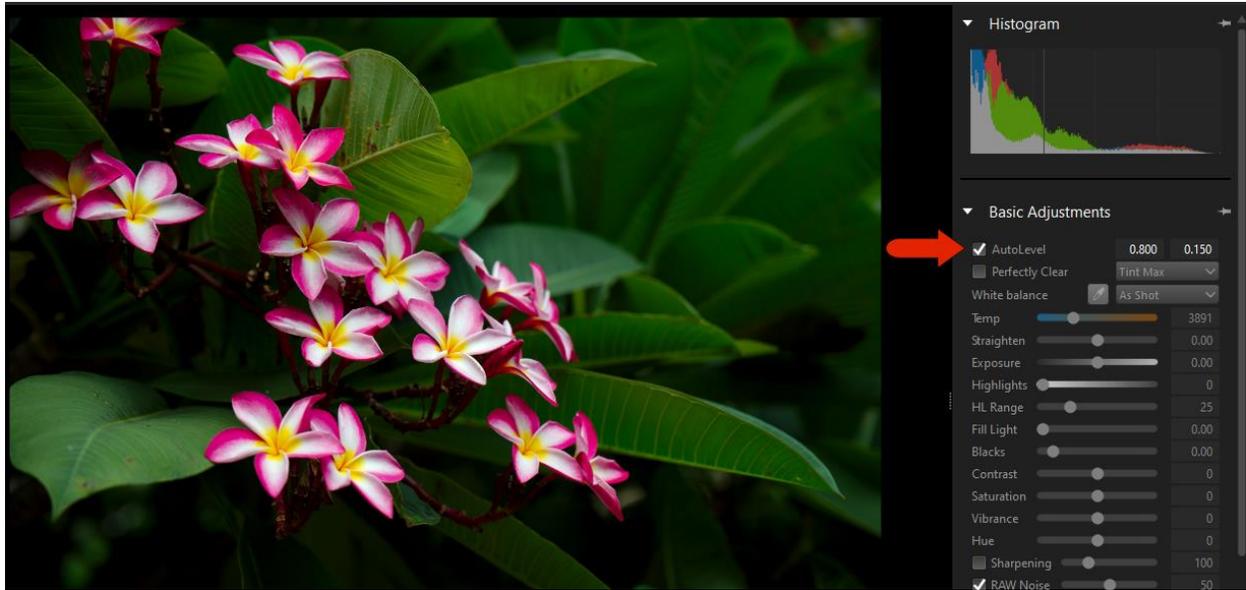
To the right of the preview area is the **Tools** panel, which displays image metadata, as well as tabs for **Standard** and **Detail** tools.

The Standard Tools Panel

The Standard tab features **Basic Adjustments** and **Presets**, with the most popular adjustments at the top.



For a quick enhancement, **AutoLevel** examines the tonal range of the image, and sets the black and white points so that a fixed percentage of the image will be pure black and pure white. The two fields to the right are where you can set the clipping points for black and white, as a percentage of the total image.



Perfectly Clear is a simple way to optimize lighting of each pixel while maintaining true color with no clipping. This can be used for removing abnormal tint, restoring faded photos, and can improve contrast and sharpening. The three settings here are **Tint Max**, which applies the full range of tint correction, **Tint Min** which applies partial tint correction, and **Tint Off** if you want color preserved throughout.

