

Masking in Lightroom

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What is Masking

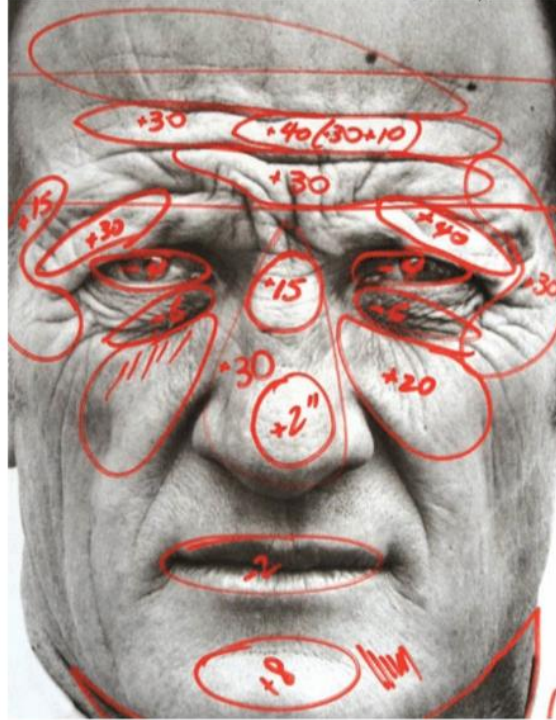
- Masking refers to selecting a portion of a photograph and making changes, such as to tone, color, sharpness, etc., to just the selected area.
- The tools in LR have increased in complexity and usefulness over the years.
- Masking and adjusting specific areas of a photograph is the most effective way to add impact.
- This is equivalent to darkroom dodging and burning but with much more capability.

Contact Print Marked for Dodge and Burn

Photography

What was his vision?

Richard Avedon's printing instructions to achieve his vision



Dodge: Decrease exposure of negative onto the paper to lighten the print

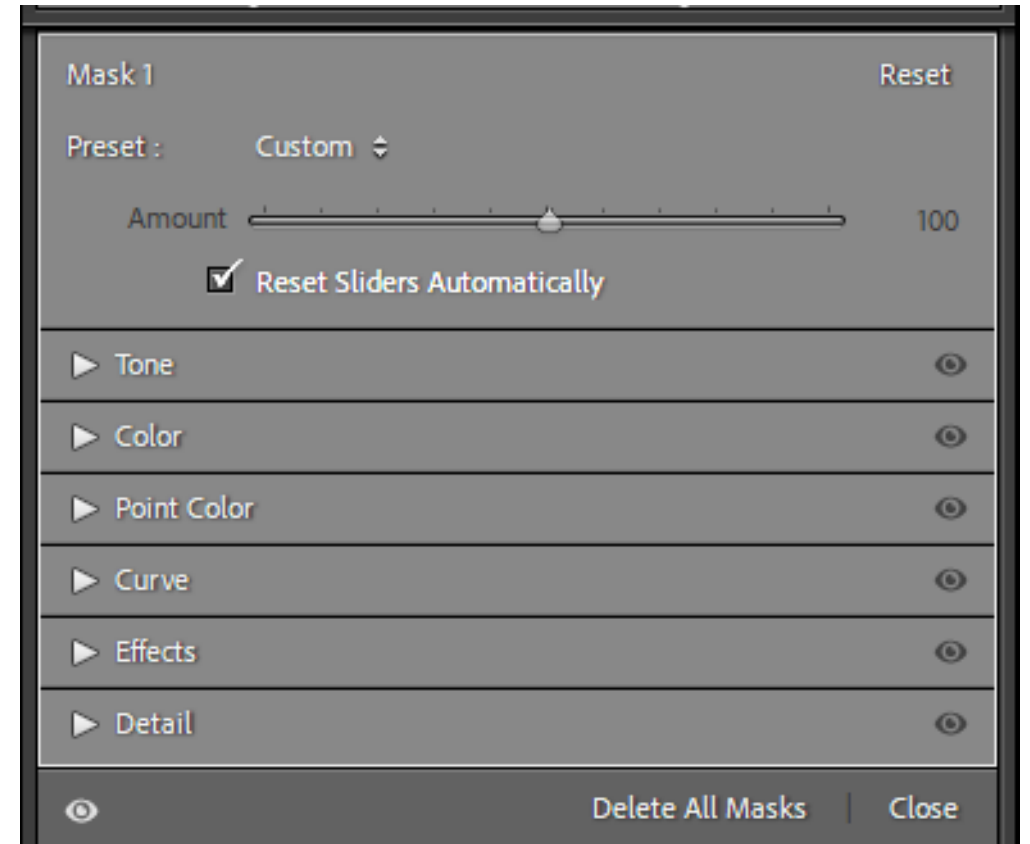
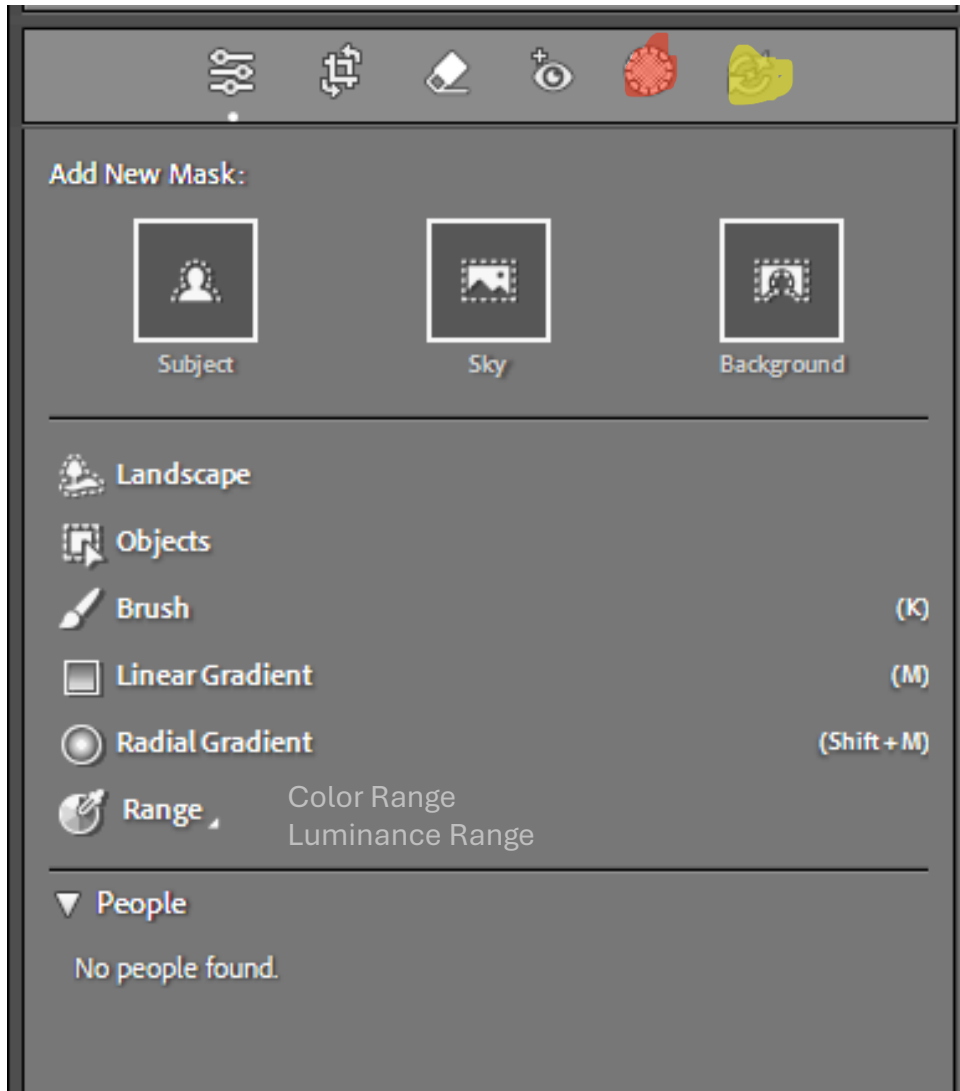
Burn: Increase exposure of negative onto the paper to darken the print

Darkroom Dodge and Burn



All this is done while the negative is being exposed onto the paper.
It is done in seconds or minutes, not hours or days.

