



**Lightroom & ACR Profiles**

# Lightroom & ACR Profiles

The new Profiles feature was added to Lightroom and ACR (Adobe Camera Raw) in April of 2018 and in this lesson, we're going to learn about what they do and how to use them. The Profiles feature is not a new concept, but in this version, Adobe has greatly extended their functionality to expand what Lightroom or ACR is capable of doing.

## Profiles (Prior to April 2018 update)

- Every image you've ever opened in Lightroom or ACR has had a profile specified. You could find this Profile setting within the Camera Calibration panel.
- Adobe Standard was the previous default profile for raw files. It makes images from multiple camera brands look similar.
- Camera Matching profiles simulate in-camera jpeg processing. (The choices are unique to each camera maker.)
- Jpeg files are pre-processed in camera and therefore come with an embedded profile.

## New Adobe Profiles

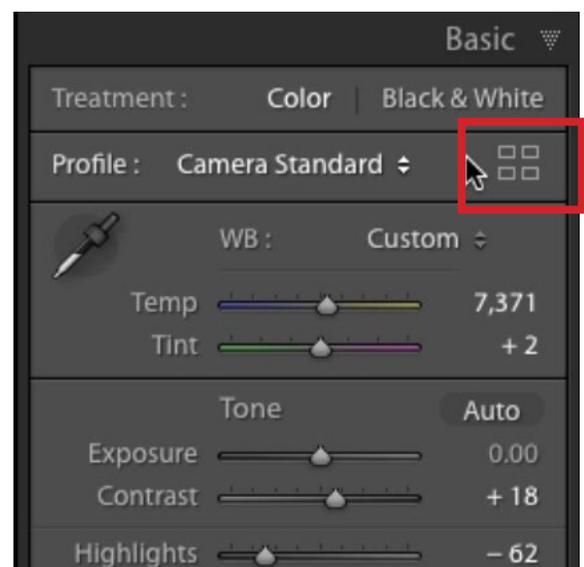
- In the April 2018 update, the Profiles feature was moved from the Camera Calibration panel to the top of the Basic panel.
- All profiles start with Adobe Standard, then tweak color/contrast for unique needs.
- The new default is Adobe Color, which adds saturation and contrast while protecting skin tones.
- Adobe Vivid is a bolder variation of Adobe Color.

- Adobe Neutral is a mellowed variation of Adobe Color.
- Adobe Portrait is optimized for skin tones.
- Adobe Landscape has no skin protection and makes skies and foliage more vivid.

