

Post-capture Processing Apps Head-to-Head Feature Comparison (06.2026 v0.97) © 2026, Terry A. McDonald – luxBorealis.com

App Platform		Regular Price \$ CAD 06.2026 P = perpetual; /mo /yr = subscription	DAM / Library / File Access	— USER INTERFACE —						— GLOBAL ADJUSTMENTS —						— LOCAL ADJUSTMENTS —					— ADDITIONAL FUNCTIONS —												
				History Panel	Histogram	Clipping Indicators	"Auto" changes reflected in sliders	Canvas can be set to White	Supports Plugins? Is a Plugin? Presets?	White Point (Whites/Levels/ Curves high-point)	Black Point (Blacks/Levels/ Curves low-point)	Shadows adjustment	Highlights adjustment	Tone Curve Live and adjustable	Dedicated B&W	AI Denoise	Linear Gradient Mask	Radial Mask	Brush Mask	Masking by colour/tone	AI Masking (subject, sky, background, people)	HDR Editing & Export	Virtual Copies, Versions or Variants	HDR merge/blend	Panorama stitch/merge	Focus stacking/ merge	Upscaling Options (AI vs Export)						
Lightroom Classic macOS - Windows	✔	\$156/yr for Lr Classic, Lr desktop, web, and Lr Mobile (iOS - Android) w/ 1TB cloud, fonts and Adobe Portfolio website.	Feature-rich built-in DAM Library/Catalogue w/ picks, stars, keywording, geolocation, search, folders, albums and smart albums	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	Plugins: Many Not a Plugin Supports Presets	YES + Auto WP	YES + Auto BP	YES	YES	YES	YES with B&W Mixer	YES Raw files	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES, but as Versions	YES	YES	YES	NO	2x Super Resolution AI						
Lightroom (Cloud) Desktop / web	✔		NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	Plugins: Limited Not a Plugin Supports Presets	YES + Auto WP	YES + Auto BP	YES	YES			YES Raw files							YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO	2x & 4x Generative Upscale using Topaz Gigapixel
Lightroom (Cloud) iOS - Android	✔		Organized by date and user-created albums + access to device Library	NO	YES limited	NO	YES	NO	NO	YES Not Auto	YES Not Auto	YES Not Auto	YES Not Auto			NO							YES Raw files	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
Capture One macOS - Windows	✔	Pro = \$508 P Pro = \$315/yr All-in-One (=Lightroom) = \$430/yr	Feature-rich Hybrid DAM based on computer File Browser w/ picks, stars, keywording, geolocation, search, folders, albums and smart albums	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	Plugins: Some Is a Plugin: YES Supports Presets	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES with Channel Mixer	YES Raw files	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO	YES	YES	YES	NO	Enhanced Export						
Capture One iPad	✔	\$150/yr or included in All-in-One	Hybrid, based on computer File Browser + user-created Projects w/ star ratings & keywording	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES			YES Raw files	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO	Enhanced Export					
ON1 Photo RAW macOS - Windows	✔	Photo RAW: \$144 P Photo RAW Max: \$245 P Photo RAW Max (w/200 GB): \$132/yr Photo Studio (w/1 TB): \$264/yr	Hybrid, based on computer File Browser w/albums and keywording	YES	YES	YES	NO	YES	Plugins: NO Is a Plugin: YES Supports Presets	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES Raw, TIFF and JPEG	YES Colour range masking	YES + Depth Mask	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	AI Enhanced							
ON1 Photo RAW iOS - Android	✔	Free, but requires subscription to sync: \$68/yr	Library requires sync subscription	Yes, with sync subscription	YES	NO	NO	NO	PARTIAL	PARTIAL	YES	YES	NO	NO													NO	Limited	Limited	Limited	Limited	Limited	Limited
DxO PhotoLab macOS - Windows	✔	\$240 P requires NIK Collection (\$180 P) to match Lightroom's B&W and printing ability	Hybrid, based on computer File Browser + user-created Projects w/ star ratings & keywording	YES	YES	YES	YES via Magic Want	YES	Plugins limited to their own Is a Plugin: YES Supports Presets	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES Raw & JPEG	YES	YES, circle only	YES	YES	YES (subject, sky)	NO	YES	NO	NO	NO	Enhanced Export						
ACDSee Photo Studio macOS - Windows	✔	Professional: \$144 P Ultimate: \$215 P (most Lr-like)	Hybrid, feature-rich DAM / file management based on computer File Browser	Available in Edit Module	YES	YES			Plugins: Limited Not a Plugin Supports Presets	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES Raw, TIFF and JPEG	YES	YES	YES	YES Colour range & HSL	YES but not People	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	AI Enhanced						
ACDSee iOS - Android	✔	CA\$8.00	Requires Mobile Sync app (free)	NO	YES	NO			NO	PARTIAL	PARTIAL	YES	YES	NO		NO	Limited	Limited	Limited	Limited	Limited	Limited	Limited	Limited	Limited	Limited	AI Enhanced						
Darktable macOS - Windows - Linux	✔	Free, open source	Hybrid, feature-rich Library w/pick, stars, search, keywording based on computer File Browser	YES	YES	YES	NO Auto		Plugins: YES Plugin for GIMP Supports Presets	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES Raw, TIFF and JPEG*	YES	PARTIAL	YES	YES Parametric colour	NO	NO	YES	YES	NO	NO	Upscale via Export						
Raw Therapee MacOS - Windows - Linux	✔	Free, open source	Hybrid based on computer File Browser + user-created Projects w/ star ratings & keywording	YES	YES	YES			Plugins: NO Plugin for GIMP Supports Presets	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	Upscale via Export						
Radiant Photo macOS - Windows	✔	\$230 P +\$115 for each optional workflow	Computer File Browser directly	YES	YES	YES			Plugins: NO Is a Plugin: YES Supports Presets	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES Raw, TIFF and JPEG*	YES	YES	YES	YES Parametric colour	YES	NO	YES	PARTIAL	NO	Upscale via Export							