Now We Have Lightroom/ACR Masking The Masking Panel and Adjustments



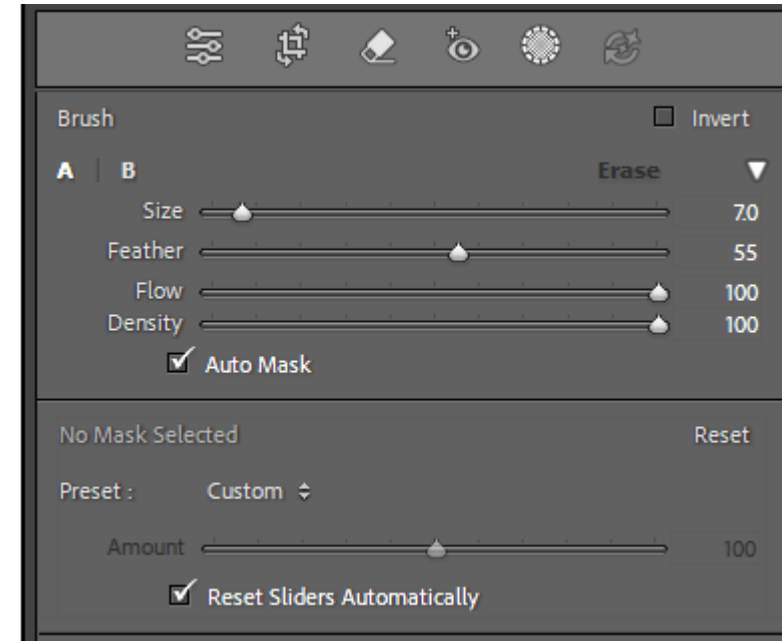
Update Removes and Masks Needed if it is Yellow.

Basic Procedure

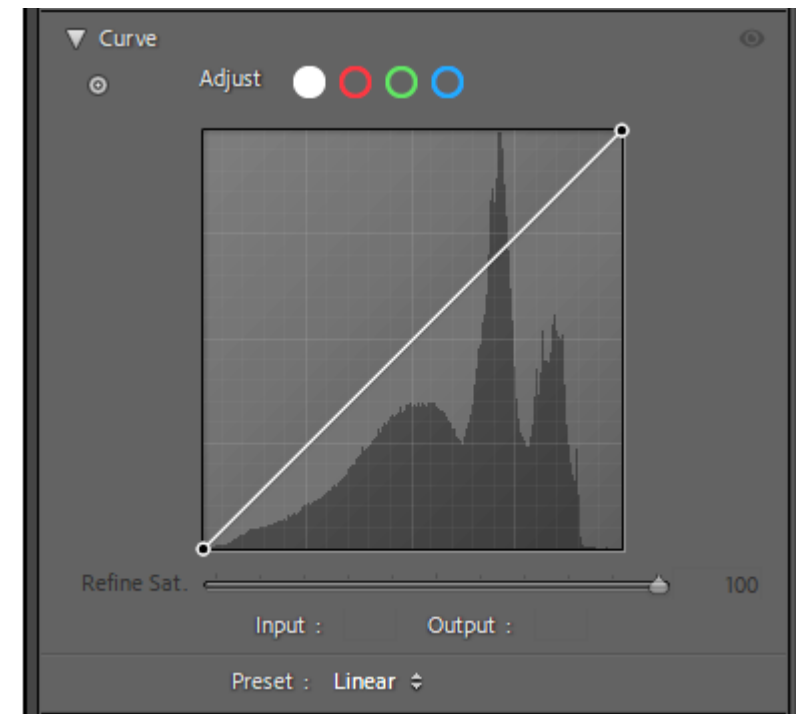
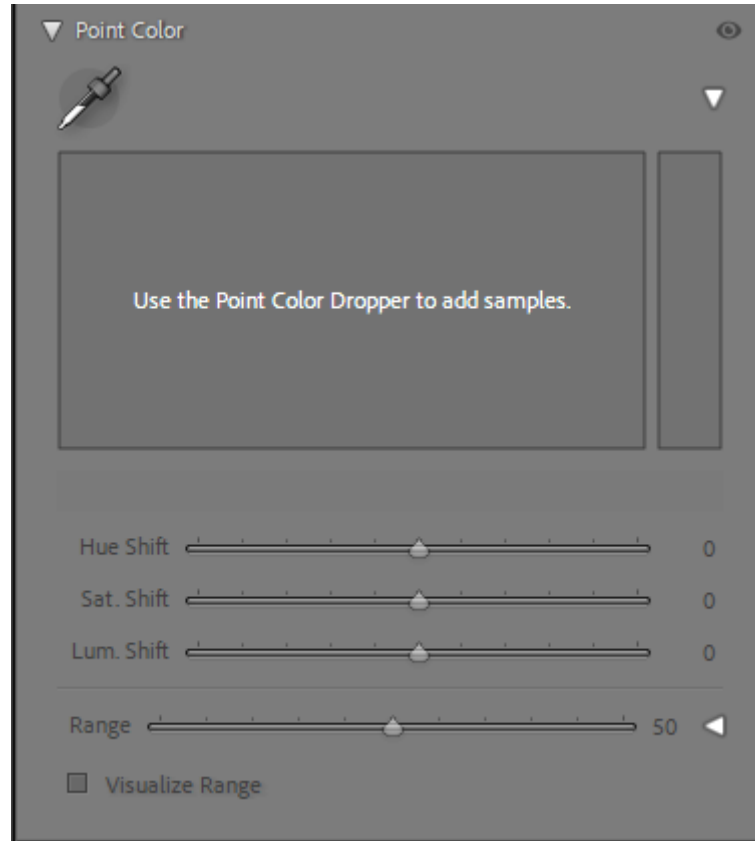
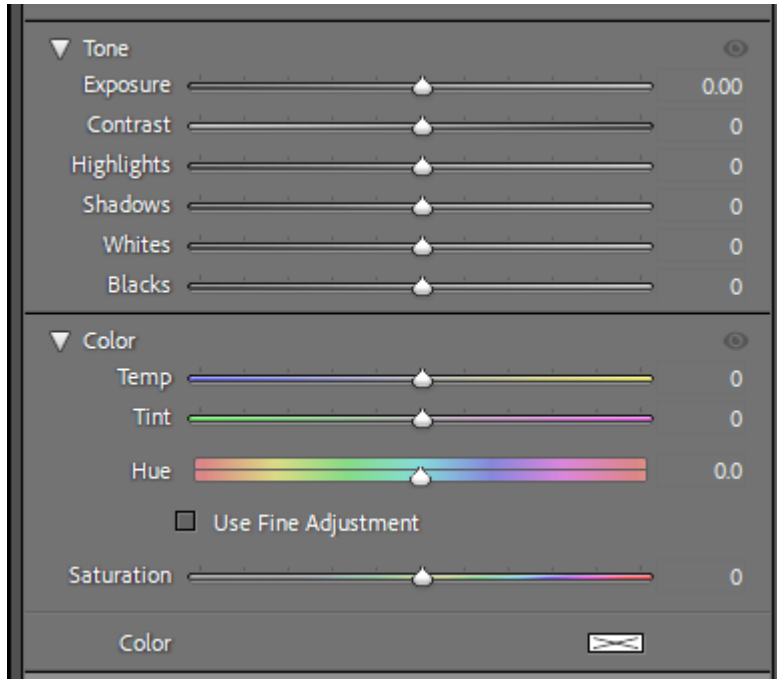
- Open the Masking Dialog.
 - Some Masks require you to choose where the mask is applied such as: **Brush**, **Linear Gradient**, **Radial Gradient**, Color Range, Luminance Range.
 - Some masks are automatic such as: **Subject**, **Sky**, and Background.
 - Two Masks are automatic, but you choose which parts are used: **Landscape and People**.
- All masks can be modified and refined with sliders specific to the Mask or by combining Masks, for example, start with a Subject Mask and then refine it with a Brush Mask.
- A Mask can be inverted, duplicated, or **duplicated and inverted**.
- [Powerful & Precise Masking Tutorial in Lightroom Classic | Adobe Lightroom](#)