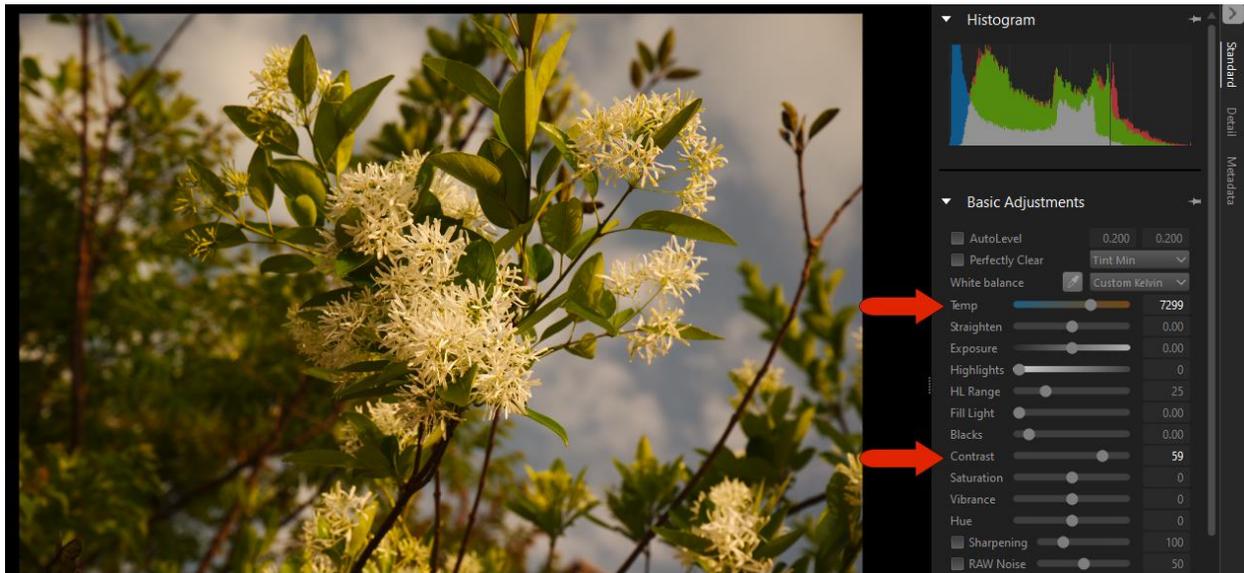


There are also several options for **White Balance**, which represent warmth characteristics of different light sources, such as **Florescent**, **Cloudy**, or **Flash**. The **As Shot** setting removes any White Balance adjustments.

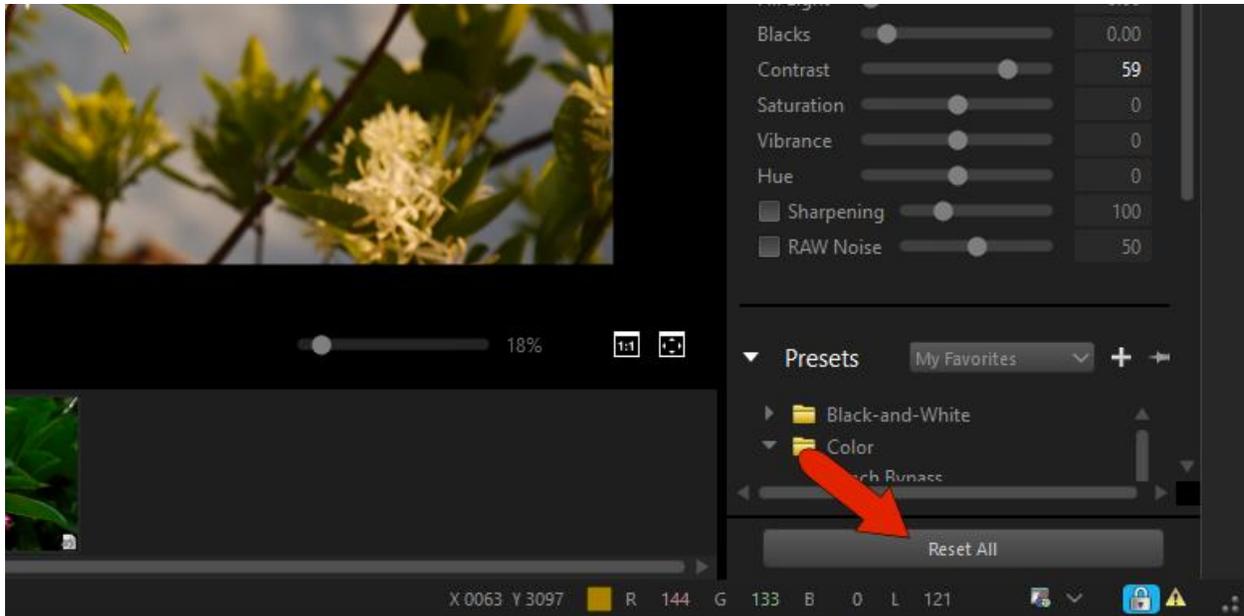


White Balance also has a **ClickWhite** option, in which you can use the eyedropper to select a pixel from a neutral area, which adjusts the rest of the pixels accordingly.

There are also several adjustment sliders, such as **Temperature** and **Contrast**.