Radiant Photo iOS - Android	✔	\$40/yr; \$70 P	Photos accessed via camera roll	NO	YES	NO			NO	PARTIAL	PARTIAL	YES	YES	NO		NO	Limited	Limited	Limited	Limited	Limited	Limited	Limited	Limited	Limited	Limited	Upscale via Export						
Luminar Neo macOS - Windows	✔	Desktop = \$169 P Cross-device (incl mobile) = \$199 P	Computer File Browser directly	YES	YES	NO	YES		Plugins: NO Is a Plugin: YES Supports Presets	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES Raw, TIFF and JPEG	YES	YES	YES	YES Colour range masking	YES	NO	YES	YES	PARTIAL	YES	AI Enhanced						
Luminar Neo iOS - Android	✔	\$36/yr; \$60 P	Requires cross-device level	YES	YES	NO	YES		NO	NO	NO	YES	YES			YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	AI Enhanced					
Topaz Photo macOS - Windows	✔	Topaz Photo: \$199/yr Topaz Studio (all apps): \$69/mo	Computer File Browser directly	NO	YES	NO	NO	NO	Plugins: NO Is a Plugin: YES Supports Presets	NO	NO	YES	YES	NO	PARTIAL	YES Raw, TIFF and JPEG	NO	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	Gigapixel AI Enhanced built in						
Darkroom iOS - macOS	✔	\$50/yr; \$130 P	Uses Apple Photos Library, folders and albums	YES	YES	NO		YES	Apple Integration	PARTIAL	PARTIAL	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	Basic Export						
Photomator macOS	✔	\$150 P; \$40/yr	Uses Apple Photos Library, folders and albums	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	Plugins: NO Not a Plugin Presets = LUTs	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	Machine Learning Denoise of Raw, TIFF and JPEG files	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	Machine Learning Enhanced						
Photomator iOS	✔	\$150 P; \$40/yr	Uses Apple Photos Library, folders and albums + additional flagging and rating		YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	Plugins: NO Not a Plugin Presets = LUTs	YES	YES	YES			YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	Machine Learning Enhanced				
Pixelmator Pro macOS	✔	\$70 P or \$180/yr as part of Creative Studio	Computer File Browser and Apple Photos Library	NO, but can browse to and restore earlier versions	YES	YES	YES		Plugins: NO Not a Plugin Supports Presets	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	Machine Learning Denoise of Raw, TIFF and JPEG files	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES via layers	YES	NO	NO	YES via layers	NO	Machine Learning Enhanced						
Pixelmator Pro iOS	✔	\$180/yr as part of Creative Studio			YES	NO			Plugins: NO Not a Plugin Supports Presets	PARTIAL	PARTIAL	YES	YES			YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	Machine Learning Enhanced			
Photo Developer MacOS	✔	\$50 P	Computer file Browser directly	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	Plugins: NO Not a Plugin Supports Presets	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES (subject, people)	NO	NO Uses Snapshots	NO	NO	NO	Basic Export						
Snapseed iOS - Android		Free	Uses device photo library and albums	YES	YES	NO	YES	YES	Plugin: NO Not a Plugin Presets: Limited	NO	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO	NO	NO	YES (selective)	Colour only	YES (subject, background)	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	Basic Export						
Apple Photos macOS	✔	Free	Built-in Library allowing captioning, geolocation and keywording, albums and folders	NO	YES	YES	YES	NO	Plugin: NO Allows Extensions Creates Presets	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES through filters	NO	PARTIAL (linear/gradient in edits on recent macOS/ iOS)	PARTIAL (oval/overlay-like)	PARTIAL (local retouch tools)	PARTIAL (limited colour-range via tools)	YES (automatic Subject & Sky selection on recent versions)	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	Basic Export						
Apple Photos iOS - iPadOS	✔	Free			YES	NO	YES	YES	Plugin: NO Allows Extensions Presets: NO	NO	NO	YES	YES	NO														NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
Google Photos Desktop (web)	✔	Free	Built-in Library allowing captioning, geolocation and keywording, albums and folders	NO	YES	NO			Plugins: NO Is a Plugin: YES Presets: NO	NO	NO	YES	YES	NO	YES through filters	PARTIAL	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	Limited	NO	NO	NO	NO	Basic Export						
Google Photos iOS - Android	✔	Free			YES	NO		YES	YES	Plugins: NO Is a Plugin: YES Presets: NO	NO	NO	YES															YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
ADDITIONAL APPS		→ offer a non-destructive workflow for photo editing within an app created for graphic design																															
Affinity macOS - Windows	✔	Free (Paid version adds AI masking)	Computer File Browser directly	YES	YES	YES	NO Auto	YES	Supports Plugins Not a Plugin Supports Presets	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES (limited colour)	NO (Paid version only)	YES	NO	YES	YES	YES	Basic Export (Paid version w/ AI Enhanced)						
GIMP macOS - Windows	✔	Free and Open Source	Computer File Browser directly	YES	YES	YES	YES		Supports Plugins Not a Plugin Supports Presets	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	Not directly; only with plugin	YES	YES	YES	YES	Not directly; only with plugin	YES	Through layering and layer export	YES	Not directly; only with plugin	Not directly; only with plugin	Enhanced Export (Ai w/ plugin)						
Adobe Photoshop using Adobe Camera Raw macOS - Windows	✔	\$348/yr; \$30/mo or as the Photography plan complete w/Lr (see above) for \$312/yr; \$26/mo	Computer File Browser directly	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	Plugin- Many Presets - Many	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES Raw files	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	AI Enhanced						