Brush

- **Size** of brush
- **Feather** – how soft the edge is
- **Flow** – How fast the effect is applied
 - 100 – all at once
 - Less than 100 – build up the effect with repeated strokes
- **Density** is the maximum of the effect.
- You might like the effect and want to brush elsewhere but not as strong – change Flow or Density
- Be sure to reset to 100/100

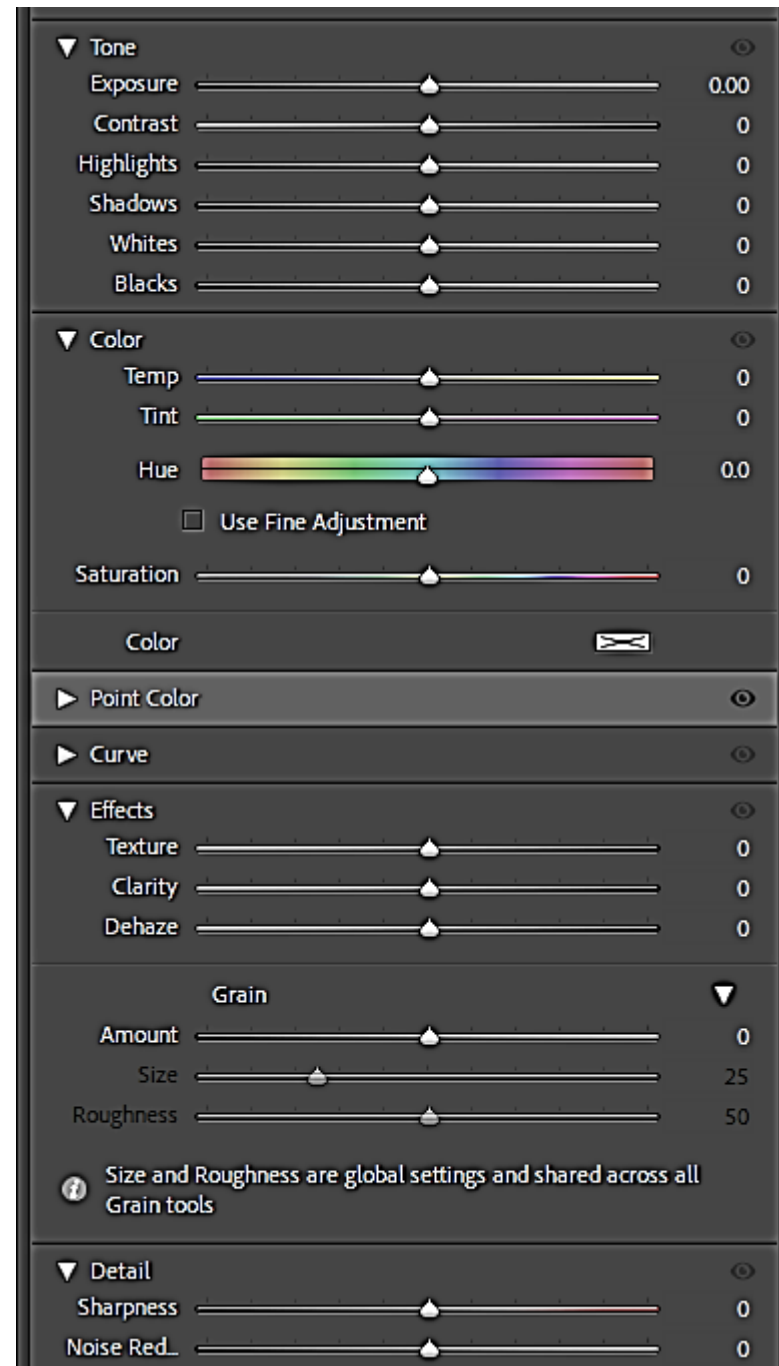
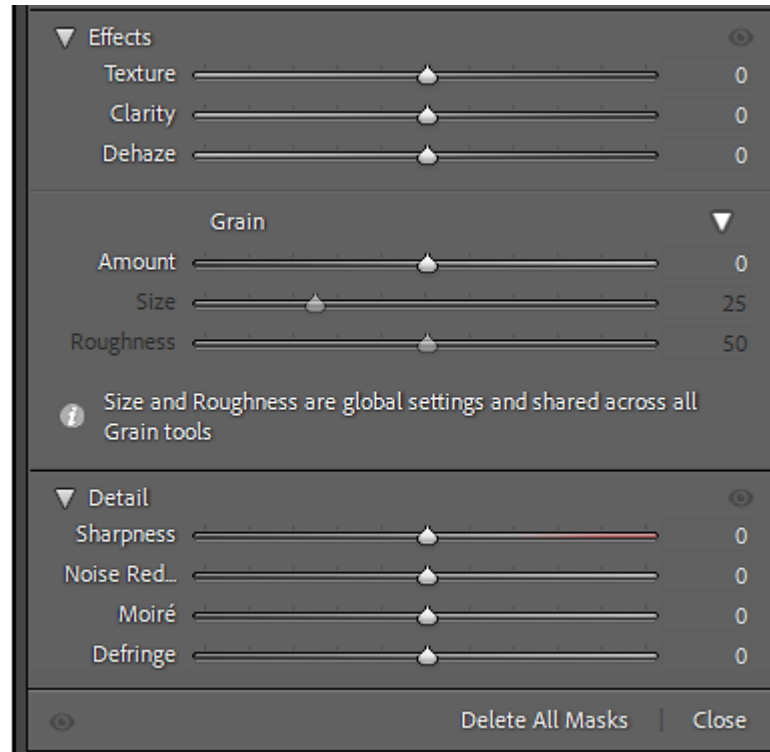


