

NEW

1.35GB OF FREE RESOURCES

The Photoshop Elements® Book

Volume 2

The independent guide to Adobe Photoshop Elements

Over 300 essential tips



Getting started • Essential techniques • First-time projects

Welcome to The **Photoshop Elements[®] Book**

Photoshop Elements is a brilliant image-editing suite aimed at consumers, but can often be overshadowed by its CC sibling. This revised edition uncovers the great results which can be achieved using the combination of editing power and accessibility which makes Elements so special. You'll discover the new features available with Elements 13, understand key image editing techniques and create works of digital art to share with friends, family and the wider world. You also gain access to loads of free content on filesilo.co.uk, where you can find all the tutorial file, video tutorials, Photoshop brushes, halftone textures, winter stock images and more.



WorldMags.net

The Photoshop® Elements® Book

Imagine Publishing Ltd
Richmond House
33 Richmond Hill
Bournemouth
Dorset BH2 6EZ
☎ +44 (0) 1202 586200
Website: www.imagine-publishing.co.uk

Publishing Director
Aaron Asadi

Head of Design
Ross Andrews

Production Editor
Jen Neal

Senior Art Editor
Greg Whitaker

Senior Designer
Sarah Bellman

Printed by
William Gibbons, 26 Planetary Road, Willenhall, West Midlands, WV13 3XT

Distributed in the UK, Eire & the Rest of the World by
Marketforce, Blue Fin Building, 110 Southwark Street, London, SE1 0SU
Tel 0203 148 3300 www.marketforce.co.uk

Distributed in Australia by
Network Services (a division of Bauer Media Group), Level 21 Civic Tower, 66-68 Goulburn Street,
Sydney, New South Wales 2000, Australia Tel +61 2 8667 5288

Disclaimer
The publisher cannot accept responsibility for any unsolicited material lost or damaged in the post. All text and layout is the copyright of Imagine Publishing Ltd. Nothing in this bookazine may be reproduced in whole or part without the written permission of the publisher. All copyrights are recognised and used specifically for the purpose of criticism and review. Although the bookazine has endeavoured to ensure all information is correct at time of print, prices and availability may change. This bookazine is fully independent and not affiliated in any way with the companies mentioned herein.

Photoshop is either a registered trademark or trademark of Adobe Systems Incorporated in the United States and/or other countries and is used with express permission.

The Photoshop Elements Book Volume 2 Revised Edition © 2015 Imagine Publishing Ltd

ISBN 978-1910439913

Part of the
**Photoshop®
creative**
bookazine series





108



82



08 Master Photoshop Elements 13

Get to know the latest version

Starter Techniques

- 16 Understand Quick edits**
Fast solutions for common issues
- 18 Master layers**
Make the most of the Layers palette
- 22 Use adjustment layers**
Ensure your original images are safe
- 24 Get to grips with the Quick Selection tool**
Make your selection perfect
- 26 Master the Refine Edge tool**
Finding detail from rough selections
- 30 Discover the Healing Brush**
A spot-on tool to banish blemishes
- 32 Enhance your images**
Use the Dodge and Burn tools
- 34 Understand Modify tools**
Crop, straighten and recompose

- 36 Use the Magic Wand tool**
Create selections to improve colour
- 38 Draw with Custom Shapes**
Create illustrations using shapes
- 40 Content-Aware tool edits**
Don't let things get in the way
- 44 Add a moody sky**
Create drama with the Magic Eraser
- 46 Edit your composition**
Reconfigure your photos
- 48 Add colour with gradients**
Brighten your photographs
- 50 Master blending techniques**
Merge images in a snap!
- 54 Use actions**
Improve your images with one click
- 56 Edit with Camera Raw**
Discover this powerful image editor
- 58 Sharpen your images**
Make your images crisp

Photo editing

- 62 30 tricks for better shots**
A collection of expert editing nuggets
- 68 Use layers for monochrome**
Adjustment layer magic for B&W
- 70 Fix portraits in a snap**
Tips for quick image fixes
- 74 Recompose photos**
Edits for the perfect composition
- 78 Correct exposure**
A beginner-friendly guide
- 82 Boost colours**
Make a dull image shine

“They have added a host of new features that all add to the experience”



84 Restore old photos
A new lease of life for forgotten shots

88 Alter hair and eye colour
in Photoshop
Make your hair go crazy colours

90 Change seasons
with gradients
Bring around autumn colours

Creative effects

94 Use classic colour effects
Add creative effects for great finishes

96 Edit with textures
Give your photos an edge

98 Turn day to night
Perform magic on daytime images

100 Increase drama
Change the weather

106 Eye-catching effects
Have fun with photo displays

**"It takes all of the legwork out of
actually doing long-winded edits"**

108 Create an HDR effect
Expose your photo's hidden details

110 Master tilt-shift
Make a city look like a toy-town

114 Paint from photos
Impressionistic effects for photos

118 Double exposure
Replicate a film effect in Elements

120 Glowing layer styles
An unusual electrifying effect

124 Apply a duotone effect
For a subtle two-tone image

126 Create a fisheye effect
A funky effect with no lens needed

128 Add movement to
your images
Use zoom burst to add speed

Photo projects

132 Create great portraits with
Mixed-media effects
Watercolour a great portrait

136 Scan and print
Turn your illustrations into prints

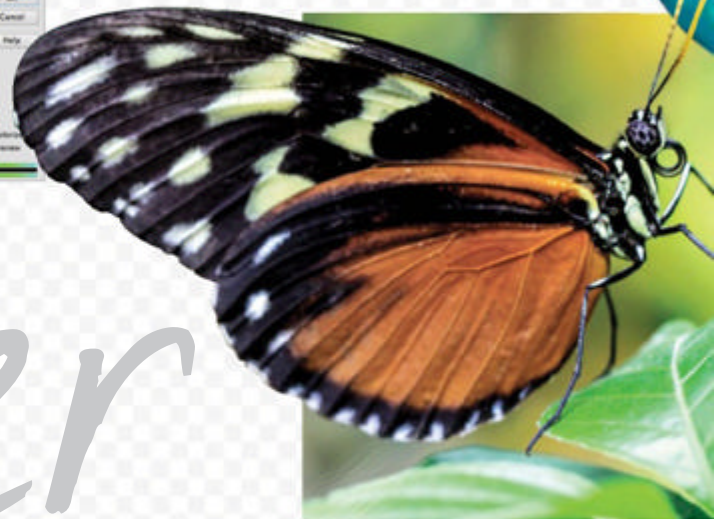
140 Stylish photo display
Creative image arrangement

144 Make a mosaic montage
An intricate image made simple

148 Create a filmstrip effect
A retro effect for displaying photos

152 Add a frame
Finish off your image with style

154 Blend composites
Create unbelievable effects



Master Photoshop Elements 13

Learn to use the great features in Elements 13, making editing and viewing snaps on the move easier than ever

Every time Adobe releases a new version of Photoshop Elements, we're impressed with the scope of features that the company has managed to pack in. Far from being a lighter version of Photoshop, Elements is a photo-editing powerhouse in its own right. It takes the most cutting-edge technology introduced in Photoshop and repackages it to make it more user-friendly for beginner and advanced shooters alike.

Elements 13 is no exception. In this version, they have added a host of new features that all add to the experience that the previous version of Elements brings you. For instance, they have added the Autocrop feature presents you with a number of options of how you could crop a photograph when you aren't sure of what would look best.

And this is another thing that Elements does well; it takes all of the legwork out of actually doing long-winded edits and effects. Guided Edits has been around for a long time, but there are new ones in each and every version. For Elements 13, this includes

being able to de-saturate all of the colours but one in a photograph to produce a photo-popping effect. It also has a new guide for black and white edits. For any Guided Edit, all the user needs to do is follow the instructions on the screen.

Other new features include a refined selection tool that allows you to make your selections which more precision than ever before.

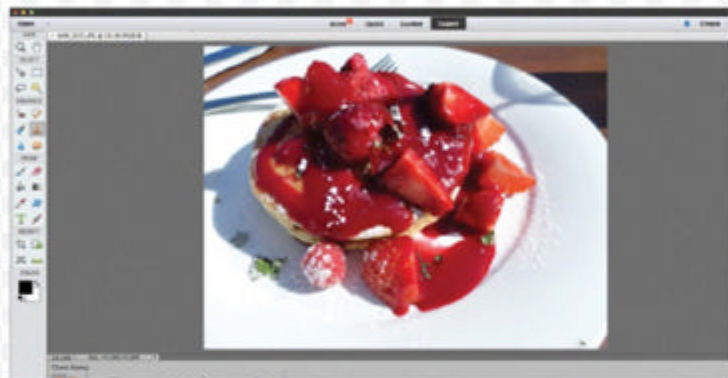
Elements 13 retains the interface that we've got used to, which is good as it is incredibly user-friendly. There are subtle changes though, such as the brand-new addition of the eLive tab, giving the program four base sections now rather than three. ELive, or Elements Live view, is an in-built channel that grants you instant access to new articles, videos, tutorials and much more, all sorted into handy sections such as News and Inspire.

Photoshop Elements 13 is available from www.adobe.com for £79/\$100; owners of previous versions of Elements can upgrade from £65/\$80.





Elements 13's best bits The top features in this latest version



Intuitive interface

01 The Elements interface is split into four key modes: Quick, for simple touch-ups; Guided, for step-by-step tutorials; Expert, which unleashes the full editing power of the program right into your hands and eLive where you can find the latest updates.



New Guided Edits

02 One of Elements' best features has always been Guided Edits, which help you make complex-looking creations without a vast knowledge of Photoshop tools. New edits have been added to old favourites, including Puzzle and Zoom Burst.



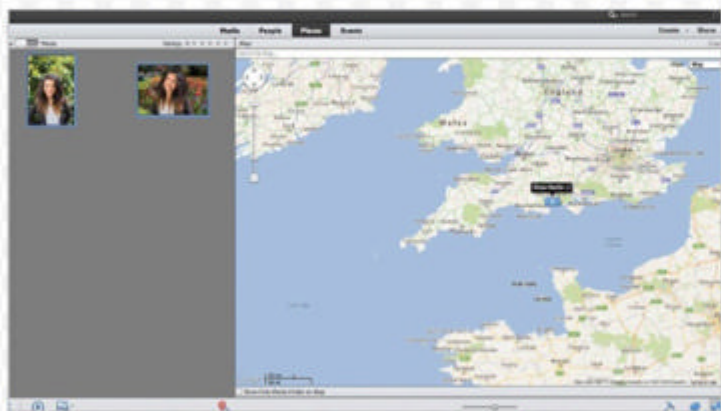
Rescue old images

03 Restore Old Photo is a Guided Edit that enables you to scan in old photos and make them look as good as new. This includes removing scratches and blemishes and even dust removal. Rescue those old pictures and bring them back to former glory!



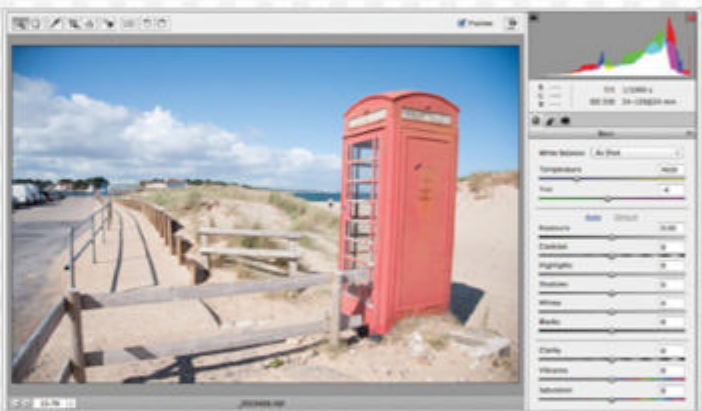
Frames, Effects & Textures

04 In Quick mode, in the bottom-right of the screen you can access Frames, Effects and Textures. These can be applied to your photographs to add a personal touch in seconds.



View photo locations

05 In the Elements Organizer, you can see a map view showing where each of your images was taken, as long as the information is available in the metadata from your camera. You can also manually drag and drop your photos onto the map.



Camera Raw integration

06 If you prefer to shoot in RAW format, then you can still open and edit your images in Photoshop Elements. Its compatibility with Adobe Camera Raw enables you to make edits and bring them into Elements for further work.

The Elements 13 interface

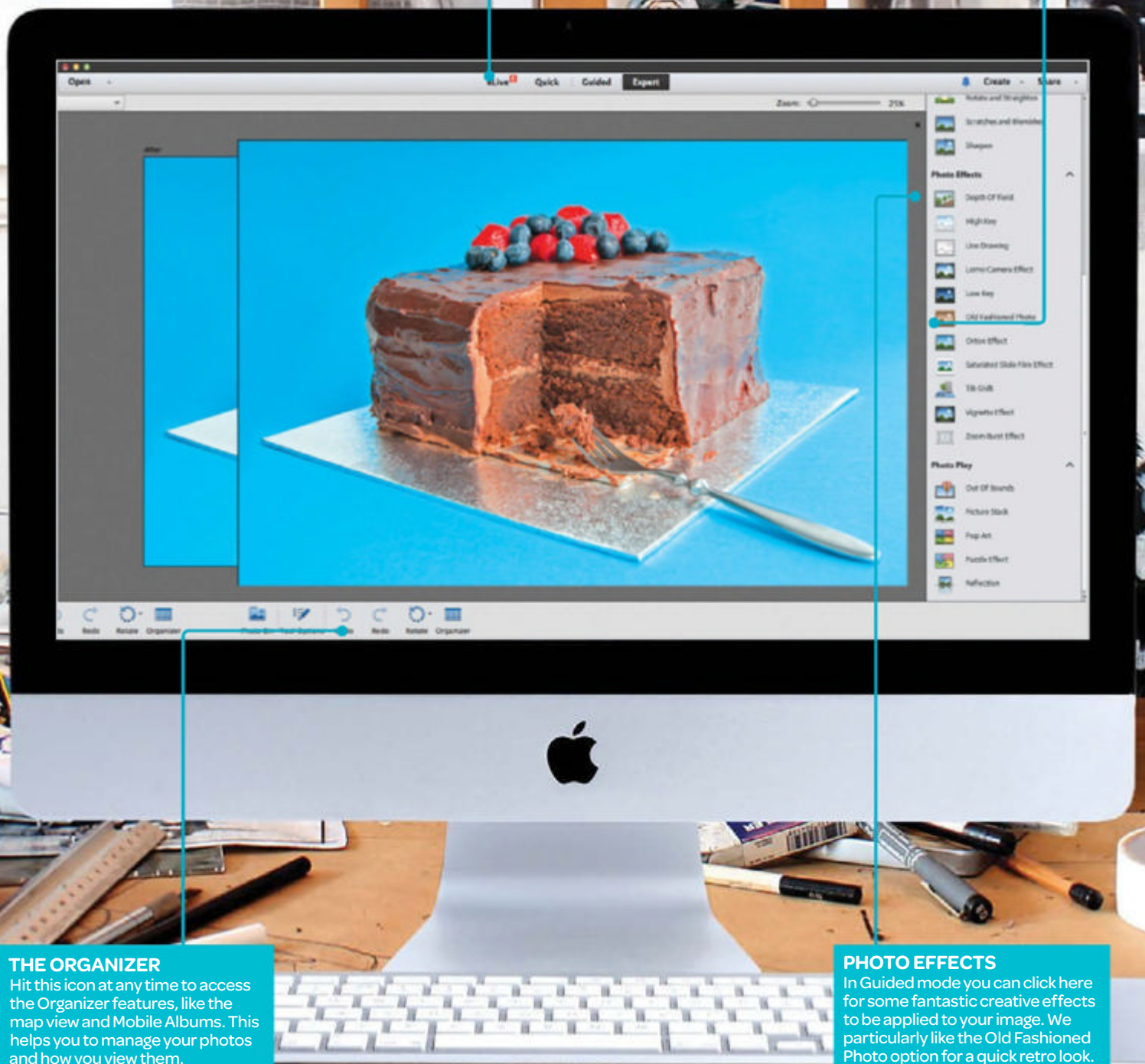
Locate all of the software's key features

EXPERT MODE

To access the Content Aware Move and Red Eye Removal tools, you need to be in Expert mode. The Red Eye tool has been enhanced with the addition of a Pet Eye checkbox.

GUIDED EDITS

The Photo Play section in Guided mode is where you can access Puzzle Effect. Elements will talk you through the process, making it incredibly easy to achieve.



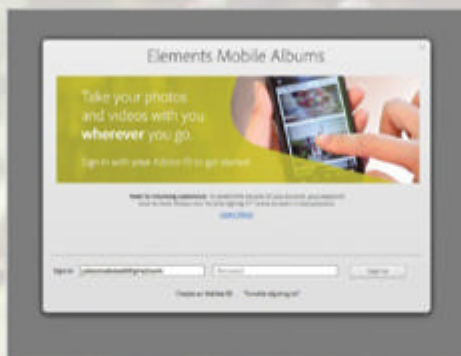
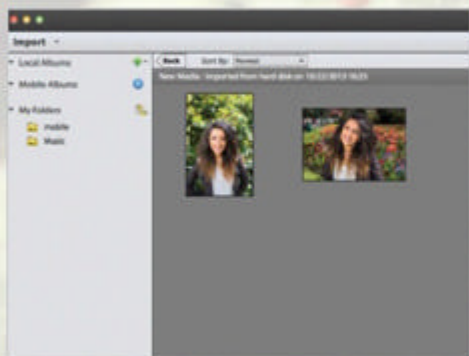
THE ORGANIZER

Hit this icon at any time to access the Organizer features, like the map view and Mobile Albums. This helps you to manage your photos and how you view them.

PHOTO EFFECTS

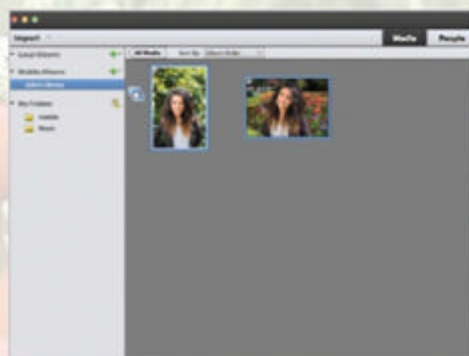
In Guided mode you can click here for some fantastic creative effects to be applied to your image. We particularly like the Old Fashioned Photo option for a quick retro look.

Set up Mobile Albums View albums on your smart device with Organizer



Open the Organizer

01 Open the Elements Organizer. Make sure that you have some photos in there to start off with – you can import images from an existing library or just drag and drop from your desktop. Click on the Mobile Albums option.



Activate your account

02 Click on the 'i' icon next to Mobile Albums and you will be asked to sign into your Adobe account. You would have set this up when you bought the software. It might take a moment to verify your details.

Mobile options

03 Elements will ask you whether you want all of your albums in Elements Organizer to be available to your mobile devices, or whether you want to select them individually. Make your choice and hit Next.

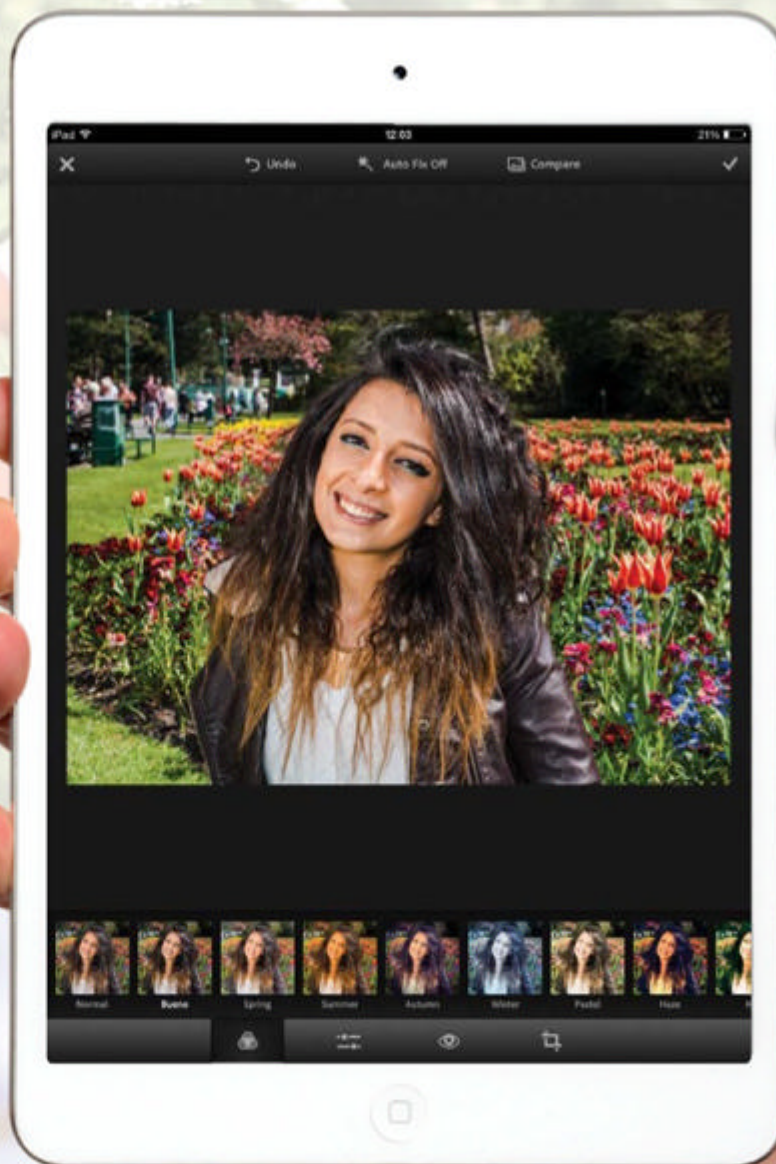
Add pictures

04 Back in the Organizer, you can now drag photos into your Mobile Album. Once there, they are available for viewing on any of your mobile devices. Create new Mobile Albums using the '+' icon.



Access on the move

05 If you have an iPhone or iPad, download the Adobe Revel app. Open it and sign in again with your Adobe ID. Your Mobile Albums will be ready to view and you can make simple edits on the move.



How to use Content-Aware Move



Find the tool

01 Open up the image that you want to edit in Elements and make sure that you are in Expert mode. Select the new Content-Aware Move tool, located in the Modify section of the left-hand toolbar.



Make a selection

02 Zoom in and draw around the object that you want to move. The selection doesn't have to be very accurate, but must include everything you want to move, including the smoke trail in this image.



Move into position

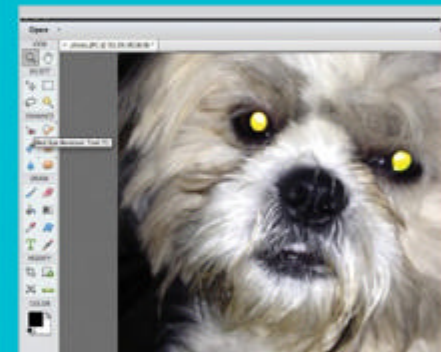
03 You can now drag the object to the new position. Once you let go of the mouse, Elements will analyse the scene and replace the background, then integrate the object into its new position.



Adjustments needed

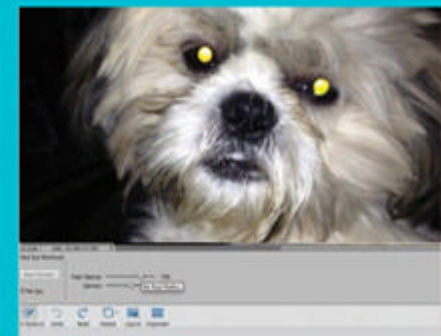
04 There may be some areas that still need tidying up. We used the Clone Stamp tool and covered over any patches. Some images will need more editing than others, but it saves a lot of time.

Correct yellow pet eyes



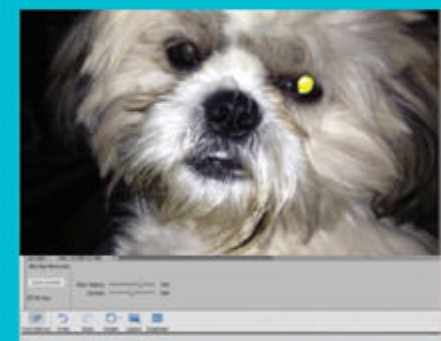
Find the tool

01 Open an image of a pet with yellow eyes. Zoom in to see the eyes clearly. Make sure you are in Expert mode, then move down to the Red Eye Removal tool in the toolbar.



Pet Eye mode

02 You will see a box in the tool Options panel labelled Pet Eye. Tick this and set the Pupil Radius to around 70%. Click on the first eye and Elements will correct discolouration.



Adjust if needed

03 You may find that not all of the eye is recoloured. If so, hit Undo, adjust Pupil Radius and try again. You may need to alter where you click as well. When happy, correct the other eye.

Starter techniques

Enhance your skills and improve your projects with these techniques

- | | |
|---|---|
| 16 Understand Quick edits
Fast solutions for common issues | 38 Draw with Custom Shapes
Create illustrations using shapes |
| 18 Master layers
Make the most of the Layers palette | 40 Edit with the Content-Aware tool
Don't let things get in the way |
| 22 Use adjustment layers
Ensure your original images are safe | 44 Add a moody sky
Create drama with the Magic Eraser |
| 24 Get to grips with the Quick Selection tool
Make your selection perfect | 46 Edit your composition
Reconfigure your photos |
| 26 Master the Refine Edge tool
Finding detail from rough selections | 48 Add colour with gradients
Brighten your photos |
| 30 Discover the Healing Brush
A spot-on tool to banish blemishes | 50 Master blending techniques
Merge images in a snap! |
| 32 Enhance your images
Use the Dodge and Burn tools | 54 Use actions
Improve your images with one click |
| 34 Understand Modify tools
Crop, straighten and recompose | 56 Edit with Camera Raw
Discover this powerful image editor |
| 36 Use the Magic Wand tool
Create selections to improve colour | 58 Sharpen your images
Make your images crisp |





Understand Quick edits

Quick edits in Photoshop Elements can instantly correct exposure, colour and sharpness

Photoshop Elements is well known for its quick fixes and simplicity. The program is divided into four modes – eLive, Quick, Guided and Expert – and it's the first of these three that we're going to look deeper into.

We can quickly improve poor exposure in an image using the Levels or Exposure adjustments. These give control through the highlights and shadows, and everywhere in between, to make the lighting look more natural or more impressive. Dull colours

can be shifted back to normal using the Balance and Color adjustments, and the sharpness of an image can be improved to bring out hidden details that could have been lost in the camera.

The set of Adjustments in the Quick mode actually afford the user the same level of control and accuracy as if we were using Adjustments in the Expert mode. The big difference is that there are no layers in the Quick mode that could complicate these simple improvements to make images look their best.

Adjustments at the ready!

Take drastic action with these simple Quick mode fixes

VIEW MODE

Cycle through the different View options to change how Photoshop Elements shows the before and after versions of the image inside the interface.

WHAT TOOLS?

The Quick mode has a selection of tools featured down the left side of the interface, which include quick cropping, retouching and red-eye removal.



SMART FIX

Try out the Smart Fix option first at the top of the Adjustments panel. This could be all that's needed to achieve the results you were hoping for.

IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE

Work down the Adjustments from top to bottom to gradually improve your image, finishing with Sharpen to makes details pop.

ADJUSTMENTS PANEL

Select Adjustments from the bottom-right of the interface to call up the options for improving photos.



Smart Fix

The Smart Fix option does exactly what it says on the packet. It seeks to adjust overall lighting and colour and is a great first-click option before manual fine-tuning. The option automatically adjusts the image to apply optimum values for settings.

Exposure

Use the Exposure adjustment to alter the overall brightness of an image. If you find that an image is either too light or dark, you can click on one of nine presets to find the right level of adjustment. Alternatively, slide the controls up yourself to adjust gradually.

Levels

The Levels adjustment is a more complex version of the Exposure option. This is split into shadows, midtones and highlights, each adapting the brightness of those areas. You have lots of control over exposure and contrast with Levels.



Color

Use the Color options to enhance your image. There are three options: Saturation (to improve the strength of colours), Hue (to change the colours completely) and Vibrance (to make colours brighter).



Balance

If the colours in your image look unnatural or out of place, the Balance option will correct any issues. Use the Temperature slider to warm up tones or cool them down, or try the Tint slider to add a colour filter effect.



Sharpen

If your image lacks detail, the Sharpen option will fix this. Definition and contrast of pixels from one subject to the next are increased so that they look crisper. The Auto button will be a great place to start.

Master layers in Photoshop Elements

Discover how to add non-destructive, creative effects to your images using the Layers palette

TOOLS PANEL

All of the main editing tools appear on the left. Some tools have multiple items, so click on each one to see the Tool Options bar at the bottom.

IMAGE TABS

All open images will be displayed here. Click on tabs to switch between images. To drop images into another file, click on an image and drag it.

EDIT MODES

Navigate around the Elements interface with this helpful guide. Switch between the three modes and explore the tools that can aid each project.

LAYERS PANEL

Here you will see all of the layers within your file. Add masks, new layers, duplicate layers, add effects, alter transparency and blending modes.

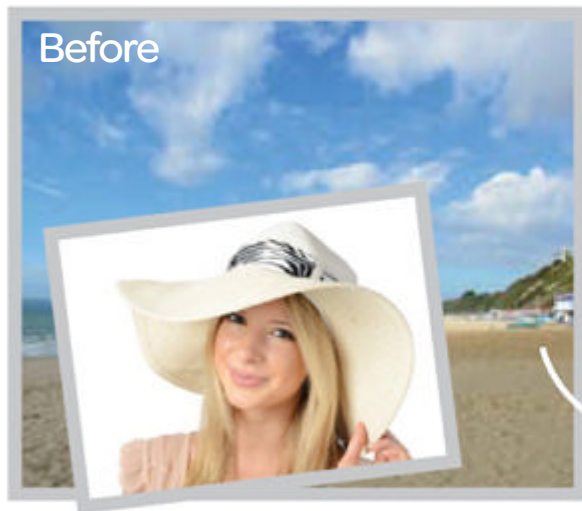
TOOL OPTIONS BAR

When a tool has been selected, its options will be displayed here. Experiment with these settings, as they can greatly enhance the capabilities of a tool.



Photo composites

Combine two images for striking end results



Work in Expert mode

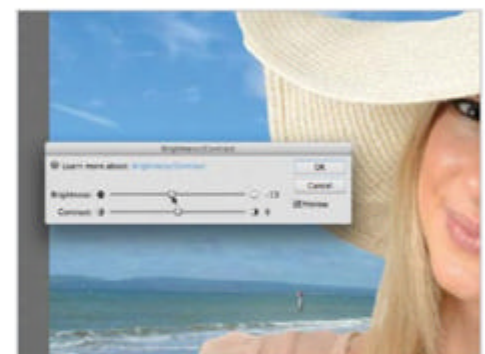
01 Click on Open, hold Shift and select your two start photos. They will open under different tabs at the top. Select the Crop tool (C) from the Tools panel, draw over one image like shown and press Enter. Select the Move tool (V) from the Tool panel.

Combine the images

02 Click on the image, hold the mouse down, then drag the photo and hover it over the other open photo tab at the top. Holding the cursor on the tab will switch to that photo. Drop the photo into this new canvas area so that both images are stacked.

Transform to fit

03 The images can now be seen as two layers in the Layers panel. Holding Shift, click a corner pointer and drag the new layer out, increasing the image size to fill the canvas. Hit Enter. Go to the Layers panel and double-click the model layer.



Order your layers

04 Hit OK in the New Layer dialog box, making this layer editable. Click on the top layer (Layer 1) in the Layers panel and drag it under Layer 0. Click on the Lasso tool in the Tools panel. From the Tool Options bar, select Magnetic Lasso.

Remove the background

05 Select the top layer in the Layers panel. Click next to your model in the main canvas area, placing a first anchor point. Trace the edge of the model and click the first anchor point to end the selection. Go to Select>Inverse. Press Delete.

Finishing off

06 Press [M] and click on the canvas, ending the selection. Tidy edges using the Eraser tool and soften edges with the Blur tool. Leaving the top layer selected, go to Enhance>Adjust Lightening>Brightness/Contrast to even out lighting.

Enhance the colour hues



Duplicate the image

01 In Expert mode, with your image open, go to the Layers panel. Click the drop-down in the top-right and select Duplicate. Press the eye icon on the Background layer to hide it.



Make adjustments

02 Go to Enhance>Adjust Color>Hue/Saturation and use the sliders to edit colours. For complex images, work on individual colour channels in the Masters drop-down.



Quick edit technique

03 Alternatively, click on Quick in the top bar. A menu will appear. Select Color to see the different options. Experiment with the presets or control the effect yourself using the slider.

Selective colour

Create eye-catching imagery

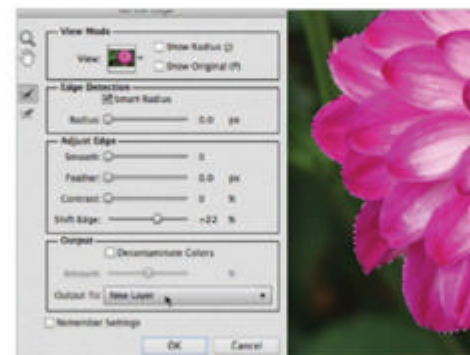


Work in Expert mode

01 Go to Open and select your start photo. Select the Magic Wand tool (A) from the Tools panel. At the base of the screen you will see the Tool Options appear. Increase the Tolerance to 150 to ensure a sharp selection.

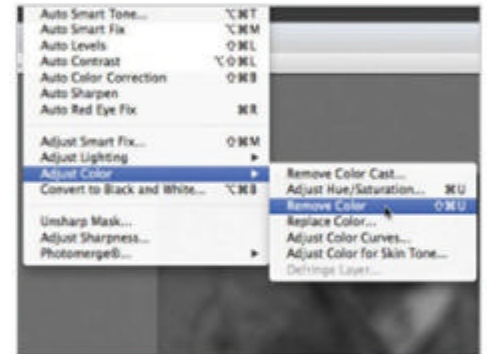
Select your background

02 Click on the area you wish to convert to monochrome and you will see a selection. If the foreground and background colours aren't too similar then the majority will have been selected. Go to Select>Inverse.



Use Refine Edge

03 Press Refine Edge in Tool Options. Set View to 'marching ants', check the Smart Radius box and move the Shift Edge slider right until the full area you want is selected. In Output To, select New Layer.



Convert to monochrome

04 Press OK and a new layer will appear in the Layers panel. Make sure the Background layer is visible. Click on the bottom Background layer and go to Enhance>Adjust Color>Remove Color.

Depth of field

Add fake depth to your photos



Begin the process

01 Working in Expert mode, click on Open in the top-left corner of your screen and select your start photo. Press Cmd/Ctrl+O to make your photo fill the screen. Select the Lasso tool from the side Tools panel.



Create a new layer

03 End your selection by clicking on the first anchor point. Press Cmd/Ctrl+J to lift the selection onto its own layer. Click on the Background layer in the Layers panel. Go to Filter>Blur>Gaussian Blur.



Make a selection

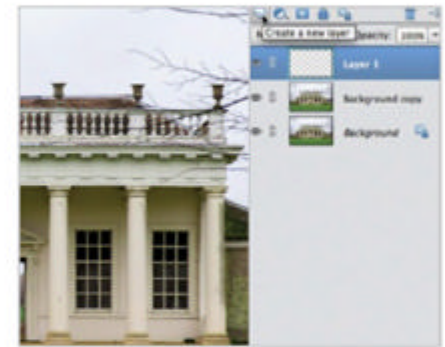
02 From the Tool Options bar, choose the Magnetic Lasso tool. Click on one edge of your model to place the first anchor point, then slowly move your mouse, tracing the whole of your model, creating a selection.



Soften the blend

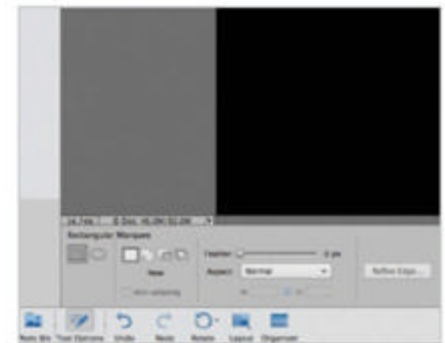
04 Select a blur of 30 pixels and hit OK. Click on the model layer, select the Eraser tool with 30% Opacity and a large, soft edged brush. Paint along the layer's edge, softening the blend.

Add a retro vignette



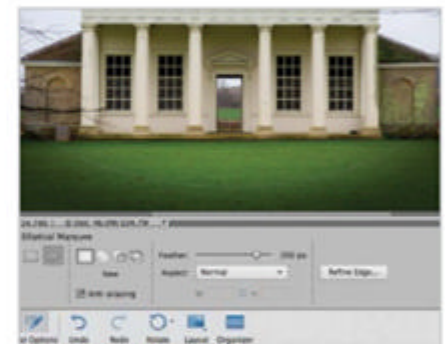
Duplicate the image

01 With your start photo open, go to the Layers panel. Press the drop-down menu icon in the top-right and select Duplicate Layer. Press the Create a New Layer button (top-left).



Fill and add a mask

02 Click on this new layer, go to Edit> Fill Layer, select Black and hit OK. From the top of the Layers panel, add a mask to this layer. Click on the Masks thumbnail on the top layer.



Create the effect

03 Select the Rectangular Marquee, choose Elliptical Marquee and add a 200px Feather. Draw a selection on your image. Press Delete. Set the top layer Opacity to 60%.



Source file available

Use the image provided to re-create this

Discover what adjustment layers can do

When it comes to keeping images safe, adjustment layers are king

Adjustment layers are one of Photoshop Elements' most powerful tools. They are different edits that you can make to your image, but rather than applying them directly to the photo, they are applied on a separate layer. What's more, you can click on them again at any point to edit them.

Here, we will be showing you how by using just three adjustment layers in combination, you can turn a drab landscape

into a vivid scene. It doesn't take long, but the effect is great. We will also be delving into making a simple selection, so we can work on the foreground and background separately. When you make a selection and then apply an adjustment layer, the edit is applied only to the selected area. A mask is automatically added to the adjustment layer with your selection on it, which is useful if you need to go back and select the same area more than once.

The adjustment layers

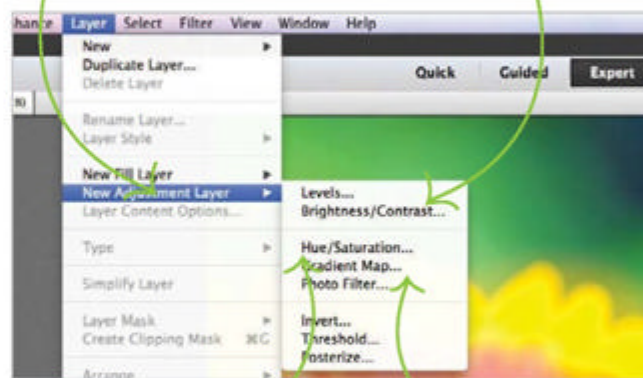
Where to find all your adjustment layers

THE MENU

The adjustment layers can be found under Layer>New Adjustment Layer, or from the Layers palette by clicking the icon.

TONAL EDITS

The first two adjustment layers in the list alter the tones or exposure of your image by darkening or lightening the pixels.



COLOUR TWEAKS

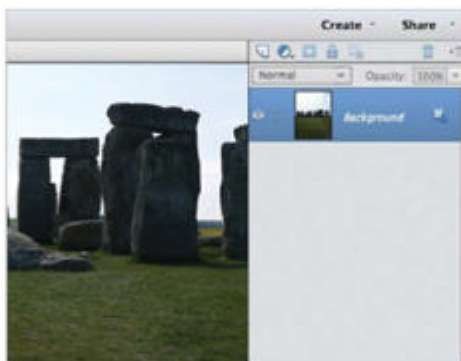
The second set of adjustments affect colours. Using these, you can add a completely new range of tones to your photo.

GET CREATIVE

The last three adjustments offer creative effects. These are used in photomanipulation projects, rather than photo editing.

Make editing re-editable

Six steps to stunning landscapes and vivid colours

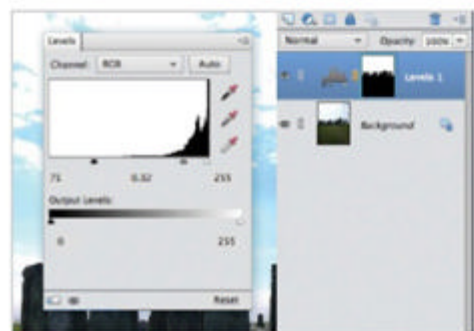


Magic Wand

01 Choose the Magic Wand tool from the main toolbar on the left – it might be hiding behind the Quick Selection or Selection Brush tool. Simply click anywhere in the sky to select it.

Add to the sky

02 Zoom in to the middle of the image. Now hold down the Shift key and this will enable areas to be added to the sky selection. Click between the stones where the sky shows through.



Add the first adjustment

03 Go to Layer>New Adjustment Layer>Levels. We're going to make the sky vivid by dragging the left-hand and middle triangles to the right. Hold down Cmd/Ctrl and click the mask thumbnail next to the Levels layer to reselect the sky.

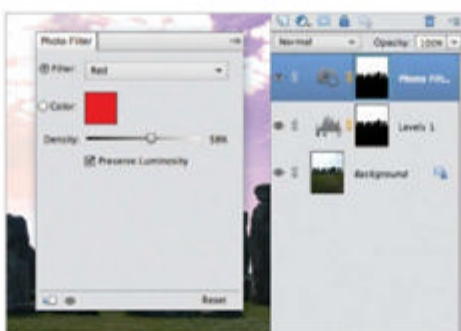
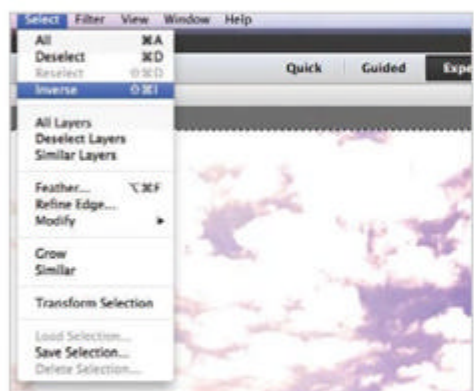


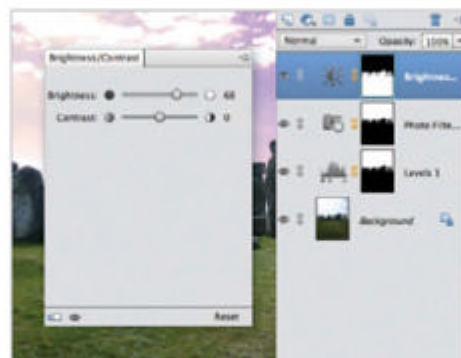
Photo Filter

04 We're now going to add a nice sunrise-red tinge to the sky using Layer>New Adjustment Layer>Photo Filter. From the Filter drop-down menu pick the Red filter and then raise the Density until you like the effect.



Select the foreground

05 We need to select everything but the sky. Select the sky again as in step 3. Next, go to Select>Inverse, which flips the selection. This will mean that the foreground is selected.



Brighten the scene

06 For the final adjustment layer, go to Layer>New Adjustment Layer>Brightness/Contrast. Pull the Brightness slider up and the whole foreground will lighten and complement the sky. Pull the Contrast down a touch to finish.



Adjustments at a glance

Here's a quick look at what each does set at high levels



Threshold

Use to determine the lightest and darkest areas



Posterize

Good for creative effects, specify the range of tonal levels



Photo filter

Mimics the effect of coloured filters in front of lenses



Levels

Bring out incredible attention to detail by experimenting



Invert

This technique inverts all the colours in an image



Hue/saturation

Boost the vibrancy of certain colours, tones and hues



Gradient map

Use to create vivid monochrome or sepia effects



Brightness & contrast

Boost light and darkness for impact

MERGE IMAGES

By simplifying the cut-out process, the Quick Selection tool makes light work of unifying multiple images.

Before

Source file available

Learn this technique using the supplied files

Get to grips with the Quick Selection tool

Use the most basic of selection tools for a superb edge

It's supposed to be the easiest option to pick. In reality though, if we have to make a selection in Photoshop or Elements, no matter how rough, we overlook the Quick Selection option in favour of one of the Lassos. The Lassos are controlled and marvellously scrupulous after all, while the Quick Selection can be somewhat unpredictable to say the least.

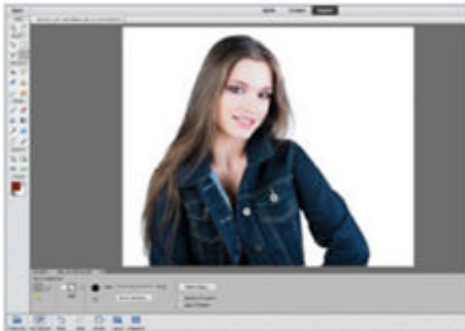
The Polygonal Lasso has the advantage of being both fairly quick to use and easy to manoeuvre; the Magnetic version is just as speedy and almost semi-intuitive around corners. This makes the Quick Selection an unfavoured substitute, but it

excels where the two lassos don't: it can be a far more perceptive option that can select whole objects with just one click, in some cases.

Okay, so it's not the most developed of the selection tools, but when used in the right hands, the Quick Selection can actually be the most useful for certain jobs. Though many of us overlook it, it's more than capable in a simple cut-and-paste exercise and it might get the job done in less time than a Lasso. Let's take a look at a simple tutorial that puts speed back into a Quick Selection.

Select your subject

Quick Select to bring a person out of a photo



Select

01 Click on the Quick Selection tool. Click on a subject to select, and drag to add. Clicking can often be more precise than dragging, and the smaller the brush, the more accurate the selection. Make a rough selection to start with, though.



Add, subtract and refine

02 In the panel at the bottom, you'll see options for Add and Subtract; simply tidy up your selection further before choosing Refine Edge. Here, you can neaten the selection even more, perfecting the edges and sorting stray strands of hair.

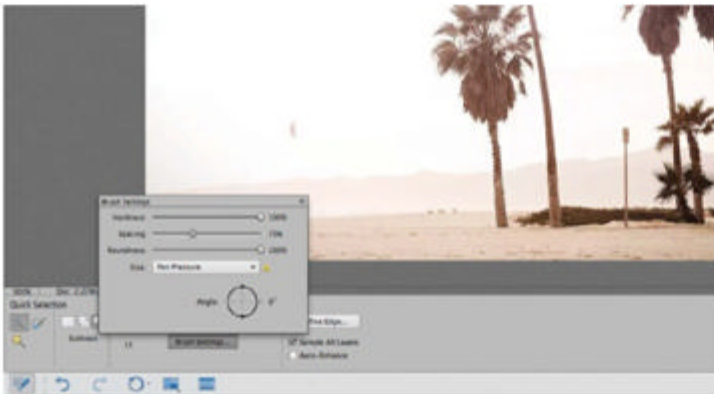


Erase

03 Once refined, choose Layer Mask in the Output To selection box, and then choose the Eraser. Soften any edges that are too hard, and just touch up anything that the Refine Edge tool didn't.

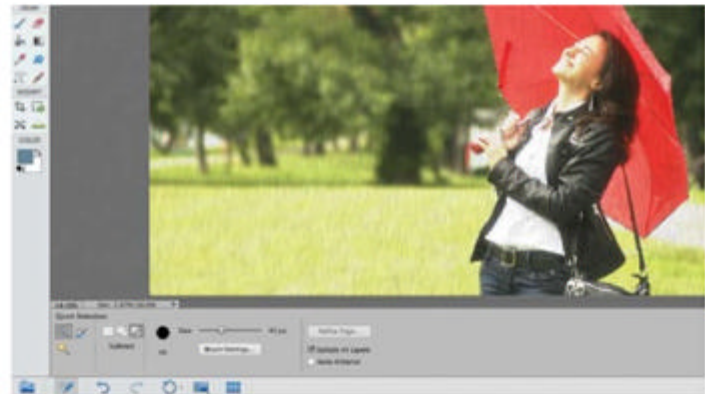
Essential tips

Some select suggestions to help you use this tool



Brush settings

When using the Quick Selection tool, you use a brush that selects similar pixels near to it. Not only can you change the size of the area, you can also change hardness and even spacing, just in case you wish to select a cluster of areas across a picture.



Sample all layers

Need to select items that are scattered across a few layers? It can be a confusing task for Elements, unless of course you have the Sample All Layers option ticked. It does exactly as its name suggests, and it's a great tool for convenience.



Selection Brush

The Quick Selection is as speedy as its name would suggest, but it's one of the more erratic selection tools. Why not combine it with the Selection Brush? Use Quick Selection for the bulk of your subject and just use the Selection Brush as a more accurate tool for the edges.



Refine Edge

Mostly, the Refine Edge tool is just used for a quick paint around the edges of a subject to smooth it over. But it's a more complex feature than that; you can erase around the edges to restore the original edge, and you can adjust Radius, Feather and Contrast.

ACHIEVE BETTER COMPOSITIONS

When objects are perfectly selected, layers merge together seamlessly.

MAKE LIFE EASIER

Awkward outlines become far easier to select.

Source file available

Use the image provided to re-create this

Use Refine Edge for perfect selections

Turn rough selections into detailed ones with a few clicks! Cutting out that pesky hair has never been easier

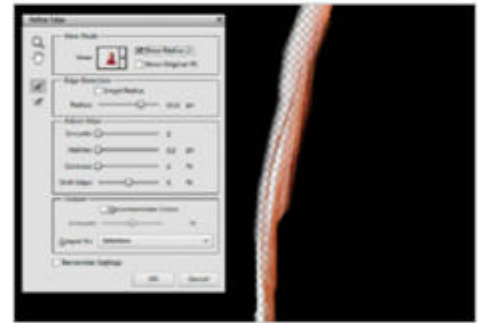
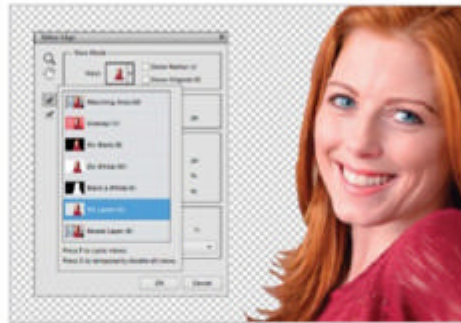
When you don't have the luxury of a green screen, selecting subjects can be very tricky – especially if that subject has delicate and fine edges, such as hair, fur or tiny details. The Refine Edge tool is a life saver for those difficult images and allows you to turn a rough selection into a much more accurate one. The Refine Edge tool has six main parameters: Radius, Smooth, Feather, Contrast, Shift Edge and Decontaminate Colors. Radius is the size of the edge around your selection the tool 'looks at' for analysis; Smooth removes

jagged edges; Feather softens the whole edge – useful for out of focus selections; Contrast sharpens the selection, leaving more solid, rather than semi-transparent areas. Shift Edge is a final fixer to expand or contract the edge selection. Decontaminate Colors is to remove remnants of background colour left within the selection which can be useful but a bit tricky to perfect! Unfortunately there is no magic formula for the Refine Edge; it's a matter of playing with the sliders until you find what works best for your image!



