

ACDSee Pro 3 tutorials: Making quick adjustments with the Lighting tool

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2 Automatically adjust the image

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5 Key concepts

In ACDSee Pro Photo Manager 3, the Shadows and Highlights tool has changed its name to Lighting. In Lighting, the average brightness of a pixel and its surrounding pixels is called a tone level. You can brighten tone levels in an image that are too dark, and darken tone levels that are too bright. An example would be a photo of a person silhouetted against a bright background like snow. Most photos taken on a dull day, or with flash, or scenes with back lighting can be improved in various ways with fine adjustments using the Lighting tool. This tutorial teaches you how to make quick adjustments using the Auto button first and then make finer adjustments directly on the image.

Select an image in Manage mode and then click **Process**.

Click + to open the Lighting group.
From the Mode drop-down list, select **Advanced**.



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Click **Auto** to automatically adjust the tone levels.

The dark and bright areas of the photo are automatically adjusted. In the above photo, details are now a bit more visible in the dark areas.

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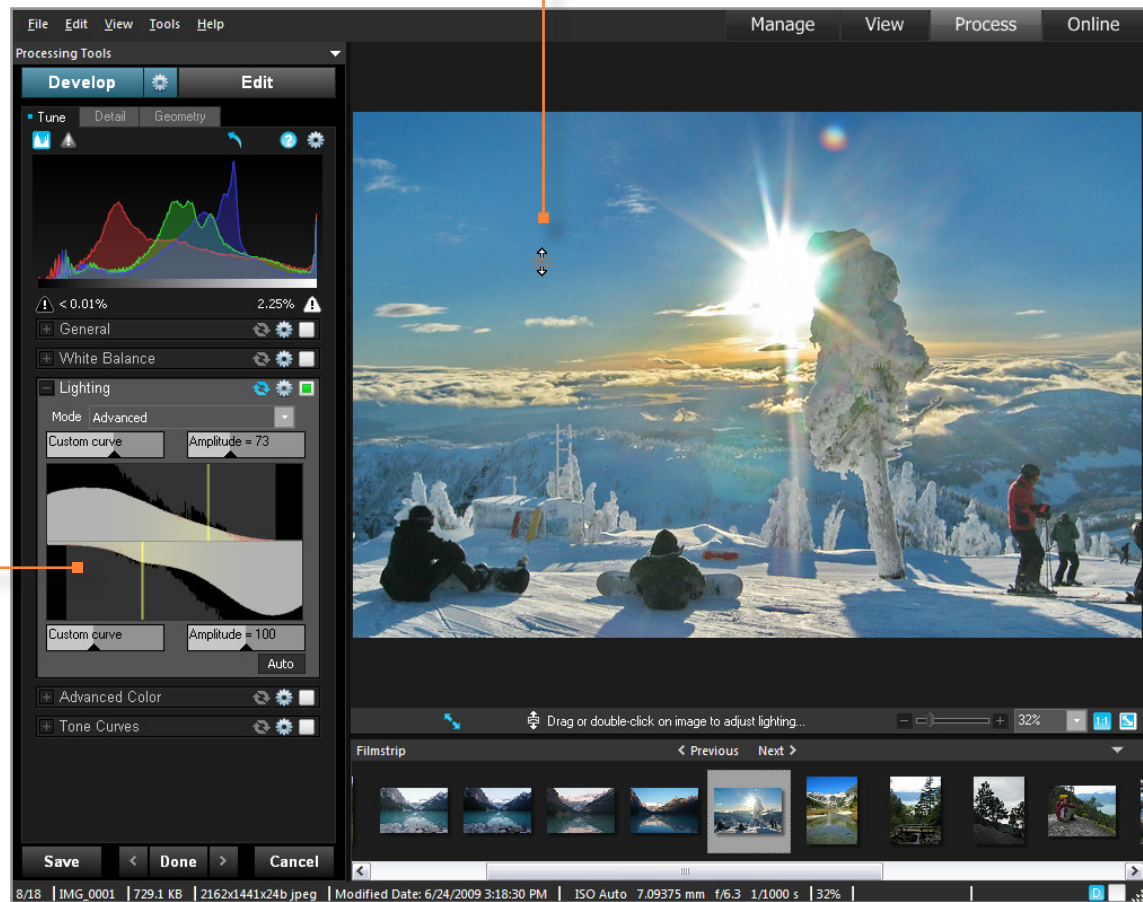
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The top half of the graph corresponds to brightening, and the bottom half corresponds to darkening. Tone levels of the shadows are represented on the left, midtones in the middle, and highlights on the right.

The light gray in the graph shows the amount of brightening or darkening applied throughout the image. The dark gray areas in the graph are suggested boundaries for adjustment, and turn red to indicate where you have adjusted far enough to cause a loss in detail. When the cursor is over the image, the two vertical yellow lines correspond to the lower and upper bounds of the tone level of the area under the cursor and indicate the center of adjustment.

Place your cursor over the area of the image you want to brighten or darken. Your cursor becomes a double-pointed arrow. Left-click and drag the cursor up or down to adjust the amount of brightening applied. Right-click and drag the cursor up or down to adjust the amount of darkening. Adjusting the brightening and darkening does not cancel each other out, but helps to stretch the contrast in the image. The stretch of contrast in the image simulates a High Dynamic Range effect.



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You can also make quick adjustments by doing the following:

- **Scroll mouse wheel up or down on the image:** Increases or decreases the amount of brightening applied at that tone level in the image. Both the image and the graph show the changes. Darkening can be applied similarly, by holding down the SHIFT key and scrolling the mouse wheel.
- **Double-click with left mouse button:** Automatically sets brightening to the optimum for that area of the image. A brighter area (e.g. a face) works best.
- **Double-click with right mouse button:** Automatically sets the darkening to the optimum for that area of the image.
- **CTRL + double-click with left mouse button:** Increases the amount of brightening around that tone level while decreasing the brightening in the rest of the image. Use this method to quickly brighten a specific subject or area to make it stand out.

For more quick adjustment tips for the Lighting tool, consult the Help by going to the **Process mode | Developing | Tuning images | Adjusting lighting** topic for more information.

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Check to see if you learned these key concepts:

- » Tone level is the average brightness of a pixel and its surrounding pixels.
- » Use the Lighting tool to adjust the bright and dark tone levels in your image.
- » Use the Auto button and make adjustments on the image to correct your image in Advanced mode.
- » Use the cursor to make quick image adjustments on the image.
- » Adjustments you make are represented in the graph, showing changes made in bright and dark areas of the image. Red areas in the graph indicate loss in detail.