Effects

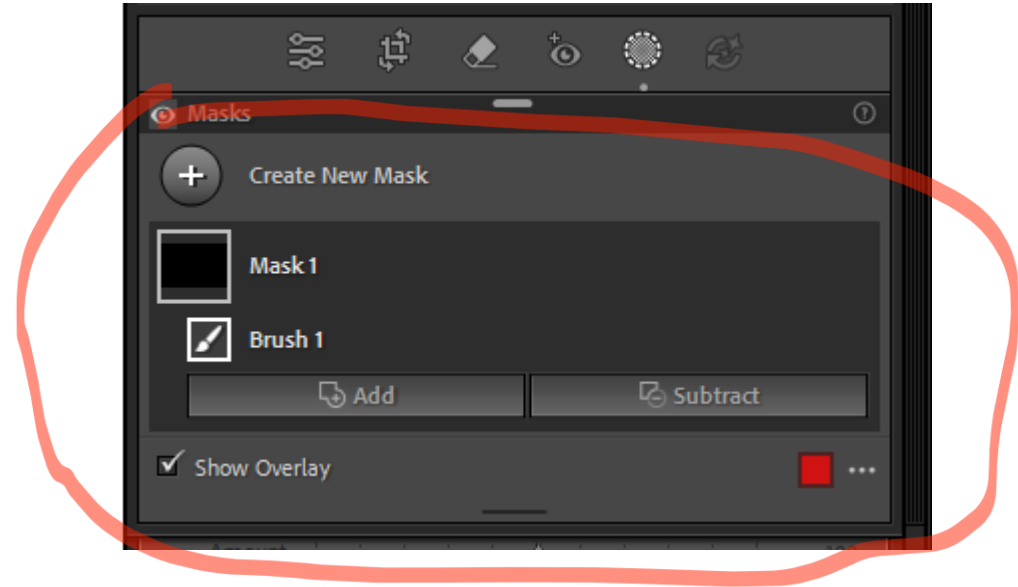
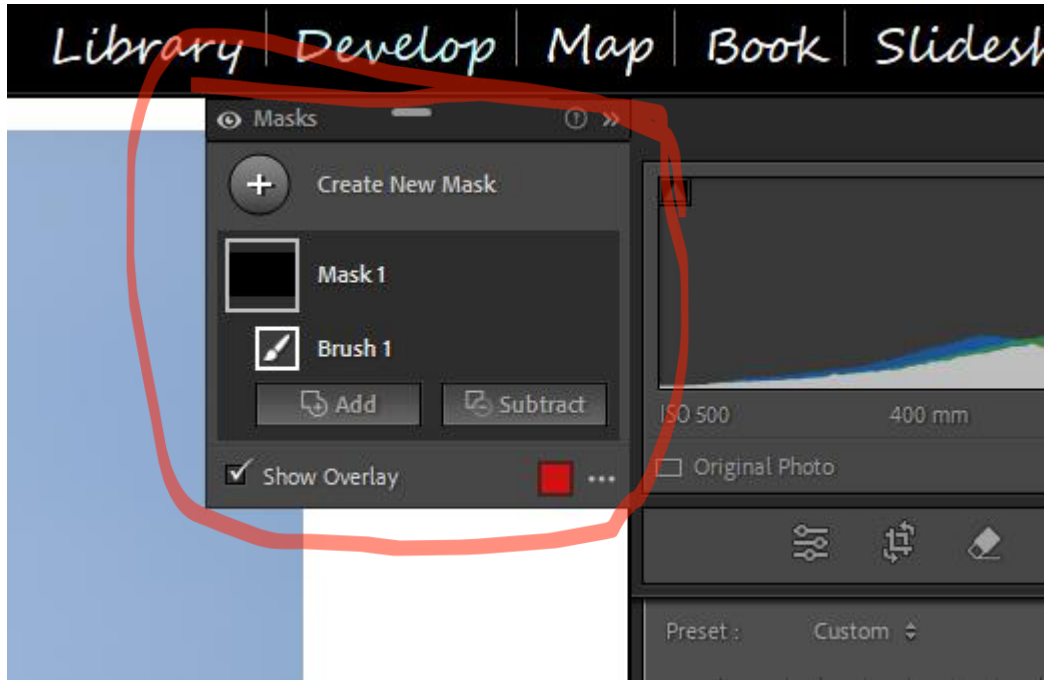


Effects Continued

- All of the global adjustments are available when masking.
- You can have one section at a time (Solo Mode) or multiple.
- I typically have Tone, Color, Effects, and Detail open.
- You can reposition.
- Don't get confused and start working in the global area.



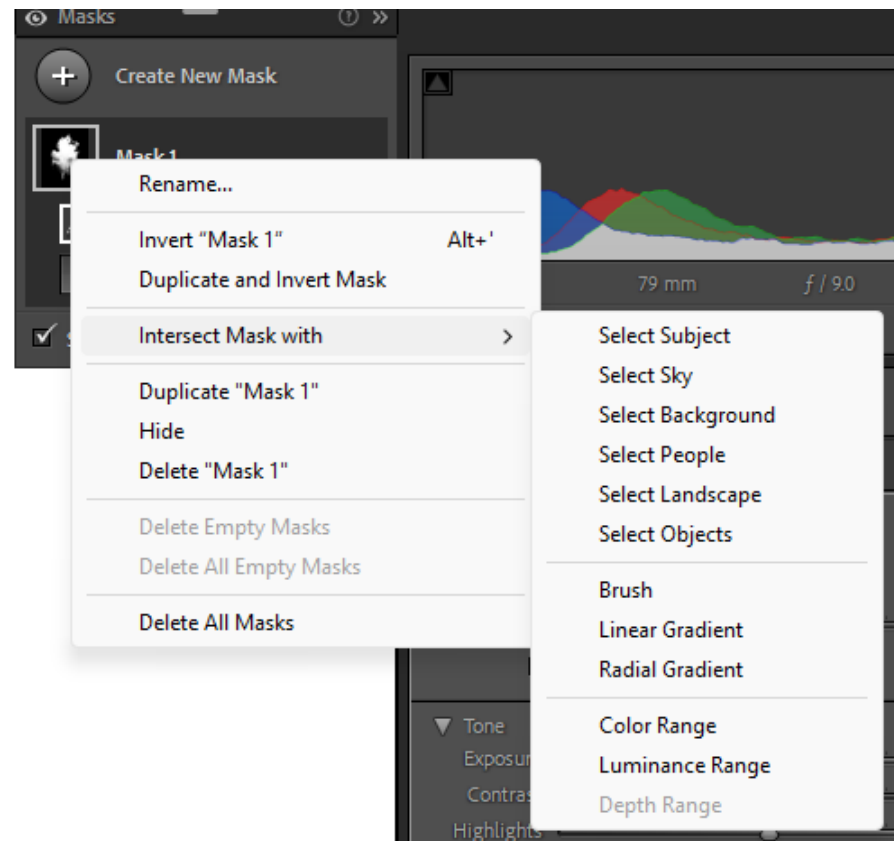
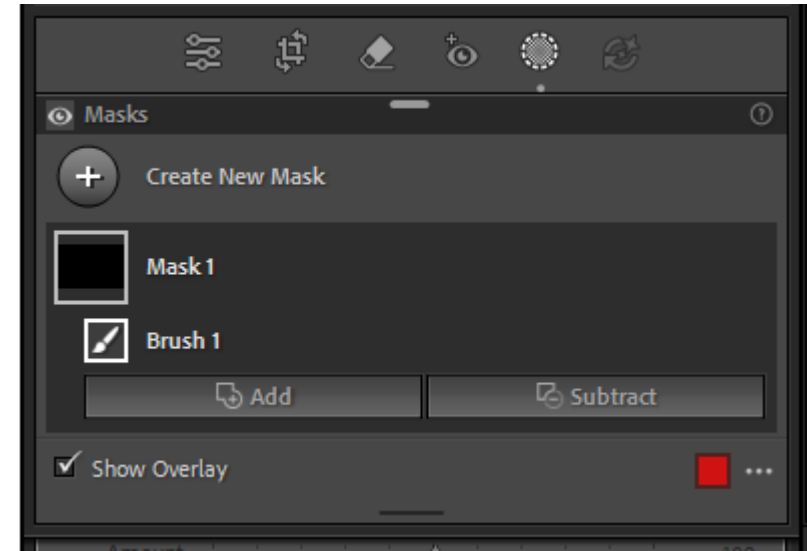
Masking Panel



- Masking panel can be located over the image area or in the right panel.
- Show overlay shows initial selection.
- Overlay style can be changed.