Notes: This is still a work in progress. Any additions, clarification or corrections can be sent to [Terry McDonald](#).

- Each of the apps listed in the main section edits photos natively in a non-destructive way by applying text instructions to the file when viewing and upon export.
 - Photoshop, Affinity, and GIMP are in the Additional Apps section as they are graphic design apps, but include a non-destructive photo editing workflow.
- Legend: YES = feature present; NO = absent; PARTIAL = available but has limitations.
- DAM = Digital Asset Management for organizing and searching for photos by using picks, keywords, geolocation, camera, lens, etc.
 - Some apps employ their own catalogue/library that files are imported into; others use the computer's File Browser; still others use a hybrid of the two based on the computer's File Browser;
- 'Clipping indicators' refers to explicit highlight/shadow clipping overlays or RGB clipping warnings in the histogram. Availability varies: most full-feature desktop RAW editors include them; many mobile/lightweight apps do not.
- 'Auto' changes reflected in sliders: Seeing any and all Auto adjustments reflected in the adjustment sliders is helpful for knowing what is changing. It is also a helpful learning tool and a way to build from suggested changes.
- Having a white canvas (area around image) while editing helps to more accurately calibrate brightness for photos that will be displayed against a white background (online, in frames, etc.); a black canvas results in images that are unnecessarily darker.
- 'Allows Plugins' allow another app to be used within the the app; e.g. Lightroom Classic allows the use of DxO and Topaz plugins from within Lightroom for denoising and sharpening.
 - 'Is a Plugin' refers to the app being subservient to another app; e.g. DxO and Topaz are plugins for Lightroom Classic and Photoshop;
 - 'Presets' are files with specific settings that can be automatically applied. Users can create and save presets or third-party presets can be imported and used.
- AI Denoise works best on raw files. Some companies claim to AI Denoise JPEG files; others are upfront about it working best on Raw files with variable JPEG results and are shown with: JPEG*.
- 'Dedicated B&W mode' is a clear, built-in workflow or module for converting to and controlling monochrome tonality (not merely a single desaturate button).
- 'Upscaling' can be done in three ways:
 - Basic Export: All photo apps can be used to upscale upon export by entering a pixel value greater than the image size. For example, a 6000 pixel image can be saved as a 12,000 pixel image.
 - Enhanced Export: Some apps allow users to select different types of Output Sharpening to improve re-sizing during export.
 - AI or ML Enhanced refers to algorithmic-based upscaling.

This data was originally compiled by the author and ChatGPT-5 mini via [duck.ai](#) in June 2026. Some verification was performed manually, but not for every feature of every app.

Many thanks to the forum users as [MU-43.com](#) for their input and corrections.

Please report errors to the author, [Terry McDonald](#). Once corrections are verified, this chart will be updated with a new version number.