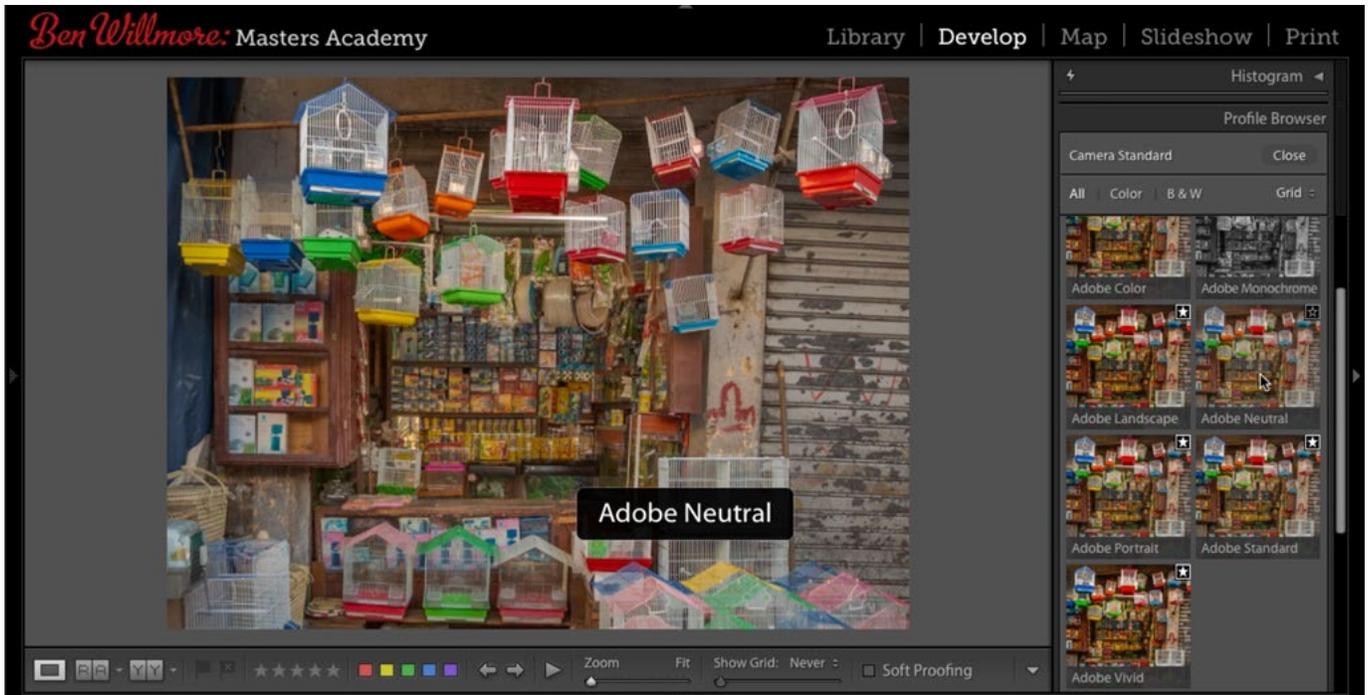
## Define your default profile

- Choose which Adobe profile best matches your most common shooting style.
- Reset all settings to their defaults, choose your profile, then set current settings as the default.
- Create presets for other profiles that are appropriate to your work.
- Apply preset on import, or immediately after import.
- Ignore for jpeg files, but you can use creative profiles later in the processing phase.

**The Profile Browser** As we mentioned above, the Profile settings can now be found at the top of the Basic panel. (In Lightroom, this will be located on the right side of the Develop Module.) Click on the little icon that looks like four rectangles, to the right of the profile menu, and the Profile Browser will expand. Here, you will find several different expandable categories of profiles. The Adobe Raw profiles are a good starting point if you are working with a raw file. Hover your cursor over the different profiles and you will get a preview of what your image would look like with that profile applied.



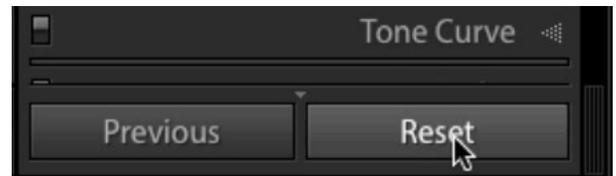
**Click on the highlighted icon to access the Profile Browser.**



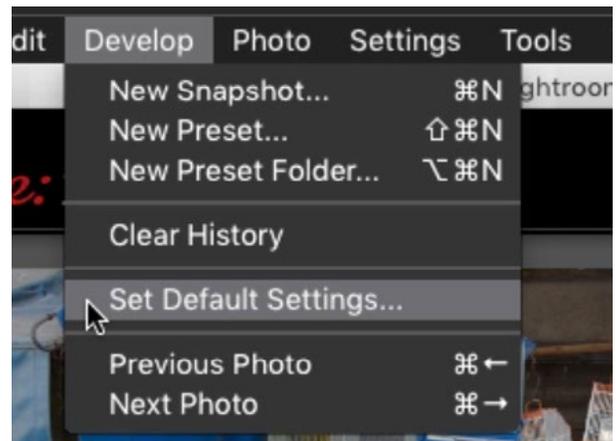
The Profile Browser is open on the right side of the interface. When we hover our cursor over the different profiles, we see a preview of the effects in the main image window.