Flyaway hairs

Using Refine Edge can make light work of fiddly outlines



Make your selection

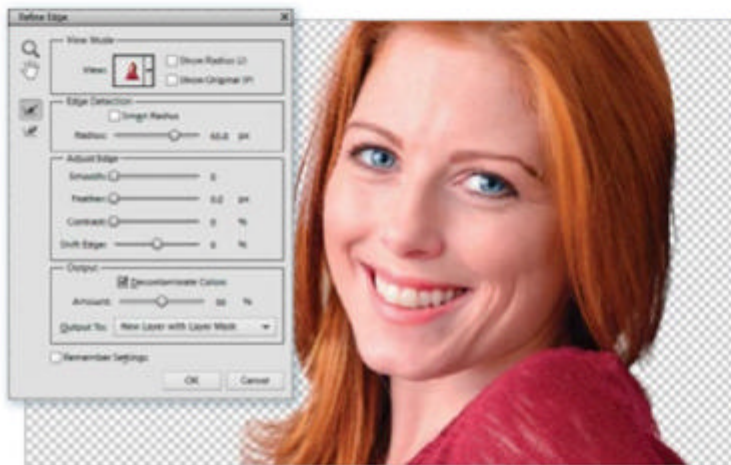
01 Use the Polygonal Lasso tool to roughly select inside the subject edge. When you've gone all the way around, click back onto the first point to close. It will turn to marching ants.

Prepare Refine Edge

02 In the top banner, go to Select > Refine Edge. Here you can choose a view to see how accurate their edges are. For now, select the On Layers option to give the checkered background.

Adjust the Radius

03 Increase the Radius to 65%. Tick Show Radius (J). The image will be mainly black. Visible areas are where the tool finds an edge. Hold Alt and paint black on the image, making the visible area thinner.

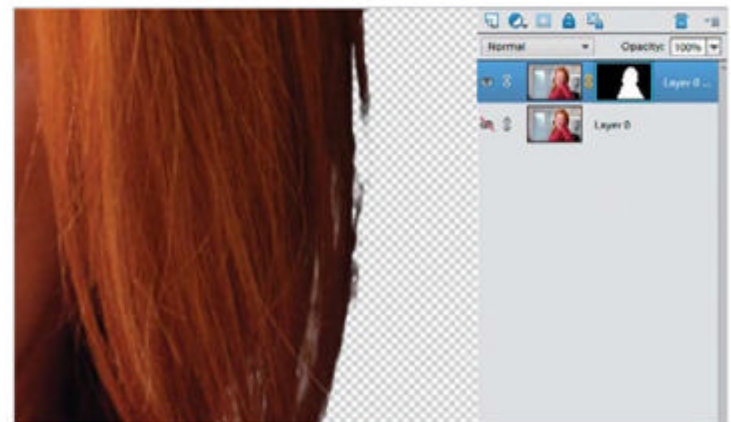
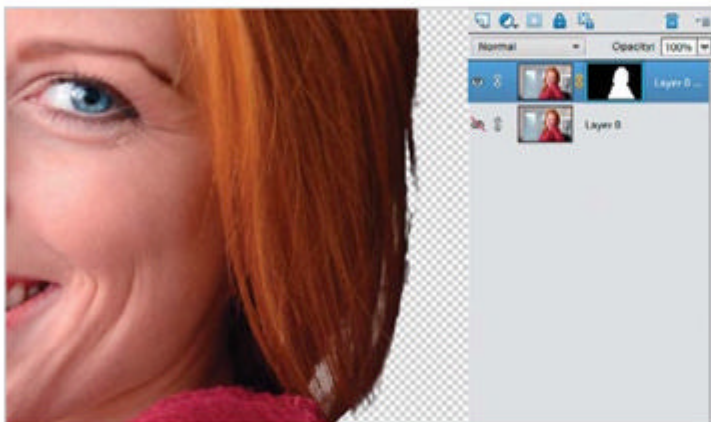


Keep refining

04 Flip back and forth using (J) to check the effect. Adjust the brush size with [and]. To reveal an area, paint without holding Alt. Remember this isn't a selection, but the area the tool is analysing. Stay on the image when happy.

Refine Edge

05 Now you can start adjusting the sliders. Because this image is pretty sharp, increase Smooth slightly and leave Feather. Increase Contrast by 35% to add sharpness to her hair and tick Decontaminate Colours. Set Output to New Layer with Layer Mask.



Using layer masks

06 There are a couple of areas which are still not quite perfect though, so the layer mask can be used to tidy them up. Select the Black & White layer mask next to the thumbnail preview and select the Brush (B).

Tidy edges

07 Press D to set Foreground and Background colour. Paint black onto the layer mask areas which need to be hidden, and white on the areas to be revealed. Use X to switch between the colours quickly. Paint until everything is fixed.

Intricate details

Removing all traces of background made easier

At first glance, this set of yellow and green flowers is against a completely contrasting, vibrant red background and looks like a simple cut out, right? But notice the small details on the buds on the left-hand side, which are also slightly out of focus. The Refine Edge tool can step in here to make this no problem at all.



EASY DOES IT

Remove a solid background with Refine Edge.



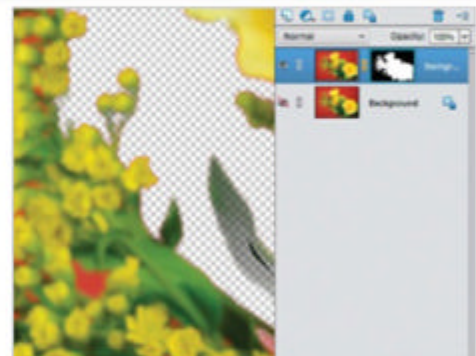
Rough selection

01 Using the Polygonal Lasso tool (L), roughly draw a line around the flowers. Make sure to draw the line inside the edge of the subject as the Refine Edge tool will work much better. Close the selection by joining the last point to the first.



Refine Edge

02 In the top banner, click Select > Refine Edge. Set Radius to around 55px, Smooth & Feather to 1 to account for soft focus, Contrast to 37% and Shift Edge back to -15%. Change 'Output To:' to New Layer with Layer Mask. Hit OK.



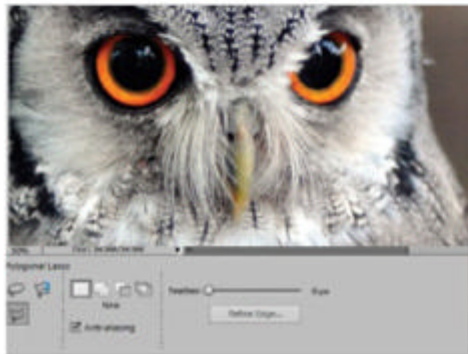
Tidy the mask

03 Refine Edge has done a pretty good job. Now, use the layer mask to tidy up the areas it struggled with such as the red in between the buds. Use the Brush tool to paint black to hide unwanted sections, and white to reveal areas.

Frustrating fluffy cutouts

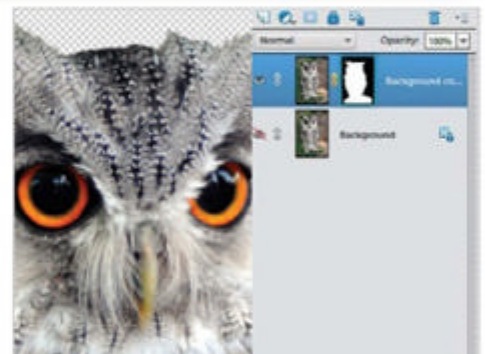
Don't shy away from using animals in compositions

The feathers and similar background colours of this owl photo are going to cause some problems when selecting with the usual Magic Wand or Quick Selection tools. Here the Refine Edge can be used to manually select the edge, without having to get too fiddly – once a rough edge is selected, Refine Edge will refine it for you!



Make the selection

01 Use the Polygonal Lasso Tool (L) to draw a rough selection by clicking just inside the edge of the owl. Start at the bottom and carefully go all the way around. Then double-click or click back to the first point to complete the selection.



Be smart

02 Go to Select>Refine Edge. Increase the Radius to 60-70% to include all the tiny feathers of the owl. The edges will be very soft, so tick Smart Radius. Smart Radius attempts to detect the edge of the subject itself, making it more accurate.

Further detail

03 For sharper edges, increase the Feather to 3.5-4px, increase the Contrast to 45-50% to bring back sharpness and Shift Edge down slightly to -5%. Tick Decontaminate Colours and slightly increase to 54% to keep the greys.

Refine with masks

04 Set Output to New Layer with Mask. Hit OK. If there are any areas that aren't perfect, select the layer mask next to the layer thumbnail. Pick the Brush tool (B) and paint with black to hide areas and white to reveal. Adjust brush size with [and].

Starter techniques

SMALL FIXES

Isolated blemishes can be sorted with one click.

GO LARGE

For larger areas, it's possible to brush over the problem parts to erase them.

Source file available

Use the image provided to re-create this

Before

Discover the Healing Brush

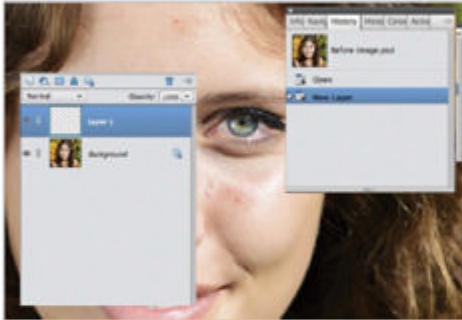
Heal skin and retouch faces using this powerful tool

The Healing Brush is a tool that's been designed for quickly retouching portraits and removing distracting objects in photos. Put simply, it works by copying and pasting pixels over each other, but unlike basic copying and pasting, there's a bit more to consider when it comes to the Healing Brush. Working with a subject such as a portrait, a balanced blend of new pixels over old is needed for realistic

results. We want to avoid making people look overly retouched, because even the smallest out-of-place pixel will look strange to the human eye.

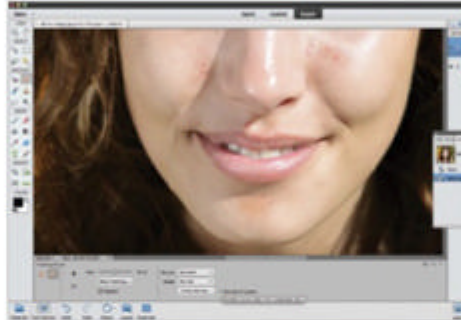
Adapting the tool's settings is vital for producing great results and here we show you exactly how to do that. Follow the steps opposite to find out about the tool and its options, plus how to retouch blemishes without leaving any traces.

Heal away blemishes Smooth out skin and remove spots for a clear complexion



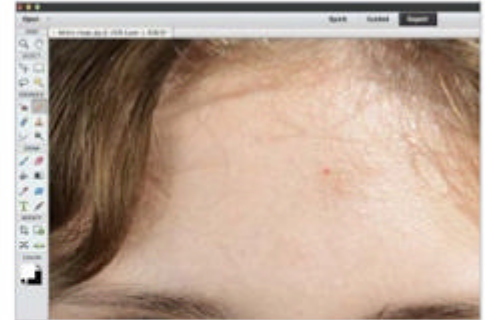
Set up your layers

01 Load up this image into Elements. Start off by adding a new layer above the Background by clicking on the first button along the top of the Layers panel. Go to the Window menu and load up the History panel. This will come in handy later.



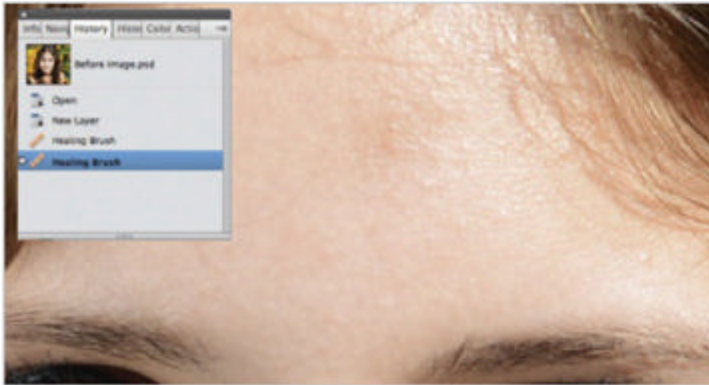
Sample All Layers

02 Press J to go to the Healing Brush tool (if the Spot Healing tool loads, press J once more). In the Tool Options panel, tick Sample All Layers so edits to the new layer are made using pixels from the Background layer.



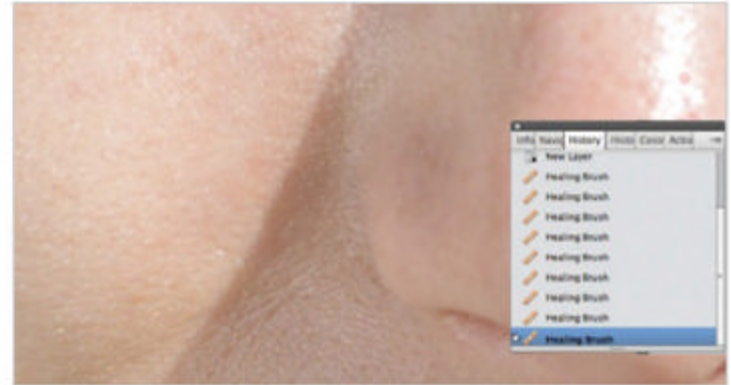
Adjust and sample

03 To use the Healing Brush tool, first locate an area to edit. Adjust the brush size so it covers the area (pressing the square bracket keys will do this quickly). Hold down Opt/Alt and click an area close to the blemish to sample the 'good' pixels.



Digital cover-up

04 Now 'good' pixels have been sampled, click over the blemish to remove it. A few clicks might be required to completely cover up larger blemishes. The tool will blend in pixels to create realistic skin. Hold the Space Bar to pan across to another area of the face.



Larger areas

05 For larger blemishes, the Healing Brush tool enables you to 'paint' over the area. For this, tick Aligned in the Tool Options bar for best results. Also, increase the size of the brush, and then Opt/Alt-click to sample new pixels and carefully dab over the blemish.

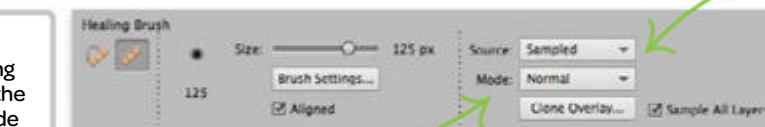
At a glance The best options for the Healing Brush

MODES

Mode contains the blending options for changing how the new pixels appear. Set Mode to Multiply to adapt to the lightness of the new area.

CLONE PREVIEW

The Healing Brush shows you a preview of the area being retouched. This preview can easily be hidden by unticking the Show Overlay box in Clone Overlay.



SAMPLED OR PATTERN

Set to Sampled, the Healing Brush tool picks up the pixels on the photo. Set to Pattern and you can apply texture and patterns.

BETTER HEALING

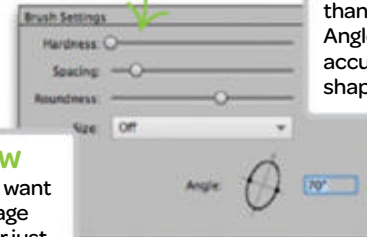
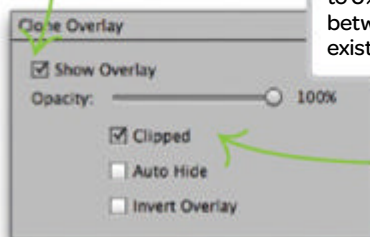
It's best to set Hardness to 0% to create a soft edge between the new and existing pixels.

CLIPPED PREVIEW

Choose whether you want to view the whole image while healing pixels or just the area selected.

ANGLE

If Roundness is set to less than 100%, change the Angle setting to create more accurate healing around the shape of the subject.



What does it mean?

You're likely to come across the words highlights, midtones and shadows, and it's important to know what they represent. Highlights stand for the lightest areas in your image, shadows are the darkest and midtones are everything in between. Some adjustment tools enable you to edit each separately.

Source file available

Learn this technique using the supplied files



Before

Enhance your images in Elements

Discover how to make your pictures pop using the Dodge and Burn tools in Elements

It's easy to punch up the overall contrast in your captures using the Levels command in Elements, but if you want to take more control then we recommend getting to grips with the Dodge and Burn tools.

Using dodge and burn techniques, you can selectively brighten or darken specific areas of your image and get punchier results.

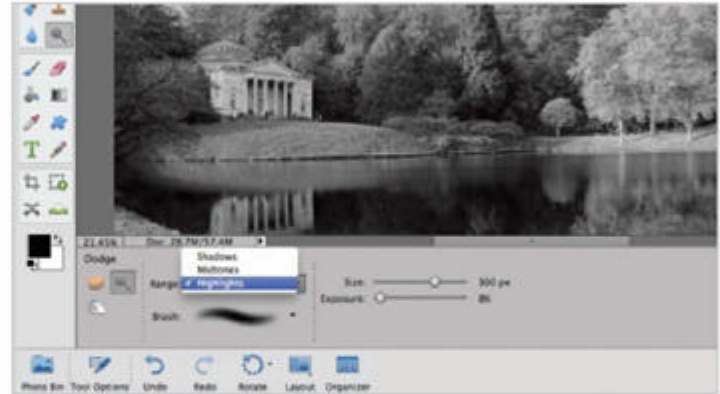
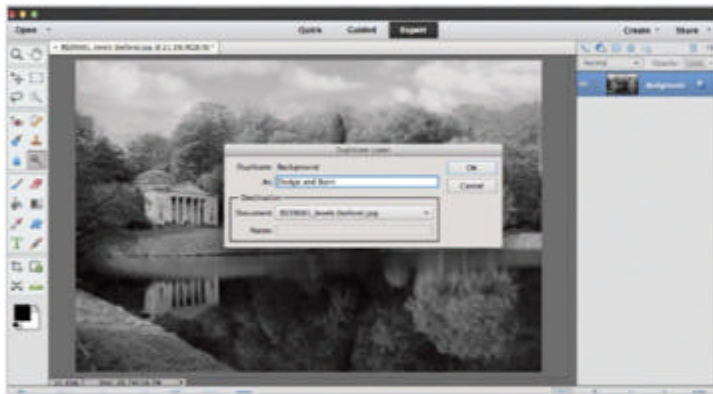
Traditionally, dodging and burning was a darkroom process, and one of the earliest image-editing techniques used by photographers to adapt exposure selectively. It involved exposing parts of light sensitive paper to more or less light,

depending on how much contrast was needed. These days it's a much simpler process, as Dodge and Burn are digital tools that work much like brushes. You can select the Dodge tool to lighten an image's pixels and Burn to darken them.

In this tutorial we'll show you how to use dodging and burning to enhance contrast in your captures. Although it's possible to use the Dodge and Burn tools with colour images, the effects are much more noticeable in black and white. Follow the steps here and discover how to bring out the best in your photos in a matter of minutes.

Increase contrast

How to make more of the shadows and highlights in your shot



Duplicate layer

01 Open your image and click on the Expert tab at the top. Now Ctrl/right-click on your Background layer in the Layers panel and select Duplicate Layer. Rename your layer Dodge and Burn and click OK. Don't forget to flatten your layers later on before saving.

Adjust the brush

02 Select the Dodge tool and select Highlights from Range in the tool's menu bar at the bottom. Adjust the brush size and ensure it has a soft edge. Keep the Exposure low (around 8%) so you can build up the effect gradually.



Bring out the highlights

03 Slowly begin brushing over the highlight areas that you would like to appear brighter. If you want to lighten midtone or shadow areas, simply adjust the Range. To undo an adjustment go to Edit>Undo. Now select the Burn tool from the menu bar.

Enhance the shadows

04 Select Shadows from the Range and keep the Exposure to around 8%. Now begin increasing contrast by darkening areas in your image. You can adjust your brush size continuously to suit the spot. Change the Range to Midtones and alternate between Dodge and Burn to really help the picture pop.

Alternative effects

How the Dodge and Burn tools can be used to enhance other images



Vignette edges

The Burn tool is great if you want to darken the edges of your image for a vignette effect. Vignettes are a fantastic way to draw the viewer's eye into the centre of your image. Simply select the Burn tool and then select a large, soft-edged brush. Keep the Exposure low and choose the Midtones Range. Now begin brushing in all four corners until happy with the result.



Enhance portraits

The Dodge and Burn tools are surprisingly good for smoothing skin, brightening eyes and contouring the face. Use the Dodge tool to lighten pores for smoother skin and then add highlights to the cheeks, T-section (forehead and top of nose) and chin. You can then use the Burn tool to darken cheekbones and edges of the face for a flattering contour effect.

Understand the Modify tools

Crop, straighten and recompose your shots with four simple tools to fix and enhance

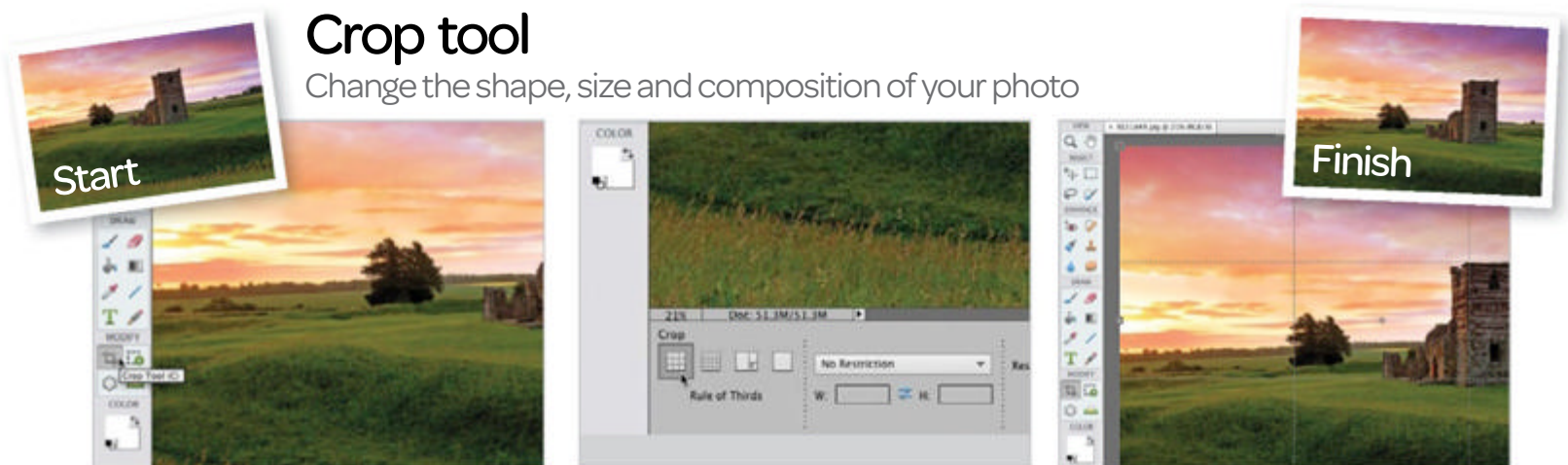
The modify tools are perhaps the quickest and simplest to use in Photoshop Elements, but many people don't actually know how to use them correctly. To find them, just switch to Expert mode and head to the bottom of the tool bar on the left-hand side of the screen. They may perform quite basic edits but these handy functions can still help you turn an average shot into a great one. In fact, the Crop, Recompose, Cookie Cutter and Straighten tools are likely to be your first port

of call when processing your images. It can be hard to get a great composition in-camera, particularly if your subject is fast moving or you don't have a tripod on hand to help you, so these tools can be great for rescuing and enhancing any problem shots you might have.

Across these two pages, we will show you how to get to grips with the various modify tools available in Photoshop Elements and demonstrating exactly what you can use them for.

Crop tool

Change the shape, size and composition of your photo



Choose the correct tool

01 To remove parts of your image and recompose your overall shot, click on the Crop tool under the Modify heading in the left-hand palette. It is represented by two corners crossing to create a square.

Select a style

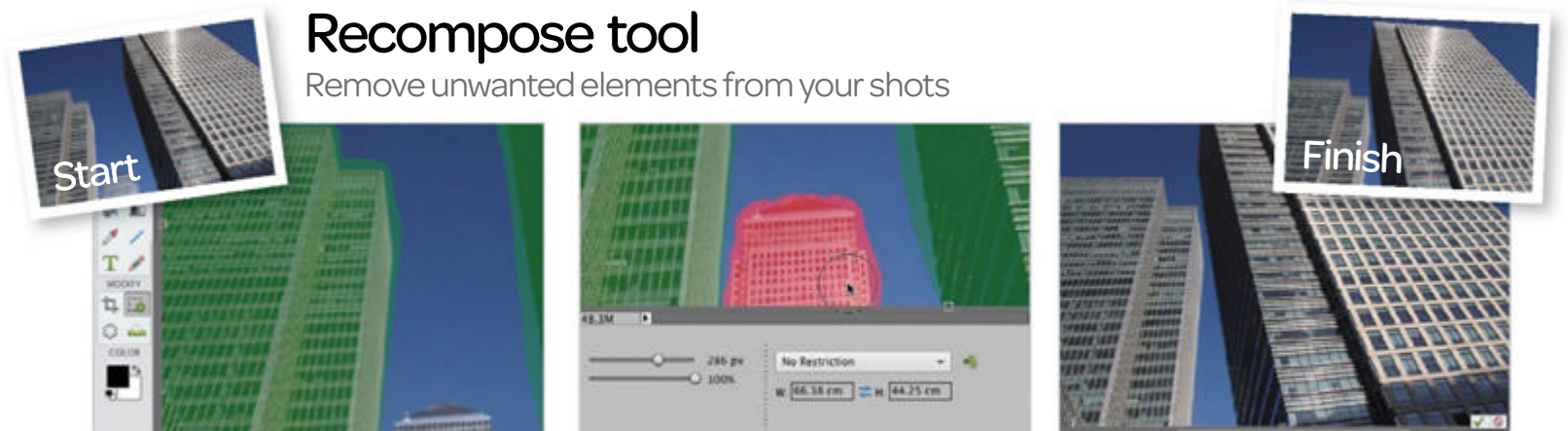
02 Choose a style of crop. Rule Of Thirds creates a nine-piece grid, whilst Grid includes an infinite number of squares. Golden Ratio highlights a corner of the box and None creates an empty box.

Highlight your selection

03 To crop to a specific size, select a measurement from the drop down menu or input your own. Otherwise, select No Restriction and highlight the area of your photo you want to keep. Then click the tick.

Recompose tool

Remove unwanted elements from your shots



Locate the tool

01 Select the Recompose tool. Adjust the size of your brush and set a high threshold percentage to minimize distortion. Click the Mark For Protection icon and highlight areas you want to keep in green.

Highlight for removal

02 Select the Mark for Removal icon and highlight the area to remove in red. You can neat up your selections with the eraser tools to remove protected areas and areas highlighted for removal.

Recompose your shot

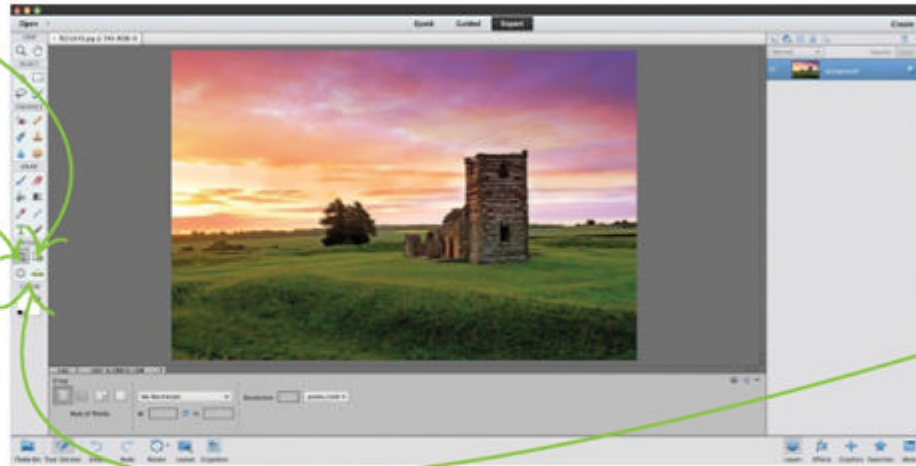
03 To set a size, manually input your measurements or select from the drop down menu. Otherwise, select No Restriction and simply drag the corners of your shot to resize it.

RECOMPOSE

Remove unwanted elements from your shots with the Recompose tool. Get rid of a building, tree or person to enhance your final image.

CROP

Select the Crop tool to correct a badly composed image, using the gridlines to help you reposition your main subject in the frame.



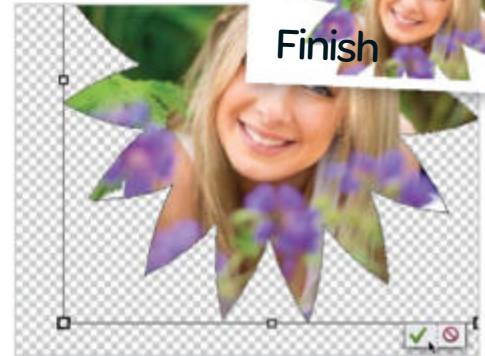
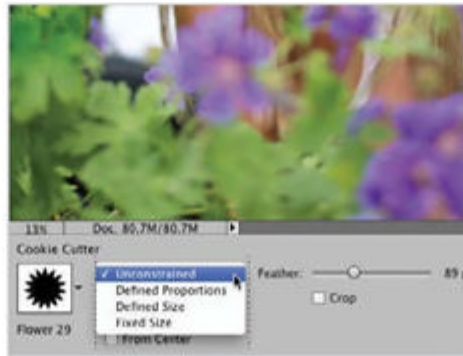
COOKIE CUTTER

Crop your photos into creative shapes with the Cookie Cutter tool. Choose from hearts, stars, arrows or the more conventional circle or square.



Cookie cutter tool

Transform your photos into new shapes



Choose a shape

01 Select the Cookie Cutter tool, which looks like a flower, from the left-hand palette, then select a preset shape to cut out of your shot. You can filter the presets by selecting a category from the drop menu.

Adjust the size

02 To draw freely, select Unconstrained. Choose Defined Proportions to keep height and width proportional, Defined Size to keep the fixed size or Fixed Size to set dimensions.

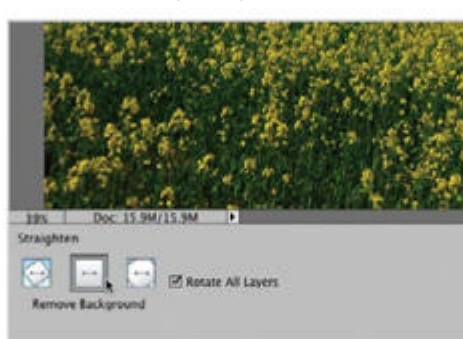
Crop your shot

03 If you want a soft edge to your selection, increase the feather slider. If you want to draw from the centre of the shot, tick 'From Centre'. Now draw the shape and click the tick.



Straighten tool

Correct wonky photos the easy way



Find the tool

01 The Straighten tool can be found in the Modify section of the left-hand palette. It is represented by an image of a spirit level and can be used to fix any shots that have a wonky horizon.

Choose an option

02 This tool offers three options. Grow or Shrink changes its size to fit the image area, Remove Background trims the background and Original Size rotates images without trimming.

Straighten your image

03 Now draw a line along the horizon of your shot to straighten it out. If you selected the Grow or Shrink or Original Size options you will now need to crop your image to remove the background.

Use the Magic Wand

A closer look at creating selections and adapting colour

The Magic Wand tool has been around ever since version 6, but has remained much the same. This is because it's a simple and effective tool for creating selections around colour. Whereas the Quick Selection tool looks out for distinctive shapes to form a selection, the Magic Wand tool has a Tolerance setting. The lower its Tolerance, the less variation it will detect between two colours, as such a small area is selected. Mastering this will make all the difference to the adjustments that follow.

Here we explore how this tool is used to select the water across this image of a canal, to then be able to edit with adjustments and brushes. Getting to know this tool will improve your selections and ultimately the final quality of your images.



Before



Source file available

Use the image provided to re-create this

EXPAND SELECTIONS

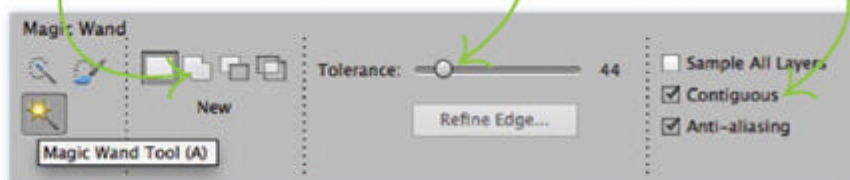
Holding the Shift key will continually add new parts to a selection. Notice when the button is pressed, the second box is highlighted in this panel.

TOLERANCE AMOUNT

This decides how sensitive the Magic Wand tool is when picking out colour. The higher the number, the bigger the selection area will be.

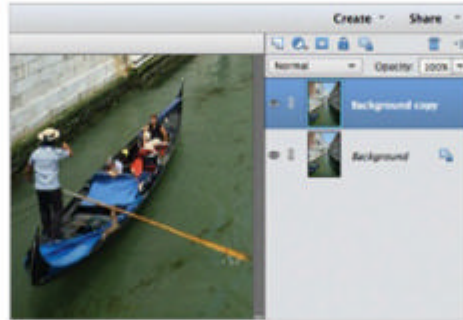
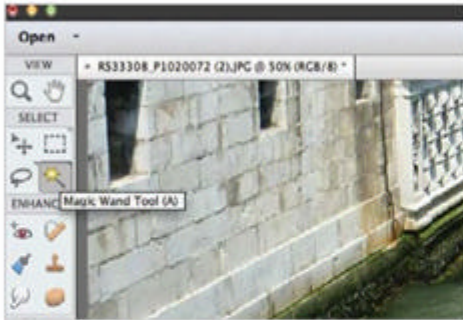
CONTIGUOUS SELECTIONS

To select just one area of colour, as opposed to covering your entire image, tick this box in the Tools Option panel.



Select a colour

Start the selection with the Magic Wand tool



Find the tool

01 The Magic Wand tool is found in the Quick Selection and Selection Brush tools. Pressing A will take you straight to these. Pressing A multiple times will cycle through tools, leading to the Magic Wand.

Tool settings

02 Drag the Background layer onto the Create A New Layer button. In the Tool Options panel tick Contiguous so that only touching pixels are selected. Set Tolerance to 30 and tick Anti-aliasing.

Make the selection

03 Click over the water in the image to start the selection off. Shift-click to select it all. Reduce the Tolerance to 15-20 for more accuracy. Add a layer mask using the button at the top of the Layers panel.

Take control of colour

Different ways to change the look of an object after a selection has been made



Colour brushes

One easy way to change the colour of an object is a Brush. Press B to jump to the tool and set the Mode to Color. Choose one from the Foreground colour swatch, and paint over the image. The mask will hide all other areas.



Adjust hue

Once you've created a selection around a colour, add a Hue/Saturation adjustment (Layer>New Adjustment Layer). Inside the adjustment tick the Colorize box and set Hue to 200 and Saturation to 25 to mix it up.



Solid Color

A Solid Color fill layer lets you adjust the colour of an object. Find it in the Layer menu under New Fill Layer. You have the complete spectrum of colours at your disposal, but remember to change the blend mode to Color.



Gradient Map

Gradient Maps add colours while adapting to the lighting of the image. You can add multiple colours at a time to create effects. Gradient Maps work with blend modes such as Soft Light or Color for more realistic edits.



What does it mean?

RASTERIZE When you try to apply certain effects to shapes, a message may appear warning that you must first rasterize your layer. This means Elements will convert the vector to a bitmap. It allows for more effects to be applied, but when you transform the shape it may lose some quality.

Master the Custom Shape tool in Elements

Learn to create your own illustrations using simple shapes and quick techniques

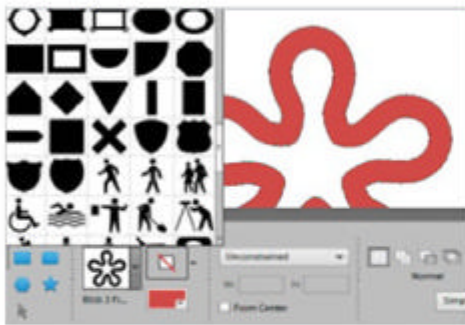
Shapes exist within Photoshop and Photoshop Elements as pre-made vectors that can be used with pixel-based tools such as the Brush. Vectors can be scaled up or down, transformed and adjusted without losing any quality and keeping perfectly straight edges. As a result, they are perfect for creating illustrations or cartoon additions to photographs.

Elements contains a wide range of shapes as standard, from a basic rectangle to a full face, giving you lots of creativity for making your images. Each shape can be customised individually to alter the colours, proportions and style to get them looking

just the way you want them. Options also exist to add, subtract or combine shapes allowing for even more to be made of Custom Shapes. By default, each is created on a new layer granting control over the order, meaning some shapes could be hidden underneath other layers, with just the required parts remaining visible.

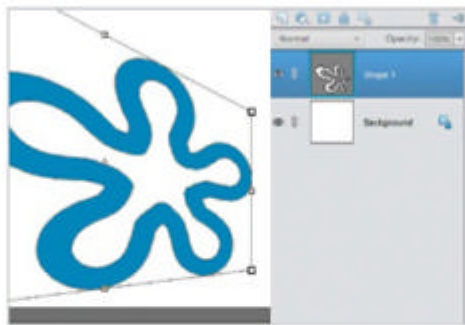
Those using Photoshop Elements 5 or higher can also use the Effects panel to add cool extras to their illustrations such as a stroke or a drop shadow to add a whole new dimension and more depth to their projects.

Create with Custom Shapes Draw out your shapes with just a few clicks



Select shapes

01 Select the Custom Shapes tool (U) and with Custom selected, click the shape preview. Make sure All Elements Shapes are loaded using the top drop-down. Pick a shape, click and drag it on your canvas.



Transform and adjust

02 With the shape selected, press Cmd/Ctrl+T then Ctrl/right-click to bring up transform options. When you're happy, hit Enter. To change the colour, double-click the layer preview and select.

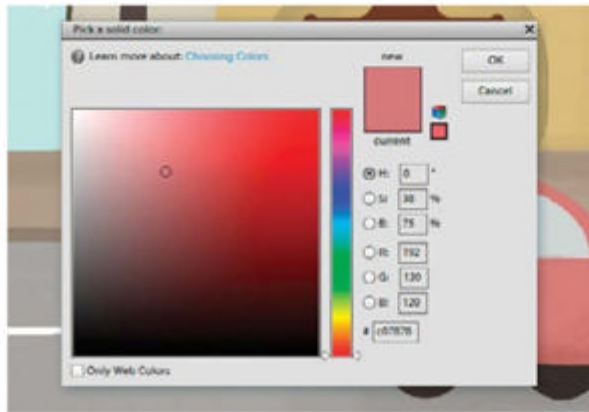


Add effects and more

03 Add more shapes by reselecting the Custom Shapes tool (U) and draw them out. If you want to add layer effects, select the FX, or select the shape, and go to Layer>Layer Style>Style Settings.

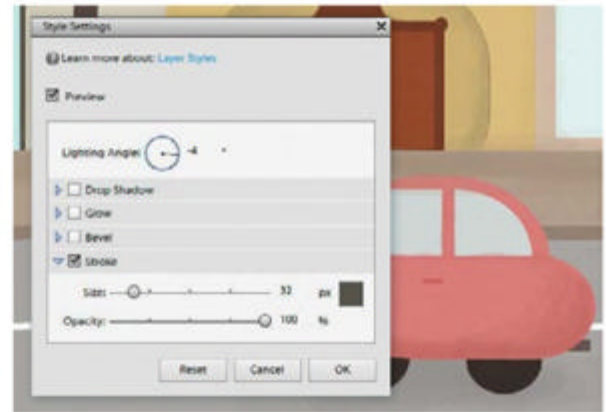
More customisation Learn to alter your custom shapes for a unique project

Creating your shapes is only the beginning! By using vectors, every aspect of a shape is still editable: size, colour, proportions, and options to add effects and styles. You can also choose to add adjustment layers to interact with the shapes. For example, add a Gradient layer by clicking the black-and-white circle icon at the top of your Layers panel and select Gradient. Set the blend mode from Normal to Color and step back to admire.



Build new shapes

Create shapes using layer tools on the Custom Shapes banner. The default option is "Create new shape layer", but you can select Add, Subtract, Intersect or Exclude.



Shape options

Each shape can be customised before it's drawn. Making a star or a polygon lets you choose the amount of points or sides, and allows for smoothing and corners.

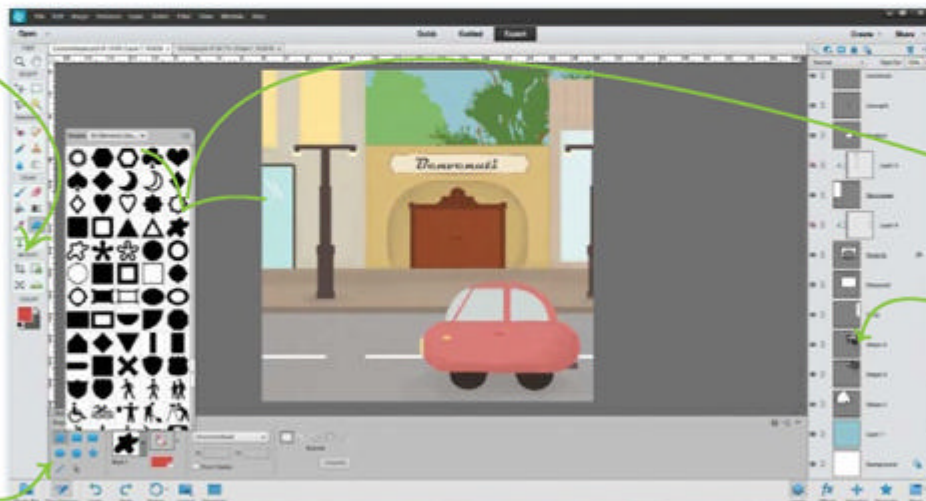
Vector illustration Simple art with Custom Shapes

EDIT GEOMETRY

These tools enable you to adjust the proportions of the shapes using Add To, Subtract From, Intersect, or Exclude, for even greater shape customisation.

SHAPES

When you first click on the Custom Shapes tool (U) these eight shapes will make an appearance.



CUSTOM SHAPES

Selecting Custom Shapes will make this menu of shapes available. Make sure to set this to All Elements Shapes.

LAYERS

Make sure the Layers panel is in view when using vector shapes. Adjust the layer order to control which areas are visible.

What does it mean?

HEALING The amount of Healing that you set will change the amount of blend at the edges of a selection.

If you choose a lower Healing setting, the area you have selected will replicate the area almost exactly. If you decide to have a higher Healing setting, it will fade out at the edges.

Source file available

Use the image provided to re-create this

Edit photos with Content-Aware Move

Use the Content-Aware Move tool to edit out those annoying things that get in the way of your photos

Not only can you use the Content-Aware Move tool to move people into pictures, you can use it to hide any discrepancies. One of the worst things you'll experience as a photographer is to have a perfect composition ruined by a tourist stood in your way or a pylon running through the landscape cutting off the stunning view. All is not lost, because with the Content-Aware Move tool you can use the image that

surrounds the offending object to erase it and repair your image so the correction is unnoticeable.

It's a lot easier than you think; it's as easy as selecting the part of the picture you want to be replicated over the disturbance. In this tutorial we'll take you through the process of editing your pictures to make sure you get the effect you wanted no matter what might get in your way.

Before

At a glance

Become acquainted with the different Content-Aware Move options

SELECTION SETTINGS

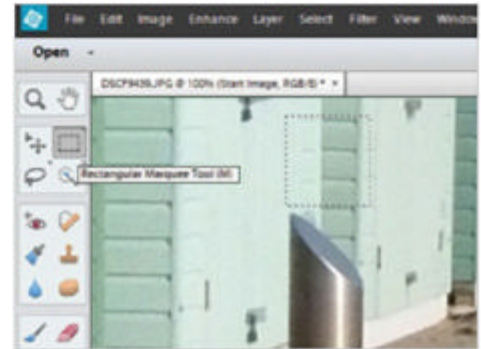
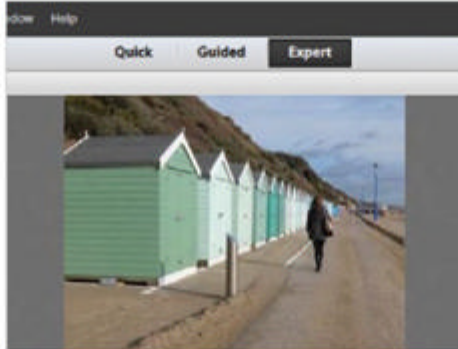
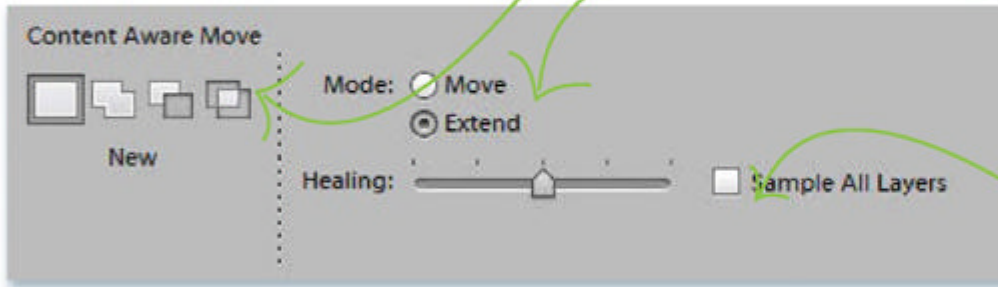
You can add or subtract from your chosen selection by toggling these different options. You can also intersect your selection.

MOVE OR EXTEND?

Using Move instead of Extend is better when moving objects rather than removing them. The tool will render a new background based on the pixels surrounding it.

SAMPLE ALL LAYERS

If you are using multiple layers, you can toggle on this option and the Content-Aware Move tool will take data from all of the layers.



Plan your edit

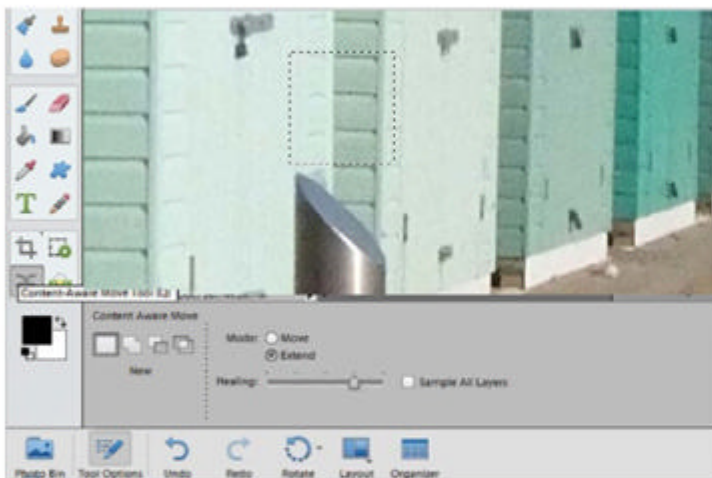
01 Before you start, study your image and identify the areas to use for each area of the repair, for example, whether you need to use surrounding buildings or part of the sky to cover up the unwanted part of the image.

Enter the Expert interface

02 Open up your file in Photoshop. If you are in Elements 12, make sure you have selected the Expert interface first; this is very important as the Content-Aware tool does not appear in either of the Quick or Guided interfaces.

Make your selection

03 Using the Rectangular Marquee tool (M), make your selection. Here you want to cover the top of the bollard, so select enough of the surroundings to cover the area. You can also freeform select with the Lasso.



Prepare the tool

04 Zoom in on the area you want to work on. Select the Content-Aware Move tool from the palette. Options will appear at the bottom of the screen. Select New and Extend, and adjust the Healing slider so it is quite high.

Move your content

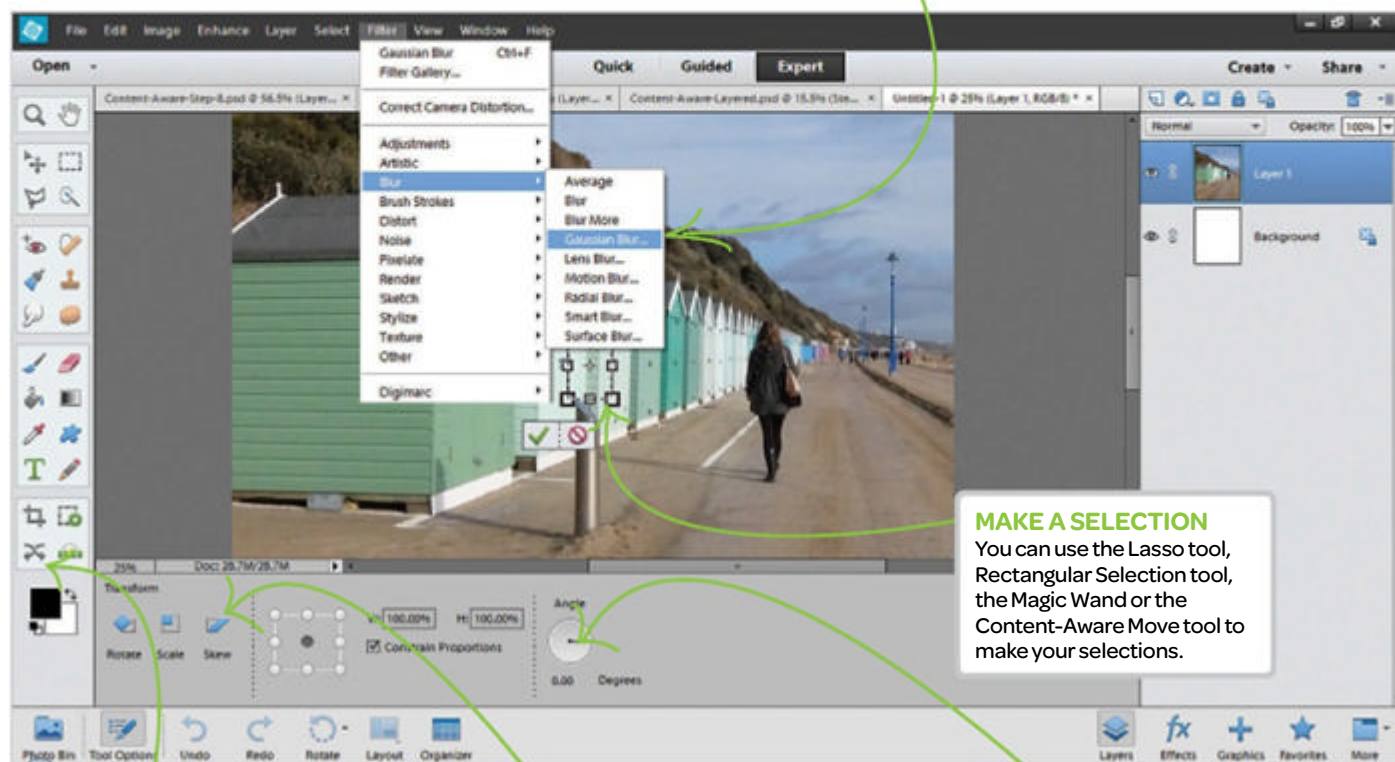
05 Now you have your selection, carefully drag it down over the area you wish to cover. It will process the action to allow it to fit best with its new surroundings. Working with small sections can give you more control. Repeat until you are happy with the result.