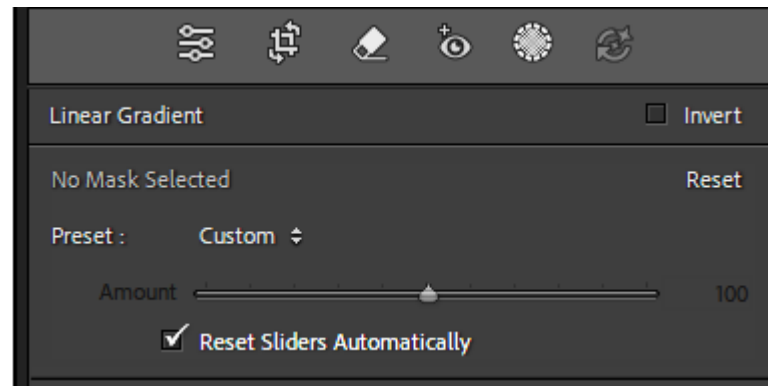
Modify a Mask

- A Mask can be modified by Adding or Subtracting any number of other Masks
- Intersect means that only the portion of the image is selected where the original Mask and the intersecting Mask agree.
- Enable Intersect by right clicking a mask and choosing intersect with (or hold down the ALT key)

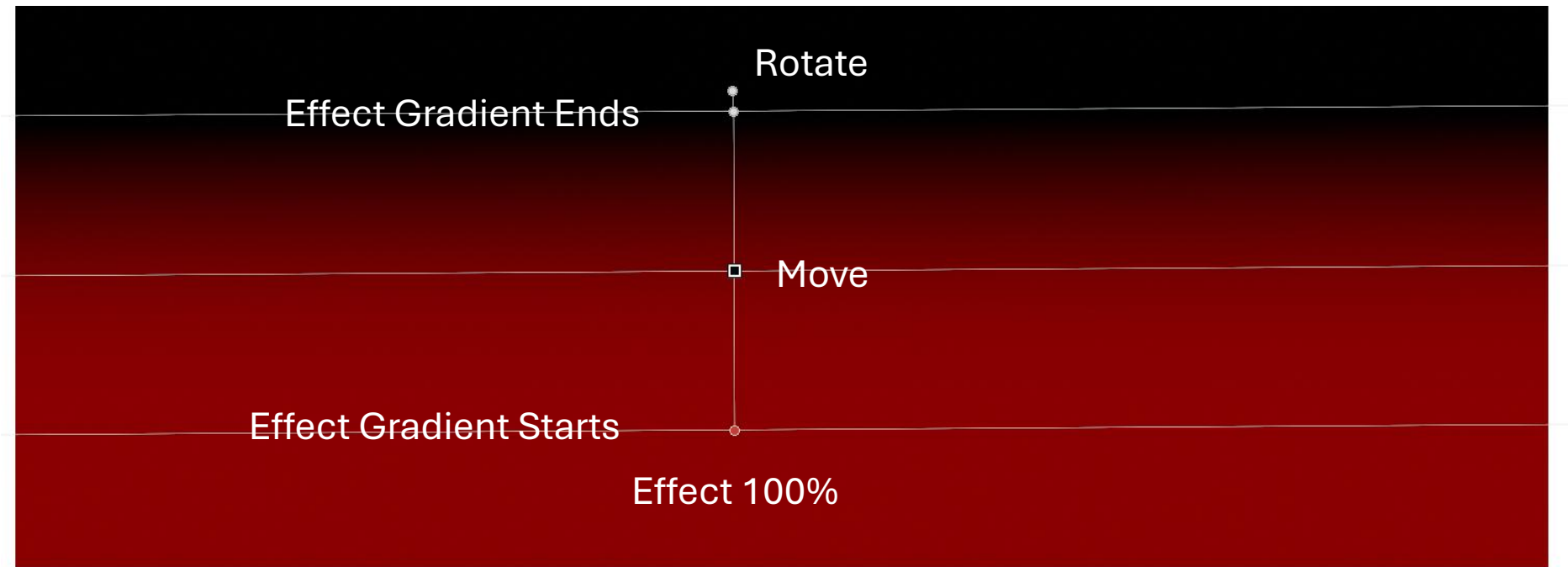


Demo - Brush

Linear Gradient



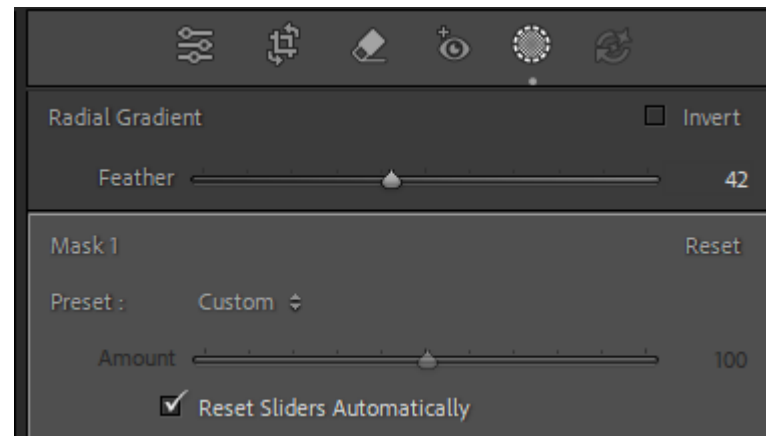
- Start with plus sign.
- Hold button down and Drag onto photo
- Can resize at position at any time
- Hold Shift key to make perfectly horizontal or vertical