### Setting a profile as the default: Lightroom

If you know that you always want a specific profile applied, you can set that profile as the default. In order to do this, you will first need to make sure that every develop setting is at its default setting. Return all sliders to their default settings by clicking the Reset button in the bottom right of Lightroom's interface. Next, open the Profile settings and choose the profile you would like to serve as your default. When you're done, click the Close button in the upper right corner of the Profile Browser. Now, go to the Develop menu (You'll need to be in the Develop Module for this to be available) and choose Set Default Settings. A dialog box



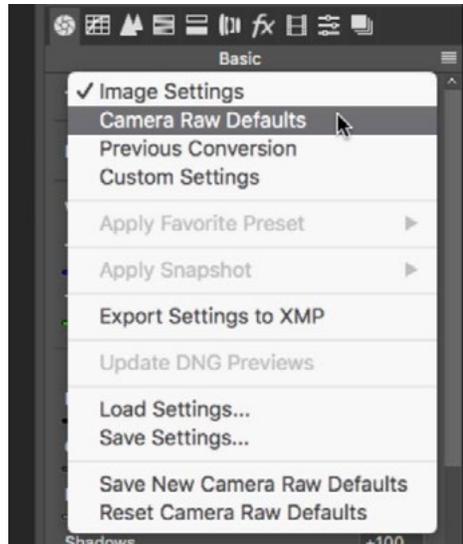
Click the Reset button to return all the sliders to their default settings.



This Develop menu is available while in the Develop Module.

will appear, asking you to confirm that you want to update the default settings. Click the Update to Current Settings button. Now, every time you open a raw file that has not been worked on before, it will have your chosen profile applied right from the beginning.

**Setting a profile as the default: Camera Raw** In Camera Raw, return all the sliders to their default settings by clicking on the little menu in the top right corner of the adjustments panel and choosing Camera Raw Defaults from the menu that appears. Then, choose the profile that you would like to use as the default. (The Profile settings are located at the top of the Basic panel, just like in Lightroom.) Lastly, go back to the menu in the top right corner of the adjustments panel and choose Save New Camera Raw Defaults.

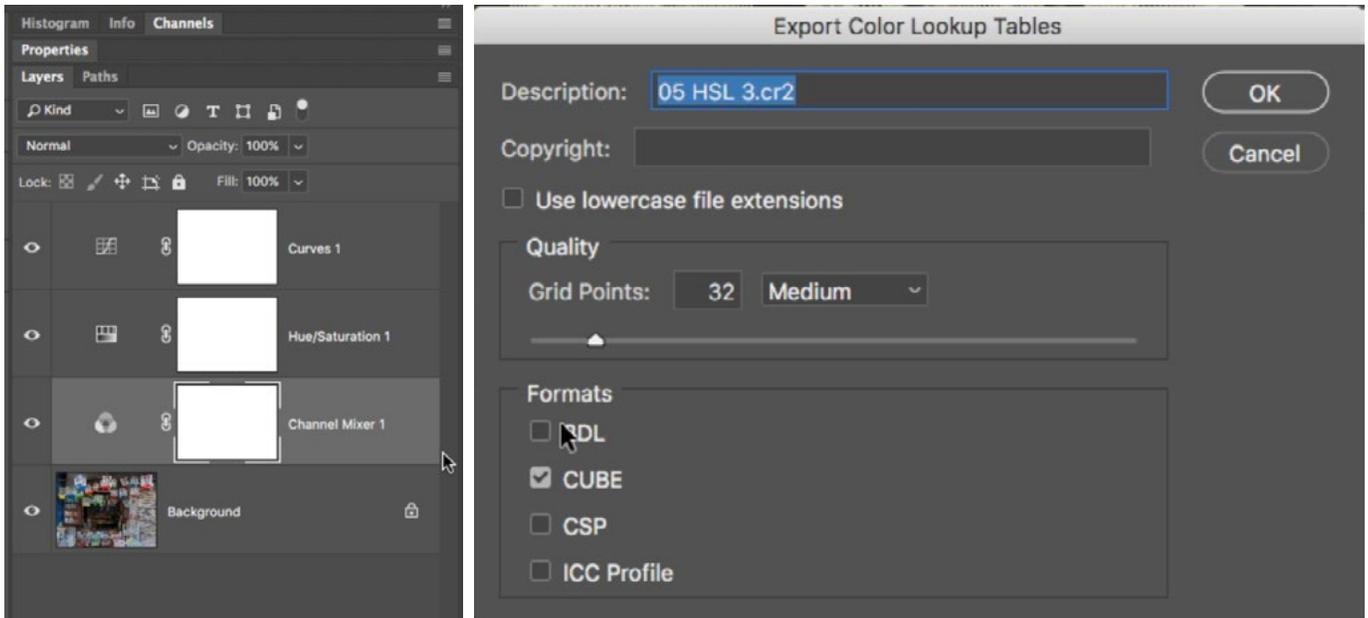


In ACR, click on the “hamburger menu” (circled) to access the Camera Raw Defaults settings.