Closer look Remove objects

Combine tools for smooth deletion of areas

GAUSSIAN BLUR

Go to Filter>Blur>Gaussian Blur; this will help make the background look out of focus. You can try different blurring options for varying effects.



MAKE A SELECTION

You can use the Lasso tool, Rectangular Selection tool, the Magic Wand or the Content-Aware Move tool to make your selections.

CONTENT-AWARE MOVE TOOL

This tool will enable you to directly copy one part of the picture to heal another. By using Extend you will be able to apply pixels to other parts of the image.

SKEW OBJECTS

Selecting Skew within the transformation settings will enable you to alter the perspective of the beach huts to make them look like they are moving further away.

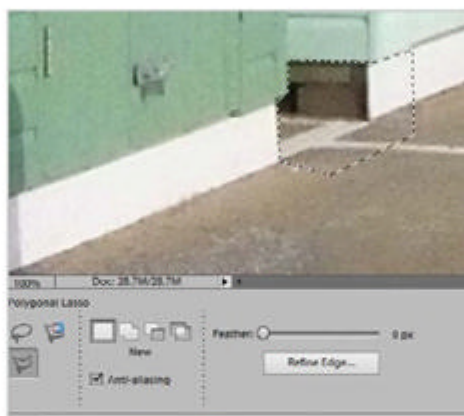
TRANSFORM

When having a play with the perspective of your selection, you will have to use the Transform tool options to resize your selected pixels.



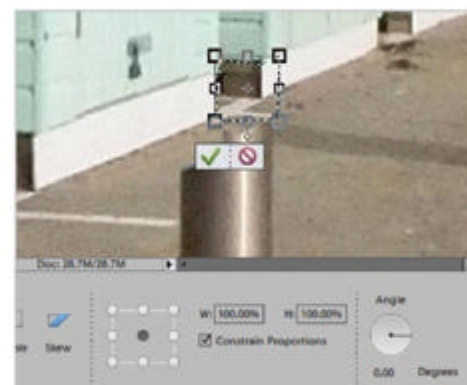
Continue with selections

06 Now select the bottom of the beach hut. You can select some of the ground as well, to make the correction as seamless as possible. Move into position using the Content-Aware tool.



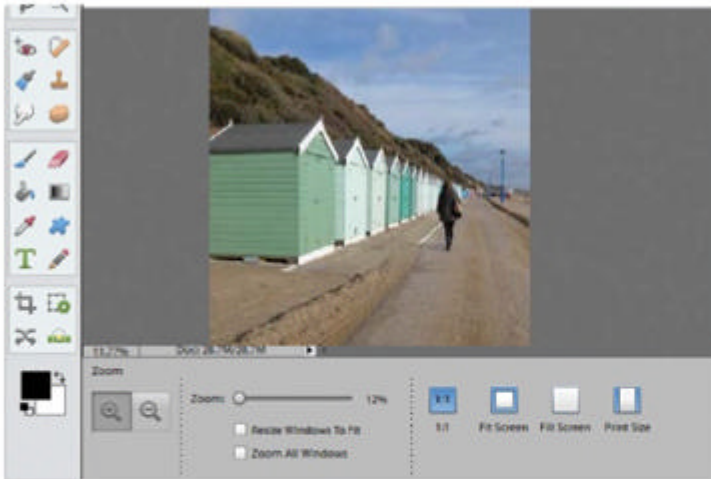
Play with perspective

07 To cover the underside of the beach hut from the one you are currently editing, you will need to fix the perspective. To do that, make a selection and copy and paste into a new layer.



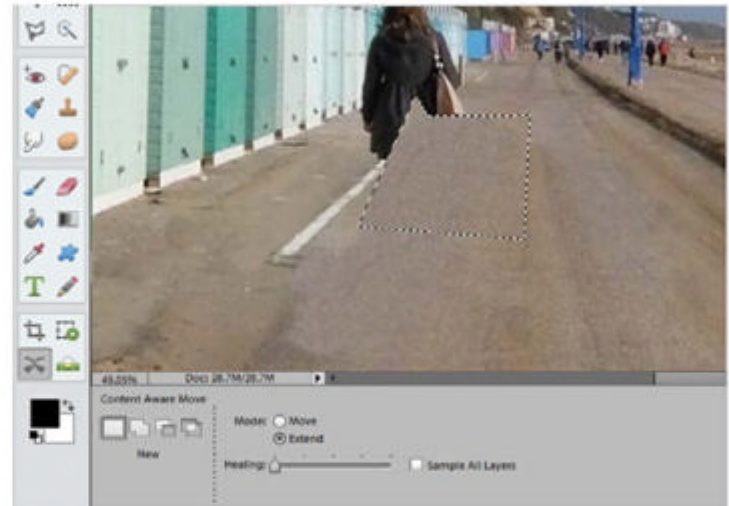
Transform

08 Select your new layer. Go to Image>Transform>Free Transform (Ctrl/Cmd+T), or under Edit in Photoshop CS2+, and move your selection. Using the corner toggles, resize your selection until the perspective matches.



Correct the road

09 Using the same Content-Aware technique, correct the shape of the beach hut. Make sure the shadow beneath the wood is consistent. Use both of the techniques already covered to achieve this. Repeat until happy, zooming out to check it over.



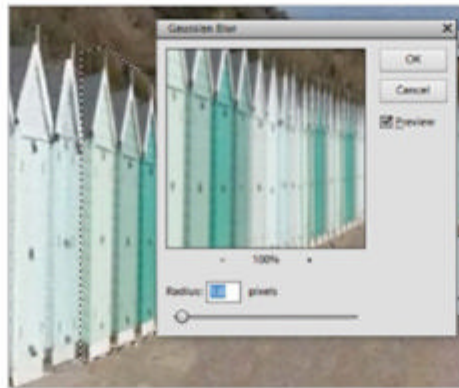
Remove the person

10 Make your selection and use the Content-Aware tool to replace the bottom half of the person. For larger areas, reduce the Healing so the tool blends neatly.



Replace the beach huts

11 Select a couple of the beach huts that are in the foreground, copy them to a new layer and select the Transform tool. Setting the Opacity to 50% will help you see the correct alignment. Select Skew to play with the proportions.



Use blur to help

12 Repeat until you have covered the person. Select the beach huts and go to Filter>Blur>Gaussian Blur. Here we have used the setting Radius 1.0. Click OK.



Check your image

13 Zoom out and get a final look at your image; anything that immediately doesn't look right will be more obvious from further out. Once you are happy with the image, then you're done. Congratulations, you have mastered the Content-Aware Move tool!

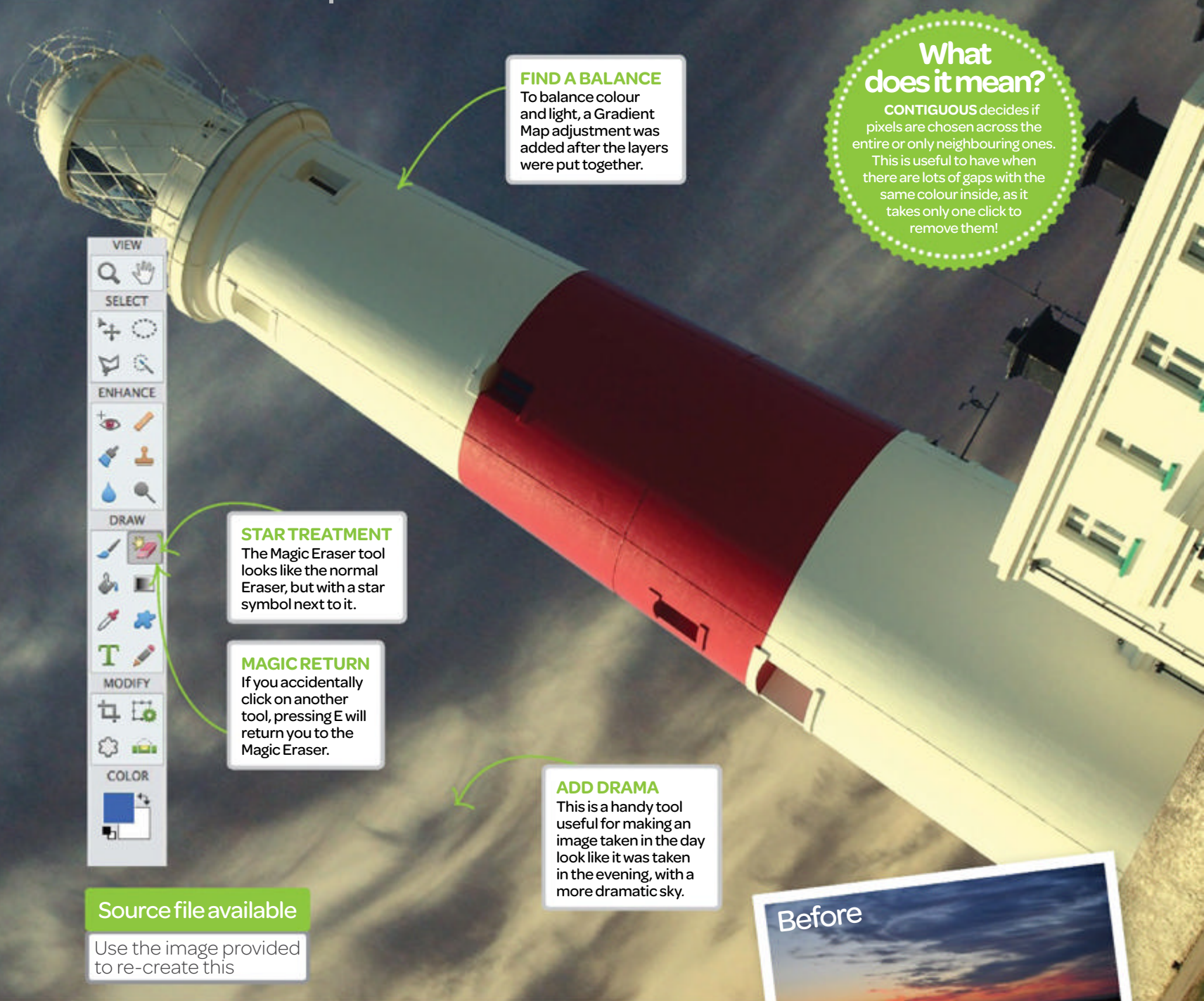
What can go wrong? Move vs Extend

Avoid misplaced selections in an image

For the purpose of your image fixing in this particular scenario, you should use the Extend option rather than Move. Move will take the area you have selected and translate it directly to the new area, leaving behind an area that Photoshop will then automatically fix. Because you want to keep the original selection the same in the sample file, using Extend is the valid option. Move is better used when wanting to actually move the selection to a new location rather than using the selection to fix another area of the image.



Starter techniques



What does it mean?

CONTIGUOUS decides if pixels are chosen across the entire or only neighbouring ones. This is useful to have when there are lots of gaps with the same colour inside, as it takes only one click to remove them!

FIND A BALANCE

To balance colour and light, a Gradient Map adjustment was added after the layers were put together.

STAR TREATMENT

The Magic Eraser tool looks like the normal Eraser, but with a star symbol next to it.

MAGIC RETURN

If you accidentally click on another tool, pressing E will return you to the Magic Eraser.

ADD DRAMA

This is a handy tool useful for making an image taken in the day look like it was taken in the evening, with a more dramatic sky.

Source file available

Use the image provided to re-create this

Add a moody sky

Create dramatic landscapes with the Magic Eraser

Photoshop Elements has some very useful tools for creating compositions. The Magic Eraser tool makes it incredibly easy to remove parts of an image such as a blue sky. So long as there's lots of one colour to work with, the tool will instantly remove large blocks at once.

In this tutorial we'll show you how an image taken in the daytime can be transformed into a moodier image that looks as though it was taken in the evening. Using a Gradient Map, we can alter tone and colour to smooth out the transition between the two images, and in no time at all we can create something simple yet effective.

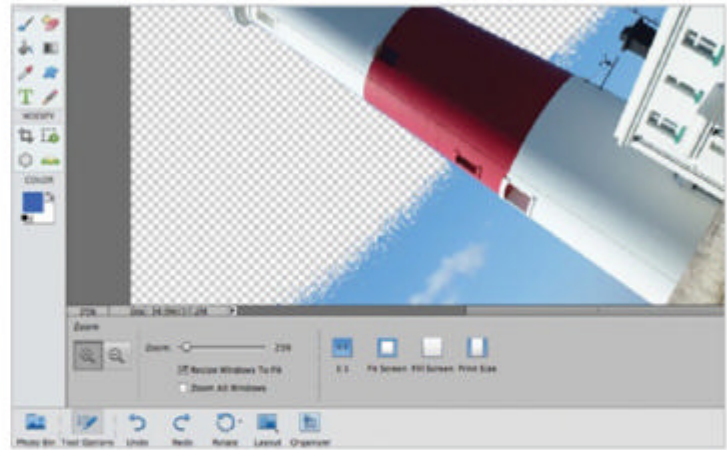


Atmospheric change of mood Make a subject disappear with a click!



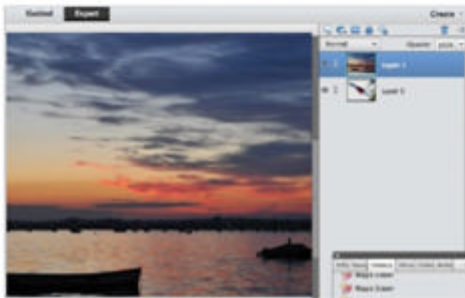
Locate tool

01 Load up these two images from your resource disc. The Magic Eraser tool is found by holding Opt/Alt and clicking twice over the Eraser tool. This will cycle to the Magic Eraser tool.



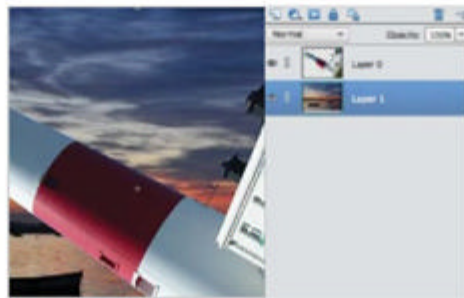
Vanishing act

02 Start by turning off Contiguous and set Tolerance to 20. Leave Opacity set to 100%. On the image 'Lighthouse.jpg', click the blue area several times with the Magic Eraser until it is gone.



Replace sky

03 You may need to zoom in by pressing Cmd/Ctrl and +. Once all the big areas of sky have been removed, open the image 'New Sky.jpg'. Go to Select>All, then Edit>Copy. Go back to the Lighthouse image and paste.



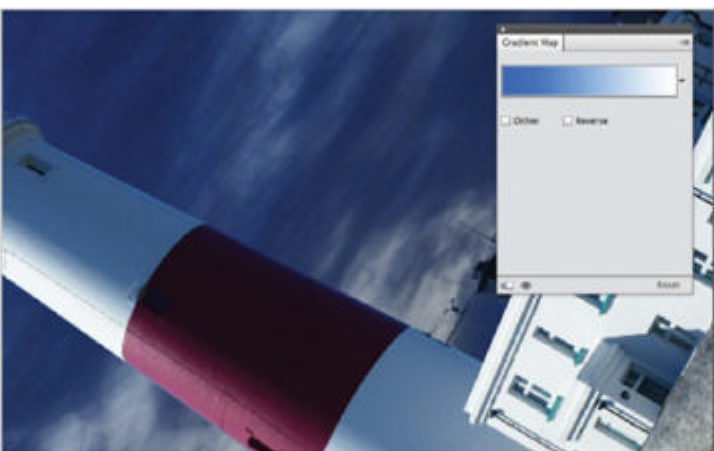
Reorder layers

04 The new sky is over the top of the lighthouse image. In the Layers panel, drag the new sky layer below the lighthouse image to bring the building to the front. Press Cmd/Ctrl+T to activate Free Transform.



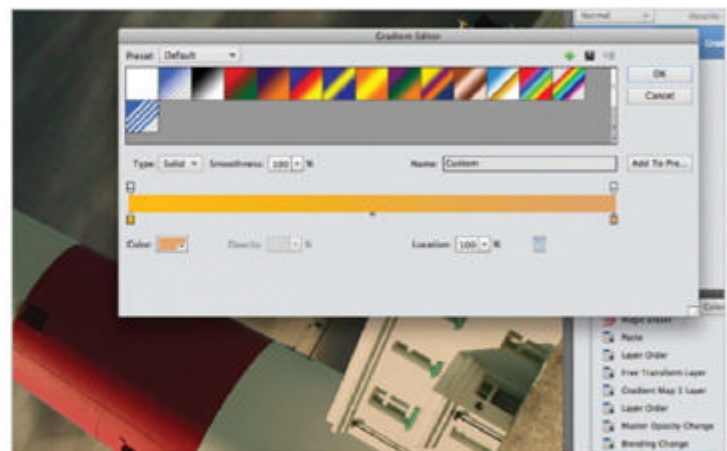
Resize to fit

05 Press Cmd/Ctrl and - to zoom out, and grab one of the corner points to rotate and position the new sky. You may need to enlarge it to fit over where the old sky used to be. Double-click to apply the transformation.



Blend layers

06 To create more realism, go to the Layers menu and select New Adjustment Layer>Gradient Map. In the Layers panel, change the mode to Multiply, and ensure the Gradient Map's layer is at the top.



Colour control

07 To change the Gradient's colours, double-click on the adjustment in the Layers panel. Click on the colour box to open the Gradient Editor. Use the colour swatches to specify the colours.

Edit your composition

Reduce the distance between objects using Photoshop Elements' Recompose tool

This is a tool that doesn't get the attention it should. Its purpose is to bring subjects closer together without changing their actual size or shape. This is done by recognising areas in an image of similar pixels, such as a blue sky or the rough surface of tarmac, and shrinking them down. The main subjects that have more variation and irregular shapes are unaffected, and so will remain exactly as they are.

The Recompose tool has been around in Elements for a few versions now, but has gone under the radar. The tool can be found at the bottom of the Tools panel, so if you're using Elements 12 look within the Modify section to find it (its icon has a cog symbol over a square). This is quite a powerful tool in terms of what it can do for an image, but the quality of the results can vary greatly – it's all down to the image and type of composition you're dealing with. Following these steps will get you started with the Recompose tool on your own images.

SUITABLE EDITS

The Recompose tool is certainly good, but it is best used on areas that haven't got loads of complicated detail, such as the sky.

What does it mean?

THRESHOLD – The Threshold adjustment that comes with the Recompose tool will control the amount of distortion that's created as the subjects are pushed together and deleted. Lowering the Threshold will help you to improve the look of your final image.

Source file available

Get recomposing with the supplied file

BRING THE BIKES CLOSER

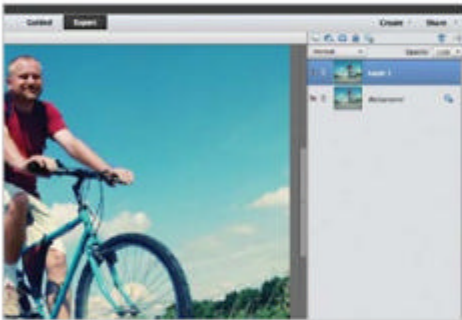
The original image has great perspective but is ruined by the gap between the people. This is fixed with the Recompose tool.



Before

A quick resize

Use the transformation boxes to recompose the image



Duplicate background

01 To enable us to view how the tool has changed, duplicate the Background layer of the image by pressing Cmd/Ctrl+J. Hide the original Background layer so only the top one is visible.

As if by magic!

02 Press W to go straight to the Recompose tool; eight boxes will appear around the edges of your image. Drag both of the side boxes in to the centre. The image can be resized while keeping the size and shape of the main objects.

Resize to fit

03 Move one of the corner boxes inwards to adapt the height and width of the image. The image can be resized to fit a new frame. The people and objects have stayed the same size!

Keep or delete objects

Remove or protect certain parts of the image



Keep the main subjects

01 Before recomposing your image, tell Elements to keep or remove parts of the image. Paint green over the objects you want to keep using the Mark for Protection brush in the Options panel.

Mark as red

02 Use the Mark for Removal brush to paint red over the parts of the subjects to get rid of in the recomposing process. This works on parts of the image between the main objects being moved.

Recompose pixels

03 Now when you resize the image by dragging the transformation points around the edges, Photoshop Elements is able to read which areas to get rid of to improve the final result.

Tidying up the results

The Recompose tool does a good job in getting us started with resizing the image without shrinking or distorting the main subject. But results aren't always perfect. To clean up the image, use the Clone Stamp tool in Elements with a soft brush tip. Gradually blend away patchy areas for a much cleaner finish.



CREATIVE EFFECTS

Apply new colour edits to images using gradients.



What does it mean?

DITHER Dither prevents banding from occurring in your gradient. When you create a gradient and view it over a large area, such as a widescreen computer screen or a television, you can see a band between each colour. Dither adds a small amount of noise that prevents this banding problem.

IMPROVE SKIES

Inject some oomph into weak skies with the joy that is gradients.

Source file available

Follow along with the supplied resources

Add colour with gradients

Find out how to use this simple, yet essential tool to create effects

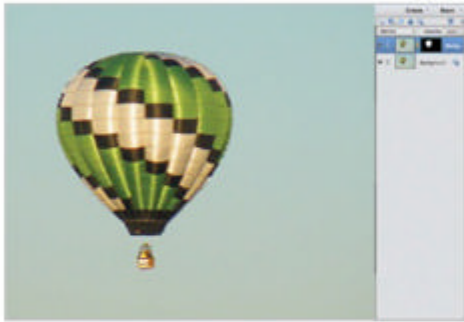
The Gradient tool is found in both **Photoshop** and **Photoshop Elements**. In Elements however, it has its own slot on the Toolbar, but in Photoshop, you will find it hiding alongside the Paint Bucket tool.

A gradient is essentially a blend of different colours, seamlessly transitioning from one to the other. They come in various shapes, but the most common is a linear gradient, where the colours are in consecutive lines next to one another. Photoshop has a load of preset gradients built in, which are popular colour combinations. There are also gradients that use the Foreground and Background colours, so you can change the

colours of these to create new and interesting gradients. Some may also use transparency, so the colours will gradually fade away into nothing at the end of the gradient.

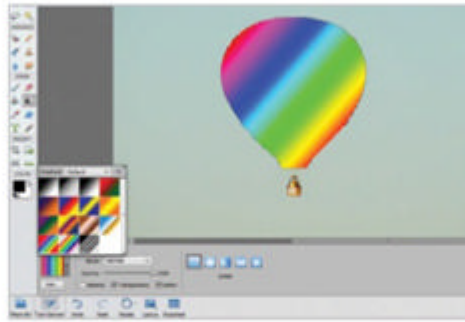
If you have a specific effect in mind, you can create a custom gradient using the Gradient Editor (just double-click on the gradient colour swatch). You will see a coloured bar with little arrows and squares underneath. The arrows determine where a colour in the gradient stops and where the next one starts. The squares show you what colour is being used in the gradient. Experiment with the different balloon images in the supplied files and have fun with different gradients!

Improve an image with gradients Add vibrancy and colour to dull images



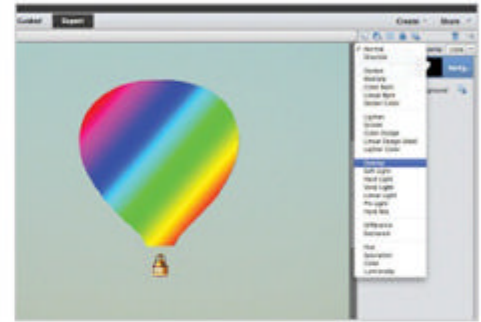
Select the balloon

01 Duplicate the Background layer (Layer>Duplicate) and make a selection of the balloon. Use whatever method you prefer. We used the Magic Wand to select the sky, and then went to Select>Inverse to select the balloon. Add a mask by clicking the mask icon in the Layers panel.



Add the gradient

02 Select the Gradient tool from the toolbar (G). In the Tool Options panel, untick Reverse, but tick Transparency and Dither. Pick the Linear Gradient icon and select a coloured gradient from the presets. With your balloon selected, draw a line across the balloon to apply the gradient.



Layer options

03 We need to let some of the original balloon show through. Set the blend mode of the layer with the gradient on to Overlay. Then, adjust the opacity of the layer until you are happy with the result. We also added a new background to this image (see below for more on this).

More with gradients Here are a couple of additional uses for the Gradient tool



Make new backgrounds

If the background of a photo is somewhat lacking, using the Gradient tool to create a new one is easy. Create a new layer and set your Foreground colour to a sky blue and the Background colour to white. Apply a Foreground-to-Background gradient to your empty layer.



Enhance photos

You can boost skies in images with this simple trick. Duplicate your photo layer and set your Foreground colour to black. Apply a Foreground to Transparent gradient to your image so that the sky turns black. Set it to Overlay blend mode and adjust the Opacity to suit the image.

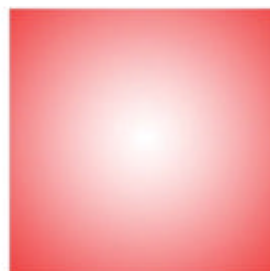
Types of gradients Ensure you pick the right gradient for the job



Diamond



Linear



Radial



Angle



Reflected

Master blending techniques in Photoshop Elements

Merging images together is an essential design skill, and Photoshop makes the process a snap!

Blending images together seamlessly is one of the most important abilities in your Photoshop skill set. Once you know how, you have the capability to create anything you desire requiring multiple image manipulation, because you will be able to create a convincingly realistic photocomposite.

Photoshop and Elements offer several techniques for accomplishing this, each with its own special functions that are useful for different situations. Three techniques that will be discussed in these pages are how to use layer masks, blending modes, and the Refine Edge command.

Layer masks are the most basic and common way to blend images quickly. They enable you to 'hide' pixels on a layer, or just a selected part of a layer, revealing pixels on the layers under it. Blending modes are options you can set for each layer, which determine how the pixels on two layers will blend together. Once you understand these techniques, you will learn how to use the Refine Edge command, which enables you to easily select and manipulate the fine details and edges of the layer you are working on. Over these pages, you will learn how to best execute each of these techniques with Photoshop Elements as your editor.

THREE BECOME ONE

The trick to blending images is to make each one work with the other. You don't want harsh edges or obvious joins.

Source file available

Use the image provided to re-create this

CLOUD BLENDS

The cloud image has been merged with the illustration. Thanks to blend modes, the two fuse together beautifully.



Use layer masks

Surely the quickest and easiest way to blend images

For masking, it's best to begin with two images that complement each other in terms of lighting, contrast and composition. One is placed directly on top of the other in the Layers panel. What a layer mask does is make part of the top visible layer transparent, so that the layer beneath shows through.



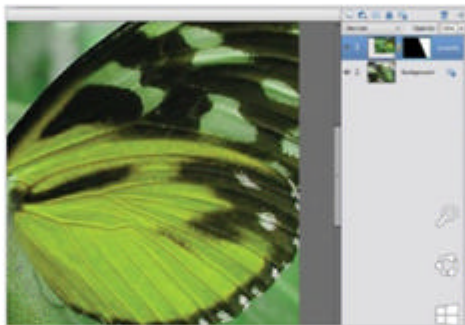
FLYING FROGS

Two images, one layer mask and a fantasy creature is born.



Document setup

01 Open the frog and butterfly images in Elements. Click the Expert mode, so the Layers panel is visible down the right-hand side. Click on the Photo Bin icon at the lower-left of the screen. Drag the butterfly image on top of the frog's layer. There are now two layers.



Create a mask

02 Position the wings over the frog's back. Click the layer mask icon in the Layers panel to add a mask. This will change your current colours to black and white. With the Gradient tool (G), apply a gradient to the mask to hide the butterfly's body from view.



Refine the mask

03 Select the Brush tool and set its Opacity to 50%. Zoom to the edges of the wings and brush over all other areas of the butterfly. Black areas of the mask will become transparent (reveal) and white areas will remain opaque (conceal).

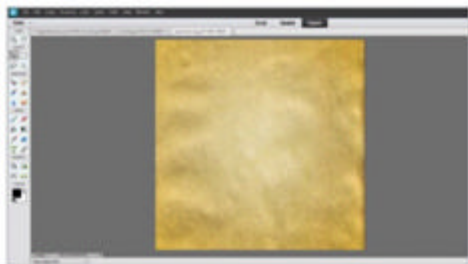
Blend mode basics

Blend modes can amplify two or more images layered over each other

Blend modes enable you to change how two layers are merged together by applying different rules for how pixels interact with each other. By default, each blend mode is set to Normal, which doesn't affect how pixels look. Choosing a different mode will always be an experimental process, as each one will present different results depending on the images being used in the effect. Some blend modes will lighten layers, other will darken them, some even change the way the colour casts.



Merge details Experiment with blend modes for seamless joins



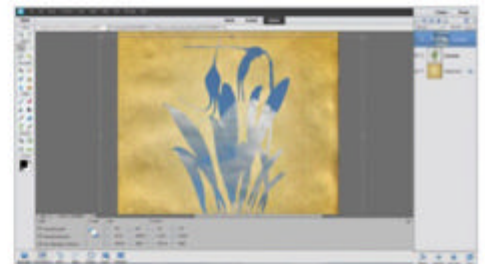
Prepare the images

01 Open up the supplied texture, clouds and plant images. Position the plant layer on top of the texture. Using the drop-down menu at the top of the Layers panel, notice that the default blend mode is Normal.



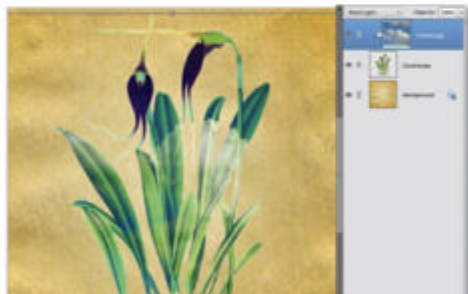
Extract the image

02 Select the Magic Wand tool from the toolbar. Click on the white areas of the plant's layer to remove the background. Hold down the Shift key to select more than one area at a time.



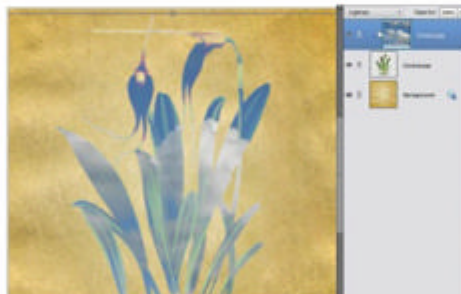
Add a third image

03 Place the clouds on a layer above the plant. Position the clouds to cover the plant. To make the pixels directly above the plant show, hold down Opt/Alt and click on the line between the cloud and plant layers to clip.



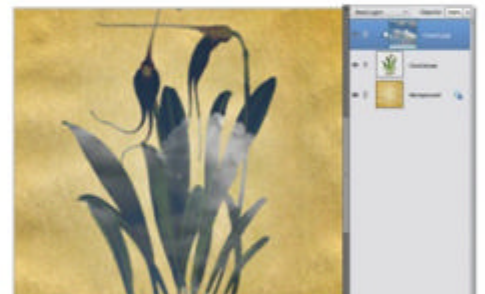
Change blend mode

04 With the cloud layer selected, click on the Layers drop-down menu and choose Hard Light. This mode will drop out the opacity of the sky, leaving some residual blue colour and the white of the clouds visible.



Experiment with modes

05 You can easily switch blend modes by hitting the up and down arrows on your keyboard. This enables you to quickly view all of the effects each mode has to offer. Each one will yield different results.



Combine modes

06 Sometimes just one blend mode isn't enough. Duplicate the cloud layer by hitting Cmd/Ctrl+J and clip as before. Give the duplicated layer a variety by experimenting with Hue/Saturation and other modes.

Refine that edge

The Refine Edge command will enable you to perfect all of your selections

In this tutorial, you will discover how to perform one of the most widely used Photoshop techniques. The Refine Edge command will help you extract an image from its background, producing an edge on your cut-out that suits your requirements for the edit. This command is indispensable when it comes to getting rid of pixel impurities along the edges of tricky objects, such as hair, or when the image you need just isn't working with the current background style.

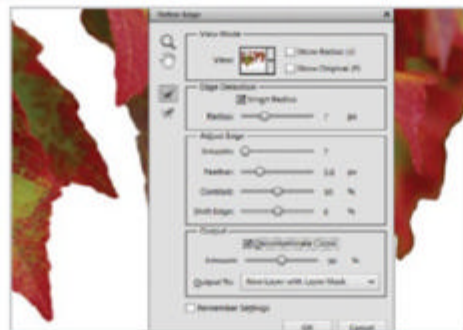
What does it mean?

FRINGING The true function of Refine Edge is to remove what is known as 'fringing'. In photography, this is the term for the ghost-like discoloured pixels that surround some images. It also refers to edge pixels that are left over from quick or messy background removal.



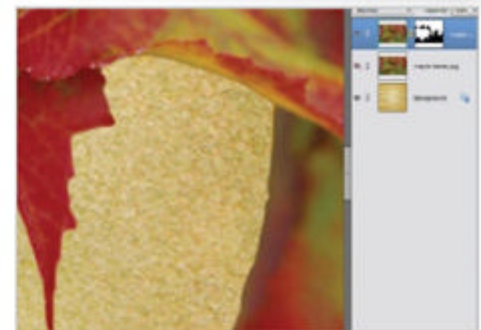
Place your image

01 Open the texture and maple leaf images, and place the leaves on top of the texture. Pick the Quick Selection tool (A). Set Tolerance to 25, then Hold down on the Shift key and click to select the green background.



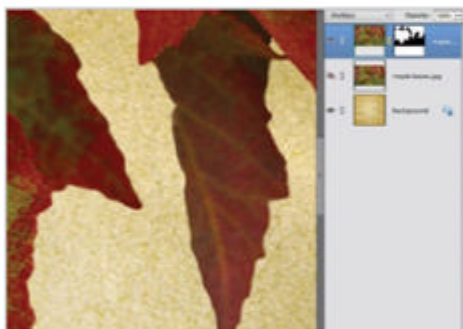
Invert the selection

02 Once you've selected the background, Select>Inverse to select the leaves. In the Options bar at the bottom, click Refine Edge>View. From the drop-down, choose On White, and enter the settings shown. Click OK.



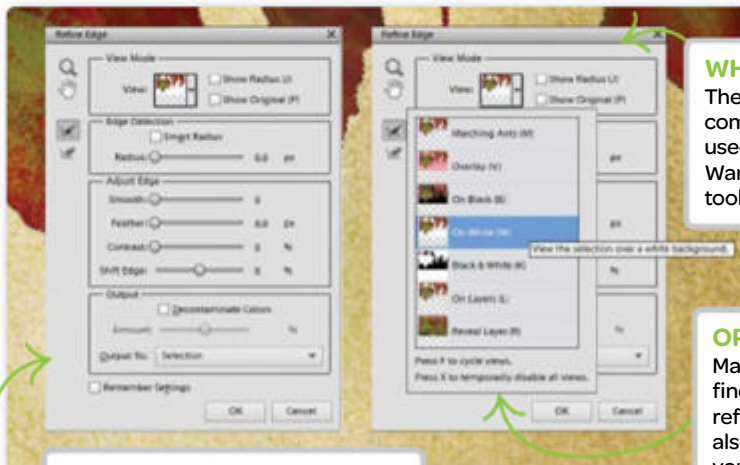
Check the effect

03 You should have a new layer with the refined edges of the leaves masked out over the original leaf layer. Zoom in to the leaf edges, and toggle the original leaf layer's visibility back on to see the difference.



Blend with texture

04 When you blend the leaves with the texture, the edges will look clean. Ensure the top layer is still selected and set the blend mode to Multiply. This amplifies the colour and the texture shows through.



WHERE IS IT KEPT?

The Refine Edge command should be used after the Magic Wand or Quick Selection tools to extract an image.

OPTIONS GALORE

Many options offer fine-tuning and preview refinements; you may also save the settings you select.

VIEW MODE

Viewing the adjustments you make to your edge is most easily seen with the On White or On Black option.

What does it mean?

RESET ACTIONS This option is kept inside the Actions panel menu just above Load Actions. It will remove all the installed actions in one go if you find that your Actions panel is starting to look a bit messy, so be careful you don't do this by accident! To remove actions one by one, use the bin icon instead.

Source file available

Use the image provided to re-create this



Use actions in Photoshop Elements

How to improve your image with these one-click edits

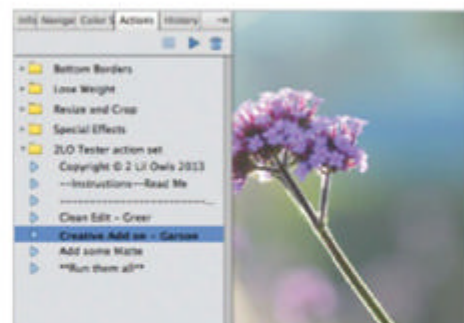
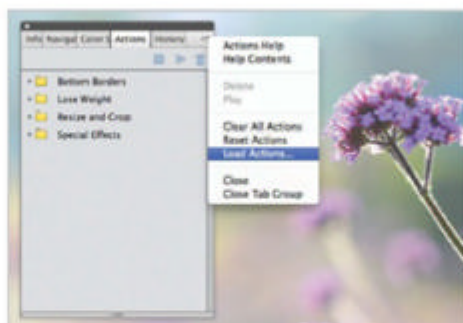
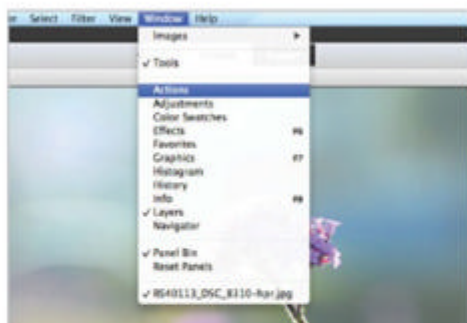
Actions are used to speed up your regular edits to make for greater efficiency. They only made an appearance in Photoshop Elements in version 11, so are still relatively new in the grand scheme of things. If you've never come across them before and have no idea what they do, then here's a look at

where you can find actions and what they're used for.

There are plenty of free actions online for you to practise with and expand on the kinds of image effects you can perform. From a simple colour enhancement to the more stylish photo finishes, actions can be used to

accomplish a vast range of potential improvements to your photos. There are lots of actions out there; you can visit www.photoshopcreative.co.uk for some creative effects, or head to 2lilowls.com and enter 'free actions' in the search field to download actions to try out in Elements.

Get to know actions Work with the Actions panel for applying creative edits



Find the actions

01 Actions are identified by the '.atn' file extension. Keep your downloaded actions in a safe place such as a new folder on your desktop. Open an image in Elements, go to the Window menu and down to Actions to load the panel.

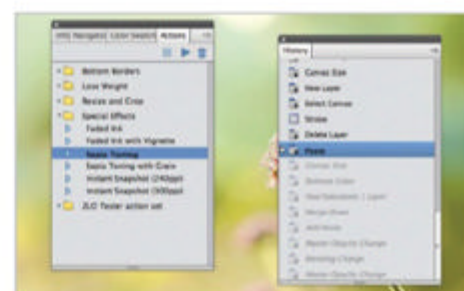
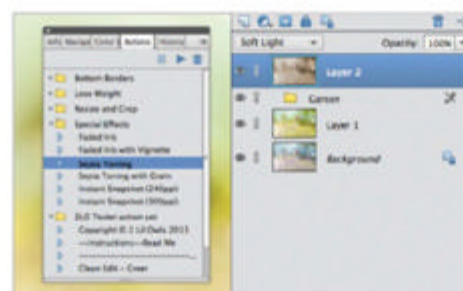
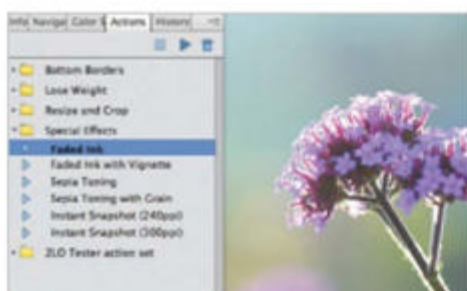
Load it up

02 The Actions panel contains presets ready to fire away. Actions are kept in folders in this panel. To load a new action into this panel, click on the small arrow button in the top-right. Select Load Actions from this list to view the Open menu.

Stored actions

03 Locate the action just downloaded using the Open menu and press Enter to load it. Loaded actions will remain in here permanently, but to remove an action, click on the trashcan icon and then OK in the warning dialog box that pops up.

Edit with actions Time to apply an action to your image



View your actions

01 A folder contains the actions for each set. By clicking on the grey arrow next to the folder icon, all actions inside the set will be visible. To use an action, open the folder and click on the first action in the list.

Distort colours

02 Click on the Play button at the top of the panel. Wait for Elements to finish running a series of commands that will transform your image. This particular action distorts colour. Try out additional actions to create more elaborate effects.

History states

03 All edits are recorded and stored inside the History panel. Go to Window>History to open the panel, and click back through the states to undo parts, or all, of the action. Your layers should update whenever a History state is selected.

At a glance

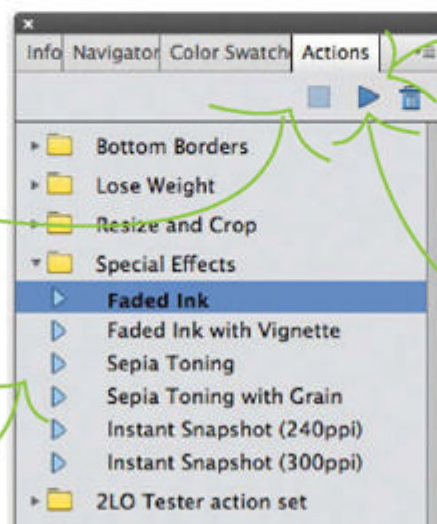
What's inside the Actions panel

STOP IT!

If at any stage during an action's playback you want to freeze it, just click on the square Stop button in the Actions panel.

LISTED ACTIONS

The descriptions give you an idea of what the action does. But it's not until you apply it that you really know if it's the right one!



THE PANEL

The actions are all kept inside this panel, which in turn is kept next to all other panels in Elements. The panel can be dragged out if you want to separate it from the others.

READY, SET, GO!

Use the Play button at the top of the panel to get an action rolling. You know when it's finished when no more layers and adjustments are added to the Layers panel.

RICHER EFFECTS

Quickly enhance colour and detail by editing images in Camera Raw.

Source file available

Use the image provided to re-create this

Before



Get the best from the Camera Raw editor

Discover what this powerful image editor can do for your images

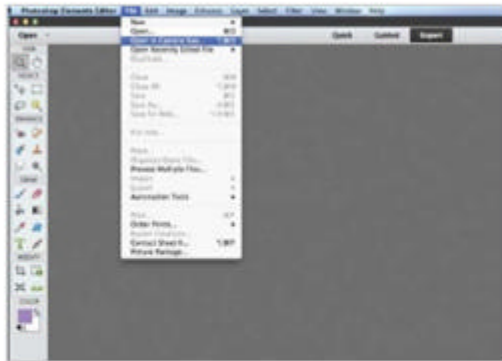
Photoshop's Camera Raw editor has been around for quite some time now, but was only introduced into the Elements interface in version 11. This means it's now available to users straight from the File menu, and gives you an incredible array of adjustment sliders to take control over the lighting, colour, sharpness and noise in an image.

What's most useful about Camera Raw is that you can apply instant fixes from a range of sliders. This removes the need to skip back and forth from one filter to the next, or load multiple

adjustment layers, which all takes time. The Camera Raw function was originally designed for photographers who were looking to edit images taken by a DSLR in RAW format. Camera Raw meant that image detail and its 'raw' settings were available to edit, as opposed to working on a compressed JPEG file.

With Camera Raw in Elements, we can apply many of the same edits to a JPEG image as we could have done with a RAW photo. Read on to find out more about taking a dull image to the next level.

Open in Camera Raw Invigorate exposure, colour and fix noise easily



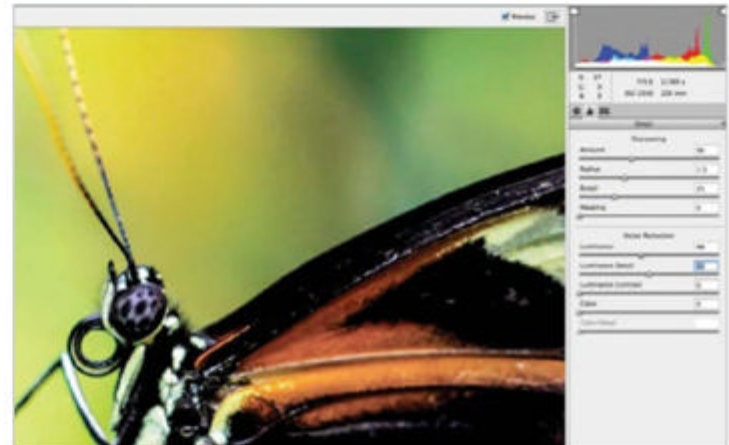
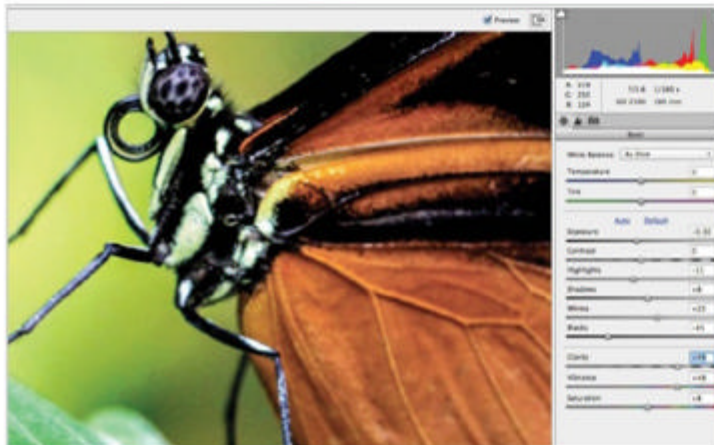
What does it mean?
LUMINANCE This can just be thought of as another term for brightness, but it actually refers more accurately to the intensity of light. If you treat luminance as a measurement of how much light is being emitted from any given part of an image, you're on the right track.

How to open

01 To open an image into Camera Raw, go to the File menu in Elements and click on Open in Camera Raw (or press Cmd/Ctrl+Opt/Alt+O). Choose an image from your computer and hit Open.

Adjust details

02 For this image, we need to adjust the colour and lighting. Set Exposure to -0.30 and Highlights to -11. This reduces the faded look of the image. Finish this step by setting Shadows to +8, Whites +22 and Blacks to -45.



Control colour

03 To rescue some of the colour and make the subject more vibrant, slide up the Clarity amount to +49. You should notice a big improvement but noise could occur. Also set the Vibrance slider to +48 and Saturation to +8.

Reduce noise

04 Click on the Detail tab (middle of the three tabs under the Histogram). Under Sharpening, set Amount to 56, Radius to 1.3 and Detail to 25. This will help to improve the focus. Set Luminance to 44 and Luminance Detail to 50 for some serious noise reduction.

Fix images in Camera Raw The best features for making your photos a lot better

CROP DOWN

Camera Raw includes a Crop tool for snipping off the edges of your images to improve composition. Locate the tool from the top-left of the screen.

RAW EDITS

Although images like JPEGs aren't strictly RAW files, we can still take advantage of the powerful tools and sliders in Camera Raw.



LIGHT DISTRIBUTION

This histogram shows you which colours fall into the brightest regions of your image and the spread of light across the visible spectrum.

INSTANT RESULTS

When you make a change to your image, updates are seen instantly. Use the Preview box to switch changes on or off.

What does it mean?

ANGLE When you choose Motion Blur from the Remove drop-down in the Adjust Sharpness dialog box, you also need to set the Angle to get correct effect. You should set the angle to correspond with the motion blur in your image so that Elements knows what it is trying to correct.

Source file available

Learn this technique using the supplied files

Start image

Sharpen your images in Photoshop Elements

Get the most out of your images with our quick sharpening guide for Elements

When it comes to editing your photos, there are certain tasks that can nearly always guarantee great improvements. One of these is sharpening, which pretty much any photo can benefit from. Sharpening enhances the details in your images and makes the edges pin-sharp and defined.