Direction of Application ↑

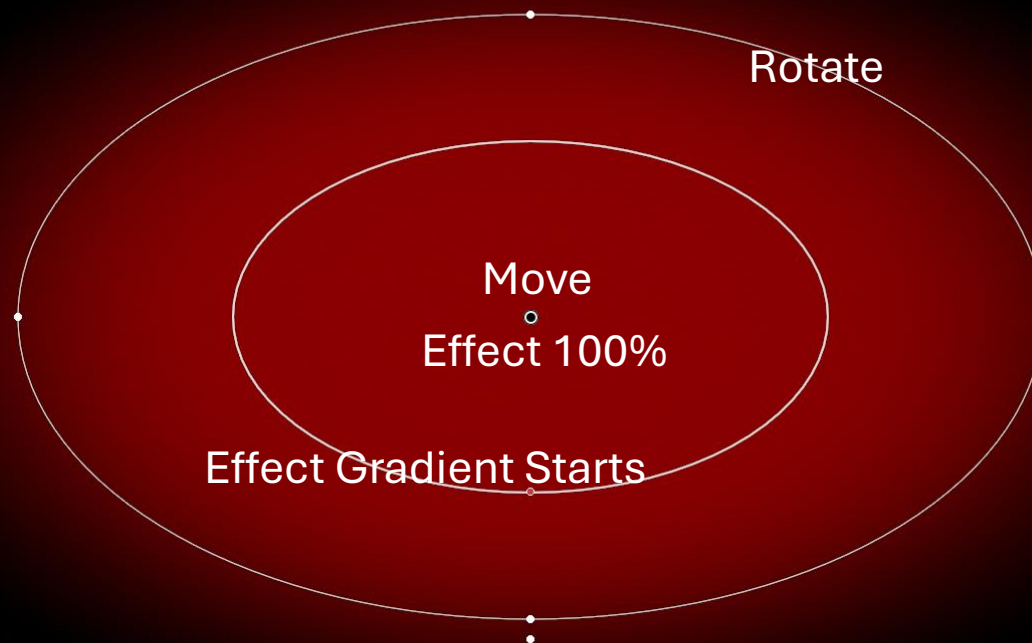
Demo – Linear Gradient

Radial Gradient



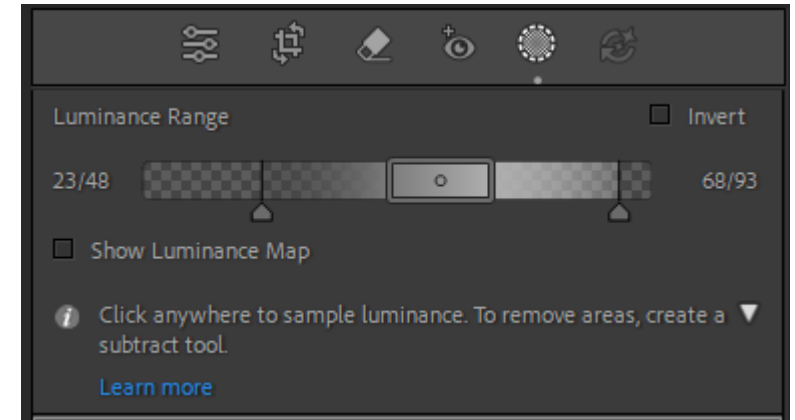
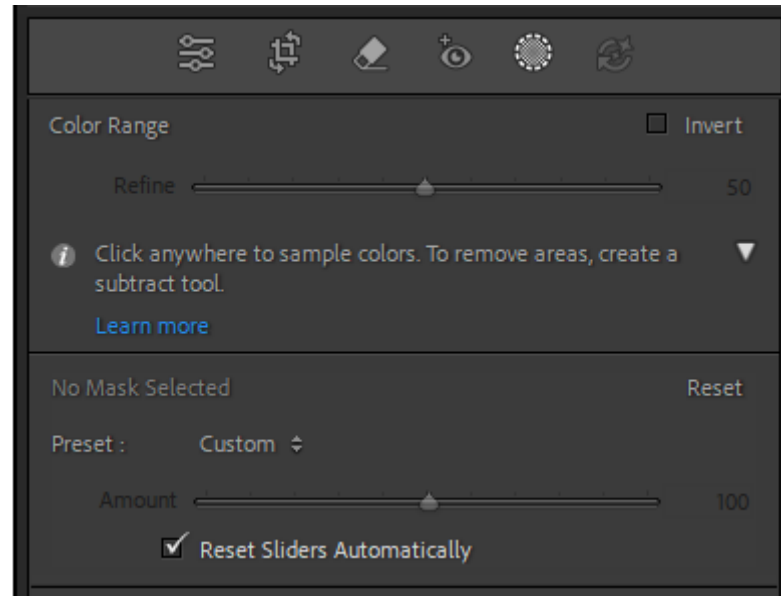
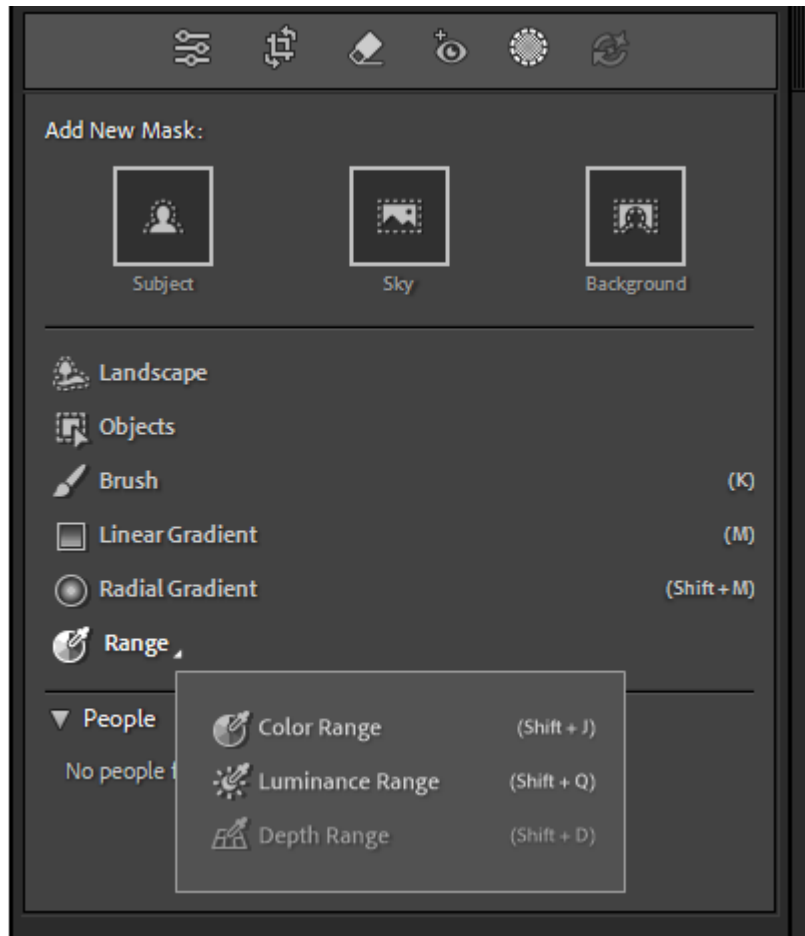
- Start with plus sign.
- Hold button down and Drag onto photo
- Can resize at position at any time
- Hold Shift key to make a circle.
- Invert to add a gradient.

Effect Gradient Ends



Demo – Radial Gradient

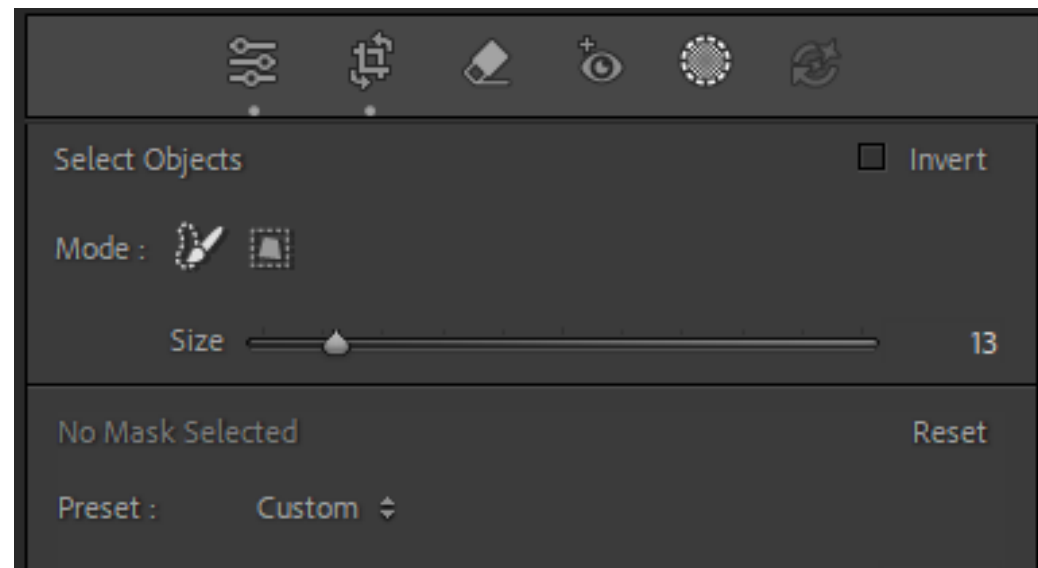
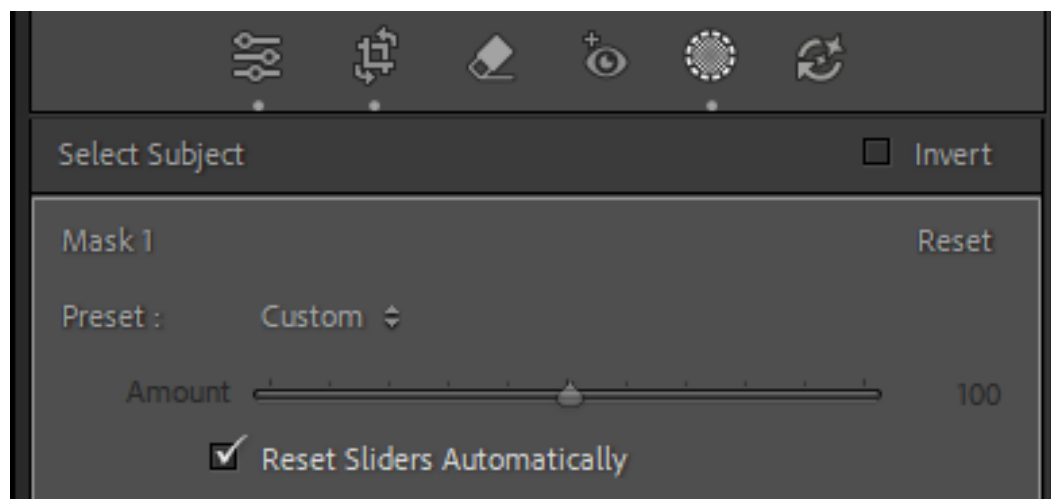
Range – Color and Luminance