## Creating profiles in Photoshop

You can create your own profiles, which are simply a series of adjustments that you make in Photoshop and save as small profile files. Then you can apply those changes in Lightroom and ACR. In creating a profile, you can use any of the adjustments that are available as adjustment layers in Photoshop and you can stack multiple adjustments in order to create an effect. You can also use Photoshop’s blending modes and blending sliders with these adjustment layers. You can NOT use location-specific adjustments (layer masks, vignettes, etc.). These profiles allow us to get beyond the limitations of all the adjustment sliders that can be found in Lightroom or ACR.

To create a profile, your document will need to consist of the image layer and then one or more adjustment layers stacked on top of it. Go to the File menu and choose Export > Color Lookup Tables. A Color Lookup Table is a way to summarize what one or more adjustments do to a picture without needing to have those adjustment capabilities in the program we use it in. In other words, it looks at the difference between the original picture and the end result and then summarizes that change in a profile file.

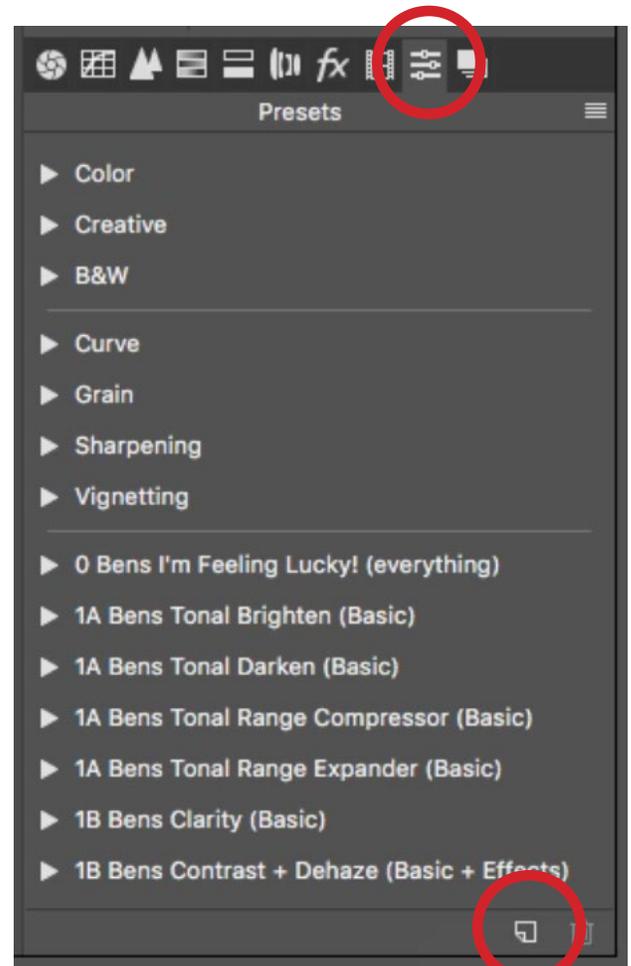


**Left: To create a profile, the Photoshop document will need to have an image layer with adjustment layers on top of it. Right: In the Export Color Lookup Tables dialog, we set the Grid Points slider to 32 and chose CUBE from the format options.**