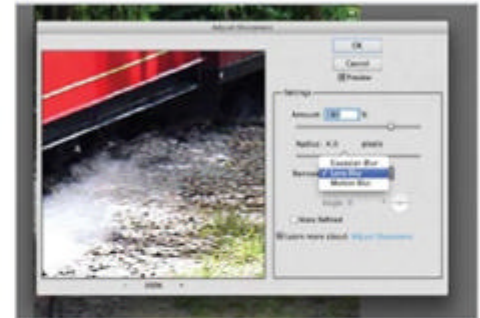
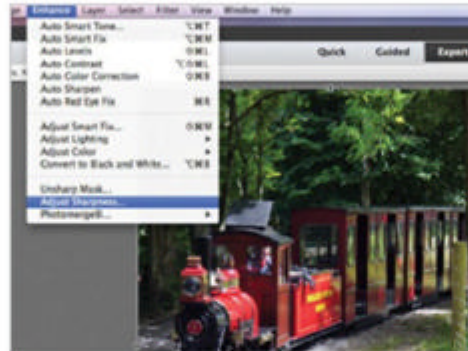
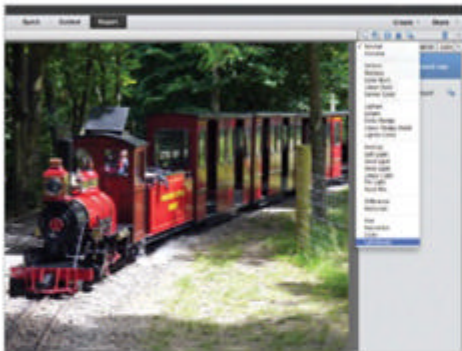
There are a few different tools and methods that you can use in Elements to sharpen your images, including the Unsharp Mask, which emulates an old darkroom technique, and the Sharpen tool, where you can selectively sharpen areas in your

image. However, we're going to look at the Adjust Sharpness command, which gives a nice balance between simple application and a measure of control over the effect.

Oversharpening can be a problem and lead to undesirable results, but if you are intending to print your images, you might find that you need to go a little further with sharpening than you would need to for viewing on-screen. Because of this, it is worth having two versions of your image: one for screen and one for print. Let's get started and have a look at how to subtly apply sharpening to improve any photo.

Sharpen those details

We show you how to sharpen your snaps in minutes



Duplicate the layer

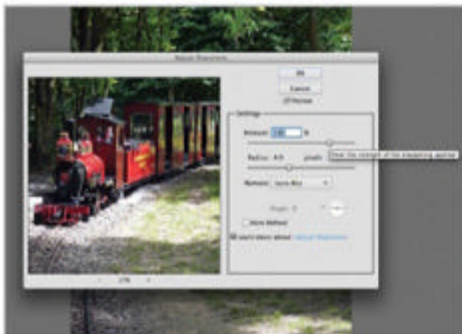
01 Open the supplied photo, or one of your own, and duplicate the layer to preserve the original. Change the blend mode to Luminosity to prevent colour shifts when sharpening.

Adjust the sharpness

02 There are lots of sharpening options but to have a measure of control over the results, go to Enhance>Adjust Sharpness. This brings up a dialog box with options that you can alter to suit your image.

Blur option

03 Pick your blur type from the Remove menu. Use Lens Blur for this image, as this enhances the edges and detail with less chance of halos appearing. Motion Blur is good for camera shake or moving subjects.



Alter the settings

04 Amount sets the level of sharpening. Slide this to 180% and set Radius to 4 pixels. This affects the edges of the objects; a high Radius leads to more noticeable sharpening, which is not always a good thing.

Adjust sharpness

Work smarter with your layers

SHARPEN

Go to Enhance>Adjust Sharpness for an accurate way to control the sharpening in your images.

DIALOG BOX

This is the Adjust Sharpness dialog box where you can set the type of blur you want to remove and control the effect.

DUPLICATE THE LAYERS

Work on a separate layer to save the original image. Set the duplicate layer to Luminosity blend mode to preserve colours.

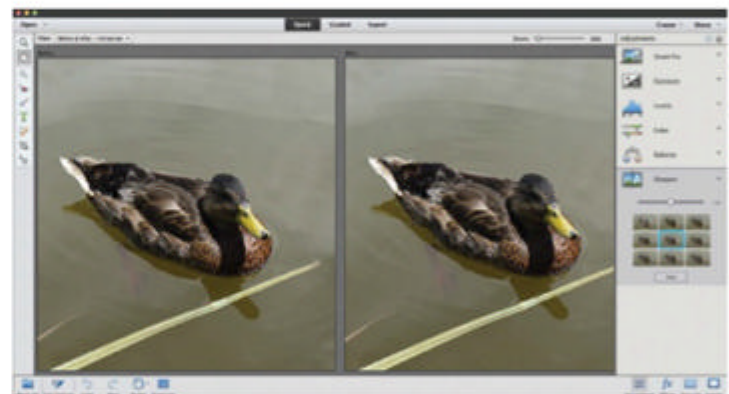
Sharpening success

A couple of pointers to ensure a smooth sharpening experience



Don't oversharpen

It is quite easy to go too far when sharpening images, which is why it is best to work on a duplicate layer. Oversharpening can lead to halos appearing around your image and you can also introduce noise, neither of which is particularly desirable.



A quick sharpen

In Elements there's a simple one-step way to sharpen your images. Open a photo in Quick mode and you will see the Sharpen option in the right-hand menu. Simply scroll through the thumbnails to find the right level of sharpening and click on one to apply.

Photo editing

Learn how to fix, edit and retouch your photos for better effects

62 30 tricks for better shots

A collection of expert editing nuggets

68 Use layers for monochrome

Adjustment layer magic for B&W

70 Fix portraits in a snap

Tips for quick image fixes

74 Recompose photos

Edits for the perfect composition

78 Correct exposure

A beginner-friendly guide

82 Boost colours

Make a dull image shine

84 Restore old photos

A new lease of life for forgotten shots

88 Alter hair and eye colour

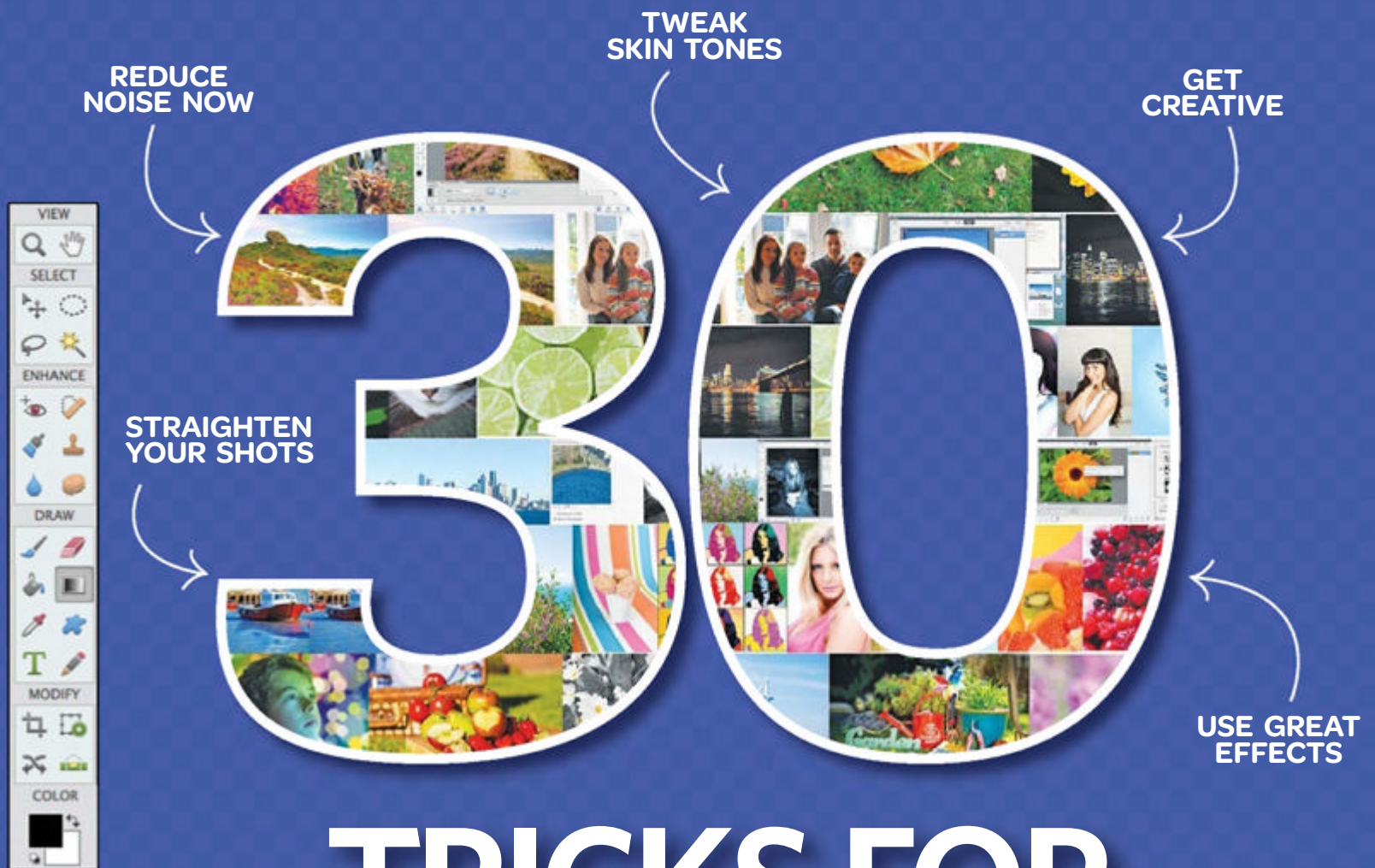
Make your hair go crazy colours

90 Change seasons with gradients

Bring around autumn colours

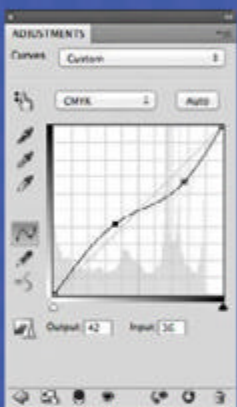






TRICKS FOR BETTER SHOTS

Dip into this collection of editing nuggets to discover tips, tricks and fixes for your editing endeavours



ENHANCE EXPOSURES

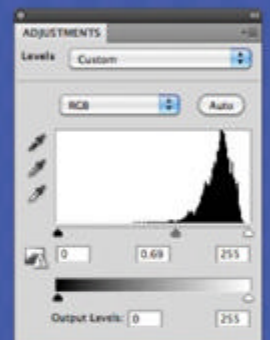
It's easy to get stuck in an editing rut. All too often you find yourself performing the same tasks using the same tools for the same reasons. This is a shame, because most image-editing software is festooned with alternative methods for reaching the same result. And in some cases, the alternative method will be better or quicker than what you have been doing all along.

Over these pages, we have gathered together 30 of our favourite editing tips. We reveal ways to correct common photo problems, in addition to sharing creative solutions to liven dull images. You will learn new ways to conquer familiar demons such as blur, noise, unwanted

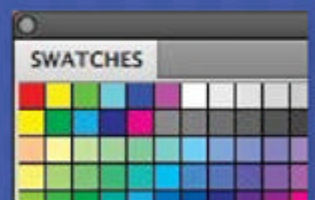
objects and disappointing colour, in addition to finding creative uses for filters and gradients.

We'll also present clever ways to use tools to get the most from your images. All of the examples shown here have been created using Photoshop Elements, so the tools and commands covered are perfectly suited to getting the most from your version of Photoshop.

Have a read through the tips and then try the techniques out on your own images. Hopefully you will discover a new approach to fixing certain problems and gain creative ideas that you can carry with you for years to come, for frame-worthy photographs every time.



IMPROVE AND CHANGE COLOURS



Fix common problems Discover top ways to improve your shots now



Eliminate camera blur

01 Fixing blur usually means a trip to the Unsharp Mask filter. But there is another way. The High Pass filter is an underused but highly effective blur-buster. Its magic lies in the fact that it targets the edges of images. Start by duplicating the offending image. Change the blend mode to Overlay.

Open up the High Pass filter. In Elements, this is found in Filter > Other. Use the Radius slider to adjust the sharpness; the higher the Radius, the more intense the sharpening will be.

It's also possible to control the sharpening by changing the blend mode from Overlay to Hard Light (for more sharpness) or Soft Light (less sharpness).

Get rid of noise

02 Image editors generally have a tool to eliminate noise in photos (in Elements it is the Reduce Noise filter). Concentrate on sliders that control the strength of the edit, as well as anything that deals with colour noise or JPEG artefacts. Don't worry about sliders for preserving detail. This often brings noise back.



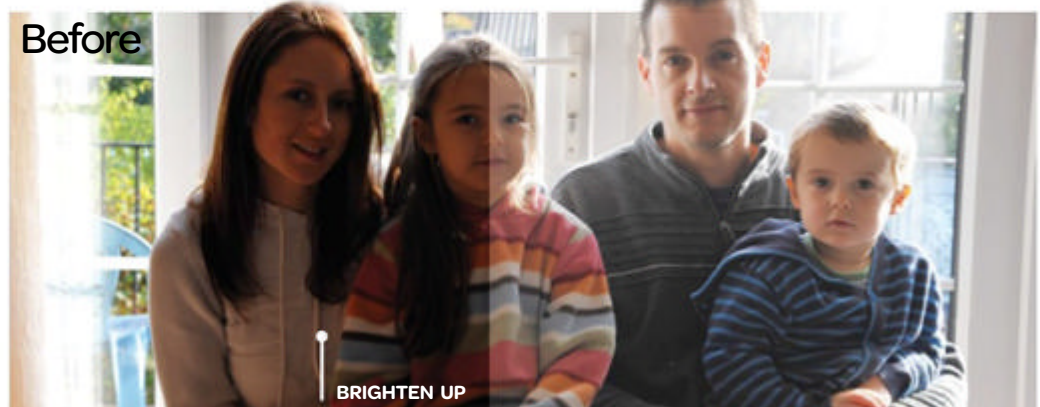
Straighten and crop

03 Some editors don't have a dedicated tool for straightening horizons, but most have a Crop tool. Select this and drag a small rectangle. Move and rotate it so the top of the box runs along the horizon line. Now use the corner handles to drag the crop box over as much of the image as possible. Commit to the crop and it will straighten it up.



Rescue bad exposure

04 Levels should be your go-to tool for fixing exposure problems. Don't worry about the histogram; just concentrate on the three sliders underneath to improve your images. Start by dragging the white one (highlights) to the left. Then drag the black one (shadows) to the right. Finally, use the grey one (midtones) to lighten or darken. The Curves tool also helps with exposure – try moving the graph into an S-shape.



Use quick tricks Easy ways to get the results you want



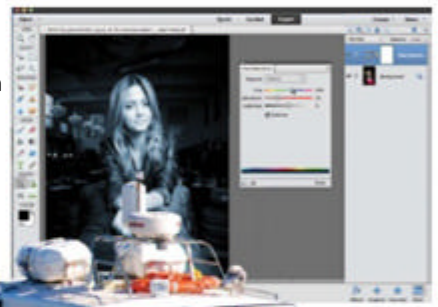
Make colour pop

05 A photo with strong colours always looks appealing, but you don't have to delve into the dedicated colour tools. Open your photo, duplicate it, and on the duplicated layer, set the blend mode to Hard Light. If the effect isn't enough, repeat until you are happy. If the effect is too much, use the Opacity slider to calm it down.



Quick duotone effects

06 Open an image and select the Hue/Saturation command (apply as an adjustment layer if possible). Drag the Saturation slider left to go monochrome. Now tick Colorize and use the Hue slider to bring in colour for a duotone effect. Use the Saturation slider to adapt.



Add a reflection

07 It's easy to add a reflection. Make a selection of the area to reflect. Copy and paste and then flip this vertically, so that it's upside down. Set the blend mode to Soft Light, reduce the layer opacity and then apply a smidgen of Motion Blur.

Select from the centre

08 In Elements, hold down the Opt/Alt key to start selecting from the centre point with any Marquee tool. This is very useful when using the Elliptical Marquee.

Lighten dark areas

10 If your image editor has a Shadow/Highlight function, use it to tease out detail from areas that are too dark. You can also use it to darken any over-bright areas.

Brush saturation on

12 To target areas of colour that need help, use the Sponge tool to increase the saturation. You can then control the strength and alter the brush size to suit.

Keep cropped detail

14 If your editor has a Canvas Size function, use it to reduce the image size of a non-background layer. When done, use the Move tool to see the areas outside of the canvas.

Keep lines straight

09 If you need to create a straight line, maybe for a gradient or mask, just hold down the Shift key on your keyboard and drag. The line will be perfectly straight.

Perfect your selections

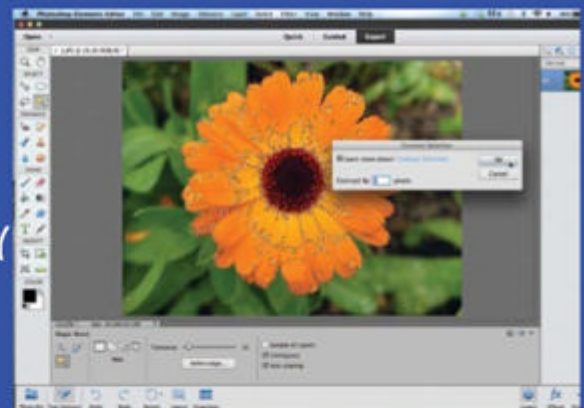
11 Most editors have commands to modify selections. In Elements, for example, the Select>Modify menu has the useful Contract option to make the selection smaller.

Blend mode exposure fix

13 On underexposed images, duplicate the layer and set the blend mode to Multiply. On overexposed images, duplicate, but this time set the blend mode to Screen.

Control how a palette looks

15 When using a palette or panel in Elements, click the downwards-pointing arrow in the top-right. This will often reveal options for altering how the palette looks.



Blending in

16 When images are put on new backgrounds, they can look fake, but if you blur the background slightly, it looks like a depth of field effect! It's a really easy and cunning trick that can come in very handy for making edits look natural.

See only one layer

17 In Photoshop Elements, to see one layer on its own, hold down Opt/Alt and click the eye icon for that layer. All other layers will turn off. Repeat this to bring them all back again. This can be very useful for looking at layers in detail.

Get creative How to completely transform photos

Create a planet panorama

18 Try this easy effect on your panoramas. Open the Image Size window, tick Resample Image and deselect Constrain Proportions. Make the Height the same as the Width. Now rotate 180 degrees, then go to Filter> Distort>Polar Coordinates. Select Rectangular to Polar and click OK.

FINALISE BY
SELECTING
'RECTANGULAR
TO POLAR'



Before



IMAGES WITH
A CLEAN
FOREGROUND
WORK BEST

Selectively colour

19 Selective colour on a black and white image is great for making an impact. Open an image and duplicate it. Convert the duplicate to black and white. Now pick the Eraser and brush over areas to let the colour from the original image show through. This works well when you want one particular area of the image to really stand out.

Illustrate with Cutout

20 You can turn your photo into a great illustration in many programs, but here's how to do it in Elements. With your image open, visit the Cutout filter. Adjust the sliders to simplify the details. Duplicate the Cutout layer and apply the Charcoal filter. Adjust the sliders to pick out some detail. Set the blend mode to Color Burn.

Colour light effects

21 Open a photo and convert to black and white. Increase the contrast. Pick the Gradient tool, set to Radial gradient and the Black, White preset. Pick a gradient colour, create a new layer and draw a gradient. Set to Color Burn blend mode. Repeat using different colours, gradients, textures, lens flares and blend modes.

Restore, retouch and revive Tweak your shots

Improve skin tones

22 Skin tones can sometimes suffer in photos; the white balance could be off, resulting in odd colour casts; the subject might be hot and have redness in the skin; or they could look washed out and need some colour. Rather than edit the whole image, the Hue/Saturation command enables you to access the colours you want to tweak.

Open your image and use a Hue/Saturation adjustment layer (if you don't have adjustment layers, just pick the Hue/Saturation command). Go to the Master drop-down menu and pick the offending colour. Now drag the Saturation slider to the left to reduce that colour (or right to increase).



Before



EASILY PERFECT SKIN TONES

Revive dull landscapes

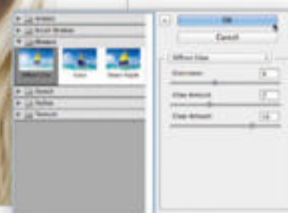
23 To fix dull, grey skies, set your Foreground to blue and the Background to white. Select the sky, create a new layer and pick the Gradient tool. Set this to Linear and Foreground to Background. Drag it from the top to the bottom and set the layer to Overlay. Create another layer, go to Select>Inverse then Edit>Fill. Fill with white and set the layer to Overlay. Use the Opacity slider to tone down the effect. Finally, increase the Saturation slider to improve overall colours.



Before

Dream glow effects

24 If you have a portrait image that could do with a helping hand, a quick and easy fix is to add a dream glow effect. Open your image and add the Diffuse Glow filter (in Elements it is with the Distort filters). Keep the effect pretty subtle, or for more drama, you can convert the photo to black and white as well.



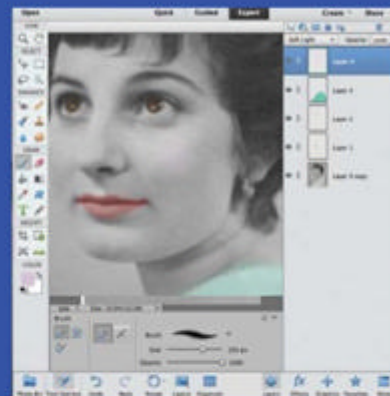
Fill missing areas

25 Sometimes scanned images are incomplete, either because of a damaged image or because it was a bad scan! Rather than clone it in, select a similar area, copy, paste and move it into the right area. If the edges don't merge well, use the Spot Healing Brush.



Hand-tint images

26 Bring colour to black-and-white photos. Open your image and set your Foreground colour to your desired shade. Create a new blank layer, pick the Brush tool and set a good size. Brush over the area. Now set the blend mode to Color or Soft Light and adjust the Opacity slider if needed.



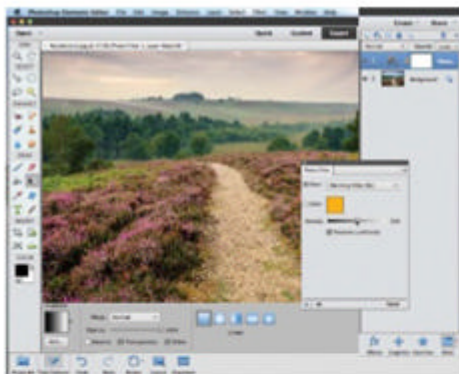
Apply clever colour edits

Change and enhance your hues



Easy lomo effects

27 The trend for vintage-inspired colour edits is still popular, and with good reason; it can do wonders for an otherwise ordinary image. And a lomo effect is one of the best. Apply this to any image with washed-out colours or a bit of blur. Start by creating a Gradient Map adjustment layer. Change the blend mode to Color and lower the Opacity to 50%. Open the Gradient Editor and either pick a preset gradient or create your own. You can adjust the Opacity slider to increase or decrease the effect or work through different blend modes for alternative effects.



Add digital filters

28 The Photo Filter adjustment layer in Elements is excellent for mimicking the effect of traditional camera lens filters. Use it to quickly make a photo warmer or cooler, or apply to selected parts of the image for a targeted edit.

Change specific colours

29 Use the Replace Color command in Elements (you might have one called Color Range) to target specific colours for editing. Open the image, click the colour to change and use the Fuzziness slider for a good selection. Then use the Replace sliders to pick a replacement colour.

Make the colours sing

30 If your editor has a Vibrance command, you can use it on dull images. It quickly sorts out weak tone and brings the colour out. In Elements, it is in the Quick edit interface, under the Color adjustment.



Use layers for monochrome in Elements

Discover the magic of adjustment layers for easy B&W edits

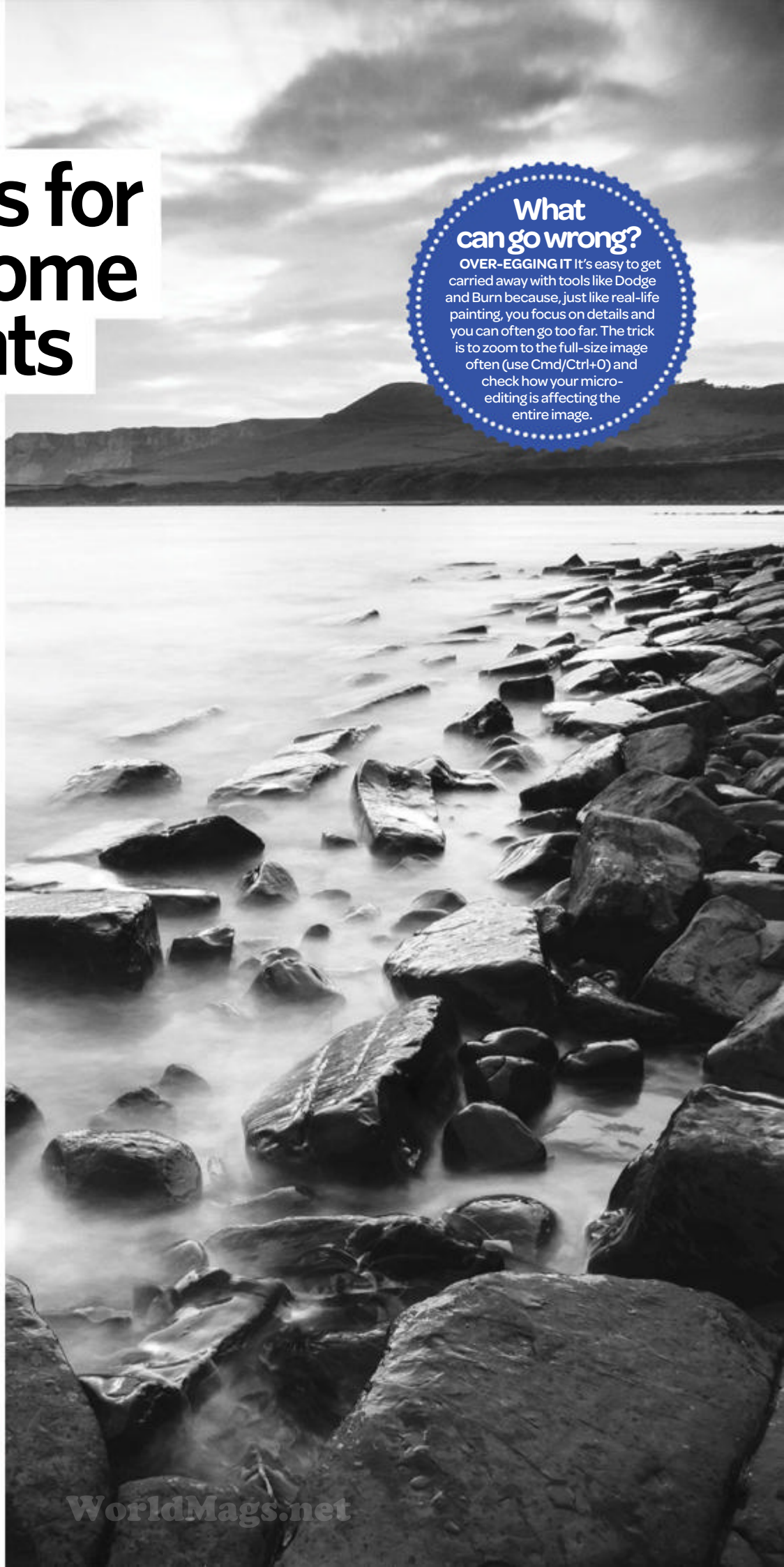
Making an image black and white can be a simple one-click affair, but opting for the Desaturate button can drown out details and damage the overall effect. You want to take away the colour, but not the detail. The key to this is adjustment layers; the miracle of Photoshop Elements. Adjustment layers enable you to alter an image without damaging any of the original pixels. Used for a number of different reasons, from fixing contrast and brightness, to adding more colour, adjustments are the marvel of the quick photo-editing world.

Hidden under that magical adjustment layer button lies a plethora of edits. Experiment by tweaking sliders to the maximum because you can delete or edit the results with ease. Add a spot of Dodge and Burn for picking out details and you're all set for success. You'll get a perfect monochrome shot in under an hour.



What can go wrong?

OVER-EGGING IT It's easy to get carried away with tools like Dodge and Burn because, just like real-life painting, you focus on details and you can often go too far. The trick is to zoom to the full-size image often (use Cmd/Ctrl+O) and check how your micro-editing is affecting the entire image.

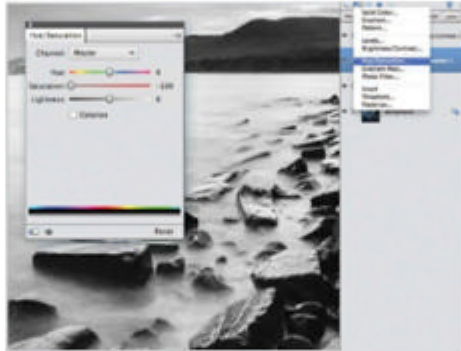


Make perfect monochromes Go further than desaturating; use adjustment layers



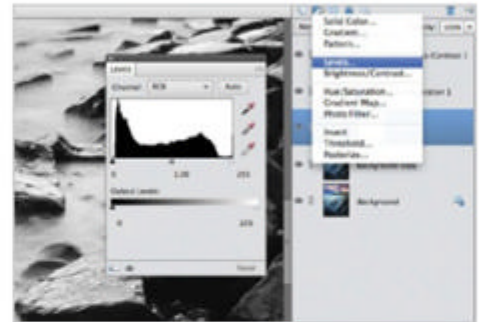
Brighten up

01 Ctrl/right-click the Background layer and hit Duplicate Layer. Click the black-and-white circle at the top of the Layers panel and select Brightness/Contrast. Adjust the sliders to get a clearer and brighter image. We increased Brightness to 60 and lowered Contrast to -14.



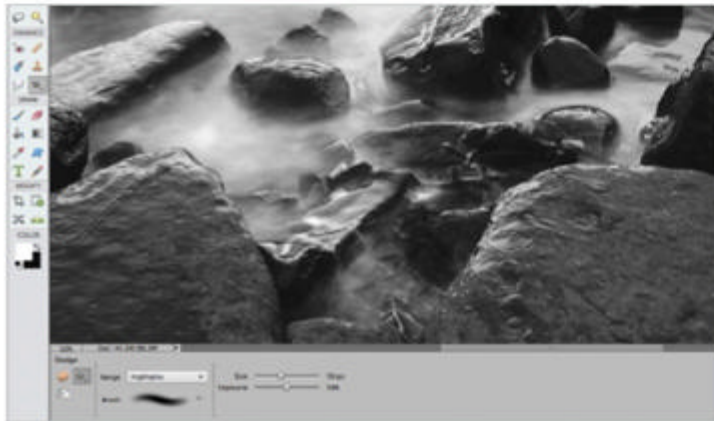
Remove the colour

02 Next, hit the same adjustment layer button again but this time select Hue/Saturation. Drag the Saturation slider all the way to the left to -100. This will turn your image completely black and white.



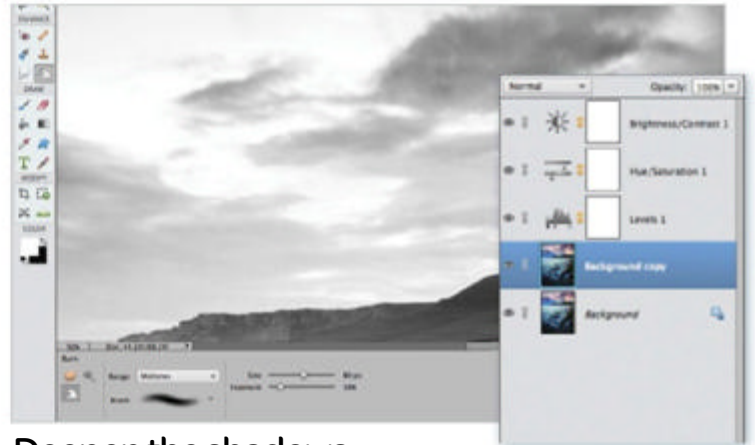
Tweak the Levels

03 Zoom in to detail areas like the foreground rocks or the clouds using Cmd/Ctrl and the + or - keys. Inside the adjustment layer list, choose Levels. Tweak the highlights to 230 and the midtones to 1.10 for subtle improvements to exposure.



Bring out highlights

04 In the toolbar, choose the Dodge tool. Make sure the Range is set to Highlights and, using a soft round brush, paint over whiter areas of the rocks. Notice the immediacy of brightness you get. Continue manually pulling out sparkly details.



Deepen the shadows

05 Find the Burn tool under the same tool box as Dodge. Concentrate on the darker areas of detail and manually paint in shadows using a similar method as Dodge. Focus on the clouds at first and use your square bracket keys to alter brush size as you go.

Adjustment layers

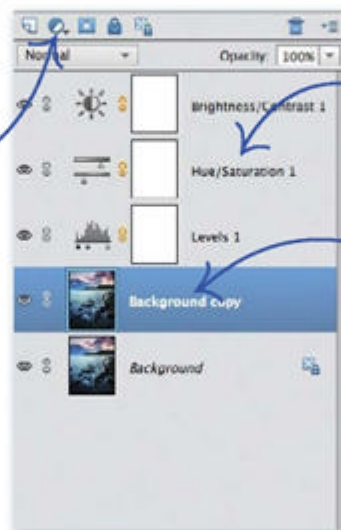
Get the most from these miracles

EDITABLE EDITS

The best thing about using adjustment layers is that you can go back and tweak your edits later; essential for beginners.

DODGE AND BURN

These two tools are incredibly easy to use for making highlights sparkle and shadows deep and dark.



THE POWER OF ADJUSTMENTS

Adjustment layers hold the key to re-editable functions like brightness, contrast and saturation for colour.

DON'T FORGET TO DUPLICATE

Whenever you work on a new image, duplicate the Background layer for the safest editing. This way you've always got an untouched original.

What does it mean?

CROP The Crop tool lets you cut down an image, removing parts of it completely as if you'd cut them off with scissors. Click and drag across your image and Elements will darken the areas that you plan to crop off. You can toggle individual edges by clicking and dragging them too.

Source file available

Use the image provided to re-create this

Fix your portraits in a snap

Try these quick and easy techniques to help make your portraits the best they have ever been

Taking the perfect portrait is a skill, as it relies on the subject being in the right place, with the right lighting and with the right composition. If you're taking candid shots then it's even harder to get all the factors to fall into place. Over the following pages we'll be looking at the little tips and tricks you can use that will take a good portrait and turn it into something much more impressive.

If you take a great shot of a person, but they are lost in their surroundings, then use the Crop tool to recompose your image.

Lighting can play havoc in so many ways, especially when the person being photographed is facing towards the sun, leaving their face half in shadow and half in bright light. We can help you balance things out for a more even finish. Finally, we look at simply adding a cool frame to your portraits for a creative finishing touch.

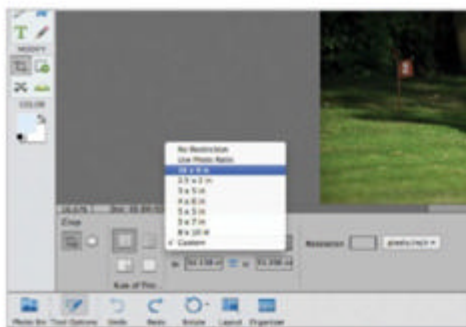
We'll be using Photoshop Elements 12 to complete these mini tutorials, but you can use earlier versions because the same tools are still available.



Crop your composition

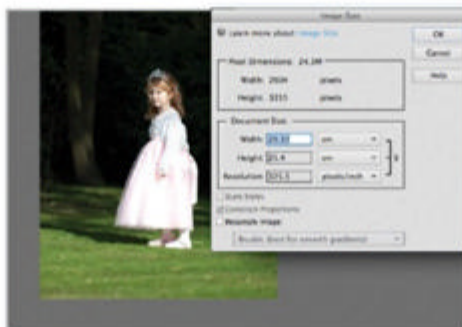
A simple way to make your subject the focus of attention

When you're composing a photo of a person in their surroundings, it's tempting to try and get as much in the frame as possible. Or it might be that you have simply caught a friend without them realising, and you've captured half the forest behind them too! Either way, we'll show you to use the Crop tool to help improve the composition of your photograph and make it worthy of being displayed in a frame.



Set up the tool

01 Select the Crop tool. The drop-down menu sets an Aspect Ratio, which restricts the size of the frame for cropping. Leave Resolution blank or Elements will upscale the image to match that resolution.



Check image size

02 Go to Image>Resize>Image Size. The Width and Height measurements are dictated by the Aspect Ratio, but for good-quality printouts, you want a Resolution of around 300ppi.



Compositional guides

03 When you're cropping you can opt to see helpful guides, such as a Grid, Rule of Thirds, or Golden Ratio, which help you find a composition to get the best out of your image before you commit to a crop.

Crop to perfection

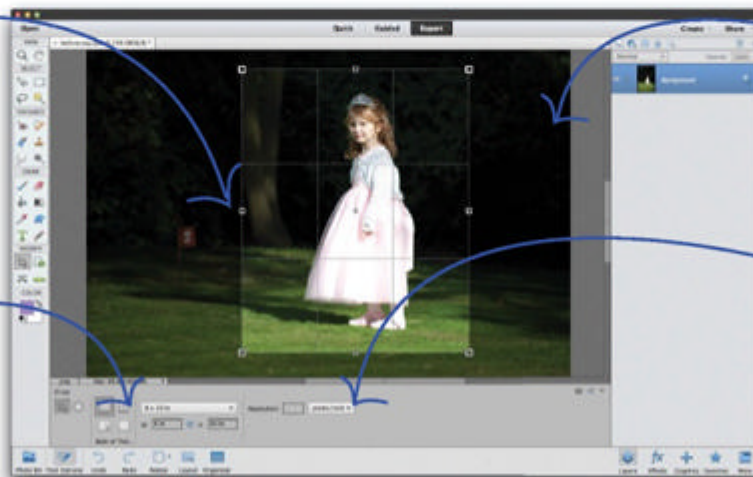
Maximise the Crop tool options for the best results

CROP GUIDES

You can choose from a range of different guides to help you get a good crop.

ASPECT RATIO

This drop-down menu has a range of preset Aspect Ratios to scroll through and choose from.



CROP AREA

When you draw with the Crop tool, that part of the image stays light and the rest goes dark so you can see what you're doing more easily.

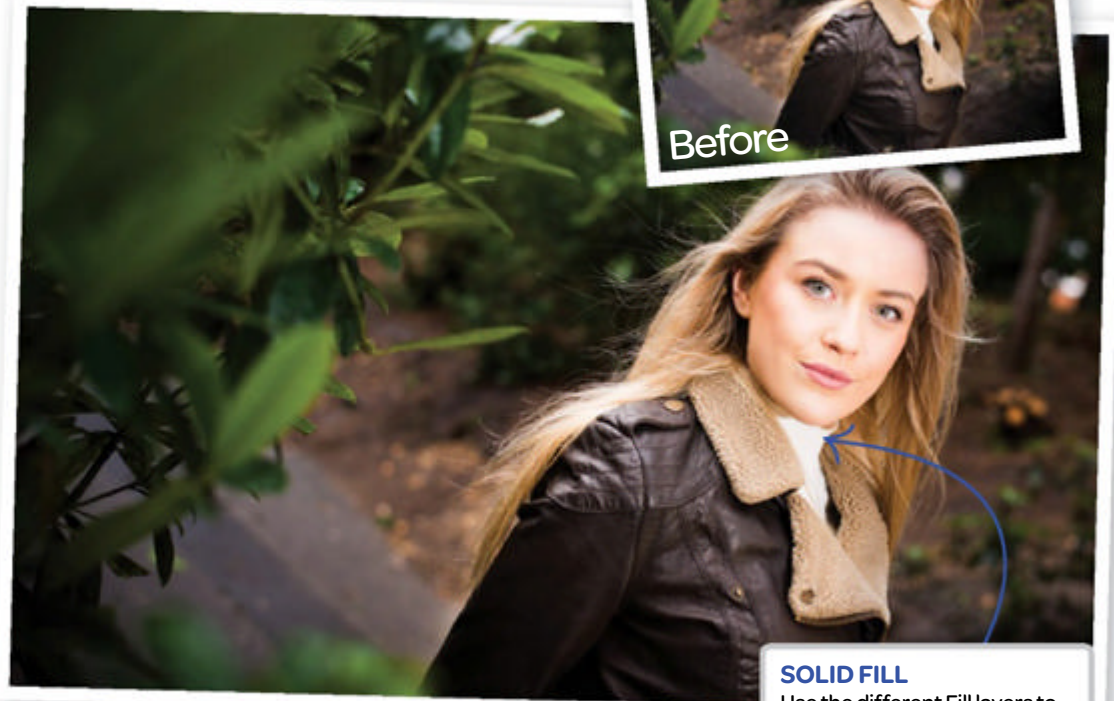
RESOLUTION

Use this to set the resolution, but be careful because if you crop the image too small, Photoshop will force the resolution and your image may look grainy.

Correct overexposure

Rescue your portraits and correct lighting on faces that are too bright

Shooting into the sun presents a lot of different problems. If a person is solely in light or dark, at least the exposure is even across the shot. But if your subject is partly in the sun, or at a slight angle to it, you'll find that just some areas of the face look overexposed, which leads to patches which appear to be too bright. It's something that can easily be fixed in Elements, and it doesn't take much time at all. Here's how to beat it.



SOLID FILL

Use the different Fill layers to edit photos; in this case a Solid Fill was used in order to make tweaks to the colours.

Tackle overexposure Combat the effect of strong lighting



Starting point

01 As you can see, part of the subject's face is in bright sunlight, which has led to overexposure. This means it's whiter than the rest of the face. We need to balance things out.



Levels adjustment

02 Go to Layer>New Adjustment Layer>Levels. Adjust the triangles under the graph until the image darkens. Aim to lower the exposure on the left of the face. The image will look poor at this stage.



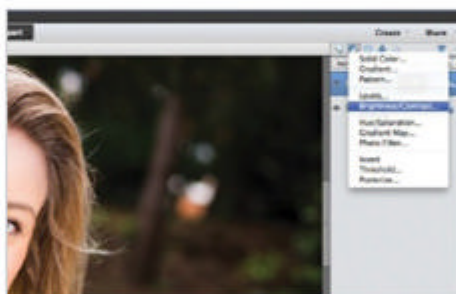
Selective adjustment

03 Select the Paint Bucket tool and set the Foreground colour to black. Click on the thumbnail of the adjustment mask that's attached to the layer, then click over your image to fill the mask with black.



Paint on darkness

04 This hides the Levels adjustment. Select the Brush tool, choose a soft brush at around 30% Opacity. Ensure the mask is selected and paint over the overexposed areas to darken them.



Another adjustment

05 Add a Brightness/Contrast adjustment layer and pull the Brightness down slightly. Repeat the process to colour the whole mask black, so we can't see the adjustment on the image.



Paint it on

06 Once you have hidden the adjustment, paint back in using a white soft brush. As you brush over the image, it will begin to dull the bright white areas. Any mistakes can just be painted over with black!

Add creative effects

Have fun with Elements' built-in Graphics and Effects

Photoshop Elements comes with a range of fun effects to add to your image to give a creative final touch. For example, there are some really attractive frames and backgrounds that can give photos a great new look. We'll use two framing options and touch on the Effects, too.



Add frames

01 Select the Graphics menu. Choose Frame from the drop-down and pick one. Sort the options with the By Type menu. To apply, simply drag over your image.



Duplicate is key

02 Backgrounds cover the back layer. When you open an image, that will be the Background layer. Applying a design will copy over your image. Go to Layer > Duplicate Layer before doing this.

Apply a background

03 Drag a background over your image. It will replace the Background layer, but not the duplicate layer. The image sits on top - until you resize it, the new background won't be visible.

Final effects

04 Drop shadows make the image stand out. Open the Effects menu and from the Styles section, pick Drop Shadows. Select the shadow you want and drag this onto your image.

BACKGROUNDS ADVICE

A background will replace the current background layer, so always duplicate.

DRAW TO APPLY

If you see something you like, simply drag and drop it onto your photo to apply the background or frame.



BACKGROUNDS, FRAMES AND MORE

Use the drop-down menu in Graphics to locate the kind of effects you want to add.

LOCATE THE PRESETS

Click on either the Graphics or Effects button from the options along the bottom-right of the Elements interface to access the available presets.

Recompose problem photos in easy steps

Adjust composition to create perfect photos using Elements, Pixlr and apps on your smart device

CROP

The Crop tool in Elements gives you options for resizing to a specific size, and also aids recomposition.

ROTATE

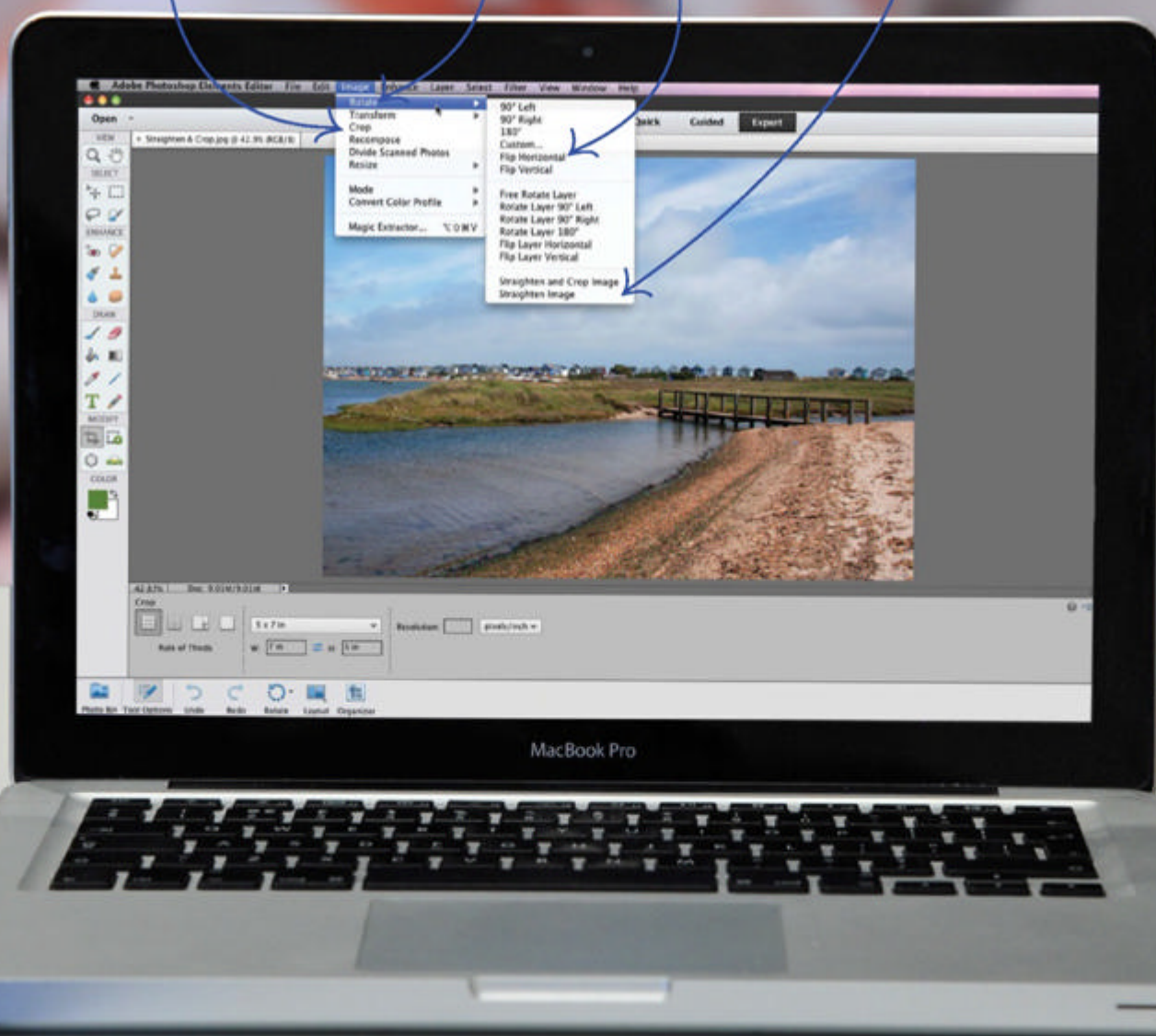
Turn your image to a preset angle or choose your own. You can even manually drag your shot to rotate it.

FLIP

Instantly reposition your subject by flipping the entire photo vertically or horizontally to achieve the look you want.

STRAIGHTEN

Wonky photos can easily be corrected using the Straighten tool. It's as simple as drawing a line across your horizon.



Straighten & crop Correct horizons and reposition your subject in Elements



Straighten instantly

01 To instantly straighten a wonky photo, go to Image>Rotate>Straighten Image. Elements will try to work out where your horizon is and straighten it. It is quite accurate but will occasionally struggle to get it right. If so, straighten your image manually.



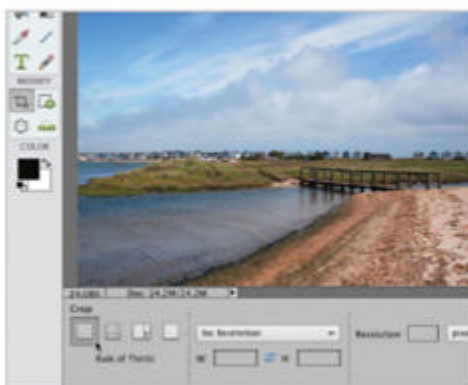
Manually straighten

02 Click the Straighten tool in the Modify toolbar and select from the options. Grow or Shrink will change the size of the image without cropping. Remove Background removes any extra background and Original Size will rotate the image.



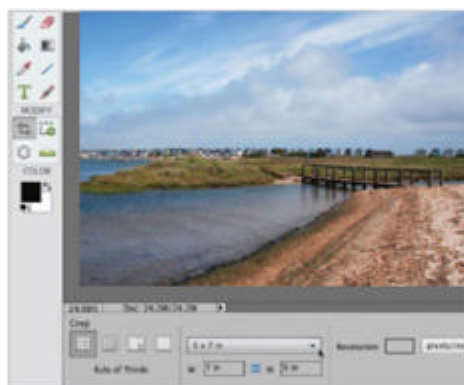
Correct the horizon

03 Once you have selected an option, draw a line across the horizon. When you let go of the mouse button, the horizon will straighten. If you used the Grow, Shrink or Original Size option, remove the extra background by cropping.



Select a crop style

04 To auto-crop your shot, go to Image>Crop. To do it manually, select the Crop tool and pick a style. Rule Of Thirds creates a nine-piece grid, Grid has infinite squares, Golden Ratio highlights one corner of the box and None has no grid.



Choose a crop size

05 To crop your shot to a specific size, select a measurement from the drop-down or input your own for the height and width. Otherwise, select No Restriction to freely create your crop size. You can also set the resolution of your image.



