

## Making Selects and Rating Images with Bridge

After you've copied your images to your drive, you're ready to start digging through them to find your select, "pick" images—the ones that you want to take through the rest of your workflow, all the way to output. Tools like Bridge make it easy to find the shots you like. In this tutorial, we'll see how to use ratings to streamline the process of making selects.

### STEP 1: LAUNCH BRIDGE

### STEP 2: NAVIGATE TO THE TUTORIAL FOLDER

If you worked through the last tutorial, then you should already have a Favorite defined for the tutorial image folder. If not, use the Folders panel to navigate to the location where you copied the folder.

### STEP 3: SWITCH TO FILMSTRIP LAYOUT

Click the Filmstrip layout at the top of the Bridge window. We explored this layout in the last tutorial, so you should already know that it shows a nice big preview and a strip of thumbnails along the bottom of the window.

### STEP 4: SELECT THE FIRST IMAGE

When you switch to Filmstrip layout, Bridge does not select an image automatically. Click the first image in the filmstrip, and it will appear in the Preview window. It should be image number 6532 (see Figure 13.14). If it's image number 8406, then Bridge is sorting in reverse order. Choose View > Sort > Ascending Order. (In Windows, the "Gas Station and Aliens" folder will appear before the first image; on the Mac, it will appear after the last image.)

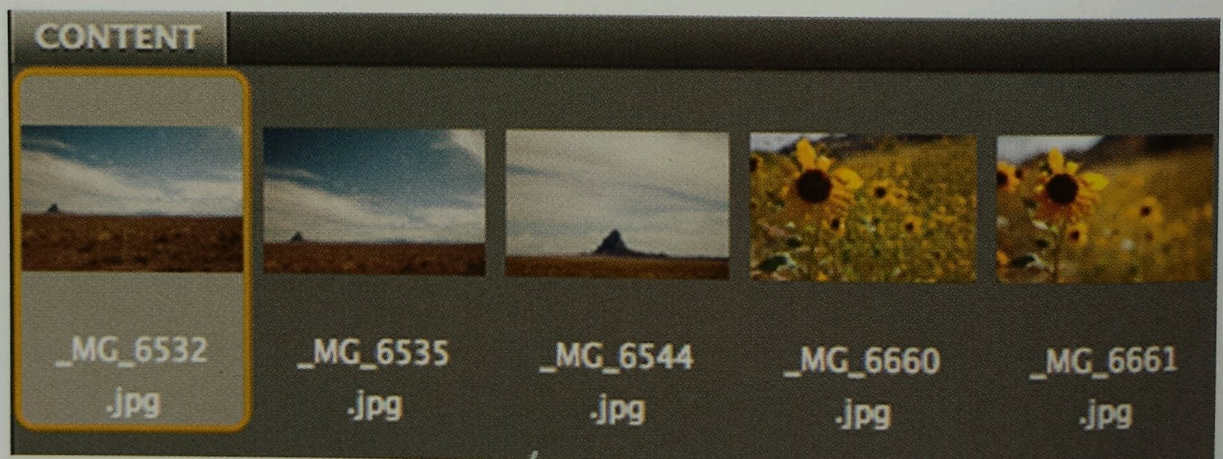


Figure 13.14

Select the first image, number 6532, by clicking it.

### STEP 5: VIEW THE NEXT TWO IMAGES

The image you just selected should be an image of a rocky peak in the middle of a plain. This is Shiprock in northwestern New Mexico. If you look at the filmstrip, you can see that there are two more shots of Shiprock.

We want to find out if any or all of them are worth keeping. They might all be good, but often you'll find that you only need one shot of a particular subject. In a case like this, before deciding if the current image is a keeper, it's worth taking a quick look at the other two images. Using the right and left arrow keys, navigate between the three Shiprock images to get a better idea of what they are.

### STEP 6: CHOOSE A PICK

While the first and second images have some nice clouds in them, and could possibly be cropped to a more interesting composition, I think I like the third one the best (number 6544).

Bridge lets you assign a rating of zero to five stars to any image. Select the third image (number 6544) and choose three stars from the Label menu. Both the thumbnail image in the Content pane and the large image in the Preview pane should have three stars underneath them (see Figure 13.15).

Typically, I choose three stars to mark my pick images because this gives me a little extra rating “headroom.” Image 6544 is strong, but as we go along, we might find other images that are stronger, which we’ll want to rate as such. Having the possibility for four and five stars gives us options later.