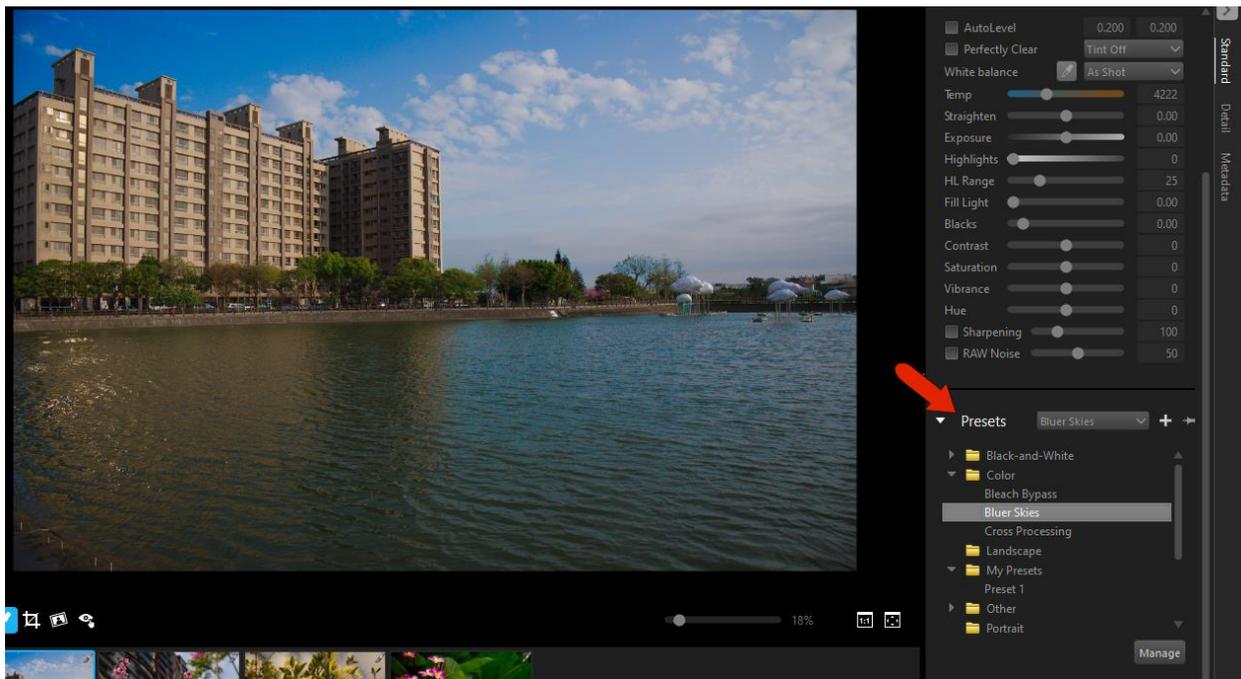


Double-clicking a slider resets it, and you can use the **Reset All** button at the bottom to reset all adjustments at once.



