

# Luminar Neo: The Complete Course 2025

The course has been completely redone for 2025. Some important things to note include:

- You get lifetime access to the course.
  - This course has been completely REMADE and updated for 2025.
  - It includes over 28 hours of video lessons over 46 lessons.
  - All the RAW files (200+) are included, so you can easily follow along.
  - You also get several additional bonuses included:
    - Keyboard shortcuts PDF cheat sheet
    - 2 Bokeh overlays
    - 6 Sky replacement images
    - Direct access to Darlene via email and a private community.
    - 2 Texture overlays
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## Section 1 - Getting Started

### Course Introduction

#### Lesson 1: Getting Started and Navigating Around Luminar Neo

- Installation and setting up preferences
  - Keyboard shortcuts
  - What is a Catalog, how does it work, and where are my edits saved?
  - The library module and getting around
  - The Luminar Neo interface
  - How to use the Image Search feature
  - How to access your Skylum account
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## Section 2 - The Essentials tools

#### Lesson 2: Adding images, Folders, and Albums

- Opening or adding an image to Luminar.
- Adding a folder of images.
- Brief intro to the plugin workflow.
- Making and working with Albums.

#### Lesson 3: Presets

- Using Presets overview.
- Importing new ones (6 are included as an added bonus).
- Things to be aware of with Presets.
- How to find more Presets in the Skylum marketplace.
- Saving your own (brief introduction, more on this later).

#### Lesson 4: Edit Module Overview and Using the Crop Tool

- Adding and removing favorite tools.
- Hide/show the histogram.
- Collapsing Categories (sections).
- Cropping tips.

#### Lesson 5: Develop Raw

- How to use Camera profile (what to do if yours isn't showing).
- Clipping warnings, how to turn on/off, and how to use them.
- How to adjust exposure, brightness, color, and contrast in Develop.
- Overview of all the sliders and sections.

- *NOTE: Curves is covered separately.*

### **Lesson 6: Curves**

- Darken or lighten an image.
- Using curves to add or reduce contrast.
- Make a faded or matte black look.
- Color-correct an unwanted tint.
- Get creative with color curves.
- Invert an image with curves.

### **Lesson 7: EnhanceAI, StructureAI, and Masking**

- Always apply Develop Raw first.
- What to watch out for and avoid when using Enhance AI.
- Overview of masking.
- How to use the masking tools to make local adjustments.

### **Lesson 8: Erase Tool**

- Erase Tool Tips for success.
- Remove Dust spots and Powerlines.
- Handling big jobs.
- Removing other things.

### **Lesson 9: The Color Tool and Black & White Conversion**

- Overview of the Color Tool
- How to fix an off-color image
- How to change the color of an object
- Darkening the sky
- Lightening skin tones
- B/W conversion tips and using the tool

### **Lesson 10: Details, Denoise, and Vignette**

- Using these tools properly
- Using Details to sharpen an image
- How to avoid making a bad vignette
- Denoise versus Noiseless Raw/AI

### **Lesson 11: Folder and Image Organization**

- Expand/collapse folders
- Folder structure and organization
- How to import images from a memory card to a new subfolder
- How to Remove a Folder from the Catalog (and warnings)
- Delete forever (what to be aware of)
- Making and deleting a Virtual Copy

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## **Section 3 - Landscape Tools**

### **Lesson 12: Sky AI and Sunrays**

- Basic tips for using these tools
- Explanation of all the sliders
- Tips for success with sky replacement
- Pitfalls and mistakes to avoid

### **Lesson 13: Twilight Enhancer AI and Atmosphere AI**

- How to use these tools
- What can you do with Atmosphere AI, and how to use it effectively
- What kinds of images to use them on
- Twilight + Water Enhancer AI is a powerful combo

### **Lesson 14: Landscape and Water Enhancer**

- Overview of all the options
- What to be aware of when using this tool
- Creative uses for the Landscape tool
- Water Enhancer AI overview and use
- Refining the water area selected (mask)
- How to use it as a local adjustment

## Section 4 - Creative Tools

### Lesson 15: Light Depth, Color Transfer, and Magic Light<sup>AI</sup>

- **NOTE:** *Light Depth* has replaced *Relight<sup>AI</sup>*
- Overview of all the settings and tips for how to use them
- Advanced settings and what they do
- What to watch for and avoid doing
- Some pro tips and secret uses for Magic Light AI

### Lesson 16: Dramatic, Mood, and Toning Tools

- Using the tools
- Tips and tricks
- How to install a new LUT
- How to add a folder of custom LUTs
- Tips for how to use the Mood Tool creatively and correctively

### Lesson 17: Matte Tool and Film Grain

- How to use the tools effectively
- Suggestions for when to use these tools

### Lesson 18: Neon & Glow Tool

- How to use all the options
- Non-gimmicky uses for this tool
- Let's have some fun with it!