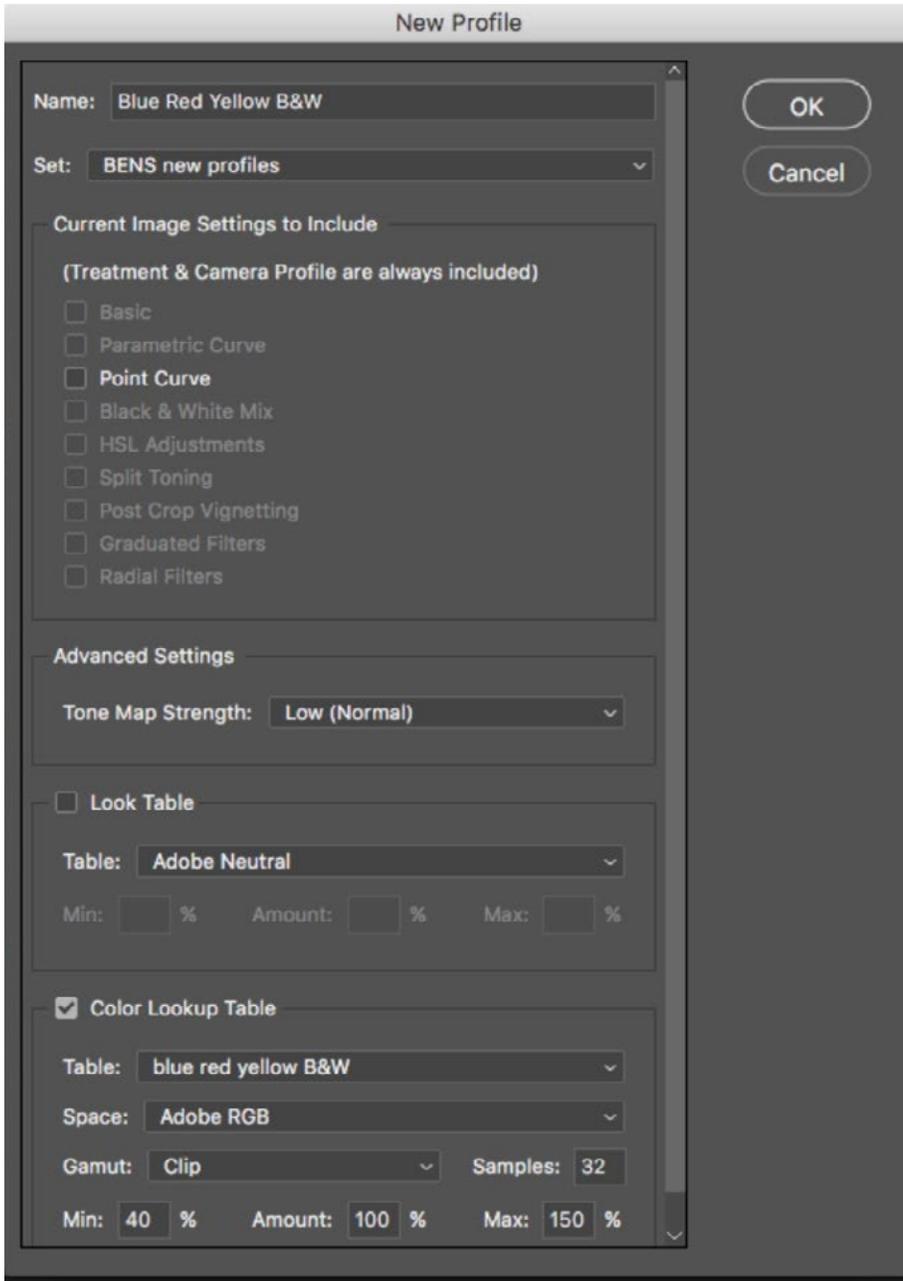
After choosing Color Lookup Tables from the Export menu, a dialog box will appear, and it will include a Grid Points setting, which controls how accurately it will be able to describe the adjustment. We'll enter 32 here and then select the Cube option under the Formats category. We'll click OK and will then be prompted to give the profile a name, choose a location for the file and click the Save button.

