

Luminar AI

The latest Version of Luminar from Luminar 2, 3, Flex, 4, now AI.

Version 4 still available through B & H, Amazon for \$89 stand alone. Probably will not get any updates.

4 is very similar to AI, but without the Templates

AI has the ability to work alone as a stand alone, or as a PS plug-in as a filter. The addition of the Templates allow the software to recognize a picture, categorize it (landscape, portrait, macro) and make an unaided edit based on your choice of which available template, and sub category within that template.

AI will open RAW files in its stand alone capacity, or allow you to open from Photoshop RAW converter, then take over as a filter.

Unlike Lightroom, AI is not designed to catalogue lots of files. It is better and faster to have a smaller group of files chosen in a folder to edit.

The software is resource intensive, and I would advise downloading the test version and see if your computer can run it.

If it is too slow, I would suggest Luminar 4. It has some AI built in but not advertized like Sky Replacement.

AI has several Templates:

Landscapes, Essentials, Mother Nature, Portrait, Macro, Cinematic, Lifestyle, and Ariel

Each Template has several sub-categories with different treatments in them.

Just like more variation on the Templates are available for Purchase, just like extra skies for 4 or AI. You can create your own replacements, like your own skies and use them. I use some Palouse skies of my own and some sunsets to keep important things authentic.

A caveat on Sky Replacement, it is best to replace the sky and adjust it early in post processing so the following adjustments are a better blend. One thing I suggest is do some early edits and do some sky enhancements on a sky that you are going to replace, as the AI might not recognize a bland sky as an actual sky at all.

The best flow is to open a file and go directly to edits, and replace the file, then go back to the appropriate Template and start the process from there.

There is a slider where you can scale back the Template if it is too aggressive.

If you are doing a group of similar edits, say portraits, it is possible to batch the adjustments where lighting and different tweaks, like eye size etc. will stay consistent.

Lots of current editing Programs have AI

1. Luminar
2. On One
3. Topaz Studio
4. Photoshop

Typically, I open my image in Photoshop Camera RAW, and go into Luminar AI or 4, then use Nik Efex Color for gradient edits and Viveza for masking and final lighting edits. I often go to OnOne for LUTs and Vignetting. I also do noise adjustments with an old copy of Imogenics Noiseware, or Topaz Studio for deNoise and Sharpening. All of this can be done with Luminar AI, but I am transitioning over to it gradually as I get more comfortable with the program and what makes it crash.

Lots of You Tube tutorials available. Two of the best tutors are, Jim Nix and Anthony Morganti.