Crop your shot

06 Now drag your cursor over the area of the photo you wish to keep. When the correct amount of the image is highlighted, click the green tick in the bottom right-hand corner to crop it or click on the red symbol to cancel and start again.

Recompose in Pixlr Express



Find your image

01 Open an image in free online editor pixlr.com/express. Click Adjustment and then select Crop. Pick an aspect ratio to decide the shape of your crop. Highlight the area you want to keep and click Apply.



Straighten up

02 Now click on the Rotate button. To straighten up a wonky shot, adjust the Straighten slider and use the grid to help you get your horizon straight. You can also input your own straightening value.

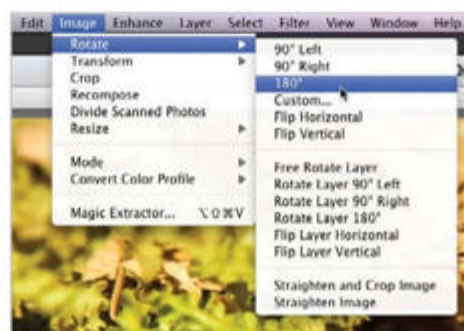
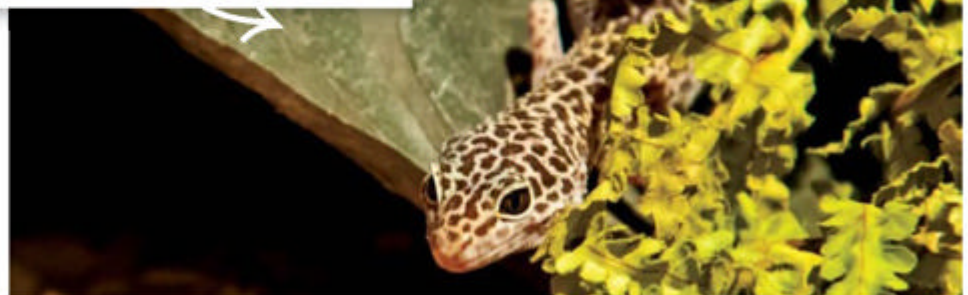
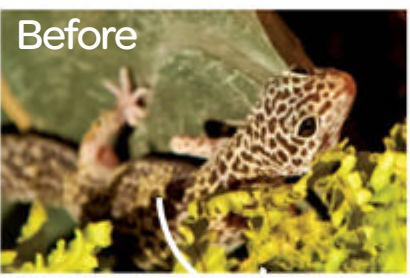


Flip and rotate

03 Next to the Straighten slider you will find buttons to flip and rotate your shot. You can rotate it in 90 degree increments left or right, and flip your shot vertically or horizontally in one click.

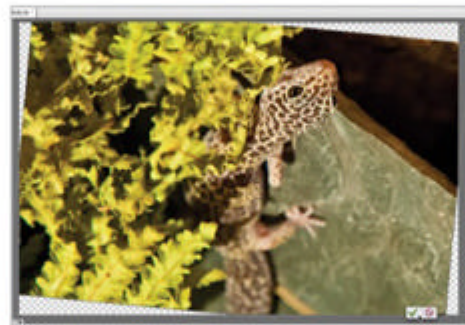
Rotate & flip

Get a better composition in Elements



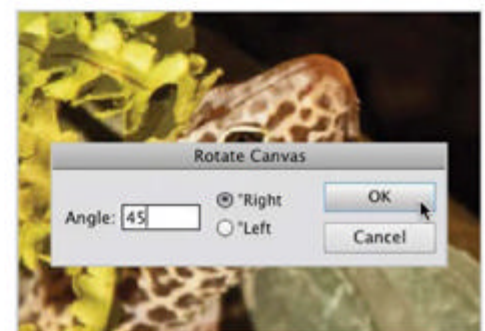
Rotate your shot

01 Go to Image>Rotate to choose from a selection of options to rotate an image. Clicking 90 degrees Left or Right will turn your shot and change its orientation. Clicking 180 degrees will rotate and turn it upside down.



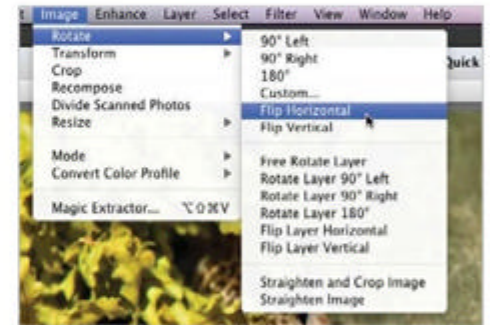
Free rotate

03 To rotate manually, go to Image>Rotate>Free Rotate Layer and drag the corners of your image around. You may need to crop in, or you could create a new or duplicate layer and then reveal parts of the background layer.



Choose your angle

02 If you want to rotate to an angle that doesn't have a preset, go to Image>Rotate>Custom. Type in the desired angle, choose to turn it left or right and click OK. You may have to crop your shot to remove extra background.

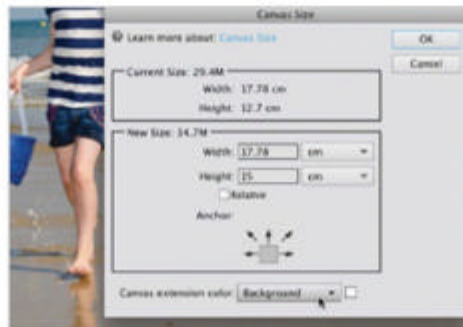
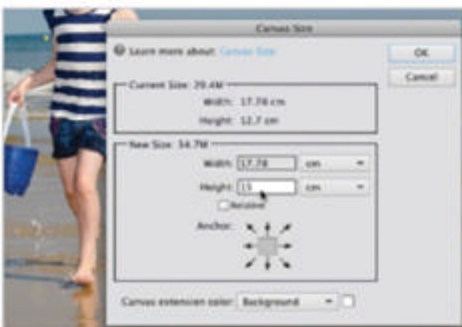


Flip your shot

04 To reverse the position of the subject in your photo, flip it. Go to Image>Rotate and choose to Flip Horizontal or Flip Vertical. Flip Horizontal will move your subject left or right, while Vertical will move them up or down.

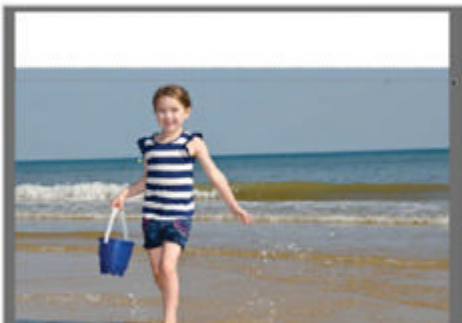
Extend backgrounds

Use Elements to zoom out



Increase the canvas size

01 If you think your background is cropped in too tightly, you can easily add more space to the sides to zoom out a little. Go to Image>Resize>Canvas size and then choose your new height and/or width measurements.



Make a selection

03 Select the Rectangular Marquee tool and highlight an area of the background that is next to the extended area of canvas. Make sure you don't include any parts of your subject or the blank canvas in your selection.

Choose a direction

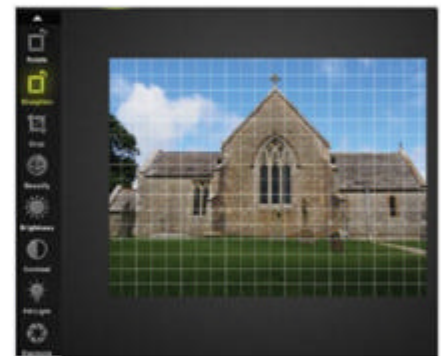
02 Choose which side of the shot you want to add space to by changing the anchor point. Only add background to the sides that are empty. Set the canvas extension colour to Background via the drop-down and click OK.



Extend the background

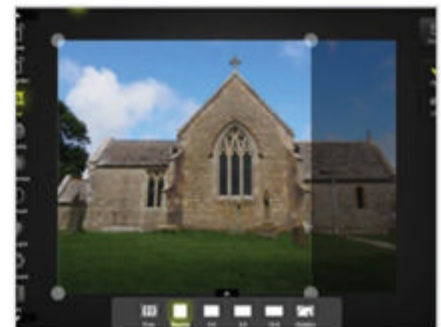
04 Hold Cmd/Ctrl+T and click inside your rectangular selection. Drag the edges to cover the new areas of blank canvas and fill them with your existing background. When you are done, click on the green tick.

Crop and more with BeFunky



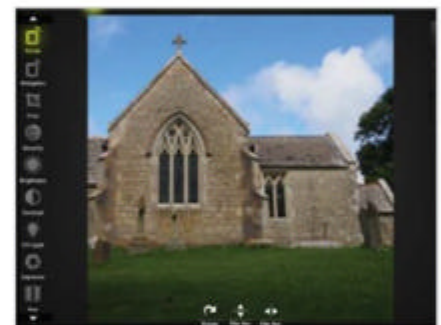
Make it straight

01 Open your photo in the free app and tap the Edits tab at the top. Tap the Straighten tool and then drag your finger along the slider at the bottom to tilt your shot until it is parallel with the grid lines.



Get cropping

02 Tap the Crop tool in the Edits bar and choose from the preset aspect ratios, or crop freely and decide on your own shape. Drag your finger across the shot to highlight the area you wish to keep.



Rotate your shot

03 The Rotate tool lets you flip and rotate your photo. Tapping the Rotate button will turn your shot in 90 degree increments and then you can choose to flip the image. Save your shot.

Improve exposure in Photoshop Elements

Correct blown-out skies and underexposed detail in your images with our beginner-friendly guide to editing

TOOLBAR

Here you'll find all required tools, stored in labelled sections. Click onto each one to reveal further tools and options in the Tool Options bar.

MENU BAR

Other features and functions can be found within menus here. In these tutorials we will use elements from the Enhance and Layer menus.

OPTIONS BAR

Find extra hidden tools and settings within this palette. If not visible, click the Tool Options button in the bottom-left of the Elements screen.

LAYERS PANEL

Duplicate, delete and rearrange layers here. Alter opacity levels and experiment with layer blend modes from menus at the top of the panel.



Rescue bleached skies

Add a splash of colour to overexposed photos

Before



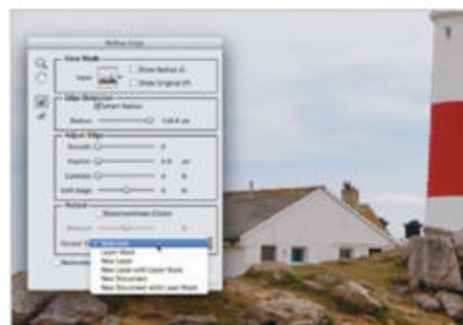
Magic Wand tool

01 Go to File>Open and open your photo. Select the Magic Wand tool (A) from the Select section in the toolbar. Go to the Tool Options at the base of your screen. Lower the Tolerance slider to 30 and ensure Contiguous and Anti-aliasing are checked.



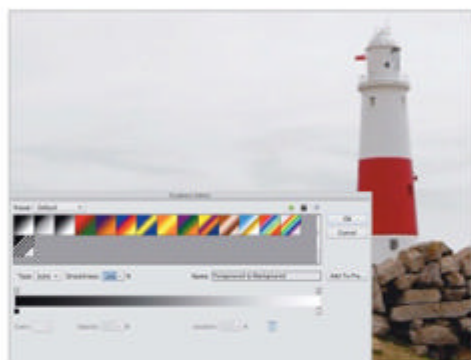
Create a selection

02 Click onto the sky area, creating a selection. Due to the low Tolerance setting, the majority of the similarly toned pixels will be selected. If a section of sky hasn't been selected, Shift-click onto it, including it within the active selection.



Refine Edge

03 Click the Refine Edge button in the Tool Options bar at the base of the screen. Check the Smart Radius box and move the Radius slider right, ensuring all edges within your photo are as close as possible. Change the Output to Selection.



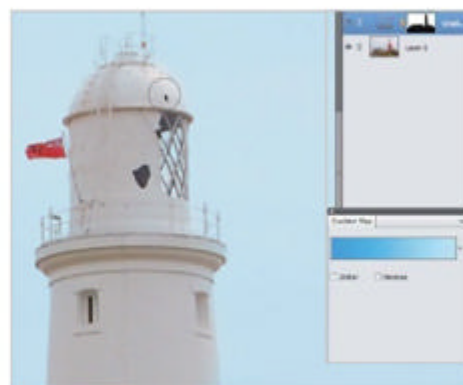
Add a Gradient Map

04 Any messy edges can be tidied up later. Go to Layer>Adjustment Layer>New Gradient Map. Press OK in the dialog box and a black and white colour will be placed on the sky. In the Gradient Map dialog, click on the coloured line to open the Gradient Editor.



Add some colour

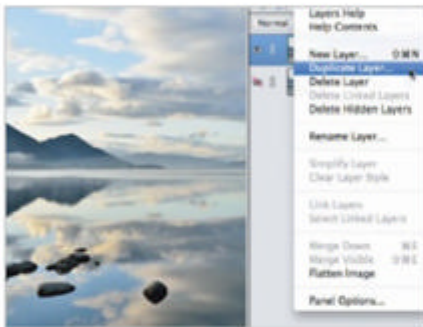
05 Double-click on the black stopper along the main coloured line, select a sky blue and click OK. Double-click on the white stopper, select a pale blue and click OK. Hit OK in the main Gradient Editor palette. Go to the Layers panel and select the top layer.



Mask to tidy up

06 Change the blend mode to Color and lower the layer's Opacity. Tidy up edges by clicking on the Mask thumbnail on the top layer, select the Brush tool, set Foreground/Background colours to Black/White, then paint away any blue colouring.

Add depth with the Burn tool



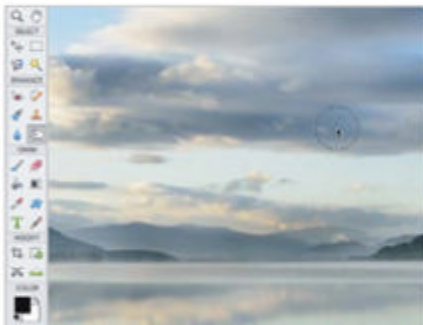
Duplicate for a back-up

01 Duplicate your Background layer in the Layers panel by going to the top-right menu and selecting Duplicate. Click on the top layer in the Layers panel. Locate the Burn tool in the side toolbar.



Set up your tool

02 If you can't see the Burn tool, click on either the Sponge or Dodge tool to reveal the Burn tool in the Tool Options bar. Select a medium soft brush and pick Midtones from the Range menu.



Enhance the shadows

03 Keep the Exposure low and build up gradually. Paint over existing shadows within your photo to enhance them. Switch the Range to Highlights or Shadows to suit tones within your photo.

Brighten shadows

Tips for lightening dark tones



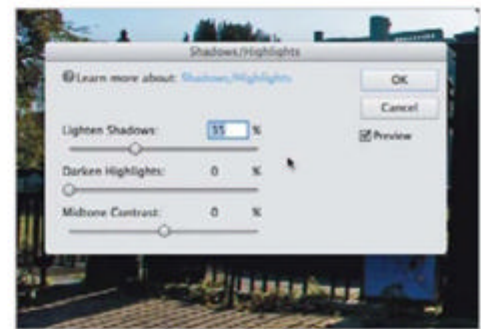
Create a duplicate layer

01 With your start photo open in Expert mode, go to the Layers panel. Click on the top-right menu icon and select Duplicate Layer. Press the Eye icon next to the bottom layer in the Layers panel, hiding it from view.



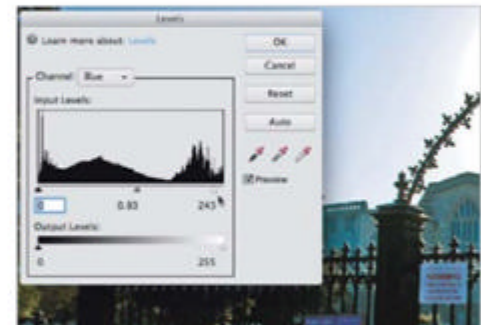
Shadows/highlights in depth

03 The Lighten Shadows slider will brighten dark areas and reveal hidden details. Darken Highlights will darken any light tones that aren't pure white. Midtone Contrast will affect the overall contrast within the photo.



Shadows/highlights

02 Click the top layer and go to Enhance>Adjust Lighting>Shadows/Highlights. A dialog box will open and your image will be corrected. Working on the duplicate layer will ensure you always have an original layer saved.

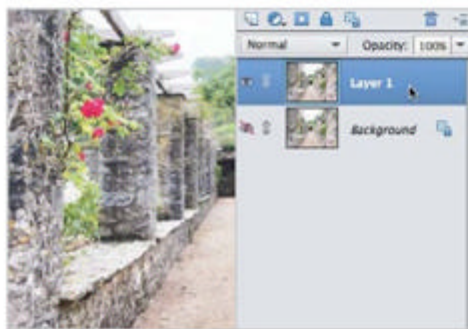


Other options

04 Other features sit within the Enhance>Adjust Lighting menu. Brightness/Contrast can improve the overall tonal values within a photo. Levels allows you to manually control the highlights, shadows and midtones.

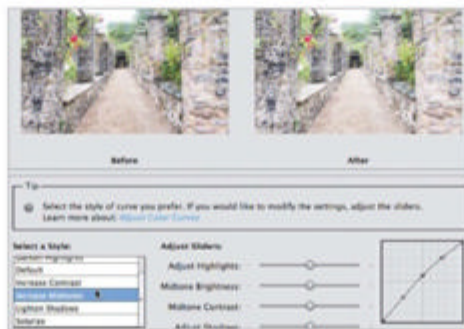
Enhance contrast

Add depth with Color Curves



Duplicate layer

01 Open up your start image and begin by duplicating your Background layer. Hide the original layer as a safe back-up. Some functions are applied directly to the layer, so work on a duplicate for non-destructive editing.



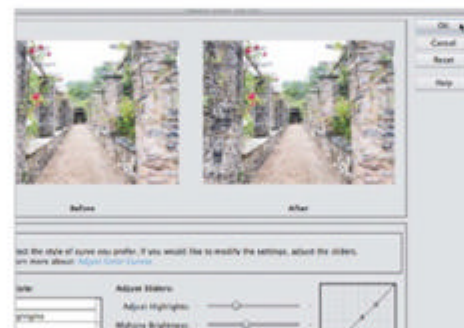
Adjust Color Curves

02 Go to Enhance>Adjust Color>Adjust Color Curves. A dialog box will appear. Experiment with the saved presets available within the Select a Style menu, selecting the one which best suits your photo's needs.



Midtone contrast

03 Move on to the sliders to further enhance and improve the photo. Begin with the Midtone slider. Moving this will improve the overall contrast quality within your image. Next, alter the Midtone Brightness if needed.



Reset or OK

04 See what the remaining sliders can offer to your image. Keep in mind that moving the sliders left will darken and moving sliders right will lighten. Press the Reset button to start again, or if you're happy press OK.

Lighten with the Dodge tool



Locate the Dodge tool

01 Duplicate your Background layer. Find the Dodge tool in the toolbar. If it isn't visible, click on either the Sponge tool or Burn tool. The Dodge tool will be available in the Tool Options bar below.



Set up the tool

02 Click on the drop-down menu in the Tool Options panel and select either Shadows, Midtones or Highlights. Select a soft-edged brush from the Brush options. Increase the brush tip size to suit.



Lighten those pixels

03 Keep the Exposure slider low and go over an area a few times if you need. Paint over the areas of your photo that are in need of rescue. Change the Range to suit the tonal values of your photo.



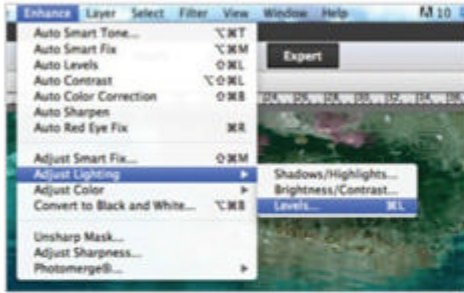
Boost colours

Discover how to make a dull image shine using Photoshop Elements

The colours in a photograph have the potential to make it or break it. If you've got a fabulous image but the colours don't cut the mustard, you can say goodbye to showing off that piece on the wall. Similarly, if an image isn't working but you can't work out why, in most cases a quick splash of colour know-how will give the image a whole new direction.

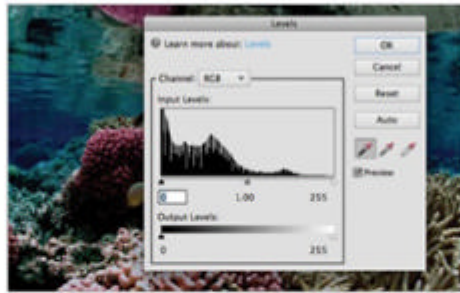
Photoshop Elements has plenty of colour tools waiting to be discovered. If you want give a photo a big dollop of kaleidoscopic charm, or tone down the hues for a soft and muted approach, there's guaranteed to be a tool for the job. Here we will go through a few of the simplest and most effective edits to make your colours pop and your artwork sparkle.

Improve colour Six steps to better photographs



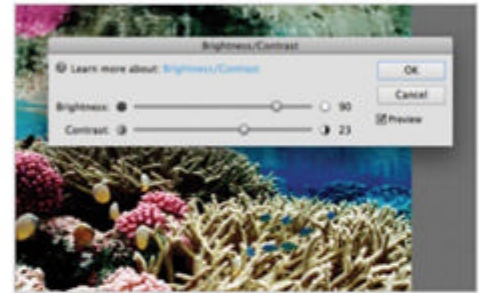
Open it up

01 Begin by launching Elements, pick the Expert mode and open up a problem image that needs a colour boost. In our example, the coral reef that should be bright and enticing is dull and gloomy. To combat this, begin with a click on Enhance> Adjust Lighting>Levels.



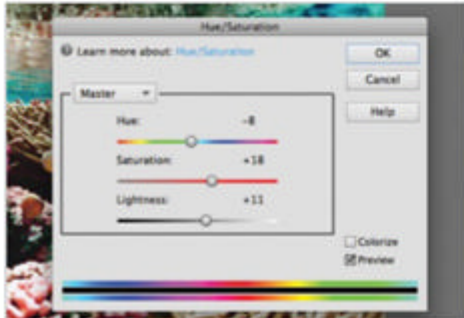
Adjust the Levels

02 Once the palette opens, select the black eyedropper from the three options on the right-hand side. Then click on an area of the image that ought to be deep shadow. In this example, we've clicked in a dark shadow. The image's shadow areas will immediately change.



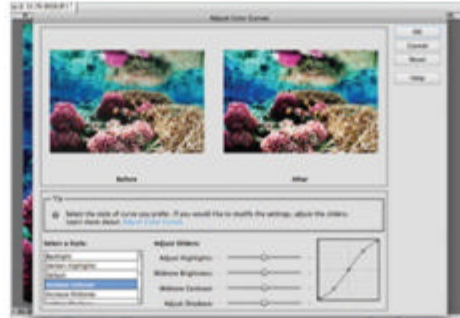
Brighten it up

03 Head once again to Enhance> Adjust Lighting but this time click on Brightness/Contrast. This option opens a palette with two sliders; one for the Brightness of the image and another for Contrast. Click and drag these sliders until happy with the effect.



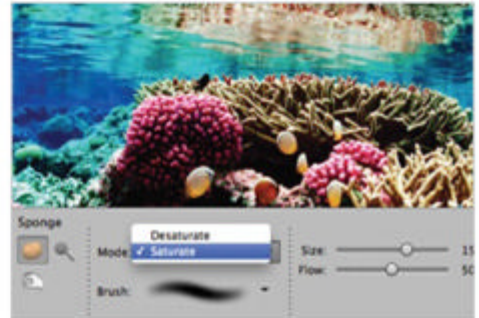
Switch up the colour

04 Delve into the Enhance menu again and this time pick out Adjust Colors>Hue/Saturation. The Hue slider can be used to alter the range of colours in the image. Just a slight tweak can make a big difference. Then grab the Saturation slider to alter the intensity of the colour.



Adjust Color Curves

05 Open up the palette via Enhance> Adjust Color>Adjust Color Curves. The window shows a before and after version of the image, and below this a small menu of preset settings to the left. Use the sliders to make tweaks, or try dragging the line of the curve to the right.



Fix up small details

06 To make colour adjustments on specific areas, select the Sponge tool (O) from the Toolbar. In the options at the bottom, select Saturate from the drop-down. Use the square brackets on your keyboard to adjust brush size then paint over the areas you want to brighten up.

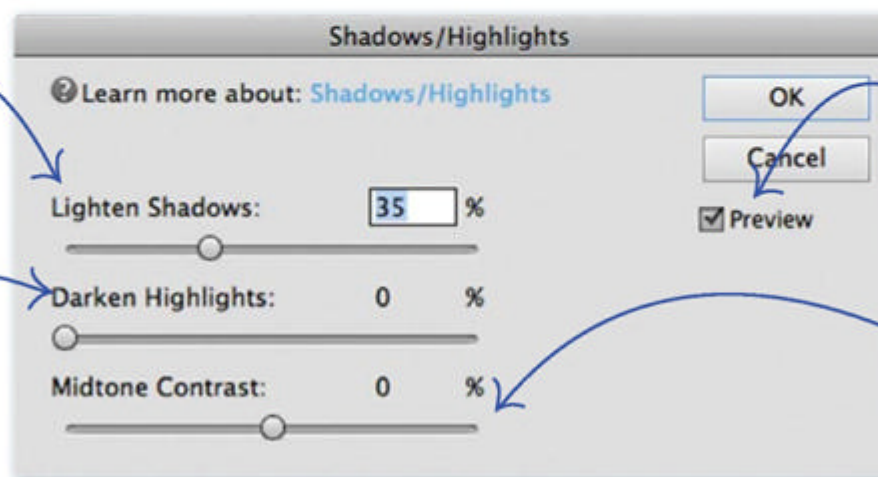
Shadows and Highlights Achieve extra editing powers with this command

SHOW DETAIL

The Lighten Shadows slider reveals detail in the darker areas of a shot by brightening the shadowy parts.

COMBAT GLOW

Darken Highlights tones down the brighter parts in an image to bring out any blown-out details. Pure white areas are not affected.



SEE THE EDIT

Always ensure that you have the Preview box checked so that you can see the effect of the edits as they are made.

MIDDLE GROUND

This slider called Midtone Contrast can be used to tweak the contrast of the middle tones of the photo or artwork.



Restore old photos

Give scratched and neglected shots a new lease of life

Whether you've just cleared out your attic, found some vintage gems at a flea market or you've been helping your nan go through her albums, looking at old photographs is always a treat. Unfortunately though, these once-prized shots often succumb to age; leaving them looking a little battered around the edges. Rips, crumples, dust and scratches can often ruin an otherwise wonderful photo, but don't assume nothing can be done.

Scan your images and turn them into digital files, imperfections and all, and then use the amazing tools of Photoshop Elements to bring them bang up-to-date. In this tutorial we will show you how to tidy and mend your old photos using tools such as the Clone Stamp and adjustment layers. Then once you're done, all you need to do is get your shots printed and you can enjoy them once more as fresh as the day they were taken.



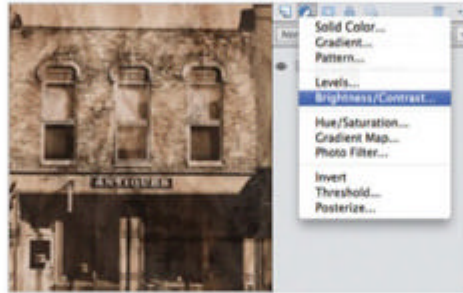
Combat common restoration tasks

Use one or all of these methods to get your vintage photos looking ship-shape



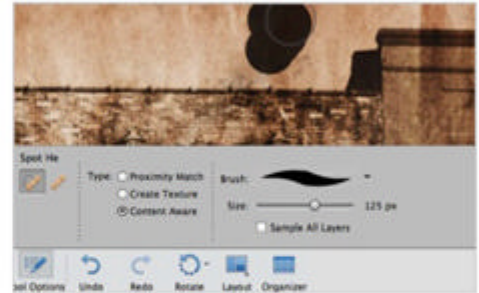
Begin with the edges

01 Open the supplied landscape shot. To fix the scruffy edges, grab the Crop tool (C) and click and drag over the image. Adjust using the handles to trim out the rough edges and hit the green tick.



Bring out the detail

02 Restore faded detail using an adjustment layer. Click on Layers in the bottom bar, then in the Layers palette click the half-shaded circle icon. Select Brightness/Contrast and tweak the sliders.



Iron out the creases

03 Select the Spot Healing Brush tool (J). Use the slider to alter the brush size and select the Content Aware option. Paint over the big creases. The area will fill with pixels sampled from the surrounding area.

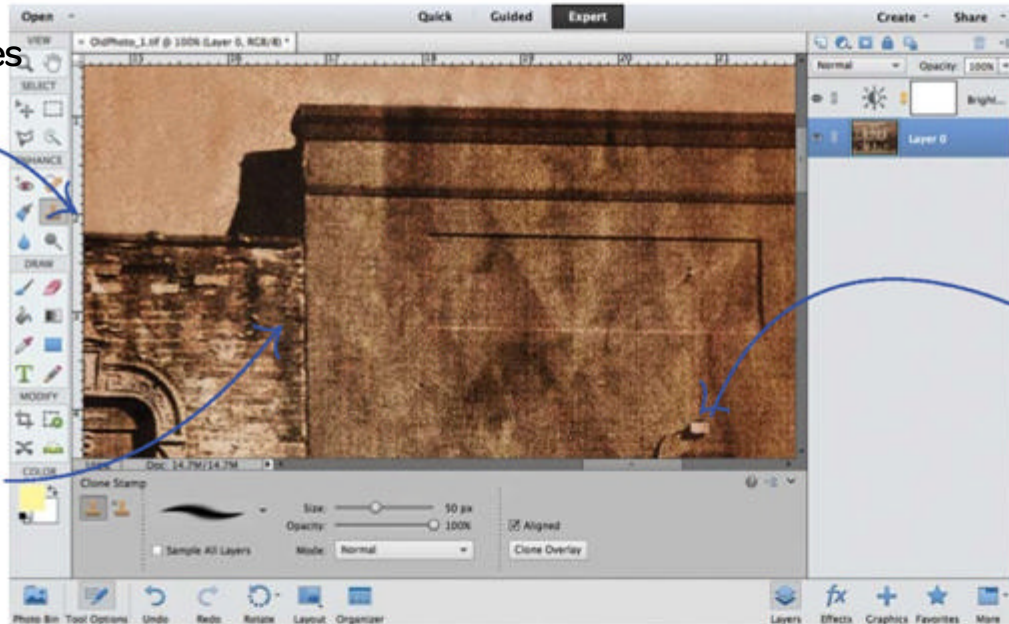
04 Fix finer blemishes

CLONE AWAY

Combat the finer blemishes with the Clone Stamp tool found in the Tools palette. It's ideal for fixing areas that contain more detail.

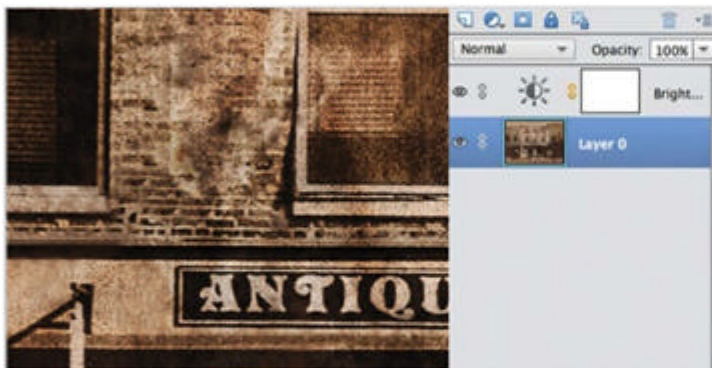
SAMPLE AN AREA

With the tool selected, Alt/Opt+click a 'clean' area of the photo to sample. Then click on the area that needs to be corrected.



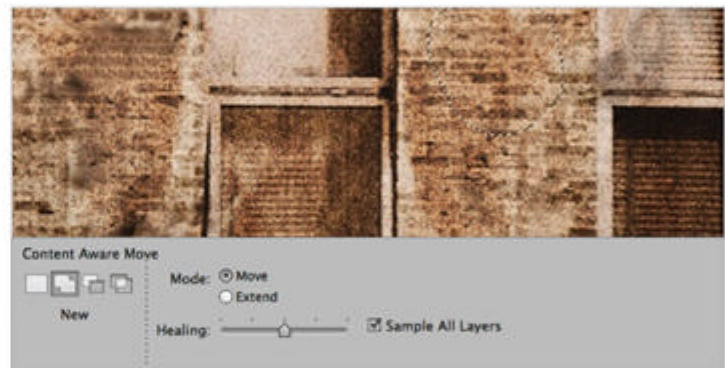
NO MORE BLEMISH

The blemish will disappear, with pixels sampled from the 'clean' area in its place. Use different brush sizes for accuracy and work your way through to correct finer details.



Work on textures

05 The Clone Stamp tool is also your secret weapon for preserving texture. Select the tool and Alt/Opt-click an area of 'clean' photo to sample. When the cursor is moved, the Clone Stamp brush shows a translucent 'preview' of what you've sampled. Click to apply.



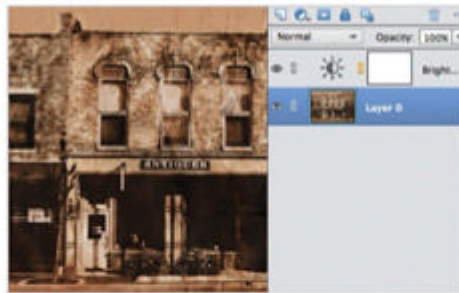
Move large areas

06 To fix larger blemishes, make clever use of the Content Aware Move tool (Q). This allows areas to be selected and moved, and the area that has been moved is then automatically filled with pixels from the surrounding area. You can select it from the Tools palette.



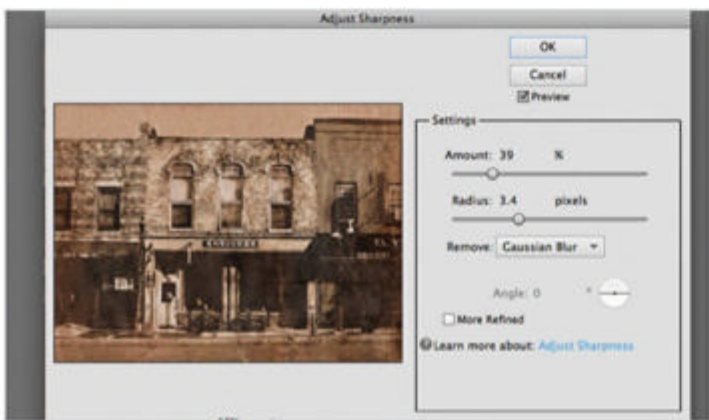
Get Content-Aware

07 Draw around an area to make a selection then click and drag the selection to the new location. Once the mouse is released, the area is filled and should blend with the surrounding area.



Extra fixing tips

08 Work through the image and use a variety of brush sizes with the techniques covered. It takes a bit of practice, but persevere! If zoomed in, get in the habit of regularly zooming out to check progress.



Finish it up

09 Once the blemishes are fixed, finish up by giving the image a quick sharpen via Enhance>Adjust Sharpness. Tweak the sliders. Then click on the Brightness/Contrast adjustment layer and brighten the shot up again. Cmd/right-click the layer and hit Flatten Image, then save.

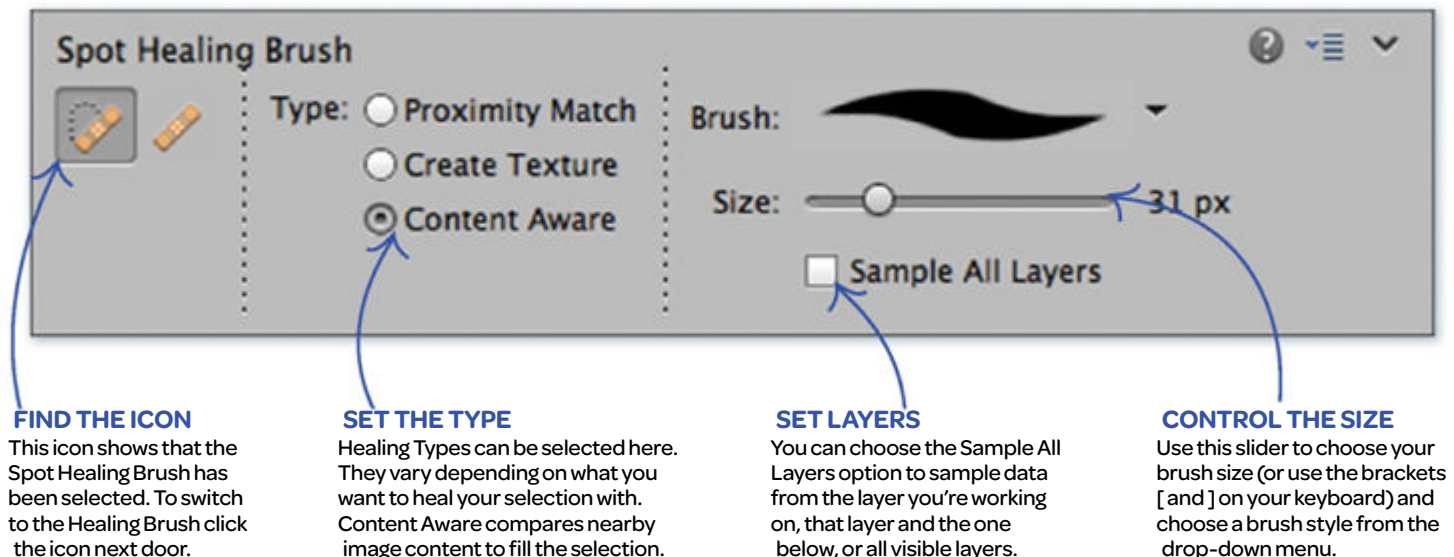


Fix a different shot

10 Portraits are often the most popular old photo to fix. There are a few things to address here, but first add another Brightness/Contrast adjustment layer to bring out the detail.

Spot Healing Brush options

A tiny tour around the options belonging to this incredibly useful tool



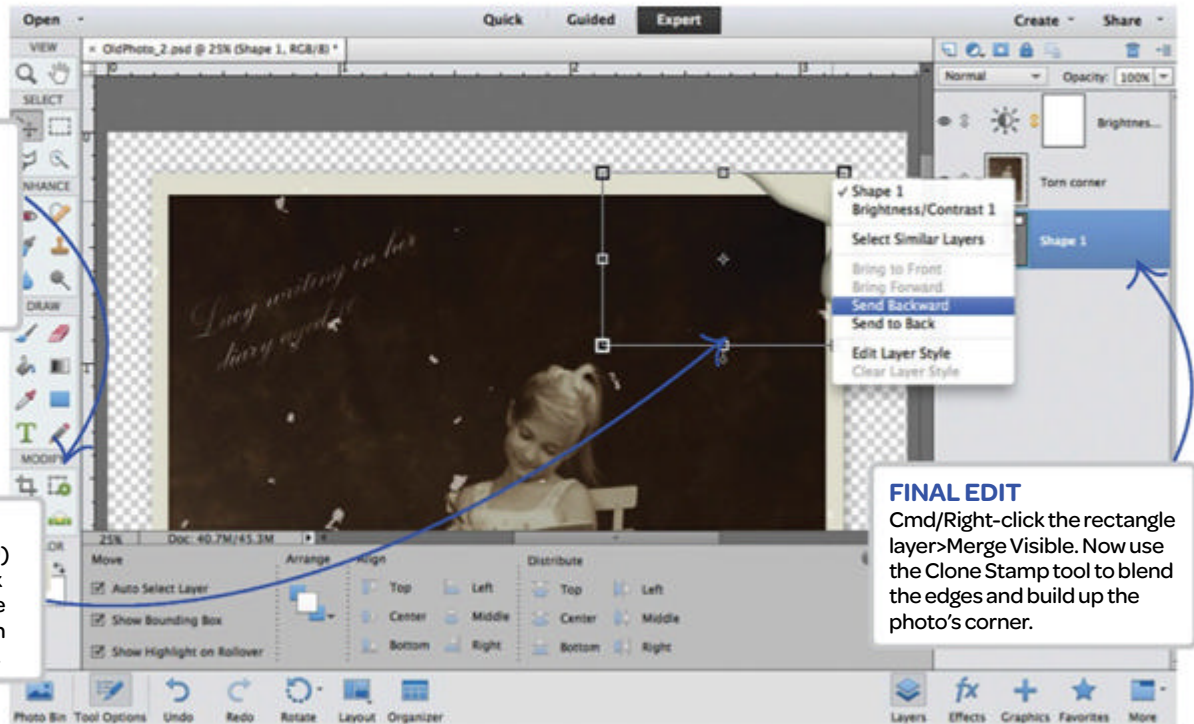
11 Rebuild the torn corner

MATCH THE COLOUR

Use the Color Picker tool (I) to match the colour of the border and use the Paint Bucket tool (K) to fill the rectangle. Cmd/right-click>Send Backward.

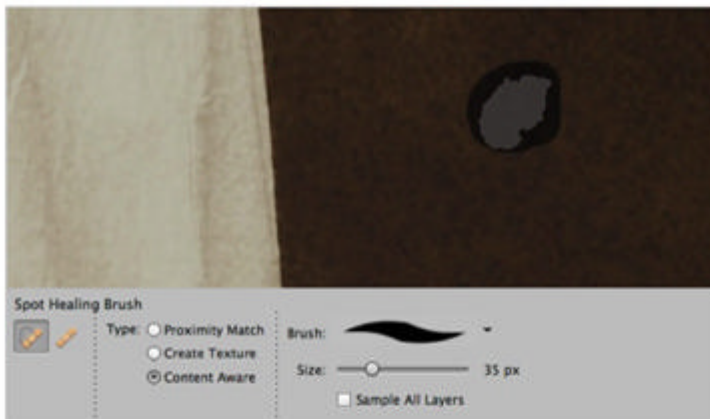
DRAW A CORNER

Select the Rectangle tool (U) from the Tools palette. Click and drag to draw a rectangle then move in place to match up with the image's corners.



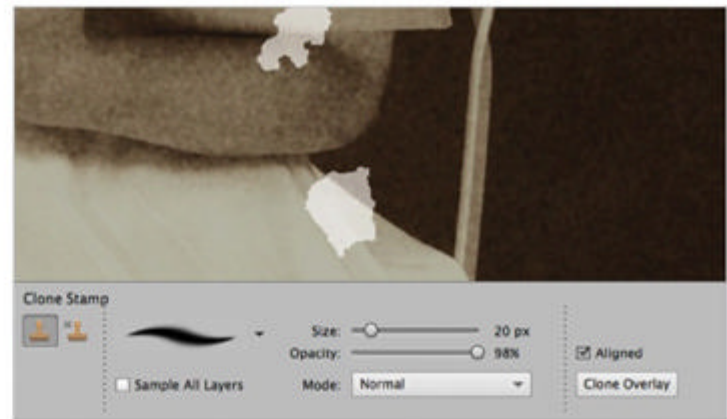
FINAL EDIT

Cmd/Right-click the rectangle layer>Merge Visible. Now use the Clone Stamp tool to blend the edges and build up the photo's corner.



Combat background spots

12 The most distracting thing about this lovely old photo is the blemished background. Grab the Spot Healing Brush tool and carefully go through the background of the shot and paint over the spots to fix them.



Get in close

13 For most of the background the Spot Healing Brush tool is enough, but for areas where the image contains more detail, the Clone Stamp tool is needed. Work with a small brush size and continually resample clean areas to perfect this.



Repair skin blemishes

14 Take extra care when using the Clone Stamp tool for repairing blemishes over skin tones, as these will be obvious if they are rushed. Use a small brush and work zoomed in, zooming out often to check the progress.



Tidy up text

15 Text can be difficult to work with, but luckily all that is needed here is a bit of careful wielding of the Spot Healing and Clone Stamp tools. Sample from the clean part of the number ten to rebuild the bottom.



Finish it all up

16 Use the Crop tool to crop off the excess when the restoration is complete. The image is ready to print in any way you choose, and feel proud that you've given this photo a new lease of life!

What does it mean?

FEATHERING SELECTIONS

Feathering refers to the softening of the edge of a selection, causing the colour blend to be softer around the edges, creating a more believable separation. Feathering is an option available on all selections, and is generally available when you right-click inside the selection.



Source file available

Learn this technique using the supplied files

Alter hair and eye colour in Photoshop

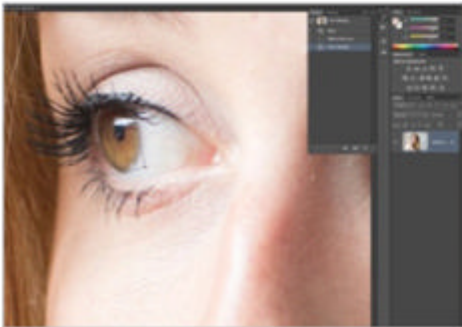
Learn how to edit colours creatively in your portraits

When editing an image or creating a piece of art, it's the most basic tweaks that can make or break an image. Something as simple as changing the colour of a model's eyes, if approached without due care and attention, will look totally fake. Whenever you are creating something that is fantastical and creative, the devil can really be in the detail and with colour editing, it's no different.

The key area to attain realism when editing is the division between the edited area and the unedited area. So, getting to

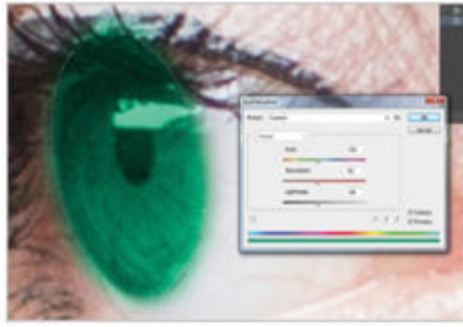
grips with selection tools will benefit you greatly. For the colour editing element, the usual subjects are all present; Hue/Saturation, Color Balance and even the Levels and Curves adjustments will enhance your images. Simply changing a colour is one thing, but blending the tone to match the rest of the image is where the art comes into play.

Don't be afraid to mix things up with different tools and tricks; what you can do with the HSL panel is greatly different to the Color Balance adjustment and vice versa, so do experiment.



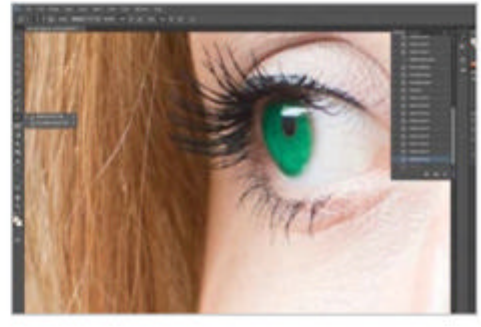
Use a selection tool

01 Zoom to 200% and use the Elliptical Marquee tool to select around the iris. Transform your selection if needed by right-clicking inside the selection and choosing Transform Selection. Hold and drag the anchor points to adjust it to fit.



Alter colour with HSL

02 By using the HSL controls (Image> Adjustments>Hue/Saturation), you can alter the eye colour using the drop-down colour list. So on a blue-eyed model, select Blue and alter the Hue to suit the new desired colour.

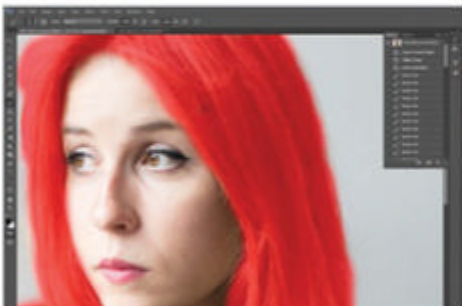


Change history easily

03 There may be some areas that you don't want to alter. For example, the eyelids might have been picked up in the selection and given a strange hue. To avoid this, use the History Brush tool and paint back the pupil and catch lights.

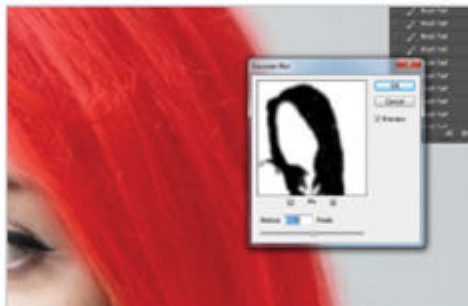
Try a new look

Use quick masks and adjustments to save on hair dye!



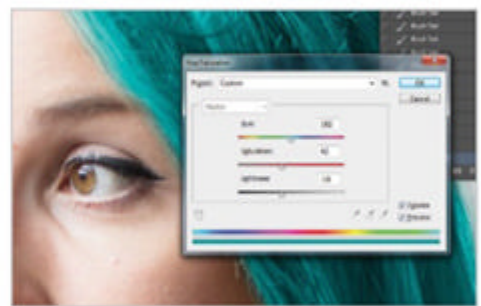
Enter the quick mask

01 To create a smooth and soft hair selection, try the Quick Mask mode. To access this, press Q. Switching to your Brush tool (B), begin painting the model's hair, (it will turn red). This enables you to see your selection being painted.



Blurred lines

02 As hair is generally soft, use Gaussian Blur to feather your selection. When happy with the results, simply click the Quick Mask button at the base of the toolbar to return to your image. Now Ctrl/right-click the selection and invert it.



Blonde to blue

03 While your selected area is active, bring up the Hue/Saturation adjustment and tick the Colorize button. This gives you the ability to change the colour as a whole and create a new colour scheme, rather than editing one specific tone.

What does it mean?

COLOUR HARMONIES Certain colours reflect different seasons: green with spring, orange with autumn. But have you ever considered using a blue/green gradient to suggest summer? Blue might be more wintry, but it's a perfect shade to saturate a warm sky; you'll be surprised!

Source file available

Learn this technique using the supplied files



Change seasons with gradients

Discover simple yet mood-changing colour tweaks in Photoshop Elements

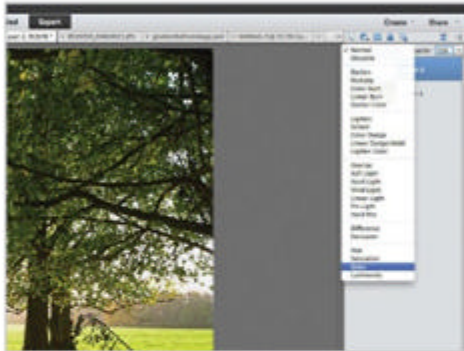
Our brains are wired to associate pictures with a time of year, based purely on colour. This is a Photoshop user's dream: if you can swap green to orange and cyan to slate-blue, you can carefully repaint a springtime scene into an autumnal shot.