### STEP 7: RATE A SECOND IMAGE

I like the idea of trying to crop one of those other images later, so let’s give it a two-star rating. It’s not a strong contender, but something we might want to play with.

Select image 6535. Note that there are five little dots beneath it. In the Filmstrip panel, you can click on these dots to assign ratings. (The dots appear in the Preview panel, but you can’t click them.) If the dots do not appear beneath the images, move the slider to the right to make the filmstrip images larger. Give this image two stars.

I chose this one rather than the first image because I liked the position of Shiprock a little more, and I liked the option of having more sky, if I wanted it.

### STEP 8: CONTINUE RATING

Move on to the next images, the flowers. A quick look at them makes me think that 6660 is the best one. Give it three stars. Image 6661 is okay, but not great. As you’ve seen, you don’t have to give every image a rating. We’ll leave this one as-is.

### STEP 9: REJECT AN IMAGE

Image 6662 is definitely *not* a keeper. The stick above the flower messes up the composition, and the image is not as interesting as the ones that have a bit of horizon in the background. Let’s mark this image as a reject. You can either choose Label > Reject, or use the keyboard shortcut Ctrl/Cmd Delete (see Figure 13.16).

Later, you’ll see how the reject label can be useful.

### STEP 10: MOVE ON TO THE NEXT BATCH

Next are a series of shots of a tree. Again, take a quick pass through all of them to see if any stand out. You can also line them up side-by-side by Shift-clicking each of them.



Figure 13.15

Ratings are displayed beneath image thumbnails and previews.

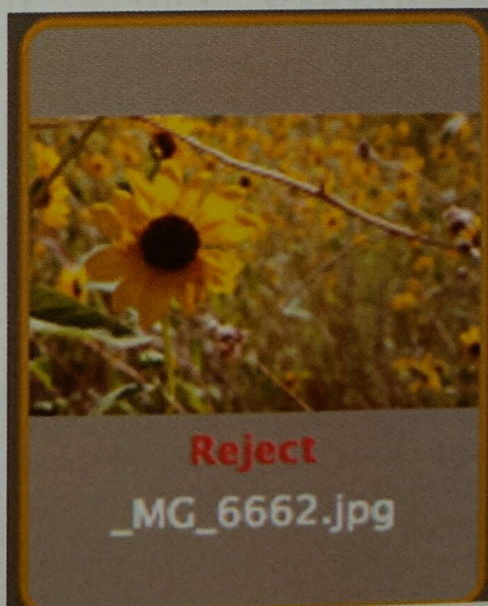


Figure 13.16

You can also label images as rejects.

Personally, I'm partial to the first image, just because of the three birds. I'm not crazy about the branches on the right side of the image, but I figure I can paint those out later, so I'm going to give image 6741 three stars. (If you have selected all five images by Shift-clicking, you will notice that assigning a rating to one of the images assigns it to all that are selected, so you should deselect all images except the one you want to rate.)

The rest of the tree images are pretty redundant, and there's not really any need to keep them. Sometimes, you keep alternates because you never know if you might need additional coverage of a subject. At other times, it's worth having additional shots because you might be able to use data from one to repair troubles in another. In this case, I'm going to delete all of the tree images except for the pick, 6741.

#### STEP 11: DELETE EXTRA TREE IMAGES

Click on image 6742 to select it, hold down the Shift key, and press the right arrow three times to select the rest of the trees (see Figure 13.17).



**Figure 13.17**

Select the four trees that aren't worth keeping.

Press Ctrl/Cmd-Delete, or choose File > Move to Trash. Bridge will delete the files. Bear in mind that it is throwing the *original* image files into the trash. Bridge allows you to perform file management tasks that you would normally use your file manager for. You can delete files, create folders, move and copy files, all from within Bridge.

#### STEP 12: RATE THE REST OF THE IMAGES

You've seen the basics of rating images. Work through the rest of the pictures in the Tutorial folder and rate them as you see fit. In the next tutorial, you'll see what you can do with these ratings. Note that images 6764 through 6766 are intended to be part of a panorama. Give them each three stars, and we'll get back to them later. Remember, not every image has to have a rating. For now, leave any unrated images in the folder and don't delete them.

You've seen three different ways to assign ratings here: by choosing a rating from the Label menu, by clicking on a dot beneath an image, and by using a keyboard equivalent. Each of these techniques works on all of the currently selected images. Note that you can also remove a rating by assigning a rating of no stars (either from the label menu or by clicking just to the left of the first star). Next, we'll see what you can do with these ratings. 🗑️