Hold Shift Key to Sample other colors

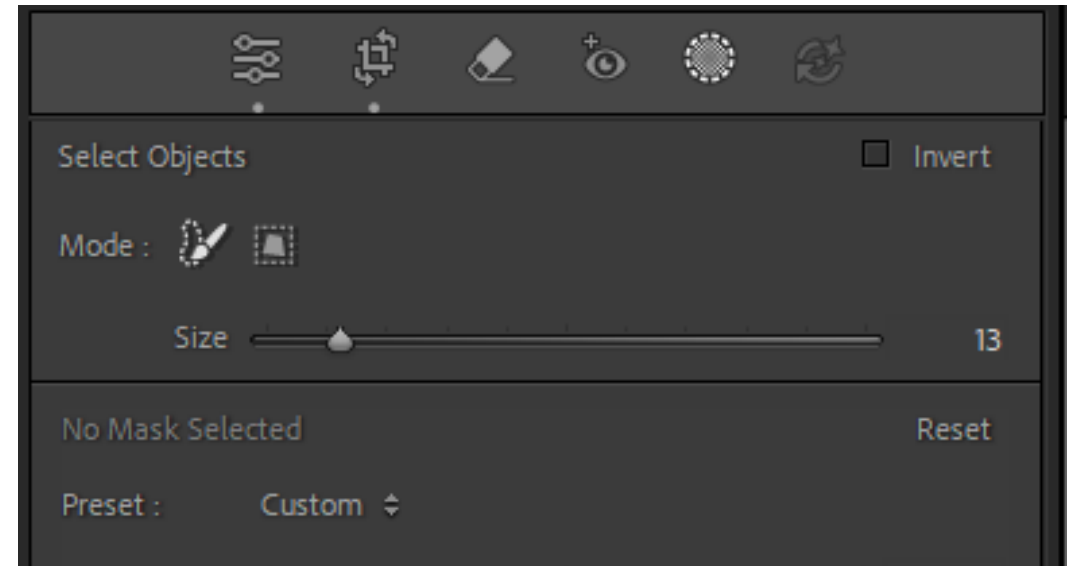
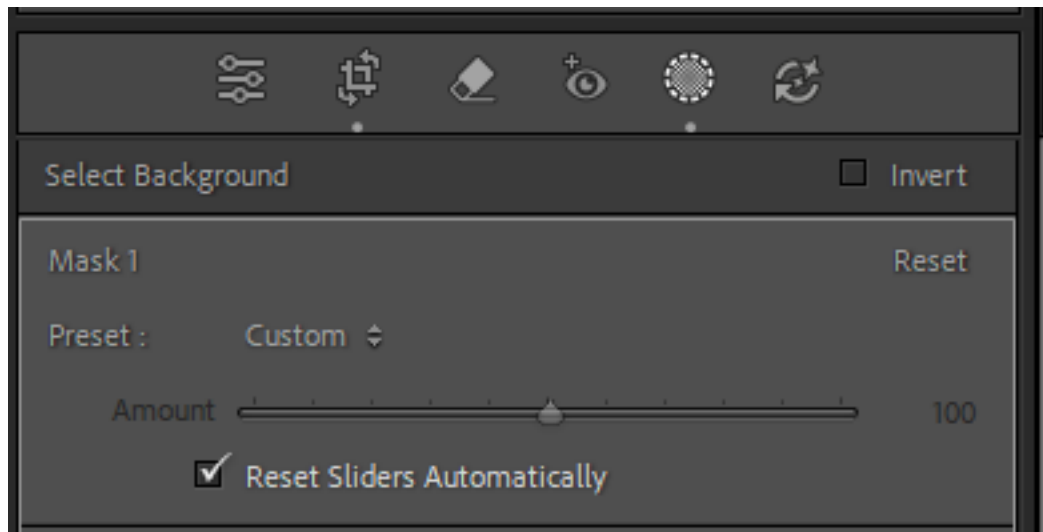
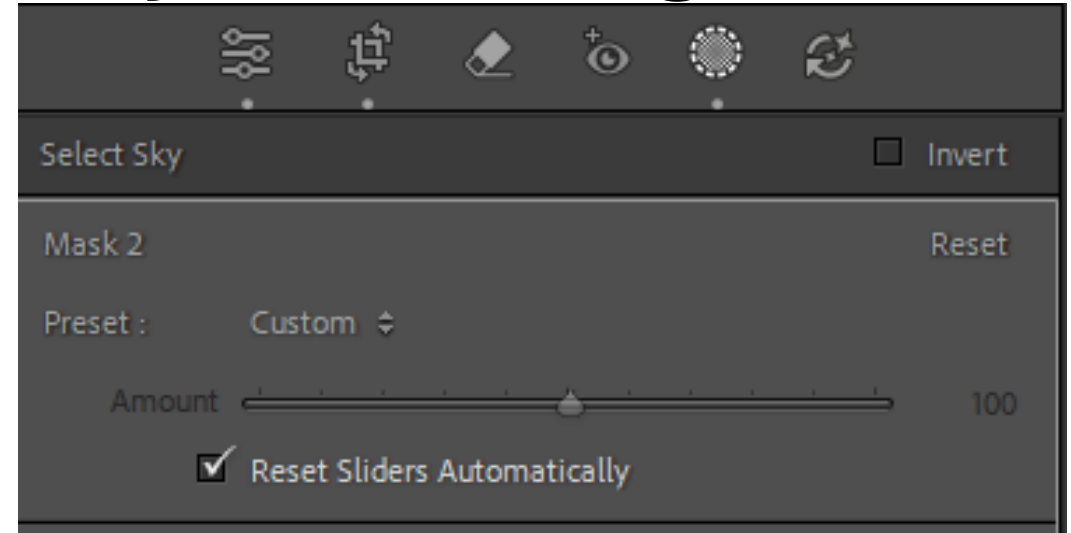
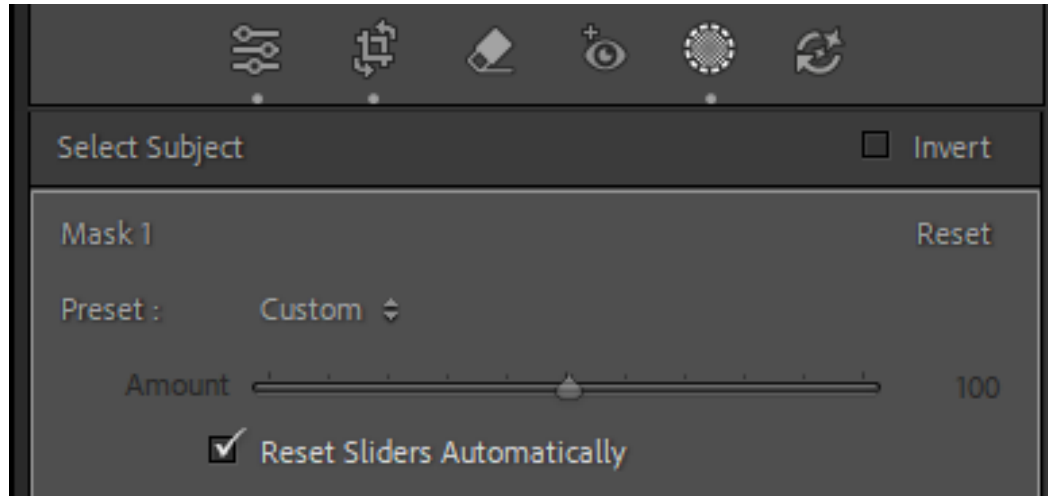
Range Demo