But while painting is usually painstaking, basic gradients can work just as well in a fraction of the time. Their soft edges add naturalness for you, avoiding the harsh edges you sometimes get with painting in colour. However, the real secret to using colour as a mood-altering tool is actually in the blend modes.

Using a gradient in the same way as a camera filter, you can give the illusion of leaves gradually turning brown across a tree, or simply of a yellow light shining across a piece; making it convincing lies in the delicate balance of blending.

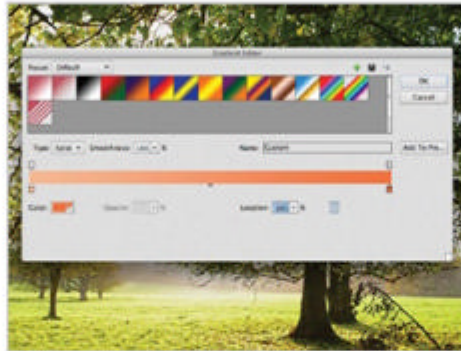
Gradients are used for all kinds of edits, from the delicate to the arty, as can they give a picture sophisticated tone, rather than just a regular sepia effect. But with some simple fine-tuning of the right colours, you can find a whole new seasonal atmosphere in any photo. So let's have a look at how gradients and blend modes can alter the season or time of an image.

Get creative with gradients Inject vibrant colour for a stunning photo fix



Prime a new layer

01 Add a new layer and set Opacity to 50%: this is the layer you will create the gradient on. Change the blend mode to Color, as it gives a good feel of how the new colours will complement your image.



Choose your colours

02 Now for the fun part; the gradient. For an autumnal atmosphere, pick oranges and bring them in line with the trees you want to turn that colour. Go for pastel shades; these work best with the landscape.



Fill and experiment

03 Fill your new layer from top to bottom with the gradient. Realign the colours until you like the effect; it works best to have one half of the gradient over the sky and the other half over the ground.



Tidy up

04 Sometimes a gradient can be too strong. In this case, just use an eraser with a soft edge to gently neaten your picture, going over any part that you don't want to be covered by the gradient.

Gradients How to set up your desired gradient colours

PRESETS

You can pick your own colours, but you can also find cool presets in this drop-down box. Pastels are especially good for seasonal edits.

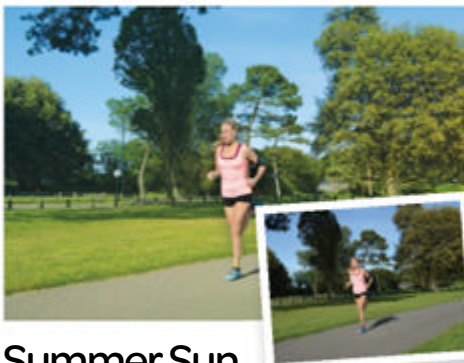
COLOUR MIDPOINT

Adjust the midpoint of the gradient to change the fade of the blur; the closer to the centre of two colours, the smoother the blur.

STOPS

As many stops as you choose can be added anywhere. Slide to change position, and remember that similar shades of colour will work well together.

Alternate effects Try out these other colour edits that will transform your shots



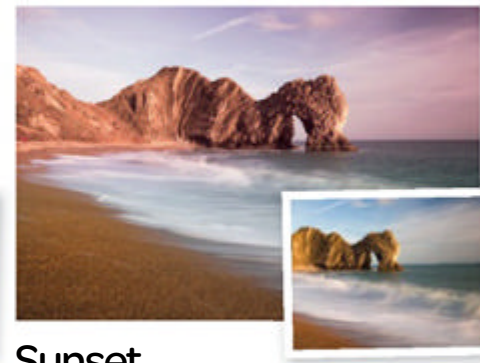
Summer Sun

While the photo in the tutorial mixes oranges to create browning leaves, this picture utilises a blue/yellow/green pastel gradient (Overlay, 50%) for a summery feel. The gradient really enhances the colours of the photo, and the yellow aligns with the path, to give it an extra glow.



Sunrise

This photo has two gradients; the first is a blue/green layer, Opacity 30%, Color, which just gently tones the picture with a summer effect. The second is a blue/yellow layer, set to Lighter Color, Opacity 20%. This covers the sky and castle to give the sunrise effects.



Sunset

Here, a pink/blue/transparent gradient has been used to subtly turn a day shot into an evening shot. The layer is set to Color, Opacity 40% and the transparent section of the gradient is placed over the sand to give this picture the effect of being taken at sunset.

Creative effects

Create impressive digital effects using brushes, filters and much more

94 Use classic colour effects
Add creative effects for great finishes

96 Edit with textures
Give your photos an edge

98 Turn day to night
Perform magic on daytime images

100 Increase drama
Use adjustments to change weather

106 Eye-catching effects
Have fun with photo displays

108 Create an HDR effect
Expose hidden details in your image

110 Master tilt-shift
Make a city look like a toy-town

114 Paint from photos
Impressionistic effects for photos

118 Double exposure
Replicate a film effect in Elements

120 Glowing layer styles
An unusual electrifying effect

124 Apply a duotone effect
For a subtle two-tone image

126 Create a fisheye effect
A funky effect with no lens needed

128 Add movement to
your images
Use zoom burst to add speed





Source file available

Learn this technique
using the supplied files

What does it mean?

LAYERS are used to protect your original image when editing as you can delete layers easily in order to reverse any adjustments. One image can have multiple layers. Each adjustment will appear on a separate layer, enabling you to go back and tweak at any stage whilst editing.

Use classic colour effects

Discover how to manipulate colour in Elements for a unique vintage photo effect

You can style your images in Elements by experimenting with the countless colour adjustments that are available. Whether you want to add a Photo Filter to warm up or cool down shots, change colours completely, or recreate a vintage photo effect as we have done here; there are countless ways to do it. What's more, Elements caters for all skill levels with its three easy-to-use workspaces; the Quick, Guided and Expert modes.

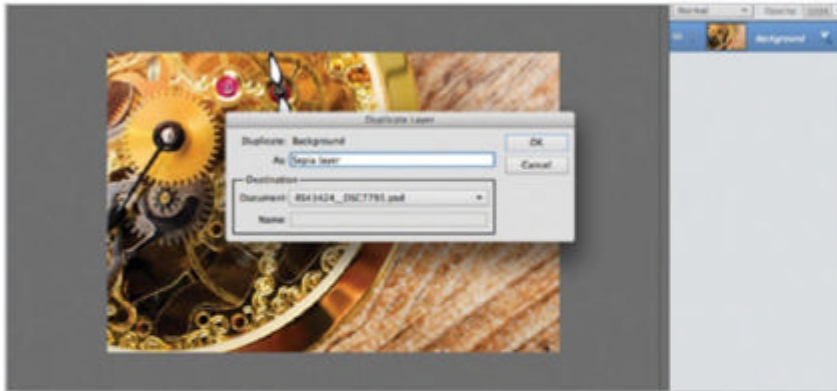
We're going to show you how to recreate an antique sepia effect using tools within the Expert mode of Elements. Similar

results can be achieved using the Guided mode, but with our easy to follow steps you'll soon feel confident enough to take control and explore all of the great features the Expert mode has to offer. We'll first introduce you to the Layers panel, and then take you through adjustment tools within the Enhance menu. You'll also discover how to apply effects and work with the Brush tool.

So join us as we demonstrate how to take your images back in time and share some alternative colour effect ideas for your next creative editing project.

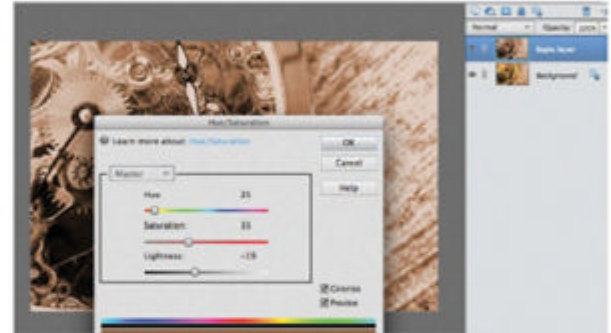
Tone a sepia image

Take your image back in time with these easy steps



Duplicate the layer

01 Open your image in Elements and select the Expert tab along the top. Click on the Layers icon at the bottom-right of the screen to bring up your Layers panel. Now Ctrl/right-click on the Background layer and select Duplicate layer. Rename your new layer Sepia Layer and click OK.



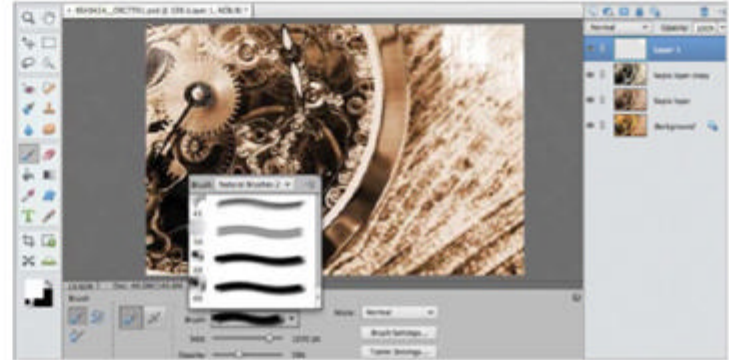
Convert to sepia

02 Convert your image to black and white via Enhance>Adjust Color>Remove Color. To add a warm sepia hue go to Enhance>Adjust Color>Hue/Saturation. Click on the Colorize tab and move the Hue slider towards the warm red range; you can then adjust the Saturation slider to alter the intensity.



Add an effect

03 To give your image an aged appearance, click the Effects tab and select Effects at the top. In the drop-down menu select Old Photo and double-click on the Old Photo filter. In the Layers panel you can lower this layer's Opacity if you want to tone down the effect.



Distress the edges

04 Add a new layer via Layer>New>Layer. Now select the Brush tool from the Toolbar and in the Options bar at the bottom, select a brush type from the Natural Brushes 2 menu. Adjust the brush size, lower the Opacity to 39% and ensure the Foreground colour is set to white. Now carefully distress the edges.

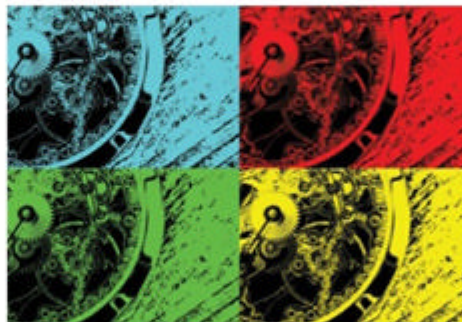
Explore the alternatives

Give your photo an extra twist...



Black and white

Converting your image to black and white is easy in the Quick, Guided and even Expert mode. For more control, use the Convert to Black and White tool in the Expert mode, located within the Enhance menu. Here you can select a style of black and white and customise the results.



Pop art

Get a little more creative with colour by adding a retro pop art effect within the Guided mode. Select Pop Art from the Photo Play menu and follow the instructions to create one of two different Pop Art styles. As Elements does all the hard work, you edit in a matter of minutes.



Selective colour

If you really want to challenge your skills, you'll need to work in Expert mode with layers. Use the selection tools to mask off areas and then convert them to black and white on a separate layer. The areas that weren't selected will remain in colour and act as a good contrast.

What does it mean?

REFINE EDGE The Refine Edge tool is great for when you're working on edges that include tricky object outlines like hair and fur, because you can set the Radius to give a fluffier, softer edge. You can also set the amount of Feather and Smooth to give your edges partial transparency.

Edit with textures

Give your photos increased zing using textures and blending techniques

E editing photos is one thing, but it's another to bring them together with other components in order to produce a neat piece of artwork. One easy way of adding that little bit extra to your photos is by using textures. They come in all shapes and sizes, and you easily provide your own by simply taking some close-up shots of walls, doors and even animals.

One of the great things about Elements is that it comes packed full of helpful filters and effects that are ready for you to use. You needn't worry about having to be an expert to use them either, as they come within the Quick mode in Elements. Using textures can give your photos added edge without too much effort. Use them wisely and you can produce a great piece of art in no time at all.



Create a vintage portrait

Use textures and in-built effects to create vintage portraits

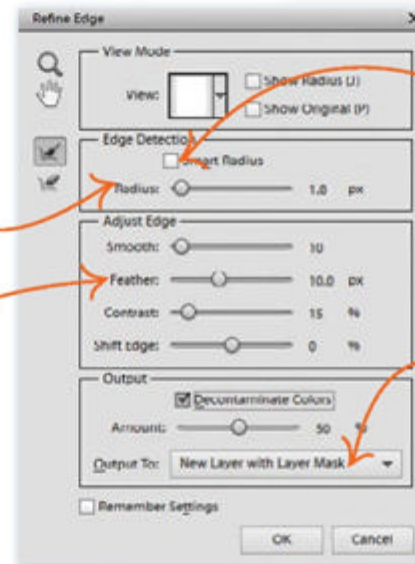
With Instagram being all the rage you can often find yourself wanting to be able to recreate the effect without having to crop your images or upload them to the internet. But it's easy to replicate a whole manner of different filters using textures and Elements' own in-built colouring effects.

SHOW RADIUS

Selecting this will show you how much Radius you have selected and what it looks like in its current state.

FEATHER

The higher the number the more you will soften the edges of your selection; a lower number will result in a harsher edge.



SMART RADIUS

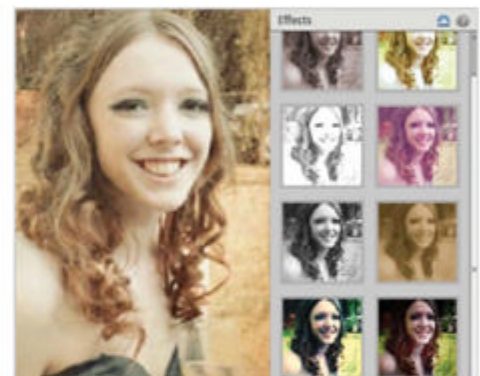
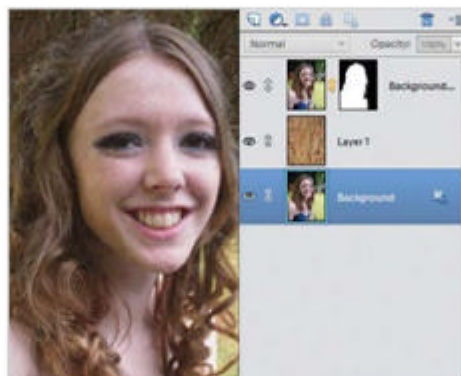
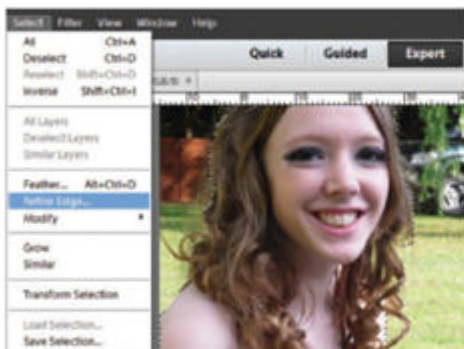
Checking Smart Radius will enable Elements to automatically adapt the Radius to suit the image's edges.

OUTPUT TO

Here you can decide how your refined edge will appear on your document. To edit non-destructively, always output to a new layer or new layer mask.

Retro effects

Combine textures and colour edits for a vintage portrait



Make your selection

01 Open your image and select the Expert tab. Now use the Quick Selection tool (A) to select your subject. Go to Select>Refine Edge. Here we used the settings: Radius 1.8, Smooth 10, Feather 10, Contrast 15%. Check Decontaminate Colors and Output to New Layer with Mask.

Add texture layer

02 Load your texture image and copy it into a new layer. Rotate the layer 90 degrees and ensure it covers your image. Now click and drag it between your layer mask layer and start image. Set Opacity to 35%, but set the layer mask to 70%.

Add an effect

03 Now switch to the Basic mode. Select Effects in the bottom-right of the screen. Here you'll see previews of what the different effects will do to your image. Try out different ones to see which you like most. We went for Vintage.

RAIN EFFECTS

The Add Noise and Blur filters were combined to make rain.

DARKER SKY

Brushing over the sky with a dark blue colour helps remove signs of daylight.

Source file available

Use the image provided to re-create this

Turn day to night in Photoshop Elements

Combine filters and adjustments to transform a daytime image into a moody night scene

Turning the clocks forward is easier than it may appear. Elements provides the adjustments and filters for us to darken an image, tint it with a dose of blue, and then apply atmospheric effects to make a night scene.

The adjustments we've chosen to create this effect include the Gradient Map, Photo Filter and Levels, each adapting the image in a slightly different way. A Gradient Map adjustment

works colour into the highlights and shadows of the image, but in order to complete this transformation we need to turn to the Photo Filter adjustment.

The Levels adjustment will then allow us to darken things down and remove the daylight from the image. To finish off the effect, rain is added to give this spooky mansion more of a moody presence.



Into the night Create a night scene with adjustments and brushes



Gradient Map

01 To get this effect started we need to tint the image blue. Add a Gradient Map adjustment layer from the Layer>New Adjustment Layer menu. Inside the Gradient Editor, change the colour of the left swatch to #007eff. Make sure the right swatch is white.

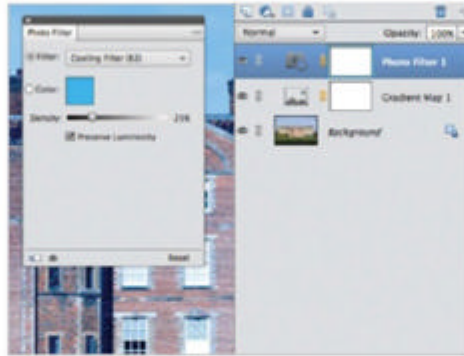
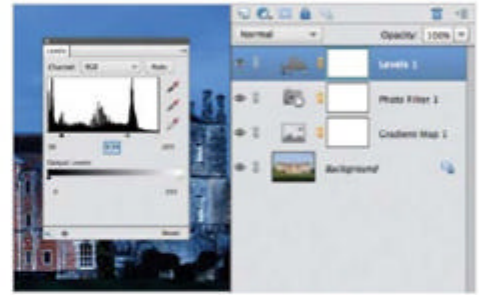


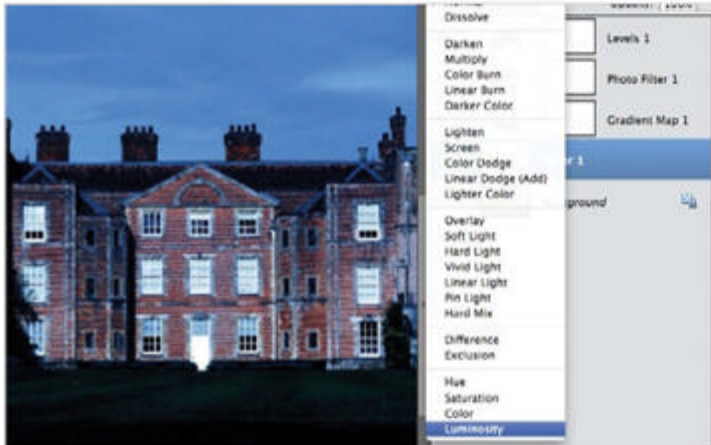
Photo Filter layer

02 Reduce the Gradient Map layer to 75% Opacity and set its blend mode to Color Burn. Add a Photo Filter adjustment layer above the Gradient Map, and choose the Cooling Filter (82). Set its Density to 25%.



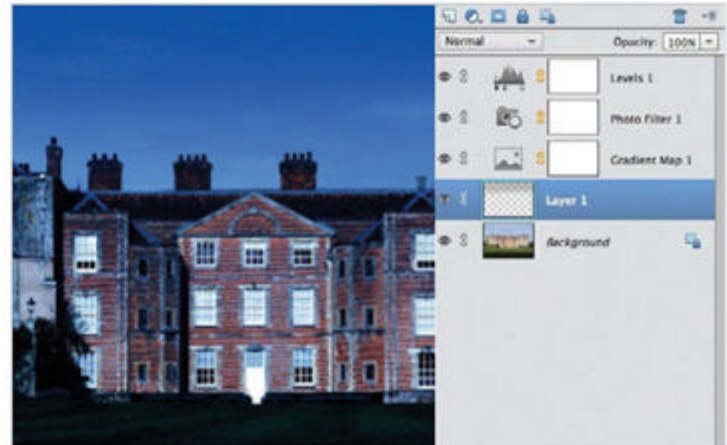
Adapt lighting

03 Add a Levels adjustment layer (found inside the same menu as the other two adjustments). Inside the Levels adjustment, click on the left number and set it to 30, then set the middle number to 0.54 and the right number to 255. This will darken the image and make it look like the night.



Luminosity blending

04 Click on the Background layer and then on the Create A New Layer button (the layer should now be between the Background and the Gradient Map layer). Treat this empty layer to a Luminosity blend mode.



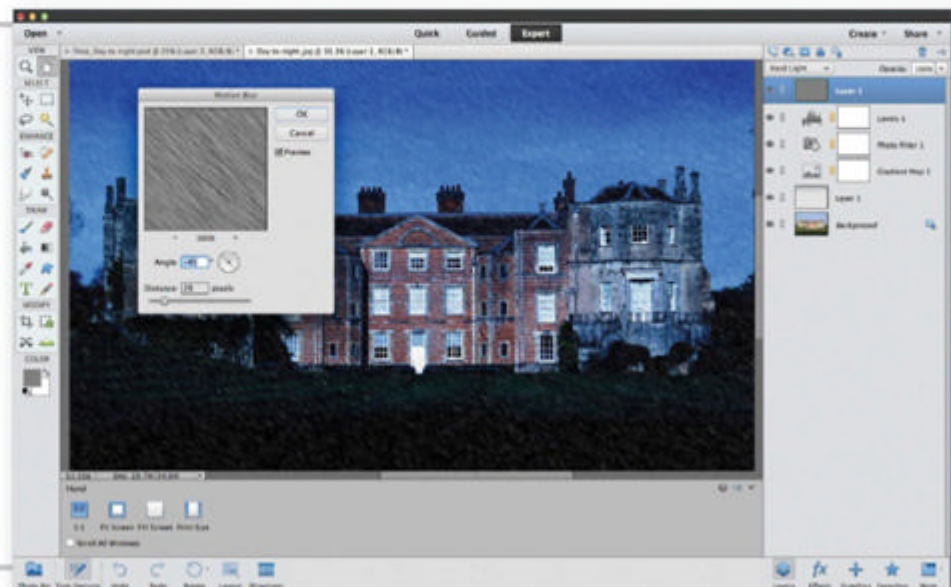
Cloud cover

05 Press B for the Brush tool and, holding Opt/Alt, click on a dark region of the image to select a dark blue colour. Lower the Brush tool's Opacity down to 10% in the tool's options, and paint over the sky to darken the clouds.

How to... Add rain

Give your night image a stormy feel with filters

The rain was created by adding a new layer to the top of the image, filled with 50% Grey (Edit>Fill Layer>Use). Set this layer to the Hard Light blend mode, and then go to Filter>Noise>Add Noise and set Amount to 100%, Distribution to Gaussian, and tick Monochromatic. Finally, go to Filter>Blur>Motion Blur and set Distance to 30px and Angle to -45. Hit OK to confirm, and reduce the layer's Opacity to control the impact of the rain.



Source file available

Use the image provided
to re-create this

Increase drama with adjustments

Today's weather forecast: high chances of severe thunder and lightning, courtesy of Photoshop Elements!

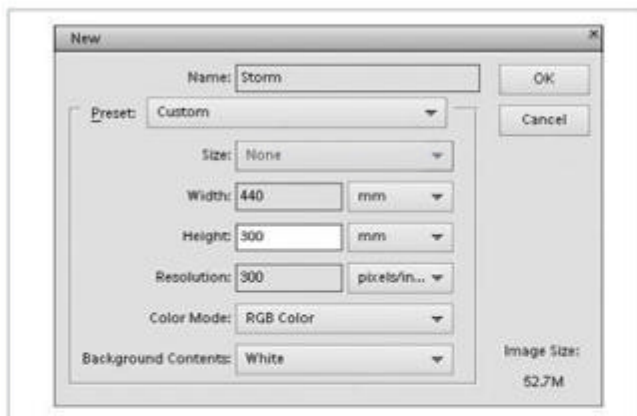
In this Photoshop Elements tutorial you will transform a bright, sunny day into a cloudy, stormy day. You will learn very simple and easy techniques that will help you to improve your Photoshop skills, and will be editing the image using the Adjustment layers in order to create a very dramatic image.

The biggest advantage to Adjustments is that you can keep the original image intact. You can change the colours and tones without permanently changing the pixel values of the original file - this is extremely helpful because you can make a change at any time without having to redo everything.

We'll also cover the High Pass filter. You are going to learn how to easily sharpen an image by using the High Pass filter and blend modes. Last, but not least, you are going to use preset brushes to make a totally new and realistic image. Don't forget to check the supplied resources to find the images and PSD files.

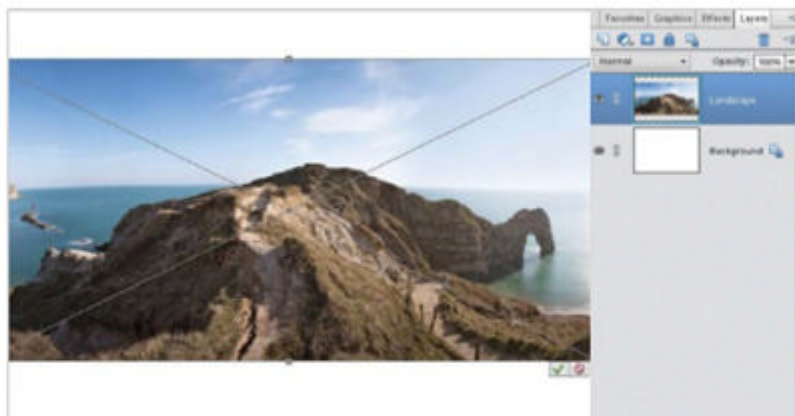


Before



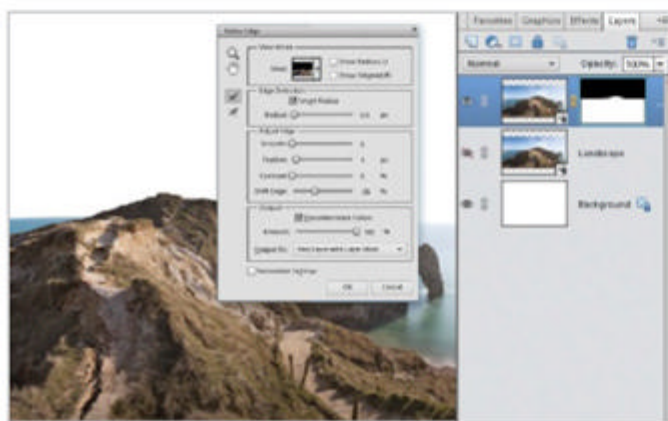
Create the document

01 Create a new document, via File>New>Blank File or by hitting Cmd/Ctrl+N. In the New window, name it Storm, set the Width to 400mm, Height to 300mm and resolution to 300. Click OK.



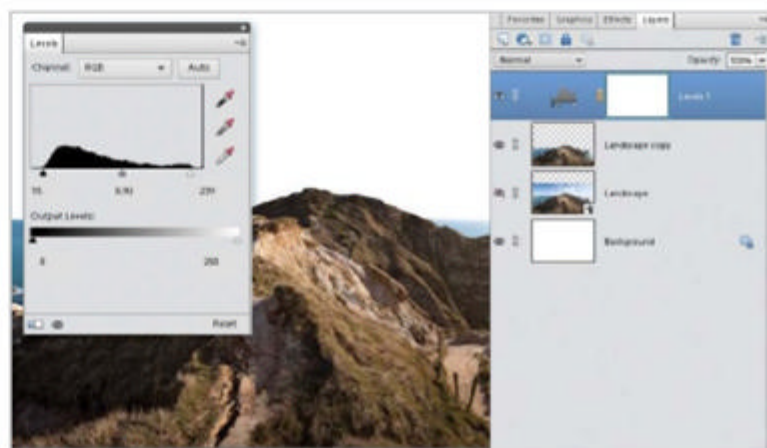
Place the landscape

02 Now File>Place 'Landscape.jpg'. In the Options bar, tick the Constrain Proportions box, change the Width to 148% and click to commit the operation. Grab the Quick Selection tool (A) and select the sky, then hit Select>Inverse (or Cmd/Ctrl+Shift+I).



Refine your selection

03 Go to Select>Refine Edges. Tick the Smart Radius and Decontaminate Colors boxes, then set Radius: 0.5, Smooth: 0, Feather: 1, Contrast: 0 and Shift Edge: -25. Click OK. Ctrl/right-click the layer and choose Simplify Layer (CS users: choose Rasterize).

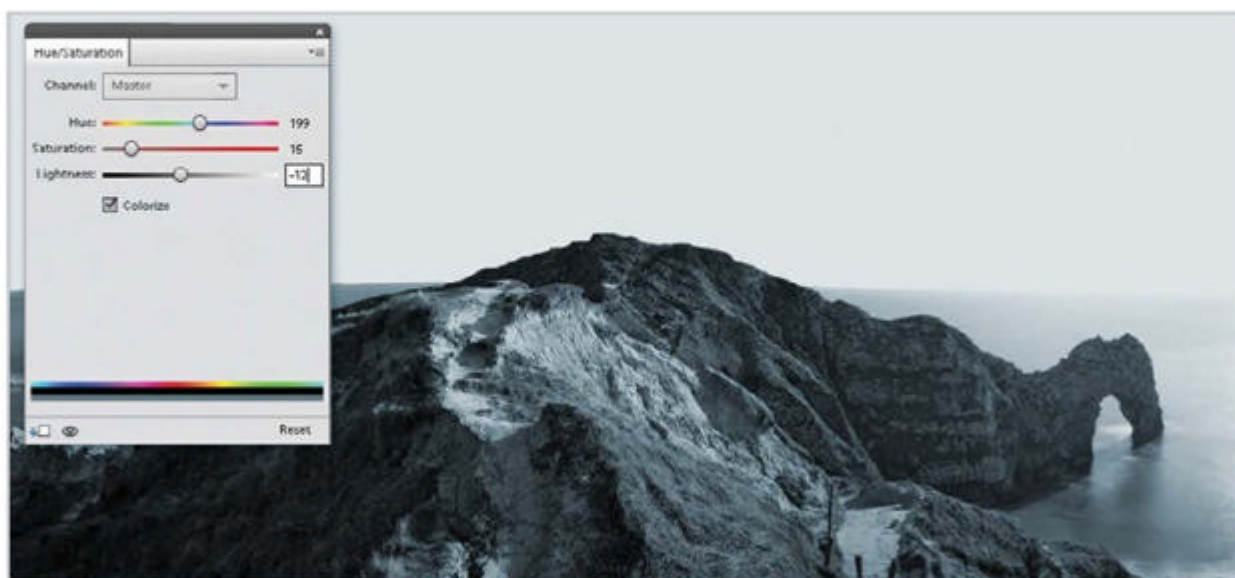


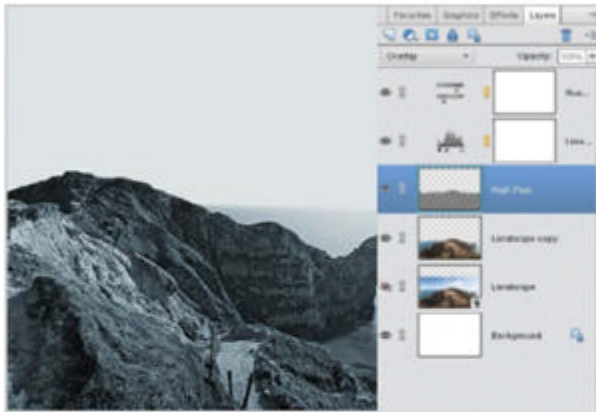
Let the Adjustments begin

04 After that, click the Create new fill or adjustment layer button at the top of the Layers panel (CS users: click at the bottom of the Layers palette). Choose Levels, and then change the Shadows input to 15, Midtones to 0.90 and Highlights to 239.

Tweak the Hue/Saturation

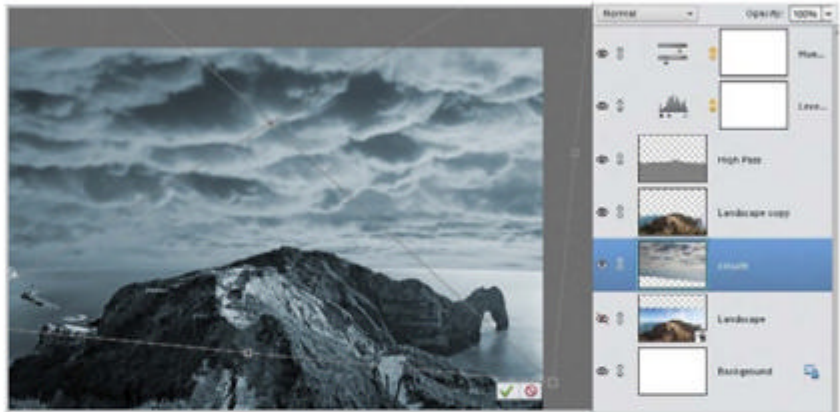
05 Now let's adjust the colours. Again, click the Create new fill or adjustment layer button, this time choosing Hue/Saturation. Check the Colorize box and set the Hue to 199, Saturation to 15 and Lightness to -12.





Sharpen the image

06 Next, duplicate the Landscape copy layer and name it High Pass. Go to Filter>Other>High Pass. Set Radius to 10 pixels and click OK. Change the blend mode of this layer to Overlay.



Place new clouds

07 File>Place 'Clouds.jpg'. Check the Constrain Proportions box in the Options Bar, change the Width to 280%, rotate and reposition it on the horizon, then commit the operation. Drag the new Cloud's layer below the High Pass layer.

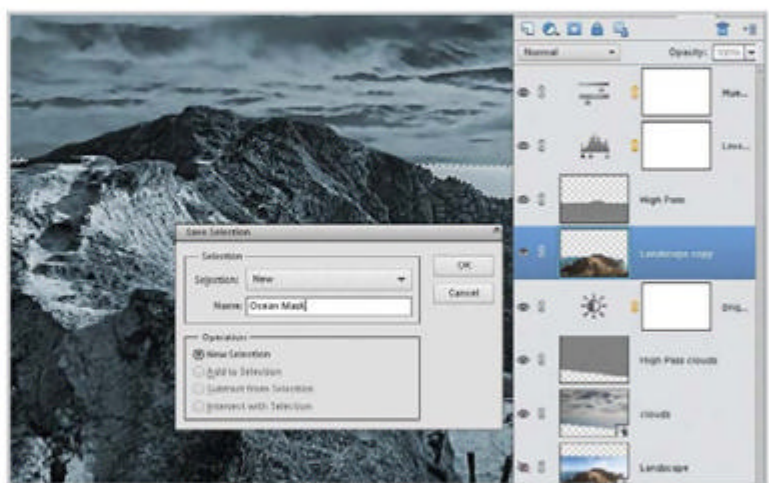
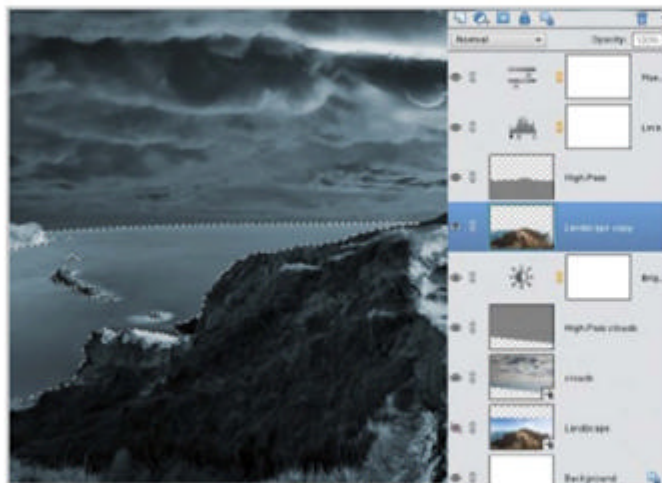


Add a Brightness/Contrast adjustment layer

08 Now let's expand the highlights and shadows of the Clouds layer. Click the Create new fill or adjustment layer button and choose Brightness/Contrast. Set the Brightness to -50 and the Contrast to 75.

Another High Pass filter

09 Repeat step 6. Now duplicate the Clouds layer and name it High Pass clouds. Go to Filter>Other>High Pass. Set the Radius to 10 pixels and then click OK. Change the blend mode for this layer to Overlay.

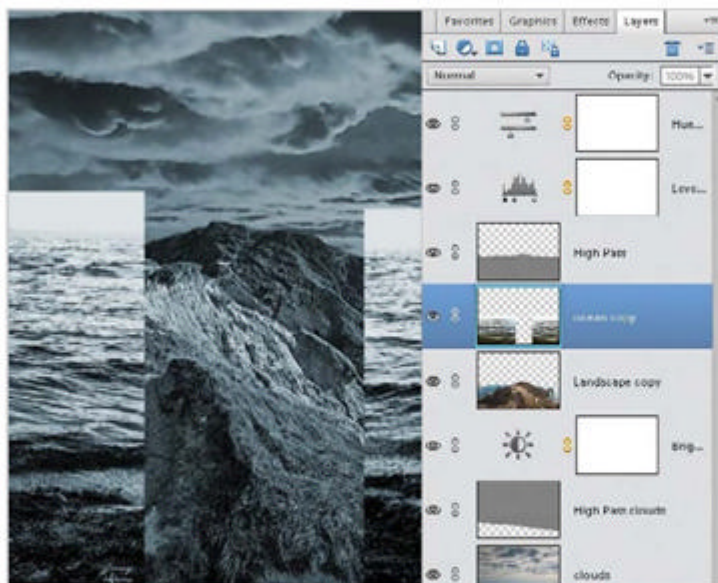


Make a selection

10 Click on the Landscape copy layer. Grab the Quick Selection tool (A), and select the ocean. Hold Shift to add to your selection or Opt/Alt to subtract from it. You can also use the Polygonal Lasso tool (L) to make a very precise selection.

Save your selection

11 Go to Select>Save Selection. On the Save Selection window, choose Selection: New, name it Ocean Mask and click OK. Now File>Place 'Ocean.jpg', and resize the image to around 58%. Duplicate the layer and place the image on both sides.



Now use that selection

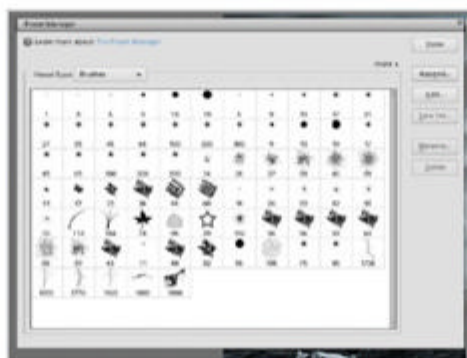
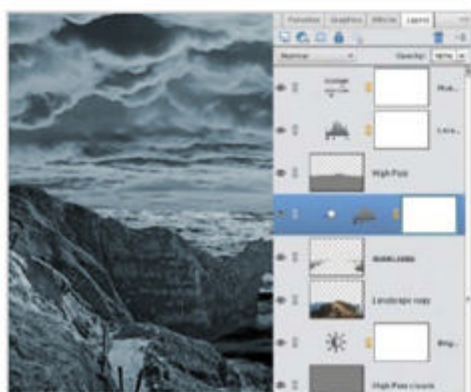
12 Hold Shift to select both Ocean and Ocean copy, then press Cmd/Ctrl+E to merge them. Now go to Select>Load Selection. Set Source Selection to Ocean Mask, check the Invert box and click OK. Hit Delete and set it to Multiply.

Expert tip



Dodge and Burn for great contrast

You can use the Dodge and Burn tool over a Neutral layer in order to lighten or darken parts of an image. A Neutral layer has no image, tone or colours, but can be edited. Go to Layer>New>layer. On the Dialog Box, change the Mode to Overlay and then check the Fill with Overlay-neutral color (50% gray), click Ok. Now grab the Dodge/Burn tool (O), decrease the exposure and paint over the neutral layer. In our project the High Pass layer works in a similar way to a neutral layer, creating a dramatic effect on the clouds.

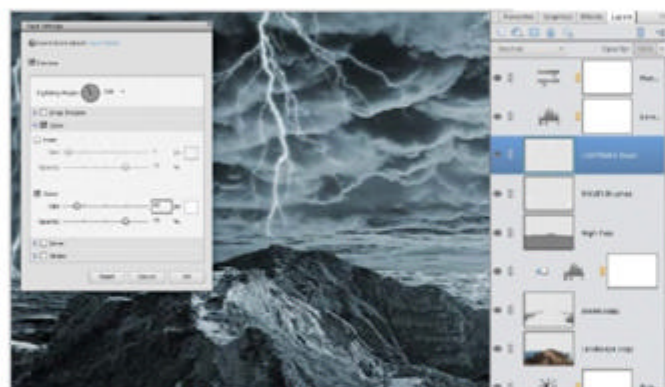
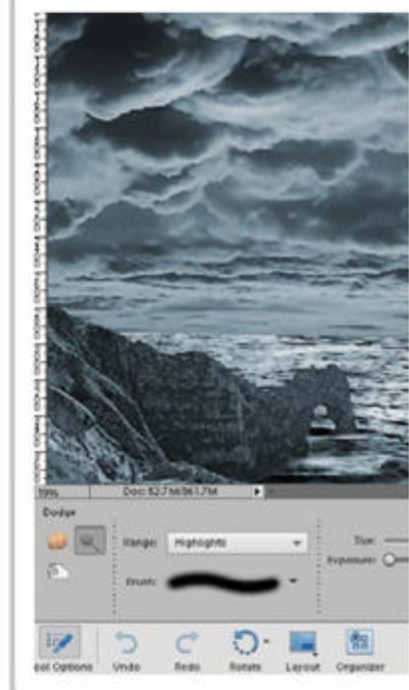


Load some brushes

14 Go to Edit>Preset Manager. Click Append and find the Lightning Strikes brushes (the file is in the supplied resources), then click Load. Now the new set of brushes is ready to be used. Click Done on the Preset Manager window and grab your Brush tool by pressing B.

Add more contrast

13 Let's apply a new adjustment. Click the Create new fill or adjustment layer, choose Levels, then set the Shadows to 38, Midtones to 1.47, Highlights to 255 and, at the bottom-left, click to clip the layer. Now the adjustment only affects the Ocean layer.



Apply those brushes

15 Create a new layer and name it Lightning. Open the Brush Preset Picker and choose the Lightning1 brush. Resize it then click over the image, as many times as you like. Repeat this step for the wave and the fog. (CS users: also apply the Rain brush).



Rain effect

16 Create a new layer right at the top of the layer stack and fill it with black. Now go to Window>Effect. Click Styles, choose Image Effects, grab the Rain Effect and drag it into the new layer, then change the blend mode to Lighten to finish off your dramatically dramatised image!

Closer look Main tools

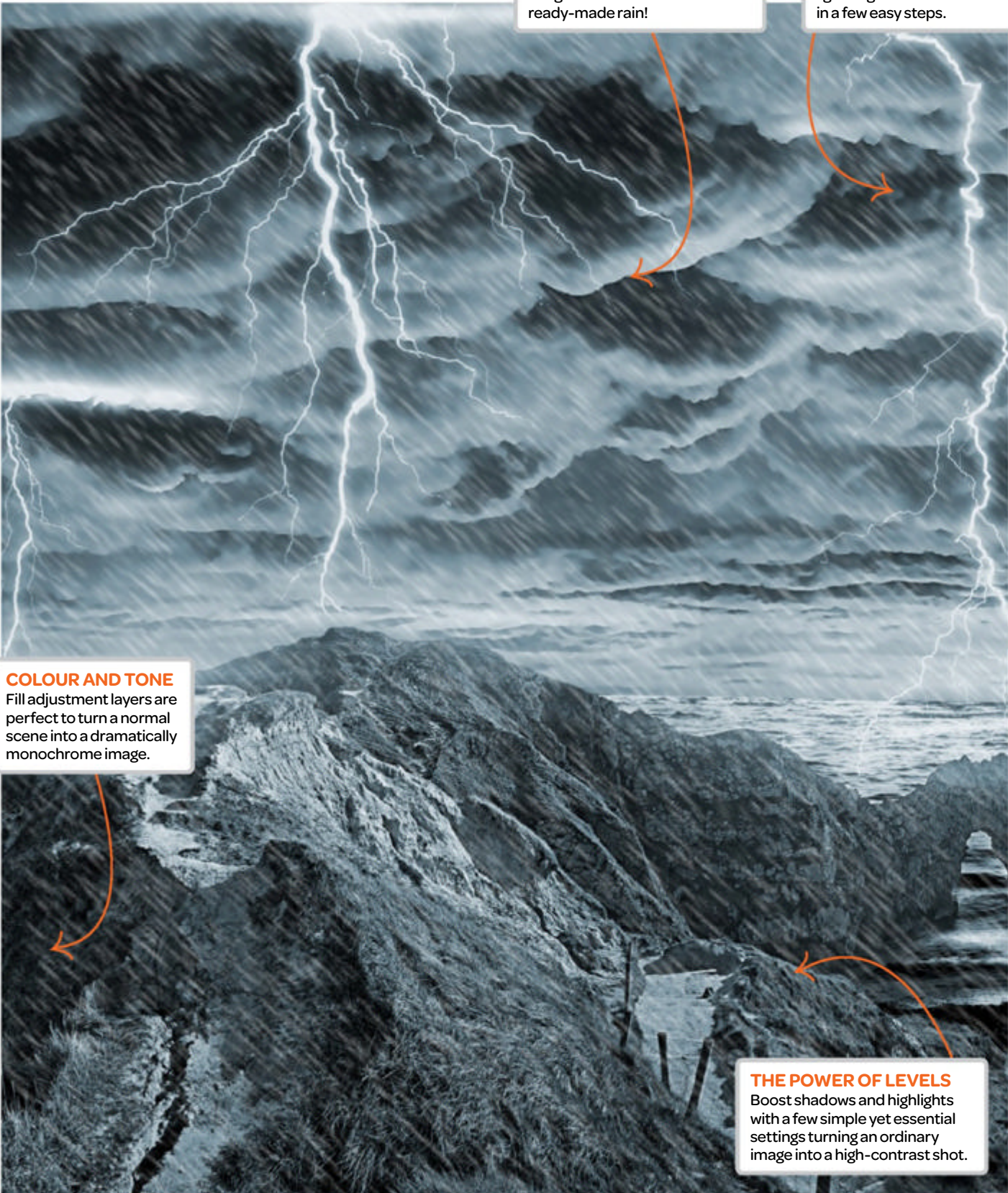
The main techniques to create a stormy scene

RAIN EFFECTS

Photoshop Elements users can take advantage of dedicated Image Effects which include ready-made rain!

LIGHTNING STRIKES

A simple lightning brush means you can stamp bold lightning strikes across the sky in a few easy steps.



COLOUR AND TONE

Fill adjustment layers are perfect to turn a normal scene into a dramatically monochrome image.

THE POWER OF LEVELS

Boost shadows and highlights with a few simple yet essential settings turning an ordinary image into a high-contrast shot.

MONOCHROME BORDER

By using the Rectangle tool, the outer edges of the image are now black and white, while the central portion of the image remains in colour.

STROKE THE EDGES

Adding a Stroke outline to the colour image makes it stand out against the monochrome version.

3D EFFECT

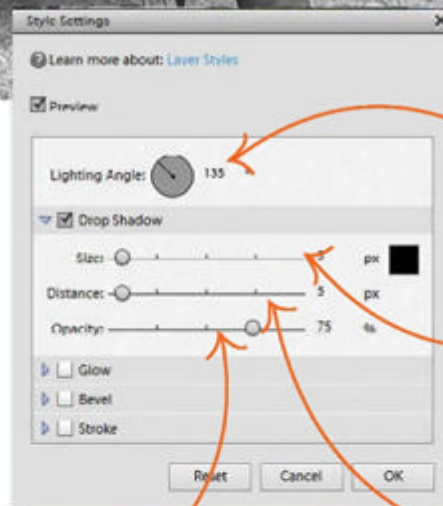
A subtle drop shadow effect gives the image a three-dimensional feel and helps separate the colour image from the two-tone background.

Have fun with eye-catching photo effects

Mix monochrome with vibrant colour using various options in Photoshop Elements

How you choose to present your photos can have a big impact on how impressive they look. With just a little bit of time spent in photo-editing software, it's relatively easy to produce striking effects that can turn even the most ordinary of snapshots into striking works of art.

Best of all, you don't even need the full version of Photoshop to do this and seemingly complex edits are all possible using just



LIGHTING ANGLE

This enables you to choose exactly where the drop shadow will appear in relation to your target object.

SIZE

This affects how hard or soft the effect appears. A lower value makes the shadow very dense, while a higher value will make it larger and therefore more diffuse.

OPACITY

This adjusts the transparency of the shadow. Lowering this will produce a subtle result.

DISTANCE

This affects how close to the target object the drop shadow sits. A higher value will place the shadow at a greater distance.

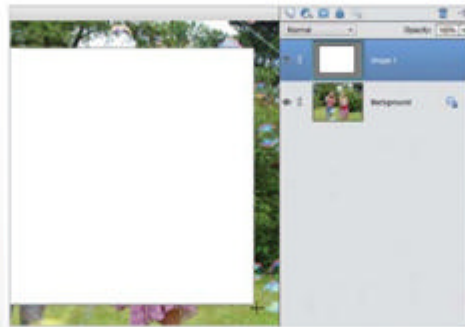
Photoshop Elements, which is simple and quick to use. It can be hard to know whether an image will look best in full colour or monochrome. One solution is to find a way of combining both treatments in one, perhaps by retaining splashes of colour in a black-and-white image. However, this effect has been re-created so often that it doesn't have the impact that it once did, so why not create a black-and-white image with a colour version inside?