Now there is a step that we need to do in ACR in order to create the profile that can be used in either ACR or Lightroom. We'll open a raw file in ACR and open the Presets tab on the right side of the interface. (The icon looks like three adjust-

ment sliders.) We'll hold down the Option key (Alt on Win) and click the New button at the bottom of the panel in order to call up the New Profile dialog box. We'll type in the profile's name at the top of the dialog. Below that, there is a list of settings that may or may not be grayed out, depending on whether any changes were made to the image in ACR. If no changes were made, they'll all be grayed out. If there were changes made, this is where we can determine if these changes should be included in the profile. We'll make sure the Look Table check box is turned off and then we'll turn ON the Color Lookup Table check box. When we do this, we'll be prompted to navigate to the file we saved (from Photoshop) on our hard drive and then click the Load button. We'll need to use the Space menu to specify what color space was being used when the profile was created. When we go to apply the profile later in Lightroom or ACR, there will be a slider that determines how strongly the effect should be applied. The Min setting determines how much of the adjustment you'd see when you move this slider down to zero. If this setting is set to zero, then you'd see none of the effect whatsoever. In the video example, we're going to set this to 40, which will allow the adjustment to be lowered to 40% of the full effect. The Max setting will determine how strongly the effect will be applied when the slider is set to 200, which is the highest setting for the slider. In our example, we set this to 150%. The Amount setting determines what the default slider setting should be, and we'll leave this at 100%.



**The Presets panel is accessed by clicking the icon on the right side of the ACR interface (circled, top). Hold down the Option key while clicking the New icon (circled, bottom) to create a new profile.**



The Camera Raw settings for creating a new profile

When choosing a profile to use within Lightroom or ACR, the menu will be divided into categories. You can specify which category the profile should go in by using the Set menu near the top of the New Profile dialog. You can also create a new set in which to place the profile. After specifying all the settings in the New Profile dialog, we'll click the OK button. Now, when we open the Profile Browser in Lightroom or ACR, the new profile will be listed under the set/category we chose when creating the profile.

## Making changes to a profile

After you create a profile, you can make changes to it and specify its sorting order, but you must do so from within ACR. If you open the Profile Browser and right-click on a profile, a menu will pop up, giving you the option to Rename Profile. If you choose this, a dialog will appear, allowing you to change four things (including the name). There is a way to access many more options. Hold down the Option key (Alt on Win) while double-clicking on a profile and a different dialog will appear that gives you lots more options.

The screenshot shows a dialog box titled "Rename 'Blue Red Yellow B&W'". It contains several input fields and a section for applicability. The fields are: Name (Blue Red Yellow B&W), Set (BENS new profiles), Cluster, Short Name, Sort Name, Description, Copyright, and Contact. The Applicability section includes: Model (Images with "Adobe Standard" Profile), Type (Limit to Raw Images), Mode (Limit to Color Images), and Range (Normal and High Dynamic Range Images). There is also a checked checkbox for "Support Amount Slider".

**If you hold down the Option key (Alt on Win) while clicking the Rename Profile menu item, you'll get this expanded set of options.**

One of the options available in this dialog is the Short Name, and this is the name that would be used when working with Lightroom on your phone. The Sort Name is not a name that will be displayed. It's a name that is used to determine what order the profile should appear in. The profiles are listed alphabetically based on the profile name UNLESS you type something in this field. This means that you can type numbers into this field for

each of your profiles to specify what order they should appear in within the Profile Browser. At the bottom of the expanded Rename dialog, there is a “Support Amount Slider” check box. If you turn this off, then the chosen profile will not have an Amount slider to go along with it.

The Applicability settings can be used to determine when the chosen profile will be available. The Model menu lets you specify whether you’d like the profile to be available only on images shot with a certain camera or shot with a certain profile. The Type menu allows you to specify what file types the profile can be used on. Use the Mode menu to determine whether the profile will be available on color images, monochrome images or both. The Range menu determines whether the profile will be available on HDR images.