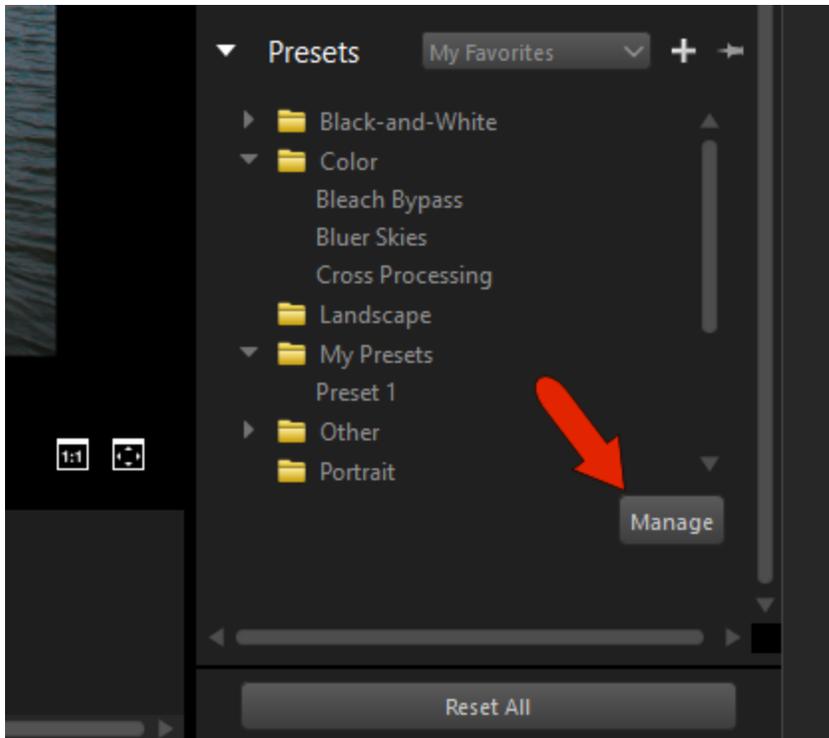
Presets

Below the **Basic Adjustments** are several **Presets** to try out, such as **Bluer Skies** or **Cross Processing**.

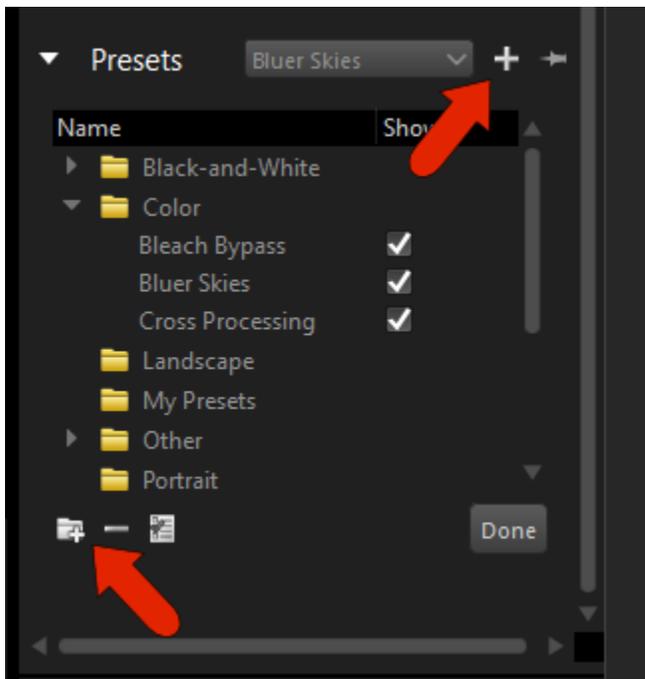


You can start with a preset, then change some of the basic adjustments, such as adding **Perfectly Clear** and increasing **Saturation** and **Vibrance**.

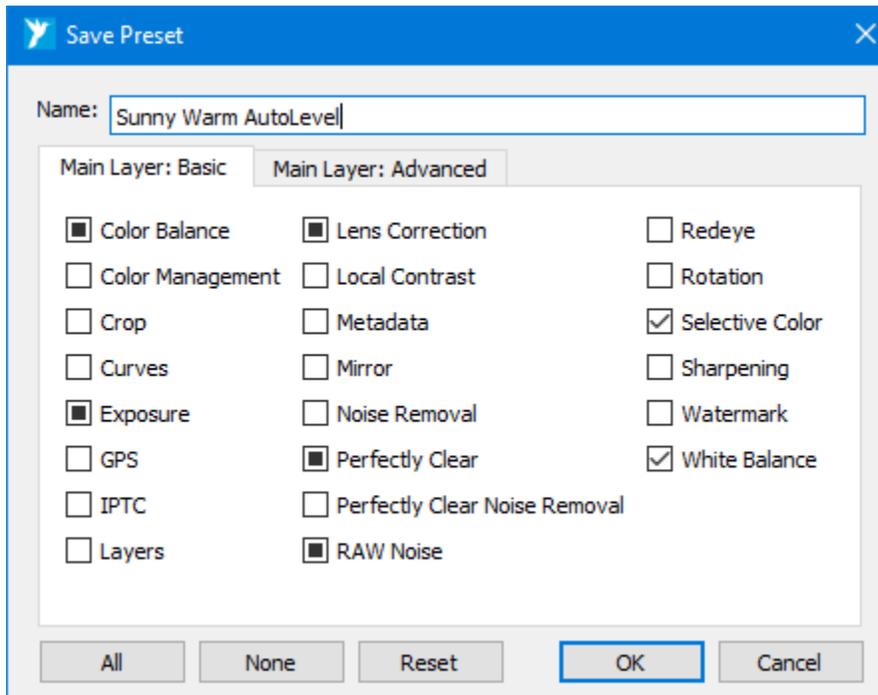
To save your current settings to use for other images, click the **Manage** button under **Presets**.