Before



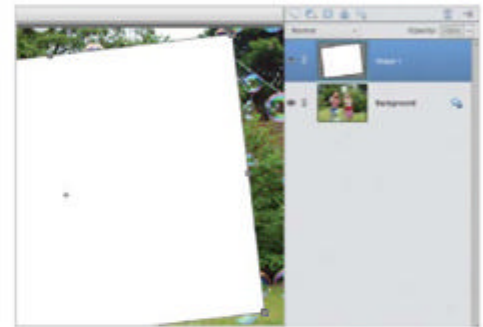
Play with colour

Combine monochrome and shadow



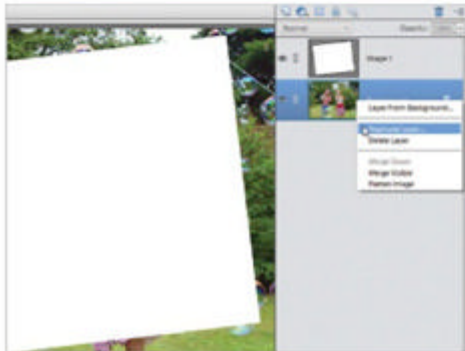
Draw a rectangle

01 Hit U on the keyboard to activate the Rectangle tool. If there's a different shape active, ensure that you change it to the rectangle. Now draw a rectangle inside your main image, which will appear as a white box on a new layer called Shape 1.



Transform the shape

02 Ctrl/right-click inside the rectangle and select Free Transform Shape, or hit Cmd/Ctrl+T on the keyboard, and adjust the orientation of the rectangle. There's no right or wrong way to do this – the aim is simply to produce an appealing final effect.



Duplicate the layer

03 Click back on the Background layer and Ctrl/right-click on it. This presents a pop-up menu where you can pick Duplicate Layer. A window will appear for you to rename this layer 'Colour'. Drag this layer to the top of the Layers palette above Shape 1.



Convert the background

04 Click back on the Background layer and navigate to Enhance>Convert to Black and White or hit Cmd/Ctrl+Opt/Alt+B. A separate dialog box will appear that enables you to convert the Background layer to black and white. Simply adjust the four sliders until you are happy with the effect.



Link the layers

05 Place the cursor between the Shape 1 layer and the Colour layer, hold down the Opt/Alt key on your keyboard and a little symbol will appear. Clicking now will link these layers so that the colour image will only be visible inside the confines of the rectangle.



Create a selection

06 Return to the Shape 1 layer and Ctrl/right-click inside the rectangle, which now contains the original colour version of your image. Select Make Selection from the pop-up window and you will see marching ants appear around the perimeter of the rectangle.



Add a Stroke

07 Return to the Colour layer and go to Edit>Stroke (Outline) Selection. In the dialog box that appears, change the colour to white by clicking inside the small box and change the Width of the Stroke to 25px. Ensure that the Location is set to Inside.



Insert some shadow

08 Select the Shape 1 layer, go to Layer>Layer Style>Style Settings and check the Drop Shadow box. Adjust the Lighting Angle, as well as the Size, Distance and Opacity sliders to add the effect, making the colour photo appear 3D. Now go to Layer>Flatten Image and your work is done.



Source file available

Use the image provided
to re-create this

Create an HDR effect in Elements

Expose the hidden details in your image with a combination of adjustments

High-dynamic range imaging is a style of photography that brings out details across the entire brightness range of an image. What this means is that details are revealed all the way from the darkest shadows to the brightest highlights, and everywhere in between.

Traditionally, these types of images were captured using multiple exposures of the same image, but using different

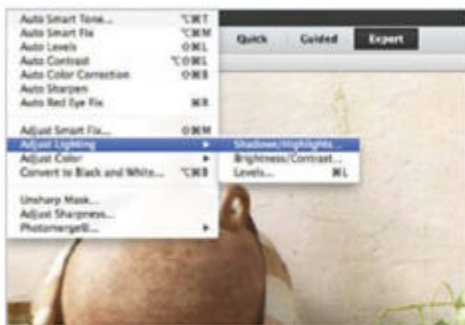
settings. These images were then overlapped to create one complete HDR exposure. We can imitate the final look of HDR with Elements, using a number of adjustments to create this effect, and only one original image.

You can apply the following steps to any image, and the sharper and more textured it is before you edit it, the more impressive it'll look after the HDR effect has been applied.



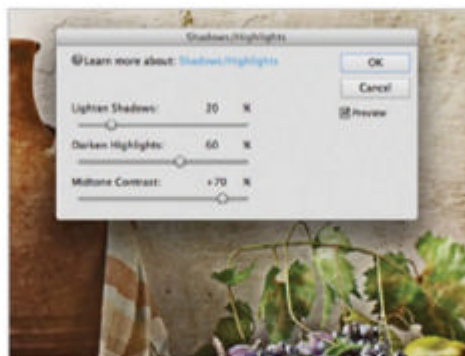
Convert images to HDR

Bring images to life with these essential HDR edits



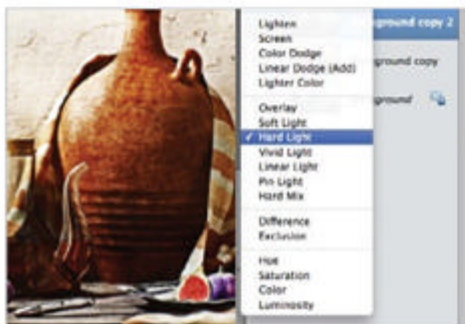
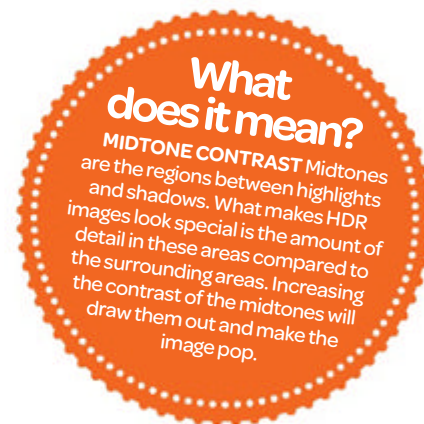
Load adjustment

01 Start by dragging and dropping the Background layer of your image onto the Create A New Layer button in the Layers panel (or press Cmd/Ctrl+J). Now we can work non-destructively on the image. Load up the Shadows/Highlights adjustment from the Enhance menu under Adjust Lighting.



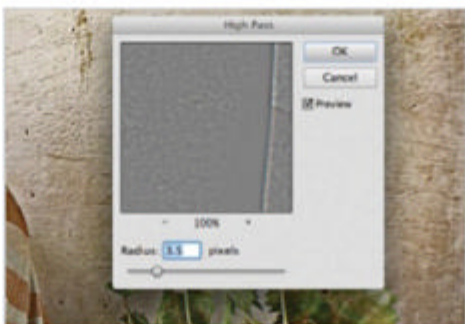
Shadows and Highlights

02 Set Lighten Shadows to 20%, Darken Highlights to 60% and Midtone Contrast to +70% to enhance lighting. Tweaking these sliders will improve the detail in the different tonal ranges of the image to create a more HDR-like image.



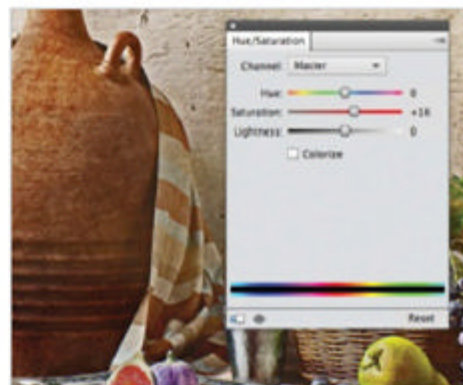
Blend layers

03 You'll notice a dramatic difference after the Shadows/Highlights adjustment has been used. To bring out the details of this image even further we can apply a sharpening filter. Duplicate the layer once more, and change its blend mode to Hard Light.



High Pass sharpen

04 The sharpening technique we've gone for is the High Pass blend technique. Go to Filter>Other>High Pass, where you'll be presented with a grey preview of the image. Set the Radius slider to 3.5 pixels, and you should start to see more definition occur throughout the image.



Improve saturation

05 To finish off this HDR effect, go to Layer>New Adjustment Layer and pick the Hue/Saturation option. Set Saturation to around +20 to boost the impact of the colours in the image.

At a glance

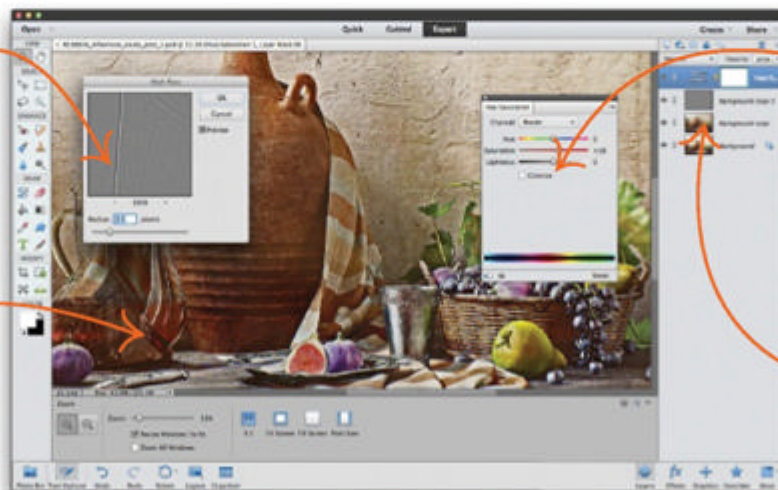
Navigate the adjustments in Elements

HIGH PASS FILTER

High Pass sharpening brings the edges of an image to the surface. This helps to create an HDR effect.

HDR EFFECT

The final image consists of stronger colour and detail, making objects appear texture-rich and vibrant.



HUE/SATURATION ADJUSTMENT

Increasing the Saturation slider will help give colours extra life. Too much of this, however, and colours will start to over-saturate.

LAYER UPON LAYER

Get used to creating a new layer for each edit. This way opacities can be altered and layers even deleted or hidden for optimum control.



Before

Master the tilt-shift effect

Learn how to shoot and edit your images to look like a toy town

The tilt-shift effect, which is particularly popular with cityscapes and street photography, can easily be imitated using Photoshop Elements. In fact, if you own a version of Photoshop Elements 12 or later, there's a Guided edit called Tilt-Shift that will do all the work for you. But it's still worth trying out this effect manually using your own mix of adjustments and learning how to manipulate layers and masks

to achieve the results you had in mind. We're going to take you through the various ways to make your own tilt-shift effect here, as well as pointers for what to think about when taking your own photos to use.

Locating the ideal position to capture your image from can be tricky, but it can also be fun to hunt down the perfect shot and make this effect your own memorable adventure!

How to shoot for tilt-shift

What to think about when sizing up a good photo for the effect

When the opportunity presents itself we want to make sure we capture the image in just the right way. This will make editing in Photoshop Elements much easier. Here are some important points to consider when out and about with your camera searching for that perfect tilt-shift image.

NICE AND HIGH

This is a perfect subject for the tilt-shift effect, as it's high up and looking down on the city at an angle.

TOO LOW

The angle looking down onto the scene is too low for the tilt-shift effect to work.

Right



Wrong

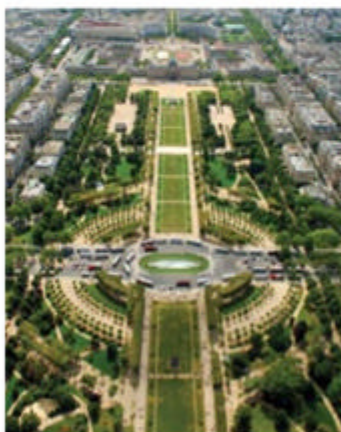


Tips for that perfect tilt-shift shot

Valuable pointers to ensure success every time

Busy is good

Using a zoom lens with your camera is useful because you can crop the image while you shoot. When it comes to location, busier is better. Look for a scene that has plenty of people or vehicles because these will give more impact.



The best kind of support

Be sure to take your tripod out for a test run, as it will help you to compose the scene and capture the action. Some tripods can even wrap themselves around objects, such as a rail or post, which helps to get between bars and fencing that could ruin a photo.

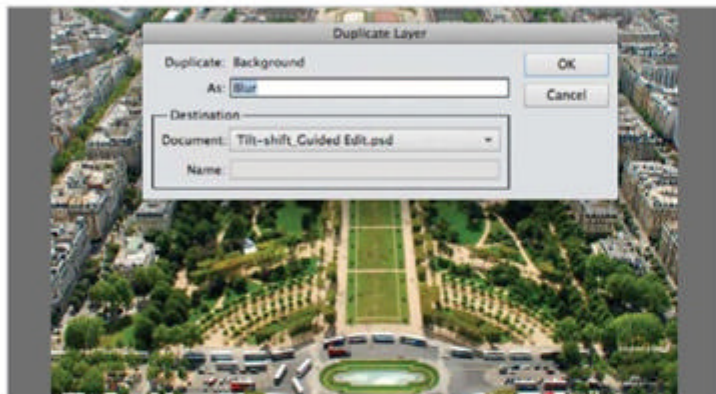


Think fast

Stick your camera in Tv mode (shutter priority) and choose a fast shutter speed of 1/125s or above. This will make sure any moving subjects appear in focus, which is what we need for the tilt-shift effect.

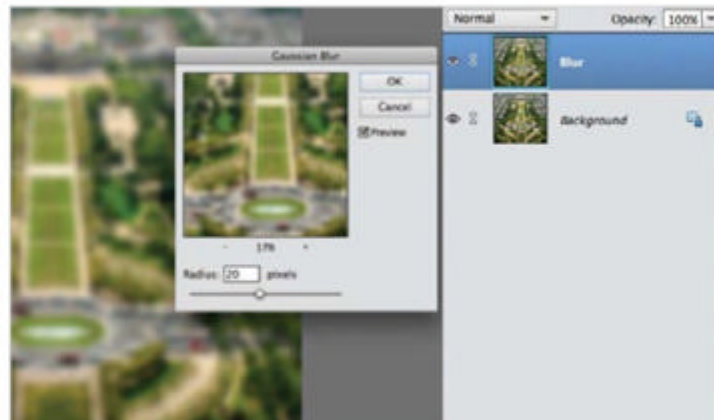


Create your own effect Make the image come to life using layers and adjustments



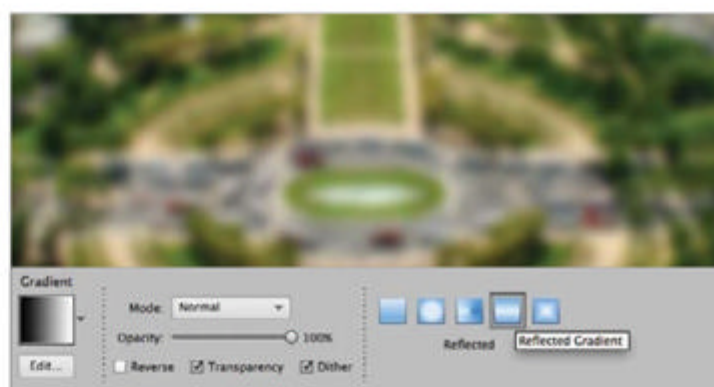
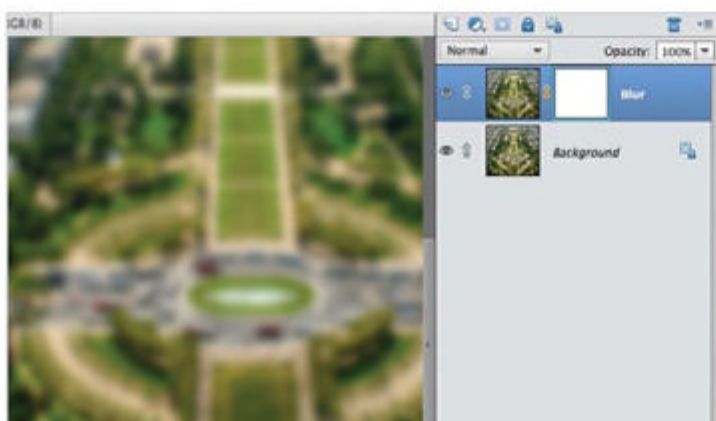
Work smart

01 Open up your tilt-shift ready photo. We will need to make a duplicate of the original layer (called Background inside the Layers panel down the right side). To do this, go to Layer>Duplicate Layer. Name this new layer Blur and hit OK. A new layer will appear above the Background.



Create depth

02 To create the heavy blurring that this effect is known for, go to Filter>Blur>Gaussian Blur. Inside the filter, set Radius to 20. This gives a good dose of blurriness, and can always be increased later on. Hit OK to go back to the image.

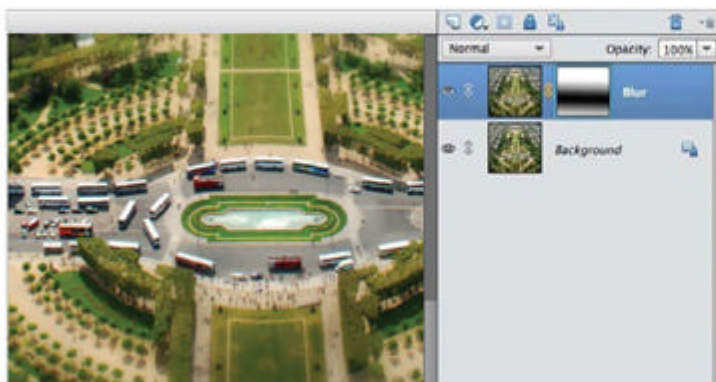


Masked pixels

03 Add a new layer mask to the top image in the layer order (this should be the blurry one) by clicking on the Add Layer Mask button in the Layers panel. This makes it possible to edit the layer without actually damaging the pixels of the image.

Set up tool

04 Press G for the Gradient tool. This is used to create the line of focus running through the image. Set the Gradient tool to Reflected from the Option panel, with 100% Opacity and tick Transparency. Be sure that the Foreground colour is black and the Background colour is white.



Gradual focus

05 Draw a line out from the centre of the area of the image where you want the effect to be placed. The Gradient tool should create a soft line of focus. If this initial line of focus is too narrow, draw a longer line with the Gradient tool to enlarge this area.

Boost colour

06 Now that the basic effect is in place, tweak colour and contrast to make the image really stand out. Add the Hue/Saturation adjustment by going to Layer>New Adjustment Layer>Hue/Saturation and hitting OK in the pop-up menu. Increase Saturation to +30 to see a big improvement to colour.

What does it mean?

SATURATION describes the strength of colour in an image. It's the difference between the amount of colour in the pixels, and the more saturation there is the stronger the colour will appear.

Guided edits in Photoshop Elements

Here's how Elements can create the effect

Follow the Guides

01 In Elements 11 and above, the Tilt-Shift effect comes under the Guided mode. This takes you through the steps for making the effect and does all the hard work so you don't have to. To get started, click on the Guided tab at the top.

Auto tilt-shift

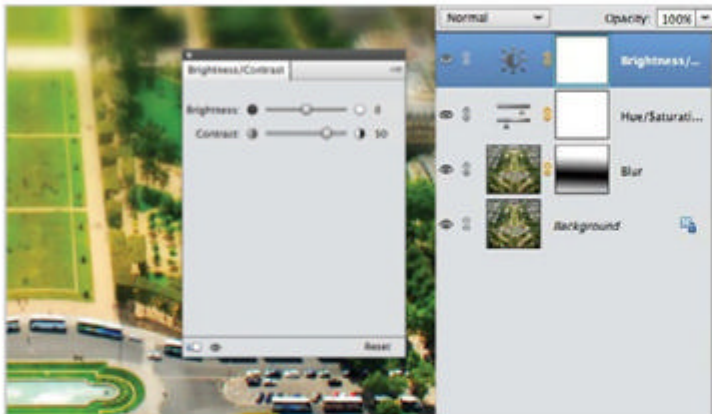
02 Locate Tilt-Shift from under the Photo Effects section down the right side of the interface. The first move is to click on the Add Tilt-Shift button. Doing so gives a pretty good effect to start off with.

Not bad!

03 Clicking on Modify Focus Area enables the position of the focused part of the effect to be altered by drawing a new line over the image. But, as it stands, the Guided effect does a good job by default.

Carefully does it...

04 Click on the Refine Effect tab to alter the colour and contrast of the effect, and strength of blurring as well. These sliders give the control needed to create the perfect tilt-shift effect.



Better lighting

07 Add the Brightness/Contrast adjustment from the New Adjustment Layer menu. Increase Contrast to around +50 for stronger lighting. Jump back to any adjustment layer by double-clicking on its layer's thumbnail.



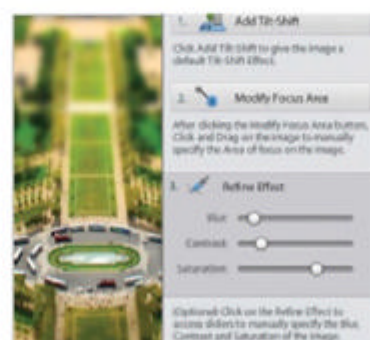
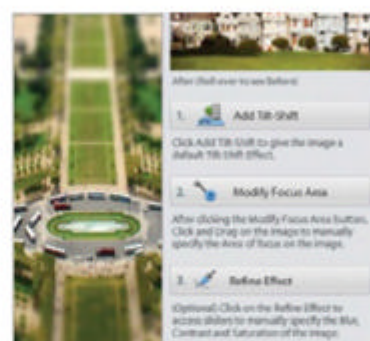
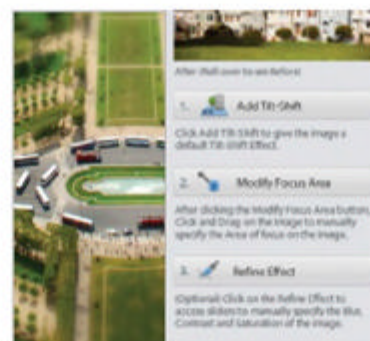
Control blurriness

08 To lower the strength of the blurring effect, click on the layer that was blurred earlier and lower its opacity. Reducing this down to 50% will fade the effect, and dropping to 0% will completely hide the effect.



Reapply filter

09 To strengthen the effect, create a duplicate of the blurry one by pressing Cmd/Ctrl+J. This layer will double-up the effect and increase the amount of blurring. Another possibility is to go back into the Gaussian Blur filter and increase the Radius setting.



Paint from photos

Transform photos into glorious paintings with the greatest of ease

Most of us now have a substantial stash of photos sitting on our hard drives, doing absolutely nada. It's a waste, as Photoshop Elements is teeming with features for turning photos into something special.

The feature on our radar this time is the Impressionist Brush. This little beauty offers you a variety of effects to apply to photos and make them look like paintings.

It uses all the information in the photo, so you haven't got to worry about picking colours or possessing drawing ability. All you need to do is move your mouse and have some fun!

This tutorial will walk you through using the Impressionist Brush, from picking a brush set through to manipulating the options in order to get the precise look you want. We will also show you an easy

way to achieve a sketch effect, and how this can be merged with your painting yet another artistic layer.

The Impressionist Brush offers you a lot of creative potential. The combinations of brush tips and effects can seem bewildering, but keep practising and you'll soon get a grasp of things. Before you know it, you'll be turning all of your unseen photos into digital masterpieces!

Source file available

Use the image provided to re-create this

PICK A SET

Once the brush picker window appears, click in the area next to where it says Brush. This gives you access to all the brush sets – just click one to pick it.

BRUSH OPTIONS

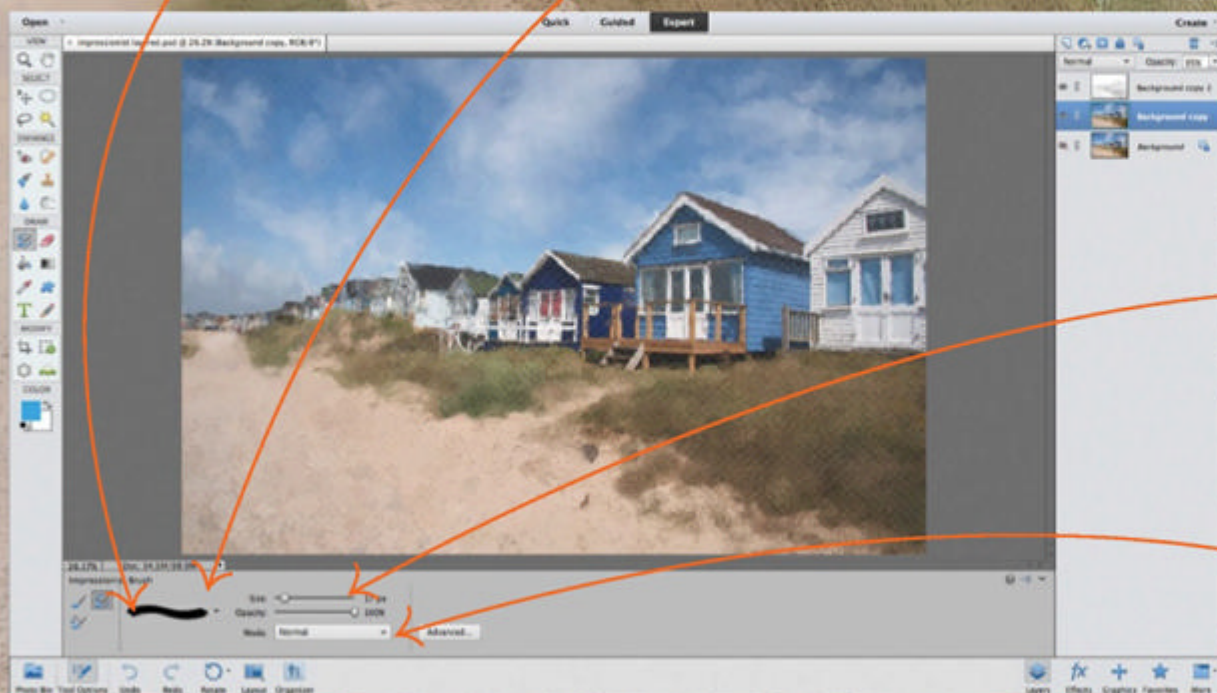
With a set picked, you will see all of the brush tips in that set. They all show a sample of their effect, so you can see if they are right for you.

AREA AND TOLERANCE

A small Area setting will reduce the size of the style. Some styles will need a higher setting than others. The lower the Tolerance level, the more painterly the results will be.

STYLE OPTIONS

The Style area holds the different brush effects. These aren't in isolation – the same style affects different brush tips in different ways.



USING LAYERS

You paint directly onto a photo with the Impressionist Brush, so work on a duplicate just in case there are any creative disasters.

ACCESS THE BRUSH

The Impressionist Brush sits with the Brush tool in the toolbar. If it isn't showing, click the Brush tool icon and then click the Impressionist Brush from the panel.

MAKING YOUR ART

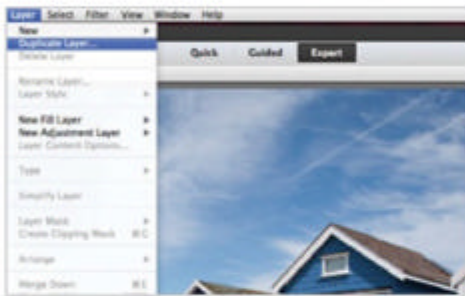
With a brush chosen, you just need to sweep over your photo to give it a painterly effect.

Before



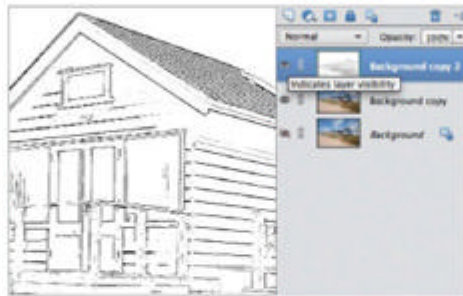
Get painted landscapes

Learn to wield the Impressionist Brush



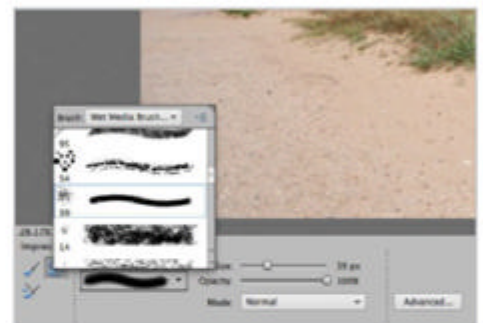
Start a sketch

01 Open the start image in Elements and choose the Expert mode. Click the Brush icon, and then Impressionist Brush. Go to Layer>Duplicate, and then do that a second time, so there are three layers in total. Click on the top layer and go to Filter>Other>High Pass. Set Radius to 2.3 and click OK.



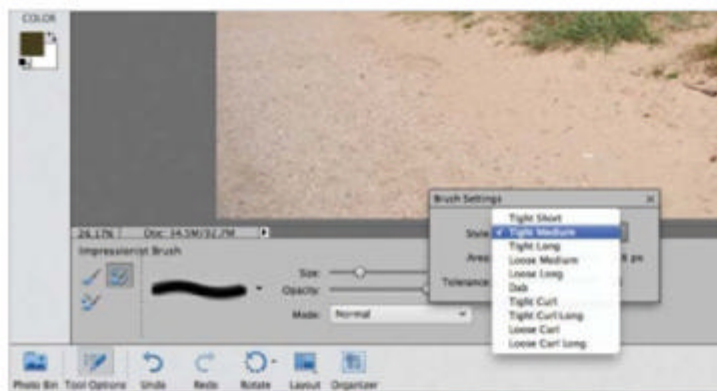
Manage layers

02 Go Filter>Adjustments>Threshold. The image will now turn into a sketch. You'll need to go lower than you think with the Threshold – for some reason, once you click OK the lines thicken. In this case, a setting of 115 works well. Time to forget about this layer for a while; click the eye icon to turn it off.



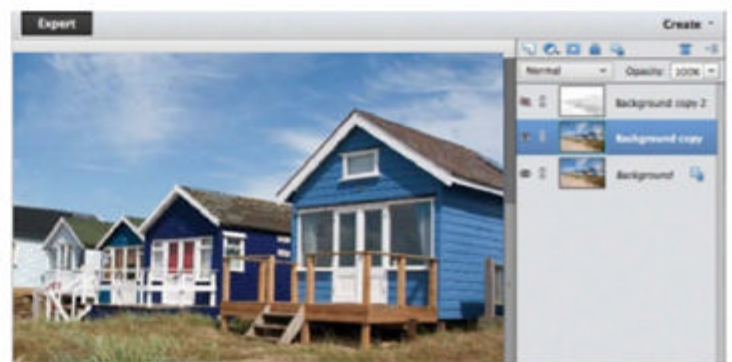
Pick a set

03 Click on the middle layer. This is where your painting will take place. Click the brush mark in the Impressionist Brush panel to pick your brush set. Use the arrow to see all the sets and then click Wet Media. Now pick a brush; for this piece, it's Rough Ink.



Brush settings

04 In addition to picking a type of brush, you can set the type of stroke that it produces. Click Advanced and then select Tight Medium from the Style drop-down. The higher the Tolerance, the more photographic the result, so we stick to 1% to keep the paint flowing.



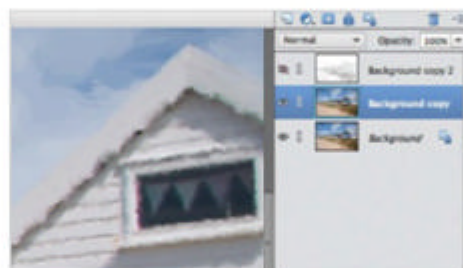
Get ready to paint

05 Zoom into the sky a little bit. The beauty of the sky is that it can be quite loose, which is best done from afar. Use the [and] buttons on your keyboard to adjust the brush size; in this case, hit] to make it bigger. It's hard to give a numerical setting, as it depends on the size of the monitor you have and how much you have zoomed in.



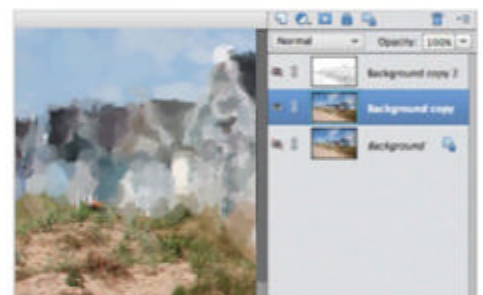
Time to start painting!

06 Hold the mouse button down and move, tracing over the shapes in the photo. Work your way over the sky, following the forms in the photo. The image will start to take on the characteristics of the chosen brush and style. Use a small-sized brush for the sky near the beach huts.



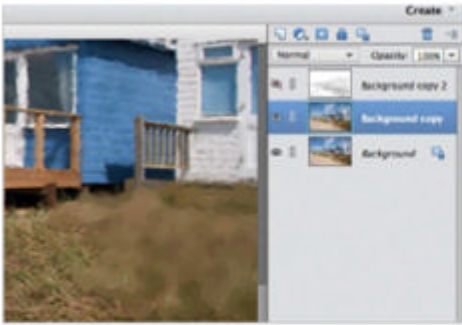
Getting detailed

07 When it comes to the huts, pick the Paint on Rough Texture brush and, from Advanced, pick Tight Short and set Area to 21px. This will rein-in the brush swoops and preserve the detail. Now zoom in a bit more and work in the same way as with the sky; hold the mouse button and follow the form.



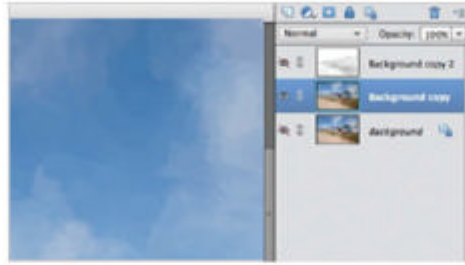
Loosen up

08 You can be a bit freer as you move to the distant beach huts. Once it's turned on, the sketch layer will help define shapes, and a real painter wouldn't worry about excessive detail in distant objects. Our eyes can't register it in real life, so it just looks fake if you paint it!



Finish the painting

09 Pick the Rough Dry Brush for the grass and sand areas. From Advanced, set Style to Loose Medium, with an Area of 12%. Start painting, but keep on adjusting the brush size in order to keep the definition between light and dark colours.



Final touches

10 Once you have completed the painting, spend a few minutes looking at it. If you find some areas too 'blobby', reduce the effect by using a smaller brush or a different brush. We picked Scattered Dry Brush Small Tip, set to Tight Short and a 49% Area. This smoothed out the clouds and grass area.



Don't forget the sketch

11 When you're happy with the result, bring the sketch back in. Click on the sketch layer and then the eye icon to make it visible. If the lines seem too harsh, use the Opacity slider to fade them out. See the annotated image below for more ideas on getting the final finish right. Now save!

Closer look Perfecting the final result



Opacity control

01 If you find that the sketch is a little too overpowering, use the Opacity slider to reduce it. Here, we went for a setting of 46%.

Faint eraser

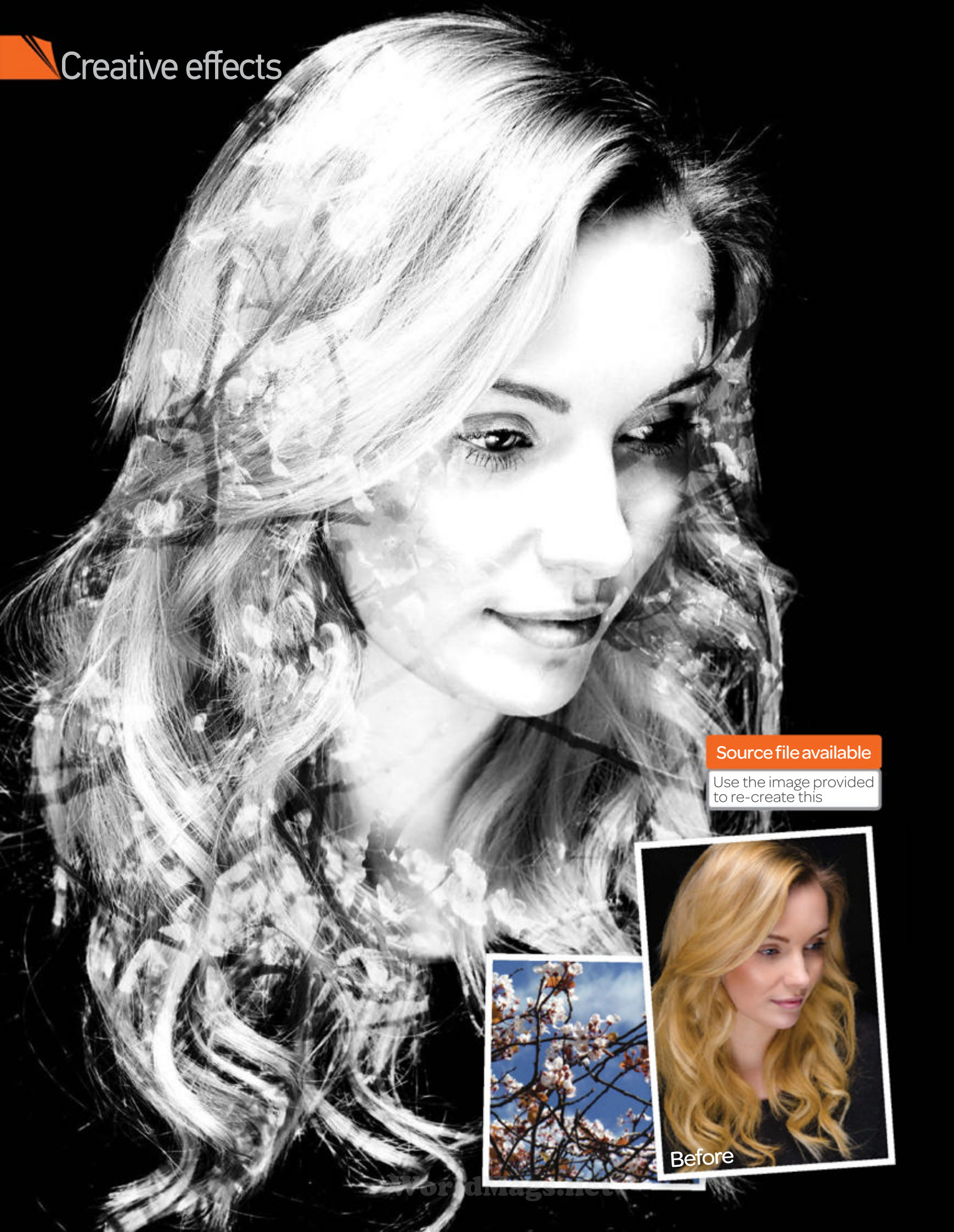
02 To reduce the sketch effect in specific areas, use the Eraser tool. Just hit E, set the Opacity to 30% then enlarge it. Brush over the sketch in the grass and sand to knock it back a shade.

Watercolour look

03 If you want more of a watercolour effect, click on the painted layer and reduce the Opacity. A setting of 95% works well.

Work in progress

04 Another cool effect is to erase the edges of the painted layer, so it looks like your work is in progress. Pick the Eraser, set to Watercolor Textured Surface, 100% Opacity and nice and big. Brush away at the edges.



Source file available

Use the image provided to re-create this



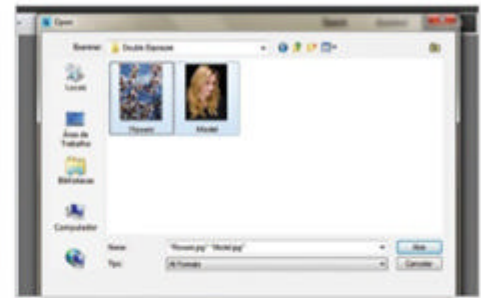
Before

Re-create a double exposure

Give your photos a beautiful twist with this classic photographic technique

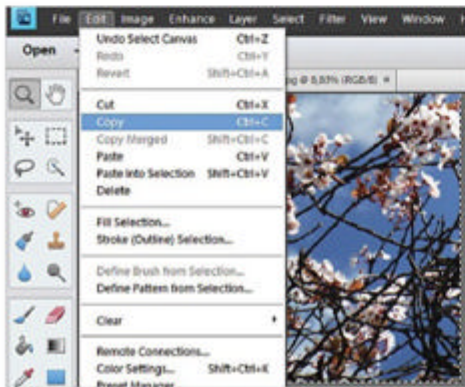
A well-known and much-used effect, double exposure effectively merges two different photos together. Traditionally, it's a camera trick done in the shooting stage, courtesy of multiple exposures and a

keen photographic eye. More recently, though – amid the rise of the digital and mobile phone cameras – beautiful effects like this are becoming lost. Never fear, though, as this kind of effect is easily re-created in Photoshop. Here's how.



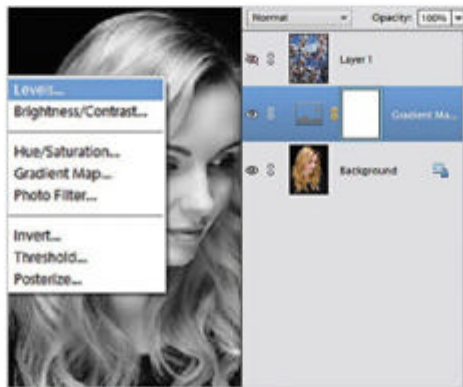
Start images

01 Open your two photos in Elements via File>Open. We're using the photo 'Flowers.jpg' for the top image and the photo 'Model.jpg' for the background. Download them or experiment with your own shots. Try a variety of flower photos and portraits.



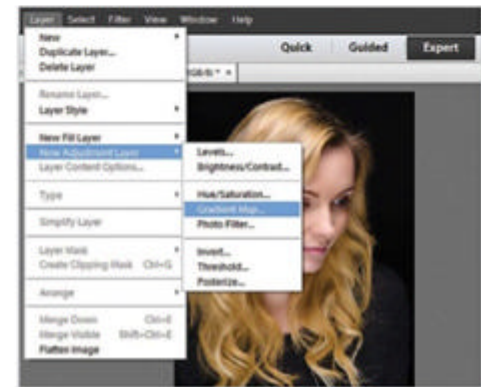
Copy your photo

02 Now let's copy the photo that will go on the layer above the Background (Flowers). First go to Select>Select All, then Edit>Copy, then Edit>Paste. You'll now have two layers. Tip: to view just the Background, click on the top layer and then the eye icon.



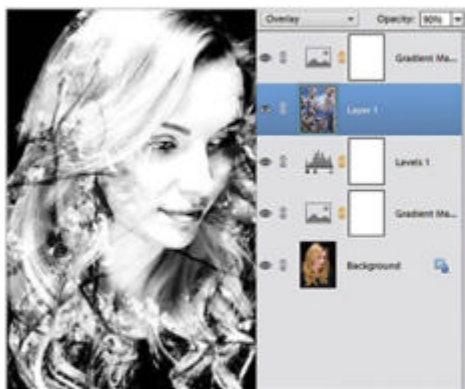
Model adjustment layer

03 Select the Background layer. Now head to Layer>New Adjustment Layer>Gradient Map and then click OK. After that, go back to apply Layer>New Adjustment Layer>Levels, setting the values: 30, 1.50, 190 and also the Output levels: 0, 255. Hit OK to finish.



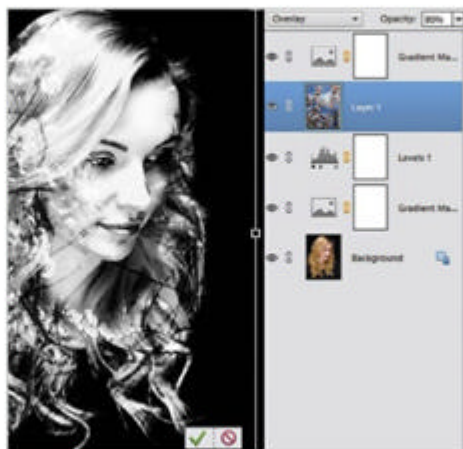
Flowers adjustment layer

04 After adjusting the photo of the model (the Background), let's edit the top layer: Flowers. Click the eye icon beside that layer in order to reveal it again. Now head over to Layer>New Adjustment Layer>Gradient Map and then click on OK to apply the changes.



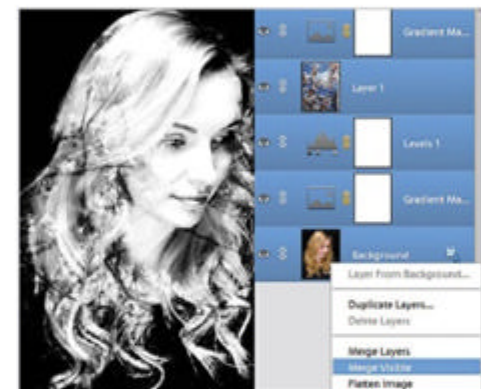
Merge the two photos

05 Now we bring our photos together. In the Layers panel, click on the blend mode drop-down. Change it from Normal to Overlay. Now move over to Opacity and set that to 90%. Click OK and the photos merge.



Resize the flowers

06 Hold down the Shift key and then drag the corner handles to resize the Flowers layer. Shrink it so that the flowers fit into the model's face (Background).



Merge Visible Layers

07 Now we'll properly merge them. Holding down Shift again, select the Background layer and the top-most layer of Adjustments (Gradient Map). Now select Layers>Merge Visible Layers. Your double exposure photograph is now ready.





Source file available

Use the image provided to re-create this

Use layer styles for glowing art

Learn how to make an eye-catching photomanipulation using several tools and filters in Photoshop Elements

In this tutorial, we'll create some electrifying guitar artwork with some easy light effect techniques using a combination of wildly colourful layer modes and styles. These techniques can easily be applied to other awesome projects or even as a foundation to build upon for your own creative tricks! To create this dazzling light show, we'll need a few tools and materials to pull it all together – our guitar photo for tracing the

outline, the Pen tool for making our guitar's sleek edges and crisply detailed interior, Transformation tools for bending our elements into action, and a few simple brushes to make it come alive. And don't worry, if you don't have these tools, we've got you covered with some easy workarounds to get you going! Let's get started and create a new document with sizing dimensions set to preference, with a white background.

Create electrifying art

Learn how to create this image using a range of tools



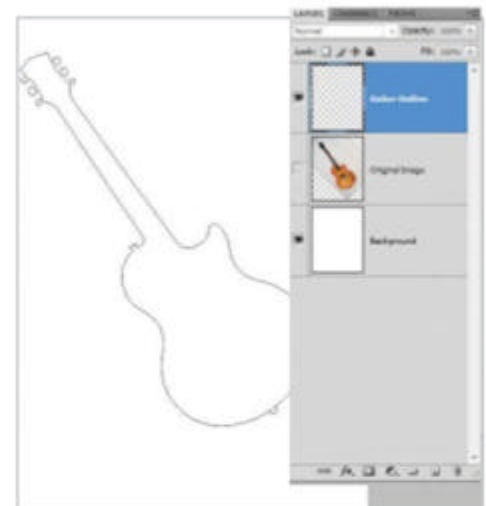
Get prepped

01 Let's paste the guitar photo into our newly made document, then position the guitar with Rotate or Scale using Free Transform (Cmd/Ctrl+T). We'll make it semi-transparent by reducing the layer's Opacity by 50%.



Use Paths for selecting

02 Use the Pen tool to trace a path around the outer edge of the guitar. You could alternatively use the Quick Mask and selection tools for this, but the simplicity of the Pen tool can save time.



Stroke the path

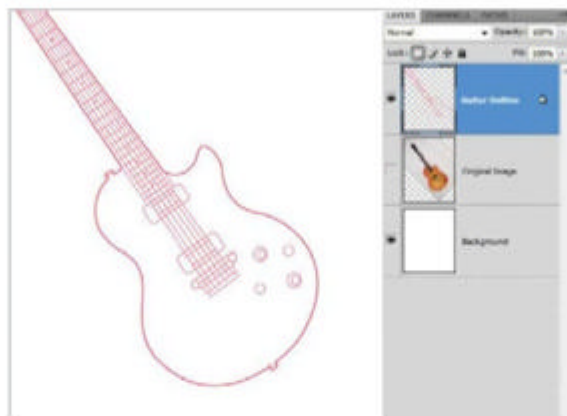
03 In Paths panel, tap the Load Path as Selection icon and invert with Shift+Cmd/Ctrl+I. Switch over to the Layers panel, and make new layer with Shift+Cmd/Ctrl+N. Use Edit>Stroke with Width set as 10px and Location ticked as Outside.

Expert tip



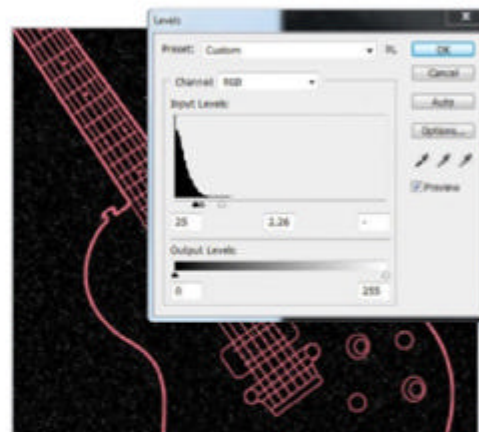
No Pen tool no problem

The Pen tool can make quick work out of complicated selections, but if you are uncomfortable using it or it's not available in your version, the Quick Mask can be used in its place. However, if Quick Mask is unavailable, all isn't lost! Make a new layer on top, fill it with a bright colour, then reduce layer Opacity by half. Next, pick a Selection tool, select an area, and Press DELETE. Restore layer Opacity, Cmd/CTRL+Click the layer thumbnail, then SHIFT+Cmd/CTRL+I.



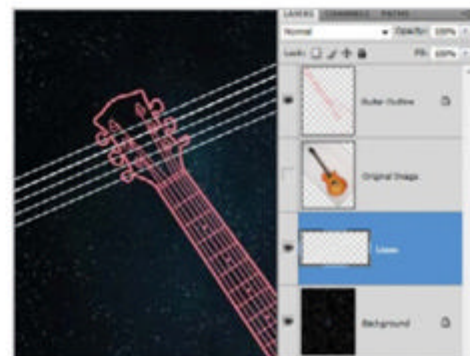
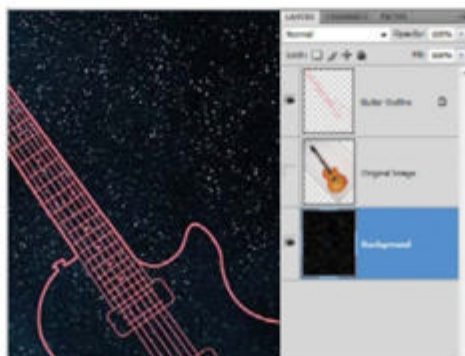
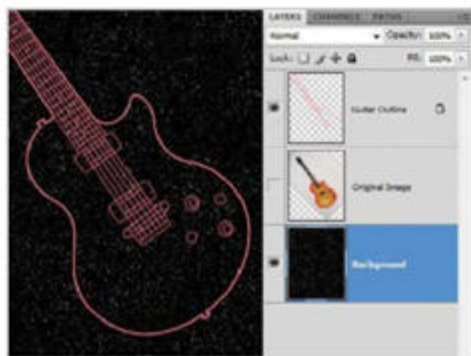
Add guitar detail

04 Continue adding detail by making paths for the smaller elements of the guitar. Stroke these elements as before only on a slightly smaller pixel setting, around 6px. Color can be changed easily with a Layer Style.