Subject and Object



Subject and Object Demo

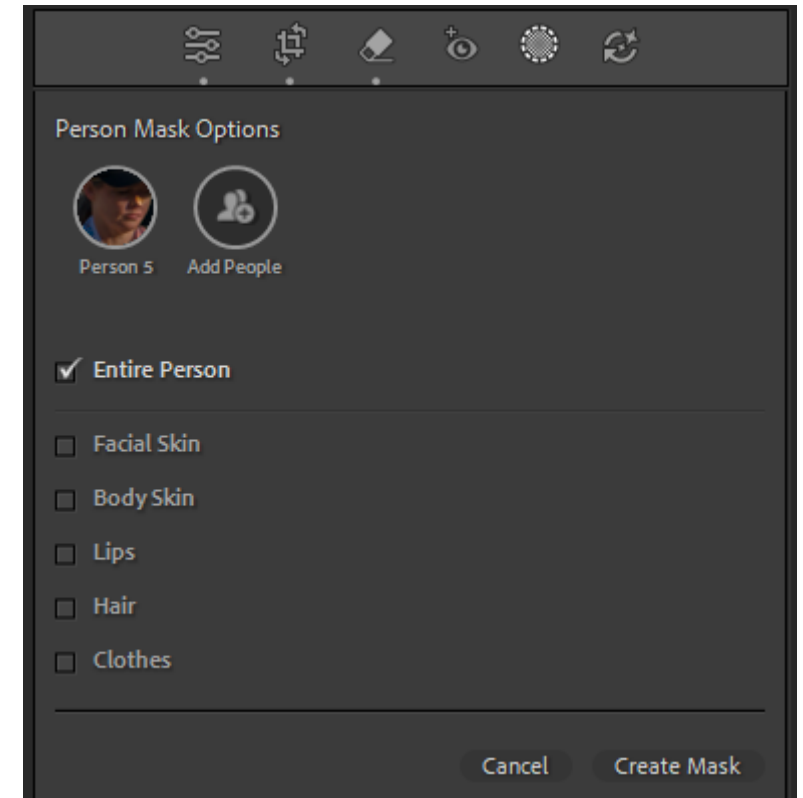
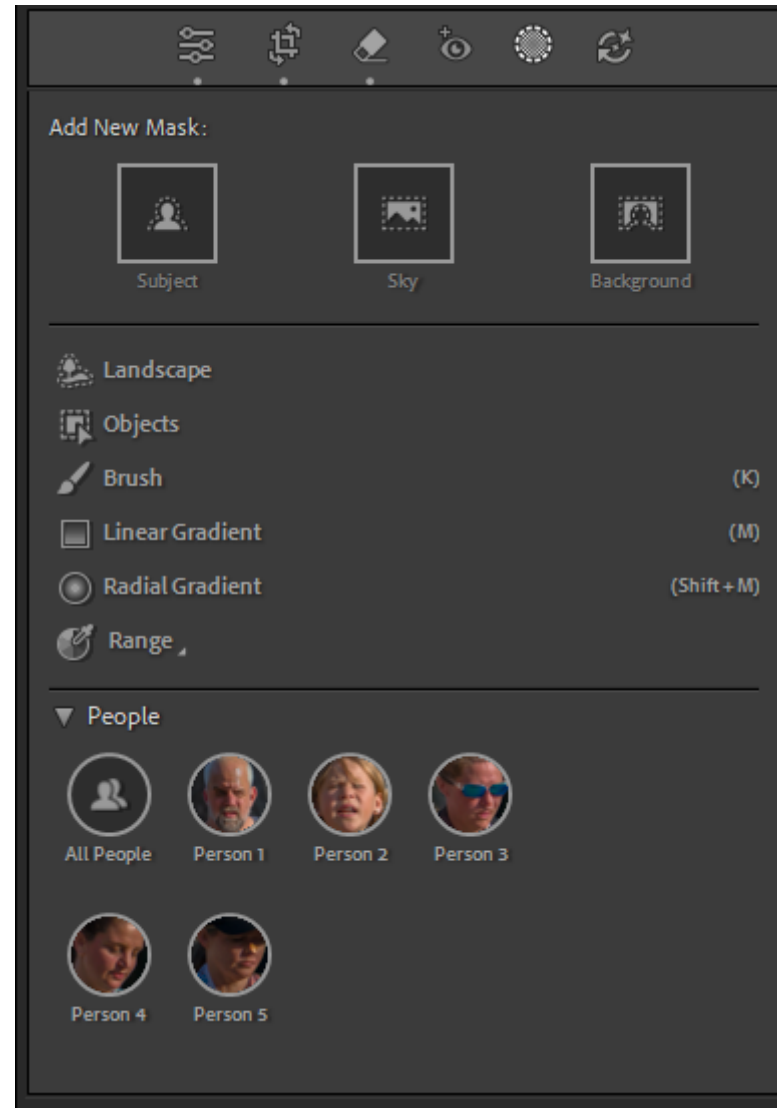
Subject and Object and Sky and Background



Subject, Background, Object, and Sky Demo

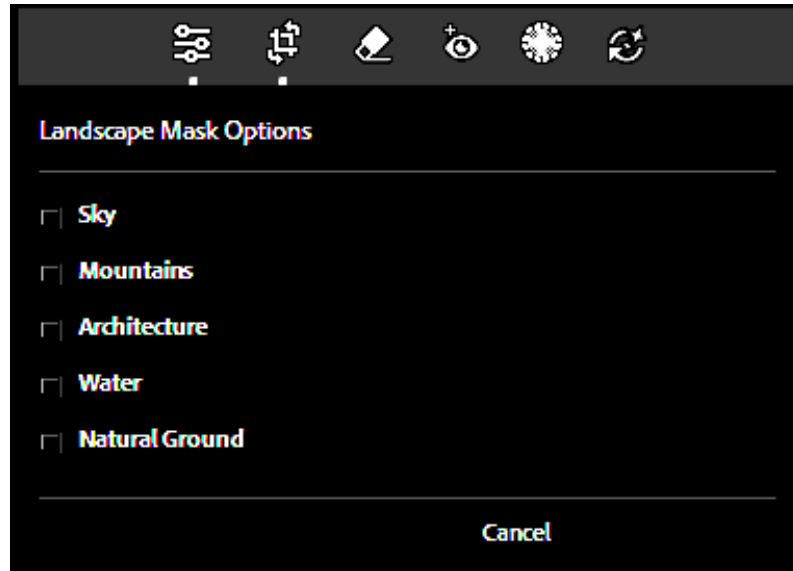
People

- If there are people in the image, they will be selected.
- Choose all people to brighten or darken them all
- Choose a single person and then choose what to adjust.

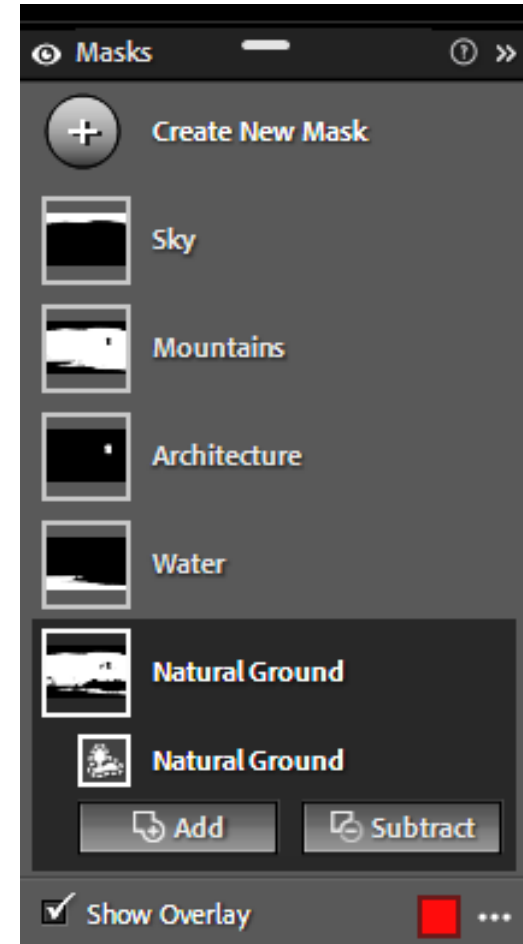


People Demo

Landscape



The Elements Present are shown.
Choose switch to use.



A Mask is Created for Each.

Demo Landscape + Bonus

Questions