

STEP 1: SWITCH TO THE ESSENTIALS VIEW

To get a better idea of what's going on during this tutorial, we're going to work in the Essentials view, so that we can see as many thumbnails as possible.

STEP 2: LOOK AT THE FILTER PANEL

When you navigate to any folder, Bridge automatically analyzes the images in that folder and builds a set of criteria by which you can filter the folder's contents. Your Filter panel should look something like the one in Figure 13.18.

STEP 3: FILTER YOUR SELECTS

Click the three-star entry in the Filter panel. The Content panel should change to show only those images that have a three-star rating. The other images are not gone; they're simply being filtered out.

Click the three-star rating to turn the three-star filter off. All of your images should be visible again.

STEP 4: FILTER AGAIN

Click the two-star entry in the Filter panel. You should see only the two-star images in the Contents panel. Now click the three-star entry, and you will see both the two-star and three-star images. Each filter entry acts as a toggle that adds that entry to the criteria used to filter your images.

STEP 5: CHANGE A RATING

Select one two-star and one three-star image. Choose Label > Increase Rating or press Ctrl/Cmd-period. The two-star image will become a three-star image, and the three-star image will disappear. By increasing the rating of the three-star image, it becomes a four-star image and is filtered out because you've told the Filter panel to only show two- and three-star images.

But, if you look at the filter panel, you should now see a four-star entry (Figure 13.19).

STEP 6: FILTER FOR NON-RATINGS

You can also filter for Reject images by clicking Reject in the Filter panel. For example, you can see all of the images you've marked as Reject and decide if you want to keep them or delete them en masse.

You can also click No Rating to see the images that currently don't have a rating of any kind. This can often be helpful if you want to make a second pass through your images to see if you missed anything.

STEP 7: FILTER FOR OTHER CRITERIA

The Filter panel contains a lot more than just ratings. You can filter for all sorts of criteria. For example, if the Orientation entry is not open, click its reveal arrow. It should open to

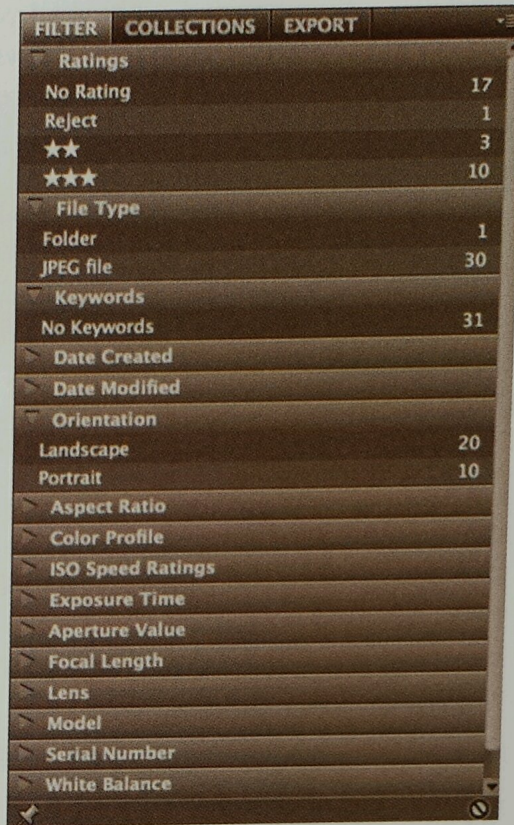


Figure 13.18

The Filter panel shows you filterable criteria for the images in the folder you're currently browsing.



Figure 13.19

The Filter panel automatically updates itself every time you make a change. Note that the number of images that matches each criterion is listed on the right side of the Filter panel.

show Landscape and Portrait. Click Portrait, and Bridge will show you only the images that have a portrait orientation.

You can use the Filter panel to filter for exposure settings, particular ISO speeds, for images shot on specific dates, and more. And you can stack these criteria. So you can check off a group of items to create a filter that shows, for example, three-star landscape-oriented images shot on a particular date at ISO 800. (Filtering by ISO is a good way to zero in on night shots.)

The Filter panel is a powerful tool, and it's an easy way to view only the images that you want to work with through the rest of your workflow. 📌

Tutorial

Stacking Images

As we discussed in Chapter 4, you can organize your images into folders, using whatever organizational scheme you want. Within a folder, Bridge provides an additional organizational scheme, called a *Stack*.

STEP 1: LAUNCH BRIDGE

STEP 2: NAVIGATE TO THE BRIDGE TUTORIAL FOLDER ON YOUR DRIVE

STEP 3: TURN OFF ALL FILTERS

If you still have any filters activated from the previous tutorial, turn them all off so that you're viewing all of the images.

STEP 4: SELECT IMAGES 6764, 6765, AND 6766

I shot these three images with the idea of stitching them into a panorama later. There's no reason for our view of the images to be cluttered with all three.

STEP 5: WITH THE IMAGES SELECTED, CHOOSE STACKS > GROUP AS STACK OR PRESS CTRL/CMD-G

STEP 6: THE IMAGES WILL "COLLAPSE" INTO A SINGLE IMAGE THAT LOOKS LIKE FIGURE 13.20

The number "three" in the upper-left corner indicates that there are three images in the stack.

STEP 7: OPEN THE STACK

Click the three to open the stack and see all of the images contained within (see Figure 13.21).

You can open and close the stack by clicking its number. You can rearrange the items within the stack by dragging them into a new position within the stack. You can also assign ratings just as you would to any unstacked images. Note that, by default, all of the images are selected when you open a stack, so if you open a stack and choose a rating, all of the images will receive that rating.



Figure 13.20

You can group a collection of images into a stack.



Figure 13.21

When a stack is opened, you can see all of the images contained within.

Stacks and Filtering

It's very important to understand that only the first image in a stack—the one that's shown when the stack is closed—is found by filtering operations. For example, five-star images that are not the first image in a stack will *not* be shown if you elect to filter for images with five stars. If you have more than one image in a stack that you want to be able to see with a filter, then you need to make multiple stacks or pull that second image out of the stack.

STEP 8: REMOVE AN IMAGE FROM THE STACK

Click the middle image in the stack and drag it to a location outside of the stack. It will now be an individual image again.

STEP 9: ADD AN IMAGE TO A STACK

Now drag the image that you removed in step 8 back into the stack. You can easily add and remove images by simply dragging them in and out of a stack.

You can choose to group any type of image that you want. For example, the shots of the snack bar could all be grouped into a stack because they're all shots of the same subject, and you probably only need one of them. I use stacks to group panorama shots with their resulting stitched panoramas, related subject matter, groups of shots where I've bracketed exposure, and so on. 📁

Autostacking in Bridge

In the Stacks menu, you'll find a command called *Auto-Stack Panorama/HDR*. This feature attempts to identify which images are part of an HDR or panorama set, and then stacks them accordingly. While this is a great idea, Bridge's implementation is so slow that it's really not worth using. If you're curious, give it a try and see what you think.

Sorting Images

You've seen that you can filter images by different criteria, but you can also sort images. The easiest way to sort images is to simply drag them into the order that you want them. This is a custom sort, and you'll perform this type of sort if you use Bridge's Web output features and want your images in a particular order.