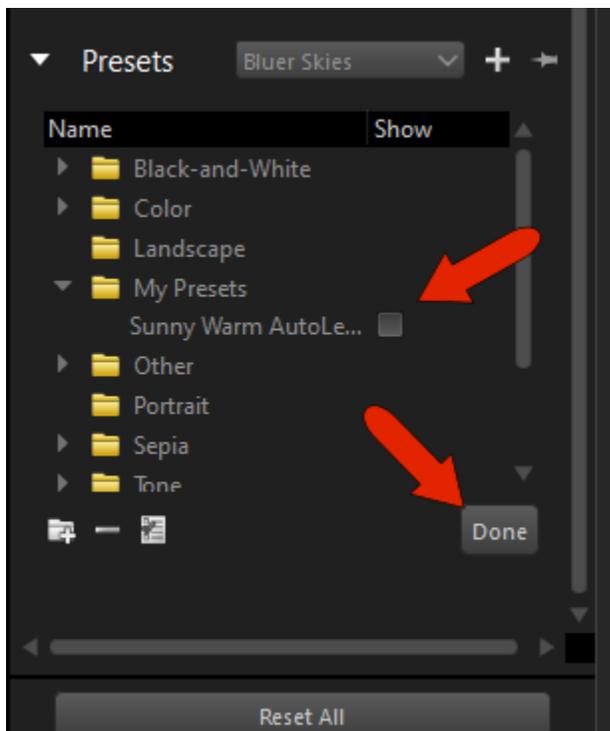
You can use an existing preset folder or create a new folder by clicking the **Add Folder** icon at the bottom. Adding a preset is done by clicking the **Add** icon at the top of the **Presets** pane.



In the **Save Preset** window, the current settings are checked. Assign a preset name and click **OK**.

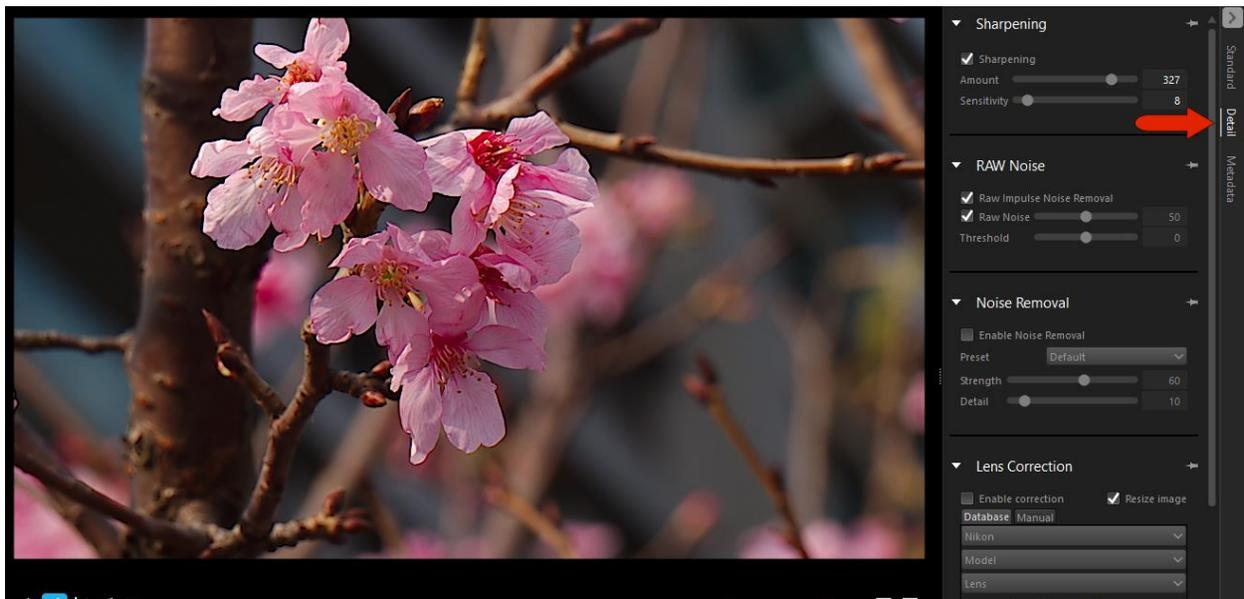


In the **Preset** pane, move your new preset into a folder, then click **Done**.



