

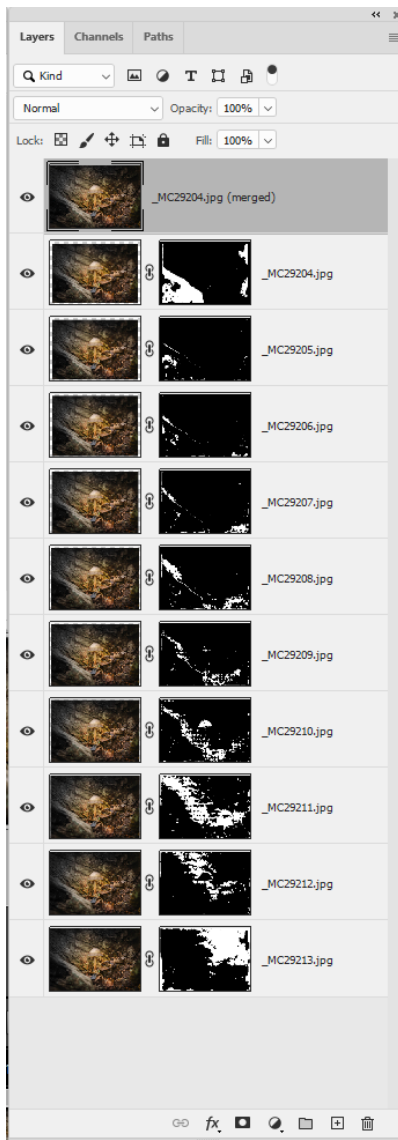
Instructions for Focus Stacking using Lightroom and Photoshop:

In Lightroom (you can use Raw, JPEG, TIFF etc):

1. Select an image where your main subject is more or less sharp.
2. In Lightroom Develop make any changes to the image that you want.
3. Click “Copy” (bottom left-corner) and select the changes that you want to copy.
4. In Lightroom Library press Ctrl+A to select all the images in the stack.
5. Right-click inside one of the thumbnails and select “Develop Settings” then “Paste Settings”. The changes that you made to the image in point 3 will be made to all the images in the stack.
6. Right-click inside one of the thumbnails and select “Edit In” then “Open as Layers in Photoshop”.
7. Photoshop will then open and each image will open as a separate layer, with the last being the first (bottom) layer.

In Photoshop

8. Click once on the top layer in the Layers palette.
9. Hold the “shift” key down and press “A” to select all the layers.
10. Select “Edit” then “Auto-Align Layers” then “Auto”.
11. I do not click “Vignette Removal” as I often apply a slight vignette in Lightroom, but I do click “Geometric Distortion”.
12. Step back – it can take a few minutes.
13. Select “Edit” then “Auto-Blend Layers” then “Stack Images”
14. I also select “Seamless Tones and Colours” and “Content Aware Fill Transparent Areas”.
15. Step back – it can take a few minutes.
16. You will see that it has created a layer mask for each layer, plus an overall merged layer.
17. You will need to make any edits to the layer masks that you want, then flatten the image BEFORE saving.
Even on this example below, which is only 1600x1200dpi, the saved file would be 178mb! I recently did one with 30 images and that would have been an enormous 11gb!



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