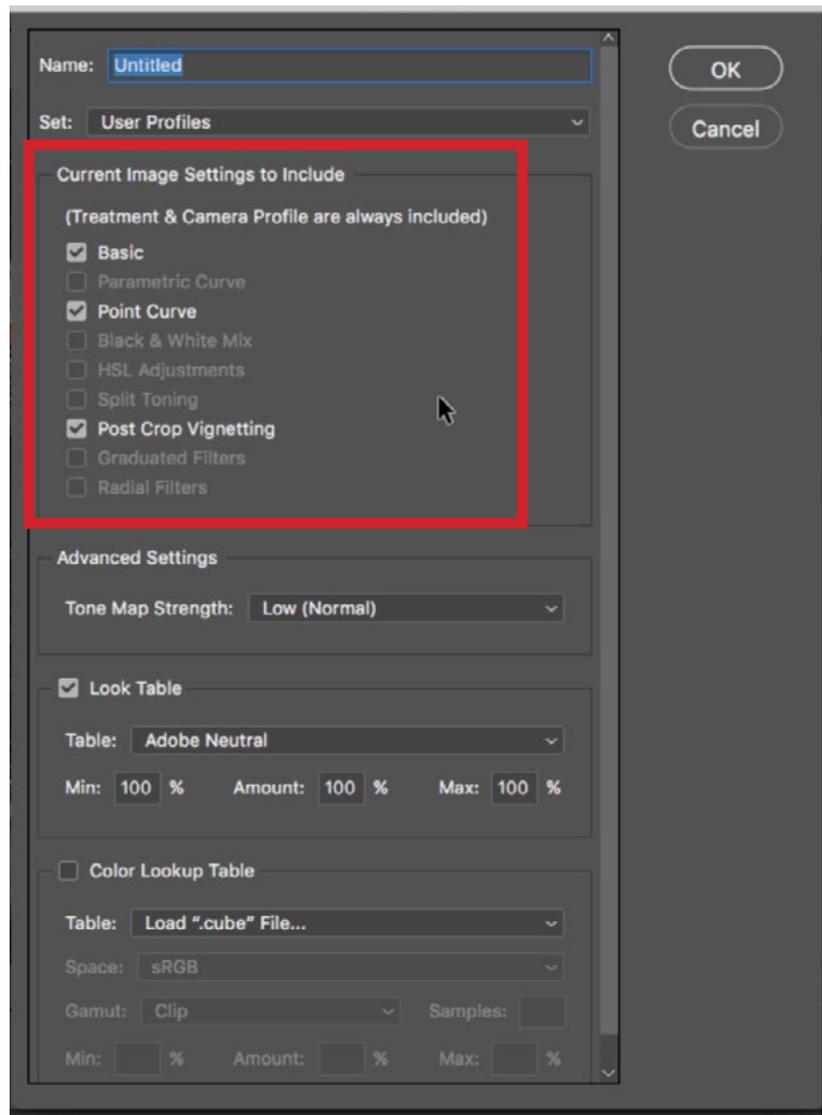
## More profile options

We mentioned earlier that you can create a new profile from within the Presets panel in ACR. Let’s look at some additional options when doing so. We’ll hold down the Option key and click on the New icon at the bottom of the Presets panel. This will bring up the New Profile dialog.

In creating a profile, we can use any combination of adjustment layers within Photoshop. But what if we want to include an adjustment that is not included in Photoshop? For example, the Highlights, Shadows and Clarity sliders are only available in Lightroom & ACR but not Photoshop. Here’s how to include these adjustments. Create the profile in Photoshop using the desired adjustment layers. Then open the same image you used to create the profile in ACR. Adjust the sliders as you see fit. Then, open the Presets panel, hold down the Option key (Alt on Win) and click on the New icon at the bottom of the panel. This will bring up the New Profile dialog box. We mentioned early that the list of adjustments will be grayed out if no adjustments have been applied. Since you moved the sliders this time, the check boxes will be available. This allows you to include settings made within ACR to the new profile. Note that you can also use the Post-Crop Vignette slider within ACR and have it included in the profile as well.

Within the New Profile dialog, there is also a Tone Map Strength setting and this is useful for HDR images. It determines how sensitive the highlights and shadows sliders will be when you adjust them. If you do a lot of HDR and find that you max out the Shadows and/or Highlights sliders on a regular basis, then change this menu to Medium or High.

The Look Table settings within the New Profile dialog are useful if you want your profile to start with one of the Adobe Raw profiles as a base. You would make sure the image you're working with is using that profile and then you would turn on the Look Table check box within the New Profile dialog and then select the profile from the Table menu. Note that the Look Table options will only be available when working with raw files.



**In the New Profile dialog, turn on any check boxes for adjustments made within Camera Raw that you would like to be included in the profile.**