The Detail Panel

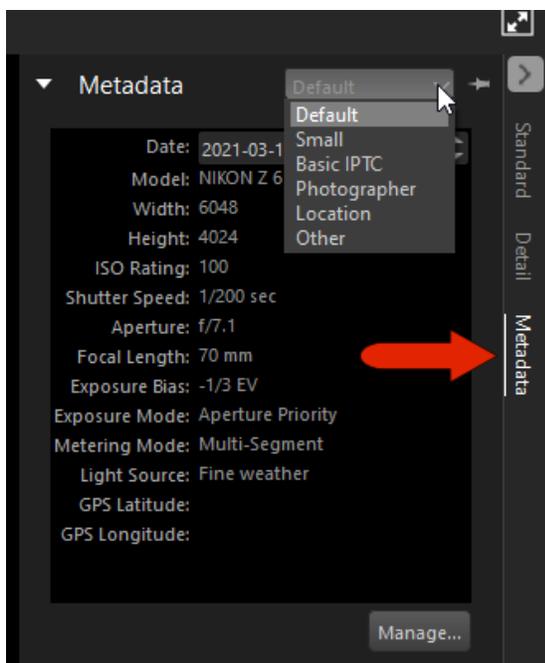
The **Detail** panel has controls for specific types of photo improvements.



- **Sharpening:** Control how soft or sharp the details are, by adjusting the amount and sensitivity.
- **RAW Noise** and **Noise Removal:** Different methods of noise reduction
- **Lens Correction:** Options to fix lens distortion.
- At the bottom of this tab are options to **Mirror** and **Invert** the image.

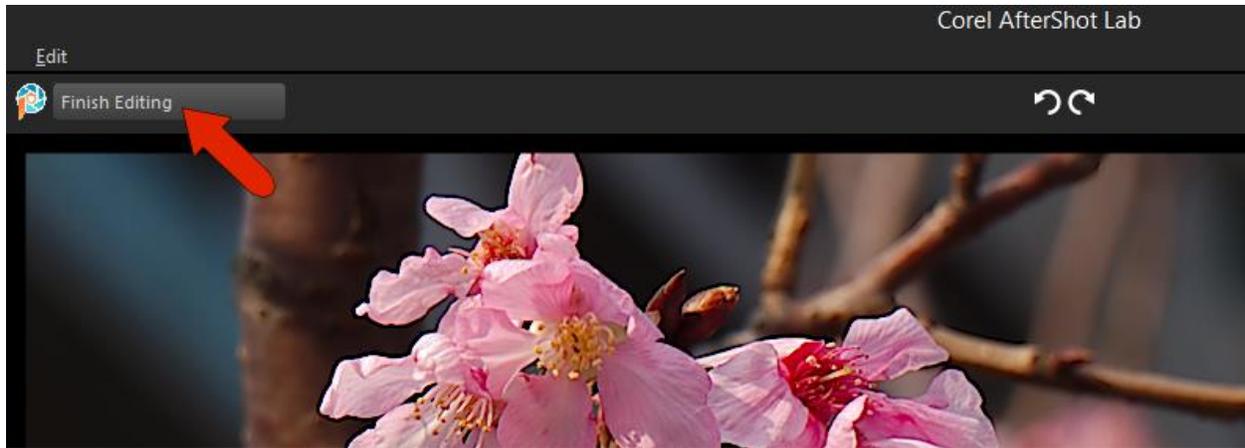
The Metadata Panel

Finally, the **Metadata** panel displays data about the image itself.



The **Default** metadata includes date shot, camera model and settings, light source, etc. Switching to **Basic IPTC** opens social-media related, editable fields for headline and caption, location, creator, and copyright details. **Photographer** and **Location** fields can also be edited.

When finished in AfterShot Lab, click **Finish Editing**.



This brings you back to PaintShop Pro, where the edited images are in the **Edit** workspace. These are copies of the original images; the original RAW images have not been changed. You can continue editing images in PaintShop Pro and save to any format you like.