### Lesson 19: Mystical, Glow, and Blur

- Using Mystical to create a dreamy look
- What to watch out for and avoid
- Find out which Glow option is Darlene's favorite and why.
- This Blur tool is useful and a lot of fun to use for correcting issues (eg. if the background is too sharp) and getting creative.

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## Section 5 - Workflow

### Lesson 20: Exporting and Saving Your Images

- Where are my edits saved?
- How to get to the Export dialog box
- Strategies for saving your exports
- What export options to use for different situations
- Exporting single or multiple images

### Lesson 21: Using Luminar Neo as a Plugin

- Lightroom Classic (overview of all the ways to send an image to Luminar Neo)
- Photoshop and using Luminar Neo as a Smart Filter
- Steps for a Lightroom Class > Photoshop > Luminar Neo workflow
- Apple Photos (the two ways to get to Luminar Neo)

### Lesson 22: Working with Catalogs

- Understanding and using a catalog
- Where is my catalog?
- Moving or changing the Catalog location
- How to create a new catalog
- Catalogs and external drives
- Dumping the cache
- Working with multiple catalogs
- Catalog issues and mistakes
- Things NOT to do to avoid issues
- Lost edits and missing images

## Lesson 23: Backup & Monitor Calibration

- Backing up properly (your catalog and your images)
- The importance of backing up
- Catalog corruption or size issue
- Restoring your catalog from a backup
- Hardware (mouse versus graphics tablet)
- How and why to calibrate your monitor

## Lesson 24: Ecosystem and Spaces

- What is the Ecosystem, and how to use it
- Edit images on a mobile device with Luminar Mobile
- Send them to the desktop app with the edits included
- Continue editing in Luminar Neo desktop
- What are Spaces and how to use them?
- How to create a Space
- Adding images to a Space
- Edit the Space settings (allow downloads, image order, and rename it)
- Deleting a Space
- Sharing your Space

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## Section 6 - Portrait Tools

### Lesson 25: Portrait Tools Part One

- Studio Light
- Portrait Bokeh<sup>AI</sup>
- Pro tips for using these tools effectively

### Lesson 26 - Portrait Tools Part Two

- Face AI
- Skin AI
- Body AI
- High key
- Basic face retouching
- Extreme or glamour retouching
- Pro tips (opening one eye and the Face Light vignette trick)

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## Section 7 - Professional Tools

### Lesson 27: Super Contrast and Color Harmony

- How to use them: overview and pro tips
- Use them globally or locally
- Harness the power of the Color Contrast slider in Color Harmony

### Lesson 28 - Dodge & Burn and the Clone Tool

- How to use these tools effectively
- Drawbacks and pitfalls to avoid
- Clone + Erase = a powerful combo
- How to tackle big jobs
- Other possibly better options (using the Develop Tool)
- Using Dodge & Burn for advanced portrait toning on the face

### Lesson 29: Noiseless Raw and Supersharp AI

- Noiseless Raw versus Noise Reduction in Develop Raw
- Supersharp AI options and usage
- Dangers to watch out for
- Other tools that you can use for adding sharpness to an image
- What is the best order to apply noise reduction and sharpening?

## Section 8 - Layers

### Lesson 30: Layers Part 1 Overview and Simple Uses

- How layers work
- Reasons to use layers
- Layer functions
- Simple layer uses (textures, bokeh overlays, and frames)
- Things to watch out for with layers

### Lesson 31: Layers Part 2 Practical Uses

- Add a watermark, text, signature, or logo
- Best practices for watermarks
- Adding elements (moon, clouds, birds)
- Making simple composite images

### Lesson 32: Layers Part 3 Advanced Techniques

- Using Adjustment layers
- Creative layers and some fun techniques
- When and why to use Merge Layers

### Lesson 33: Layers Part 4 Background Removal

- Background removal overview and tips
- Adding a new background
- Choosing the right background
- Changing the layer order
- Tips for matching the background and image better
- Things to be aware of and avoid when combining two or more images into one

### Lesson 34: Layers Part 5 Portrait Background Removal

- Doing simple cutouts
- Dealing with complex edges (like hair) and backgrounds
- How to save as a transparent PNG
- Matching the background and image (tone, color, sharpness)
- Make your life easier - don't attempt the impossible
- Blur the background as needed
- Adjust the color, contrast, tone, and grain to match

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## Section 9 - Catalog Tools

### Lesson 35: HDR Merge

- What is HDR?
- Best practices for shooting HDR
- HDR merge settings and options
- Where the merged images go
- Using single-image HDR to solve high-contrast image issues

### Lesson 36: Panorama Stitching

- What kinds of images can it handle?
- Multiple-image panorama stitching (up to 100 images)
- HDR panorama stitching
- Making a panoramic image from a video
- Tips for shooting panoramas

### Lesson 37: Upscale and Focus Stacking

- How many images should you use for Focus Stacking?
- Overview of the settings
- Pitfalls to avoid
- What to watch out for
- Two workflows for using Upscale

## Lesson 38: Generative AI Tools

- How does Generative AI work
- Size and moral limitations
- The speed of the tool is directly related to your internet connection and speed
- Where the Generative AI Tools are located in Luminar Neo
- Where are the new GenAI images saved?
- Tips for success using these tools

## Lesson 39: Restoration Tool

- Where to find the Restoration tool
- How does it work?
- Is it using AI technology?
- Things to be aware of
- The resulting images are a smaller size
- You can run the same image many times and get varied results
- The order you use the options in matters and depends on the image
- It does apply to the edited image
- Takes a while to apply to a raw file
- It's internet-dependent, so you may get an error message
- What else can you do with this tool?
- Secret tricks!
- Clean a car?
- Can it save an underexposed or overexposed image?
- Renaming the restored image variations
- Moving the restored images to the original folder

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# Section 10 - Solving Problems

## Lesson 40: Fixing Common Image Issues

- Chromatic aberration, fringe, and dark corner issues
- Control perspective and distortion
- Remove unwanted objects
- Noise reduction
- Can you over-process and create noise?
- Sharpness issues (lack of sharpness and over-sharpening)
- What over-sharpened and over-edited looks like
- How to resolve the issue of Lost Edits
- Catalog issues

## Lesson 41: Fixing Tone and Contrast Issues

- General tools and techniques
- Global versus local adjustments
- Making a custom vignette with Develop
- How to add more punch and drama to low-contrast images
- What tools to use to reduce contrast
- Using Relight AI, Face Light AI, and Studio Light to make the subject pop
- Adding extra contrast to B/W images

## Lesson 42: Working with Color and Color Issues

- Which tools can fix and alter colors
- Using Layers and blend modes to change the color
- Change the color of the subject's clothing (or another object)

## Lesson 43 - When to use Lightroom and when to use Luminar Neo?

- Overview of Lightroom Classic and Luminar Neo workflow
- What is Lightroom good at (and not)
- Why take an image to Luminar Neo

## Section 11 - Complete Image Edits

### Lesson 44: Landscape Images Start-to-Finish

- 2 different landscape images edited
- Two new Raw files provided

### Lesson 45: Portrait Image Start-to-Finish

- See which tools are used besides the dedicated portrait tools
- How to flatter and make the subject pop in portraits
- Learn techniques for enhancing portraits

### Lesson 46: Street Images Start-to-Finish

- See two different street photography images edited from start to finish
- See how to develop your editing style and make your own Presets
- Two new Raw files provided

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## Section 12 - Course Wrap-up

- One final video to bring the course to a conclusion.
  - Get the Ultimate Editing Bundle.
  - Review the course and DPM on Google.
  - Join the DPM community.
  - Celebrate, you did it!
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## Section 13 - Software Updates

- You'll find one final lesson at the end of the course that is designated for software updates.
- This page includes any and all Luminar Neo updates and information about any changes to the software.
- They will be released onto YouTube on the [Digital Photo Mentor channel](#) and embedded onto this lesson page for your convenience as well.