Bring on the stars

05 Fill background layer with black and use Filter>Add Noise, setting the slider around 10%. Cmd/Ctrl+T to Scale, enlarging to 400%. Use Levels (Cmd/Ctrl+L), adjusting sliders to diminish the number.



Thin them out

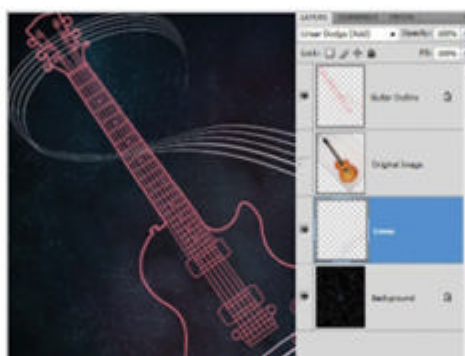
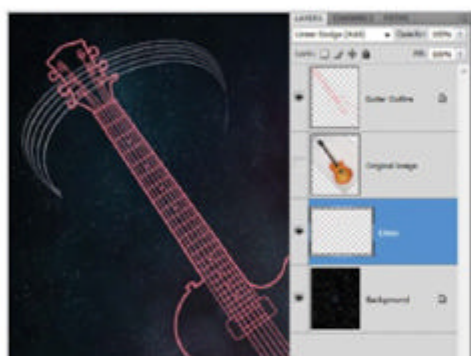
06 Now we have some nice stars, but we need to thin them out. Make a new layer above the background, and use a soft round Airbrush set with low Opacity in black to paint over, creating depth and diversity. Cmd/Ctrl+E to merge this layer.

Add final sky detail

07 Use Clone Stamp with Mode set to Screen to make groups of stars, then follow it up with a soft Airbrush in blues and pinks to create a space sky effect. Add extra stars by hand, if you like, by using a small brush.

Create the music lines

08 Open up a new document and draw five long lines on a new layer, the end result resembling lines from sheet music. Paste into our main document, then Cmd/Ctrl+T to Rotate the line across the image in the direction we'd like the swirl to go.



Warp the line shapes

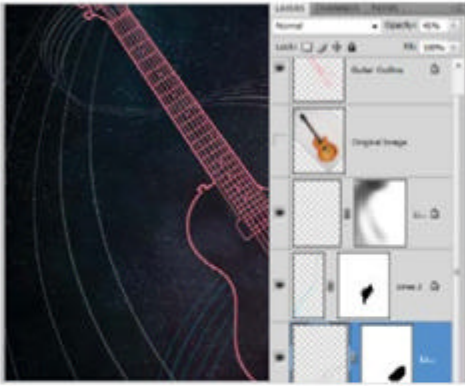
09 Use Transform>Warp to bend the lines so that they curve almost appearing to spiral. Don't worry if it isn't perfect on the first try, just hit undo and go for it again until you're satisfied with the overall direction.

String them along

10 Keep adding more lines and warping them, stringing the ends along so that it appears as a single line. You can also make additional line strings in different directions, but keep the layers separate for easy adjustment later.

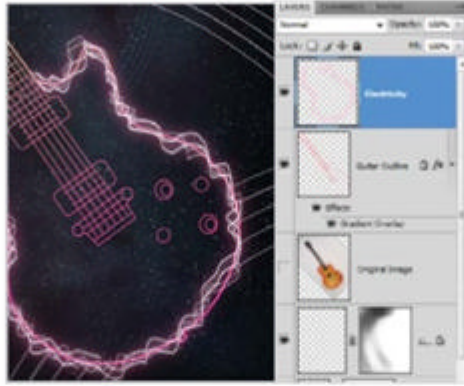
Reduce Opacity

11 Reduce layer Opacity on each swirling line layer according to overlap structure – meaning the furthest swirl back in space gets the lowest Opacity setting and those closest to front can have a little higher.



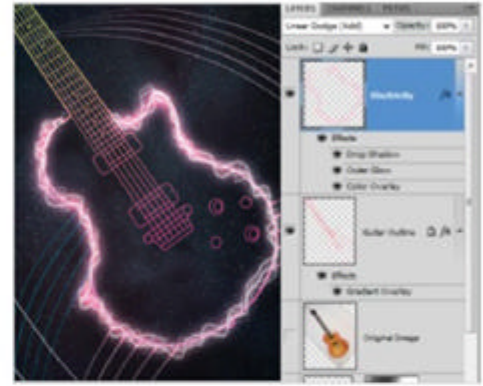
Remove and fade

12 Create a mask for each swirling line layer. Paint the mask in black along the lines that cross the guitar for removal. Grab a soft brush and stroke along the lines in the distance to fade them. The Eraser can be used as a masking alternative.



Electrify the guitar

13 Create a new layer above the guitar outline with Shift+Cmd/Ctrl+N. Using a custom brush constructed of two dots side by side, (with Angle set to Pen Pressure in Shape Dynamics) make random squiggles around the guitar body for an electric effect.



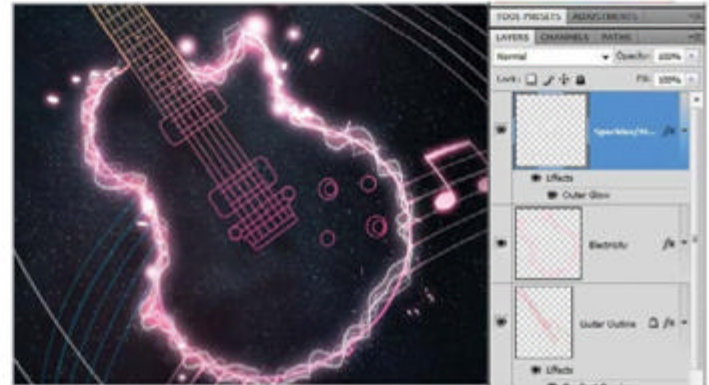
Add Glow

14 To make the electricity really come alive, add an Outer Glow to this electricity layer with a layer style, setting the Blend Mode to Color Dodge. The Spread and Size of the glow can be adjusted to however you would like.



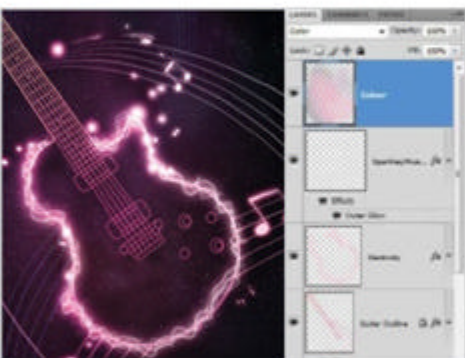
Add sparkles

15 Now go ahead and select a soft, opaque Airbrush. Begin painting sparkle dots in varying sizes around the guitar and flowing into the line swirls. Vary the size of your brush as you go using the [and] shortcut keys for ease. Now copy and paste the layer style from the electrified guitar body to this sparkle layer.



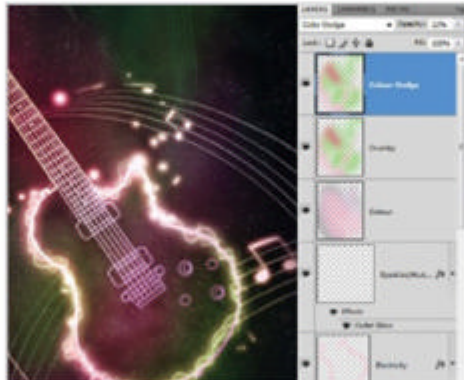
Make it musical

16 Use the Custom Shape tool to incorporate pre-made musical notes or make your own. Simply select them with the Lasso tool, then head to Transform>Warp. Now warp and bend them, twirling them along the spiral lines to make them appear almost as if they were floating.



Add contrasting colours

17 Make a new layer on top of the stack and set the Blending Mode to Colour. Brush over the image with a soft Airbrush in saturated tones of your choice to liven things up. Contrasting colours will work really well here.



Further colour enhancement

18 On top of the stack again, make a two new layers – one with Blending Mode as Overlay and the other as Colour Dodge. Experiment a little here, brushing on more of the saturated chosen colours on each layer.



Adjust and Finalize

19 Press Shift+Cmd/Ctrl+Opt/Alt+E to merge all layers together. Use Hue/Saturation (Cmd/Ctrl+U) to enhance colour and saturation, then use Levels (Cmd/Ctrl+L) to balance things with contrast.

Add a subtle duotone effect

Create a two-tone effect with the help of simple adjustment in Elements

A duotone image is, as the name implies, comprised of two colours. This type of imagery is well known in the photographic arena and despite its age, duotone is still popular among artists and consumers.

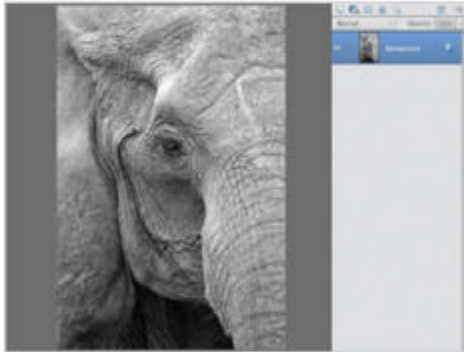
Duotone images can send a powerful message depending on how they are created and used. With bold highlights and shadows, contrasting or complementing colours, duotone images can evoke a range of emotions. Any colours can be used to achieve the desired effect of a duotone image, and although

there are different ways to go about it, here we look at the basics. Using the Desaturation adjustment, along with the Gradient Map adjustment, we can add new colour to an image for a striking effect.

Upon completion of this tutorial you will be able use this trick in your own art – be it paintings or photography. One thing to keep in mind is that if at the end your image seems to be too dull or too dark, the Levels adjustment can be used to easily take care of those nitpicky adjustments.

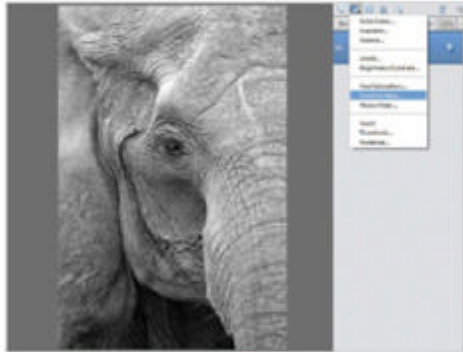


Colour effects Use the Gradient Map adjustment to add a duotone effect to your image



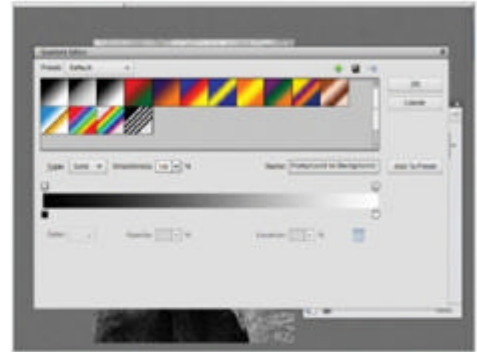
Remove colour

01 Start by opening up this image. The next job is to remove any colour information in the image. To do this, simply press Cmd/Ctrl+Shift+U to desaturate, leaving the image in black and white.



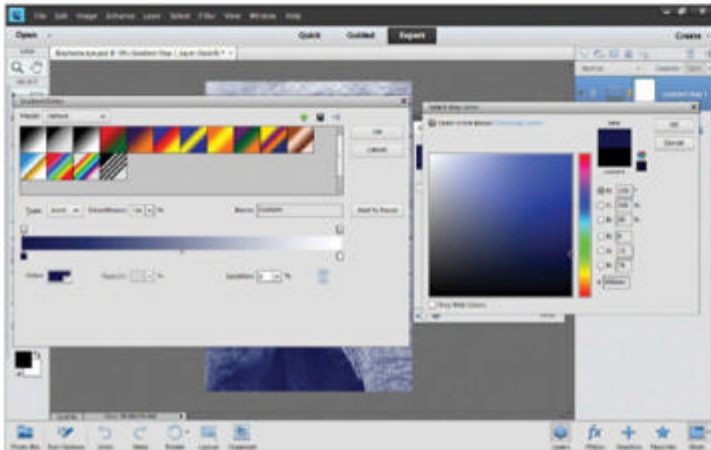
Choose gradient

02 To add a duotone, click on the New Adjustment Layer icon (the circle shape that is half white and half grey) in the Layers panel, and choose Gradient Map from the drop-down menu.



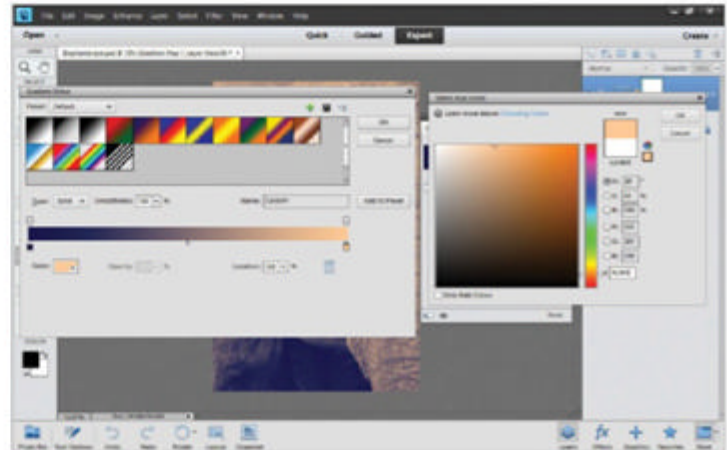
Gradient Editor

03 In the Gradient Map panel, click on the gradient swatch to bring up the Gradient Editor. Since we're making a duotone photo, we will just need two colours, one at each end of the gradient bar.



Shadow colour

04 Click on the left colour stop, and then on the colour swatch to choose your own preferred colour. Any colour can be used for this, but when it comes to shadows, darker colours work best. For this effect we used #000d4c.



Adjust highlights

05 After you've chosen the shadow colour, finish by adding the highlight colour. Click on the opposite colour stop, and change the colour by using the same method as before. For highlights, lighter colours tend to look best. We used #ffc995.

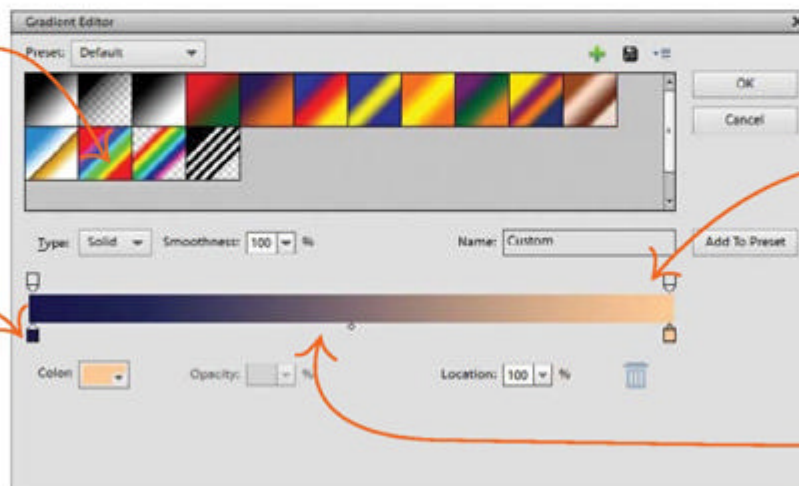
Anatomy of a gradient Learn what's inside the Gradient Editor menu

PRESETS

Save your custom gradients and make your own personal library that you can use when needed.

COLOUR STOPS

These sliders indicate your chosen colours in a gradient. New ones can easily be added to introduce more colours.



OPACITY STOPS

While these aren't needed for a duotone effect, it's handy to know that these stops control the opacity of the gradient.

MIDPOINT

This area is the Midpoint, which is where two or more colours blend into each other.



What does it mean?

HISTOGRAMS These illustrate how pixels in an image are distributed by graphing the number of pixels at each colour intensity level. The most common place to view a histogram in Photoshop is inside Levels.

Create a fisheye effect

Use photo-editing software to replicate a funky fisheye effect outside a lens

Prior to image-editing software like Photoshop being so widely available, the fisheye effect was created with the use of costly extreme wide-angle lenses. Originally developed for meteorological purposes, the lens is now used by all sorts of photographers to create a psychedelic distortion of their subject. Now, with the addition of camera phones and free applications that create the effect at the touch of a button, various in-camera filters are becoming more and more popular.

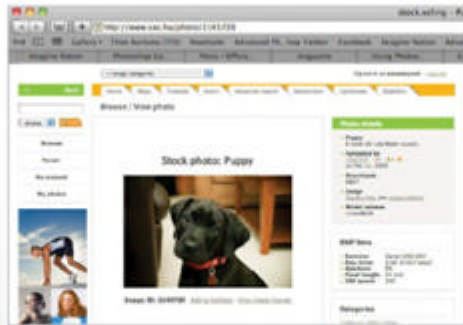
Photo lenses that achieve these kinds of effects can be pretty costly, so re-creating the effect in Photoshop Elements provides a great alternative. To produce eye-catching effects might seem daunting at first, but read on to discover how simple it can be! While we've used the latest version of Elements here, you can also use other versions of Photoshop, including CS6 and the new Creative Cloud, although the location of some tools may vary a little.

Before



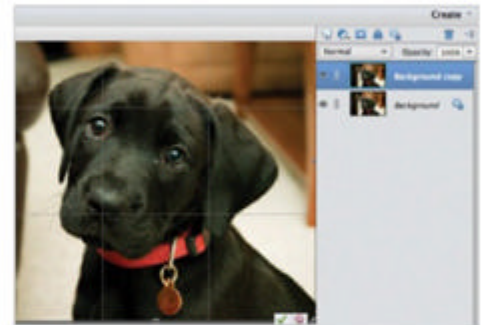
Add a fisheye

Digitally re-create a classic photo effect



Get your start image

01 Try the effect on any image, ones where the subject is looking straight at the camera work best. This one's from sxc.hu (Image ID: 1145720). Open into Photoshop Elements and select Layer>Duplicate Layer. This way you don't affect your original photo.



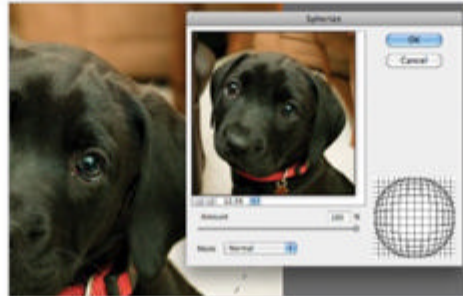
Use the Crop tool

02 Select Image from the top bar and then Crop. You'll see a lined grid over the original image. Go to the tool options at the bottom of the screen, choose 5x5 and drag your mouse over the image to the top and bottom edges. Click the green tick.



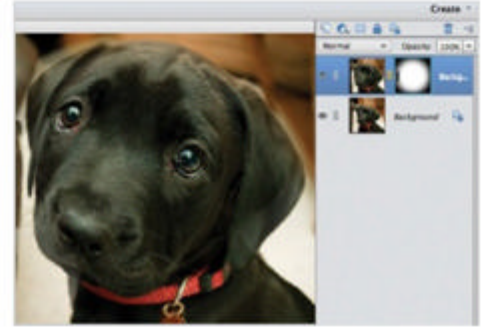
Make the perfect circle

03 Now select the Elliptical Marquee (M) tool from the left-hand toolbar. Click on the centre of the image and drag the mouse outwards while holding down Opt/Alt and Shift. This should create a perfect circle around the puppy. Realign with the mouse if necessary.



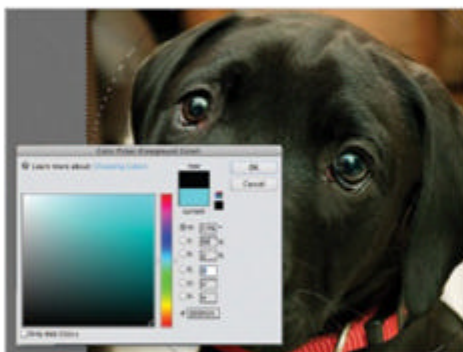
Spherize

04 With the Marquee tool still selected and the circle still surrounding the puppy, click on Filter>Distort>Spherize. Bring the zoom view from 100% down to 12.5% and then change the amount to whatever you feel is right. To re-create exactly the same effect as the one shown here, go with 100%.



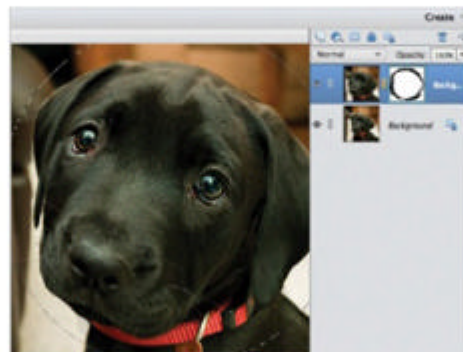
Add a Layer Mask

05 As the circle is still a little harsh, you will want to blur out the line for a more realistic effect. Go to Select>Feather and set Feather Radius to 50. Now make a Layer Mask, and use the Eraser with Opacity set to 100% to delete the circle round the puppy's outline.



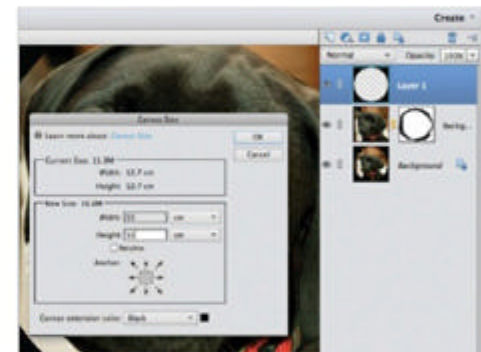
Reverse the circle part 1

06 To make the image even cuter, add a black surround. Before reversing your selection you will need to make sure that the Foreground Color is set to black. Click the Color tool in the left-hand toolbar. Change it to black and then click OK.



Reverse the circle part 2 – add a black border

07 Now it's time to reverse your selection so everything but the puppy is selected. Click Select>Inverse, hold down the Opt/Alt key and then press Backspace. This brings up a black border.



Adjust your canvas size

08 If you think the border isn't quite right, change it! Go to Image>Resize>Canvas Size and tick the box marked Relative. Enter 2cm into both of the New Size boxes. Make sure you set the new Canvas Color to black and then click OK to finish.

ZOOM BURST EFFECT

Add a sense of dynamism to your shots with the fantastic Zoom Burst Effect.

Before

Source file available

Try this for yourself with the start file

FOCAL POINT

It is easy to select the area that you want to remain in focus.

Add movement to your images

Speed things up with these simple tricks using Photoshop Elements 12

Guided edits are basically programmed effects that provide the controls needed for adapting them around any image. There are loads to choose from, and they're organised by categories such as Touchups, Photo Effects and Photo Play. In version 12 and up of Photoshop Elements, there's the addition of a Zoom Burst Effect. This helps us imitate a style of imagery created when a camera's lens is sharply moved in or out, to make a blurry barrel distortion effect. This will not only draw attention to the central subject, but will

also enhance the sense of movement and make the image pop into life.

Moving into the Editor afterwards also means that we can further adapt the Guided effect to improve the final image. By calling upon adjustments and enhancements found inside the Editor section, we can bring details back in areas which might have been lost during the Guided editing. You can load up the start image we used, or try the effect out on one of your own action shots.

Add movement

Use Guided edits for better images



Guided edits

01 We can use the Guided effects to get started. Open up the image, or one of your own, into Elements and click on the Guided tab. There will be a whole host of options, but the one we're most interested in is the Zoom Burst Effect.



Add blur

02 Inside the Guided edit, crop any extraneous bits off the image using the first box. Try to position the main subject in the centre. Click on the Add Zoom Burst button to apply a covering of blur.



Focus point

03 Use the Add Focus Area tool to draw areas of focus over the subject you want to keep in focus. Draw multiple lines until the subject is completely in focus and everything else is blurred. Press Cmd/Ctrl+Z to continually undo any mistakes in the process.



Control the blur

04 Apply a vignette using the last option and hit OK. Now head to the Expert section of Elements. There should be two layers visible to the right of the image. Reduce the Opacity of the top layer down to 80% to reduce the blurriness. Depending on your image, you may want to keep this set at 100%.



Improve lighting

05 Go to the Enhance menu and down to Adjust Lighting>Shadows/Highlights. In the dialog box, reduce Lighten Shadows to 0% (Elements automatically compensates for dark images), and increase Midtone Contrast to +70-80% to boost the image.



At a glance

Using a Guided edit to improve a shot

GUIDED PREVIEWS

Any edits that you make with a Guided edit, such as the Zoom Burst Effect, will always update the image in the central preview.



CROP TO SIZE

If the main subject isn't centrally cropped then there's a real risk that this effect might look out of place.

INSTANT EFFECTS

Blur is added using the Add Zoom Burst button. This applies an instant lens blur effect to the image, making it appear to be moving quickly.

Photo projects

Take the next step and get creative with these advanced project ideas

132 Create great portraits with
Mixed-media effects
Water colour a great portrait

136 Scan and print
Turn your illustrations into prints

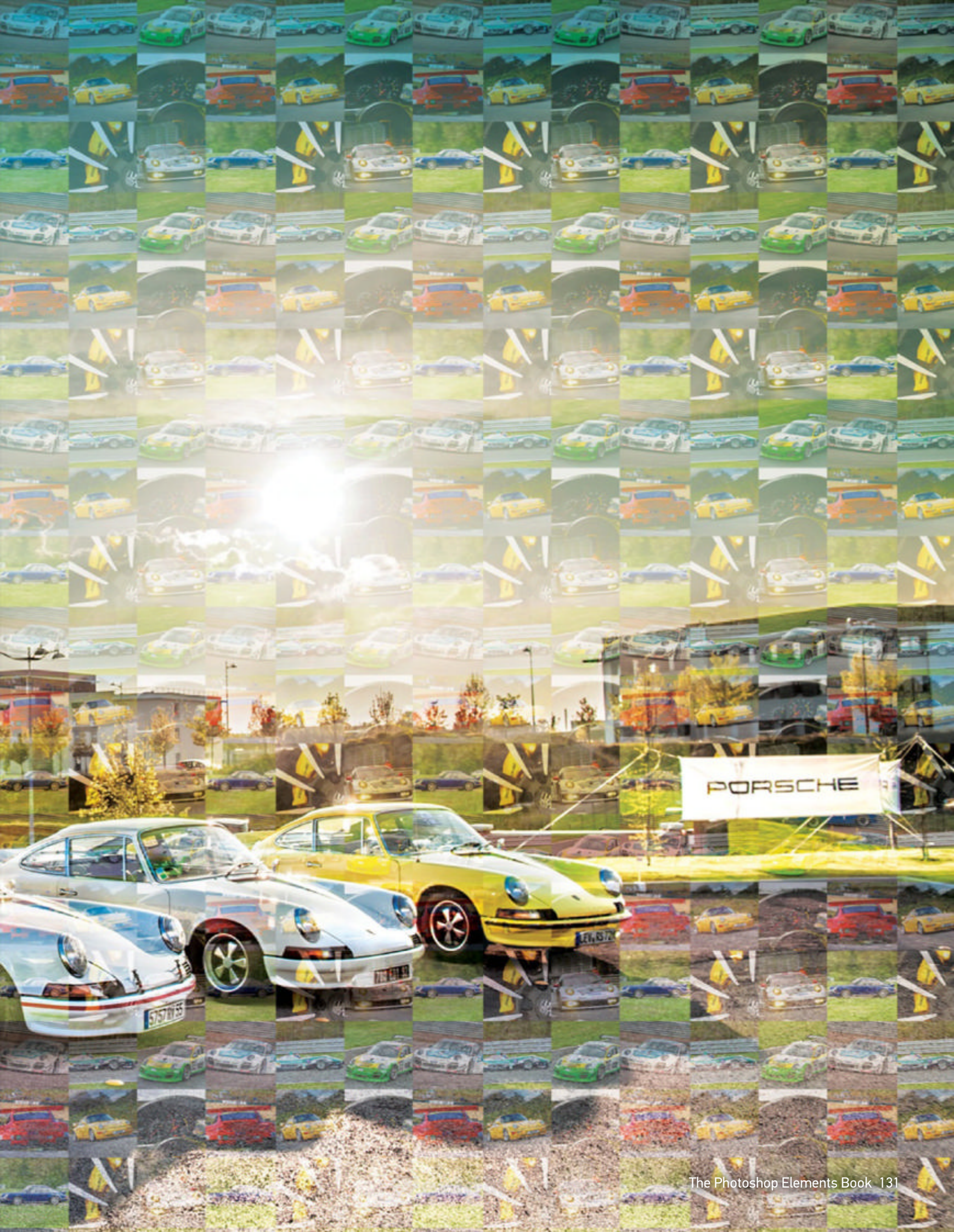
140 Stylish photo display
Creative image arrangement

144 Make a mosaic montage
An intricate image made simple

148 Create a filmstrip effect
A retro effect for displaying photos

152 Add a frame
Finish off your image with style

154 Blend composites
Create unbelievable effects



Before



Create great portraits with mixed-media effects

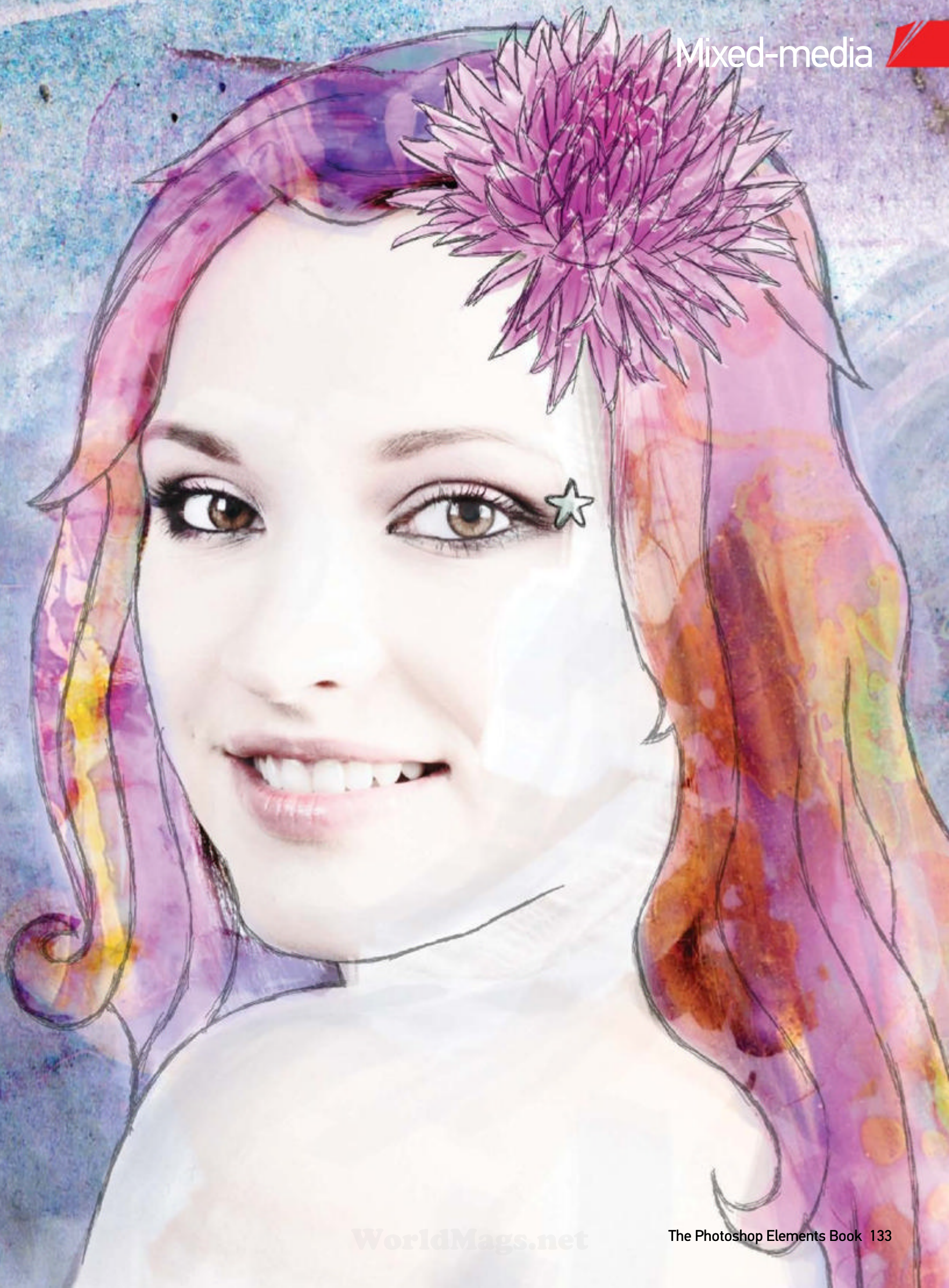
Bring different techniques and images together in one artistic portrait

Mixed media is a great opportunity to use some old photos you may have lying around, giving them a new lease of life rather than keeping them hidden in a drawer or on your hard drive. It's also a good chance to get out brushes, markers, pencils and whatever else you can find, in order to draw out new and interesting shapes to incorporate into the final image.

You can photograph or scan hand-drawn imagery to drop into Photoshop Elements, which only takes a few minutes. Also, have a look around where you are and you'll begin to notice cool shapes and patterns in everyday objects. You might find something brilliant hidden in plain sight. Check out designs on vases or ornaments, even photo frames, and collect up as many elements as you can to use in your next project.

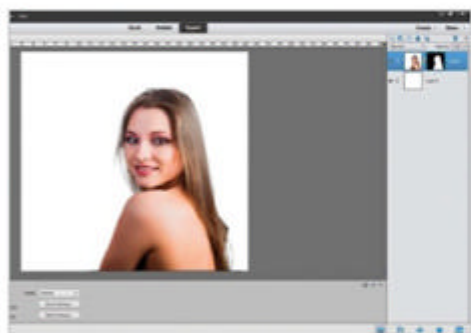
Source file available

Give this effect a go using the supplied files



Edit the photo

Strip your image back to basics before building up the effect



Cut out the image

01 Open your photo in Expert mode. Cut it out using a layer mask. Do this using the circle inside a rectangle layer mask icon and use a black paintbrush on areas you want to hide, or use white to show.



Smart Brushes

02 The photo is going to be very subtle. Click the Smart Brush (F) and pick Antique Contrast. Using the '+' and '-' brush icons, draw over the portrait where you want to apply the filter.



Layer adjustments

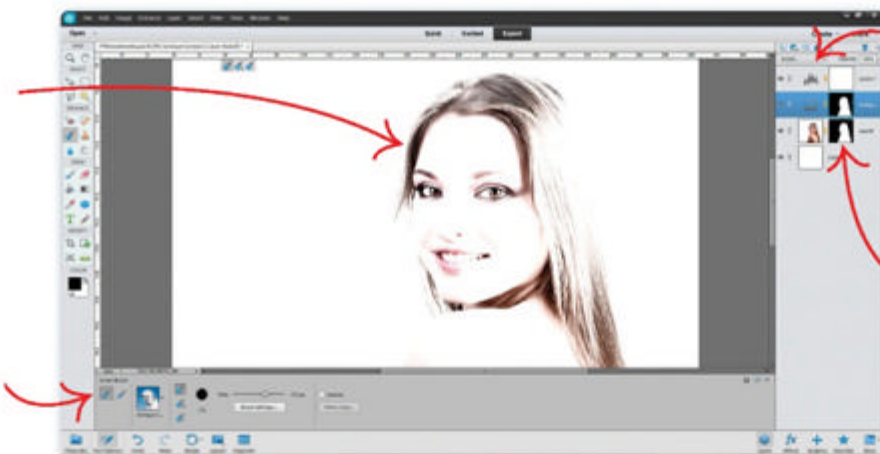
03 Change the blend mode of the Smart Brush layer from Normal to Screen. To make the portrait even more minimal, add a Levels adjustment layer. Drag the black and white sliders towards the centre until you have strong contrast.

PERFECT BASE

The minimalist style of this effect means this high-key portrait effect is the perfect choice for the photo.

SMART EFFECTS

Use the Smart Brush to add filters to your photograph. It detects edges for you – making it very quick and simple.



BLEND MODES

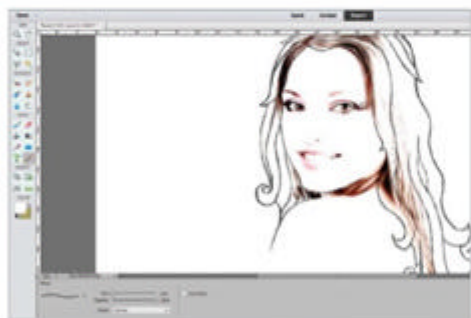
Mixing blend modes with filters will add a whole new look. Screen mode lightens while preserving some colour in the darkest tones.

LAYER MASKS

Cutting out your base photo with a layer mask will make it much easier to add new elements later on.

Digital painting

Mix up photography and illustration for a whole new look



Sketch the outlines

01 Create a new layer with Cmd/Ctrl+Shift+N. Using the Pencil tool (N) at 2px, sketch over the hair. Keep it relatively neat, but a bit sketchy. Begin to add your own details such as extra curls or waves.



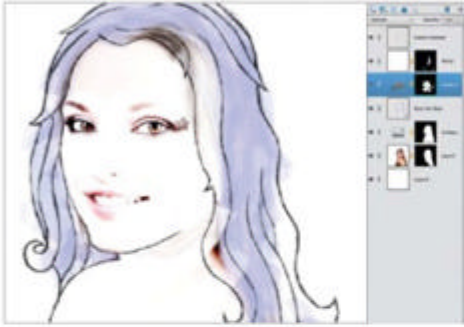
Paint new colours

02 Add a new layer underneath the sketch outlines layer. Select the Brush tool (B) and pick brush number 36. Lower the Opacity to around 16%. Pick a light blue and paint over the hair.



White out distractions

03 There are some messy details around the hair and neck. Add a new layer and fill it with white (K for the Paint Bucket tool). Add a layer mask and using the brush at 50% Opacity, paint white on the layer mask over them to clean things up.



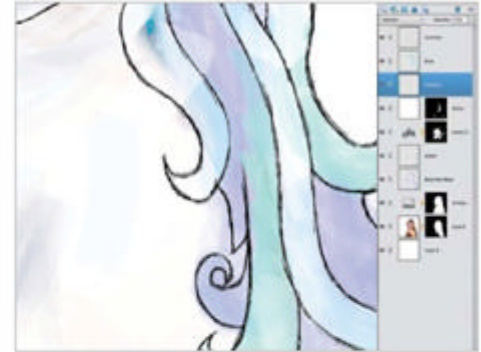
Levels adjustment mask

04 While painting white, don't worry too much about being neat as it adds to the style. Make sure the Outlines layer is on top of the white layer. For even more effect, paint on the Levels layer mask as well. This will add more shading to the hair.



Hair colours

05 Create two new layers. Name one Green and the other Blue. Drag the Blue layer underneath the Outlines layer and the Green underneath the Levels. Using a 16% Opacity brush, paint the two new hair colours as highlights. Set the blend mode of the Blue layer to Hard Light.

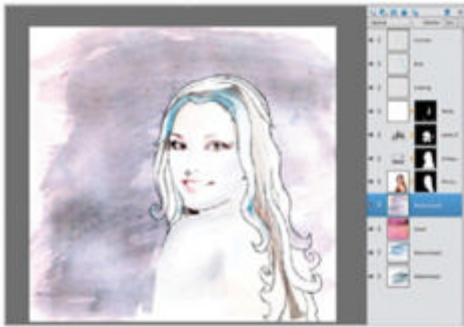


Bring back some shape

06 Add a new layer and use a 5% Opacity brush to add in some shadows. Work around the nose, neckline, arms and shoulders. Build up the shadow gradually with strokes to keep them soft.

Add extra elements

Gather photos, textures and text – it's time to get creative



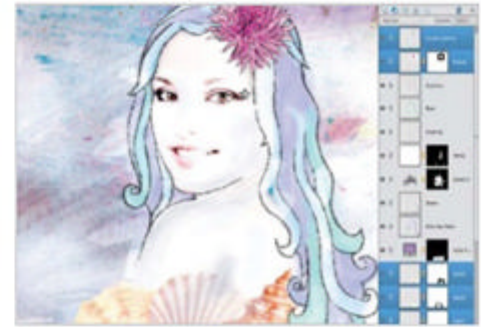
Watercolour background

01 Open up 'Watercolour 1, 2 and 3.psd', as well as 'Vase4.psd'. Drag them onto your image, underneath the photo layer. Place them central and use Cmd/Ctrl+T to Transform Watercolour1 and stretch it upwards to fit the canvas.



Blend modes

02 Copy Watercolour 3 and drag it to the bottom. Set the blend mode of Watercolour1 and 2 to Darken, Vase 4 to Pin Light and Watercolour3 to Overlay. Add a Blue Solid colour layer via Layer>New Fill Layer>Solid Colour and set the blend mode to Hue.



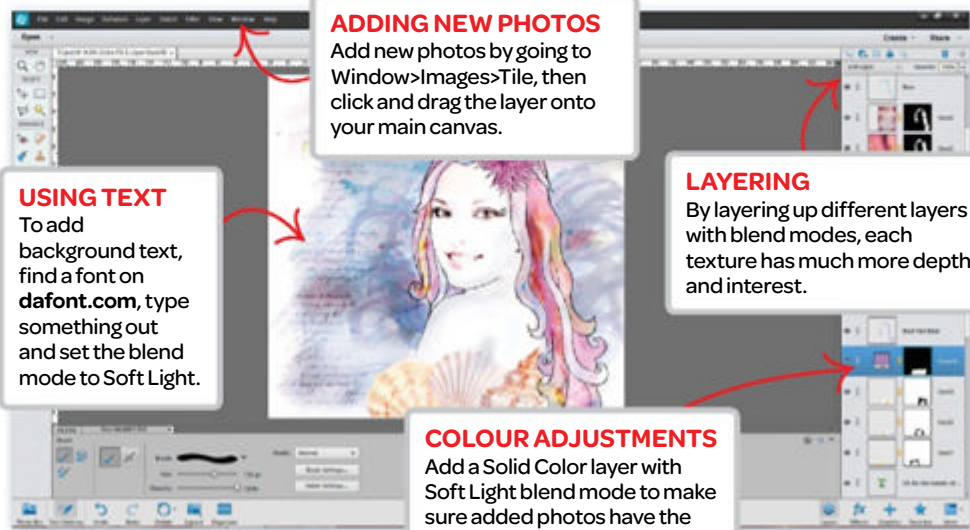
Add photos

03 Open 'Flower.psd', 'Shell1, 2, and 3.psd', and add to your image. Resize and position using Cmd/Ctrl+T. Add layer masks and paint black to remove the background. Draw an outline layer for the flower with the Pencil to match the hair.



Add hair texture

04 Open 'Vase1, 2 and 3.psd' into your image and use Cmd/Ctrl+T to position them over the hair. Drag them underneath the outlines layer. Add layer masks so they are only visible on the hair itself. Set Vase1 blend mode to Darken, Vase2 to Overlay and Vase3 to Color Burn.





Source file available

Use the image provided to re-create this



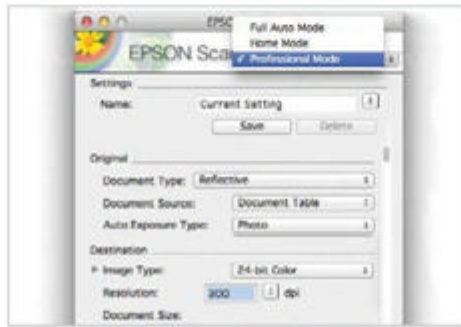
Scan and print with Photoshop Elements

Learn how to turn a hand-drawn illustration into a beautifully printed masterpiece

Successful creative projects often start with a sketch, however if you scan in a sketch, it doesn't always create a professional look. That is no longer a problem, because we will reveal how to turn a hand-drawn sketch into a high-quality print.

The advantages of transferring images onto the computer is the added flexibility of being able to edit them with all of

Photoshop's tools. With features such as layers and the Undo command, you're able to draw and paint with any colour, rather than being limited to those in your pencil case. And don't be put off by all the scanner settings. Most have an Auto mode that will take care of everything for you. This is the perfect opportunity to take all your pencil drawings and doodles and transform them with Photoshop.



Place your image

01 Place your paper in the scanner with the image face down. Often the scanner has guide marks; line up the paper to those to keep your image straight. Close the lid and open up your scanner software.

Adjust the settings

02 Change the Mode to Professional to make sure all tools are visible. Select Reflective as the Document type and set Exposure Type to Photo. The image should be 24-bit colour with the resolution at 300dpi.

Preview and scan

03 Hit Preview. Click and drag around the area to scan, and use adjustments if needed. Levels increase contrast, making the lines crisp. When happy, press Scan. Save as a TIFF or PSD.

Scan settings Understand the options

PROFESSIONAL MODE

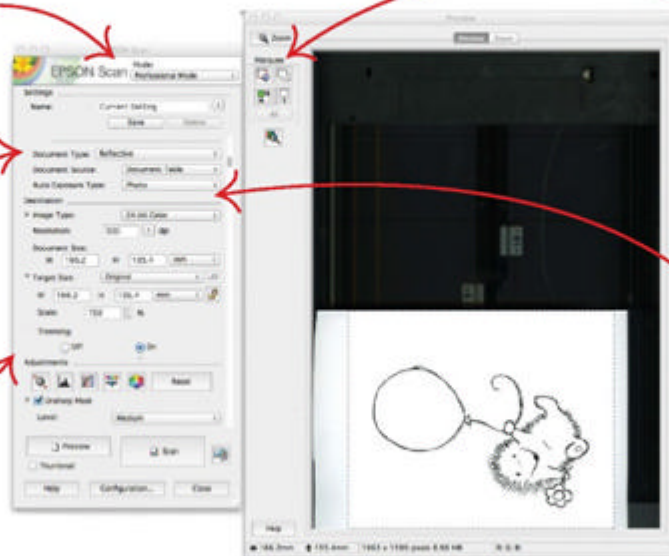
When you open up your scanner's software, always enter Professional Mode to view more tools and options for scanning.

DOCUMENT TYPE

Document Type allows different types of images to be scanned. Reflective will scan paper.

ADJUSTMENTS

Familiar tools such as Levels, Curves, and Color Balance are used to adjust the image before scanning takes place.



PREVIEW SELECTION

Make sure to preview your image before scanning. Use the Marquee tools to select the area you want before hitting the Scan button.

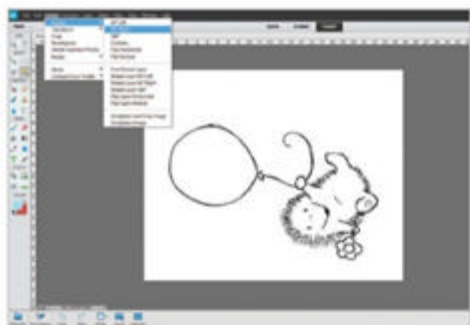
IMAGE TYPE

Image type dictates the output of your image. 24-bit Color is standard, and a 300ppi resolution is just right for dealing with photographs.

From sketch to art!

Edit your scanned image in Photoshop Elements with brushes and colour

We take you through adding colour and shading to a scanned sketch using simple brushwork. You can use Photoshop Elements to draw in extra bits to scanned photographs, repair faded photos, touch up a logo, or neaten an already coloured sketch. The following brush techniques can be applied in many different ways on many types of images, so just have fun and play around!



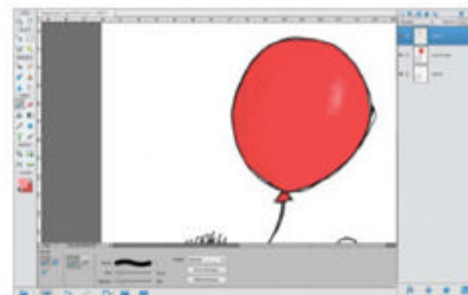
Open the image

01 With the image scanned, open up Photoshop Elements. In Expert Mode, go to File>Open and navigate to your work. If the image is sideways, go to Image>Rotate>90° Left or Right.



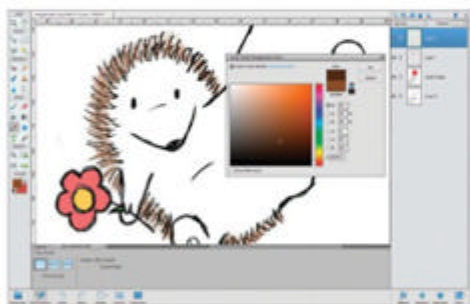
Fill colours

02 The black lines are clean with pure white in between. This enables quick colouring using the Paint Bucket tool (K). Duplicate the layer (Cmd/Ctrl+J). Choose your colour and click where you want to fill.



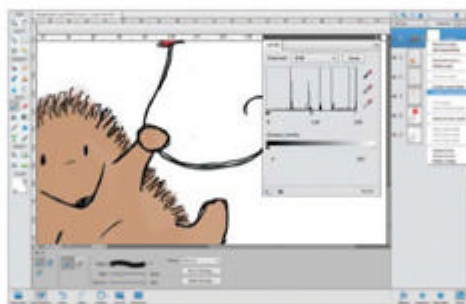
Apply paint

03 To add shading to the filled in areas, create a new layer (Cmd/Ctrl+Shift+N) and select the Brush tool (B). Lower the Opacity to 20% and select a slightly darker colour. Now use this to draw in the shadow.



Choose colours

04 Use the Color Picker tool (I) to select colours. By default, the tool is set to selecting individual pixels, but you can also get an average colour out of a '3x3' pixel area or a '5x5' pixel area.



Adjust colour

05 Click the small black and white circle in the Layers panel to add a Levels adjustment. Lighten by shifting the middle point to the left. Ctrl/right-click and select Create Clipping Mask.



Blend modes

06 Because the background is white, it's easy to add a background. Create a new layer (Cmd/Ctrl+Shift+N) and draw a background. In this image, the Darker Color mode works best.

Print your artwork

Use the best settings to print your image out

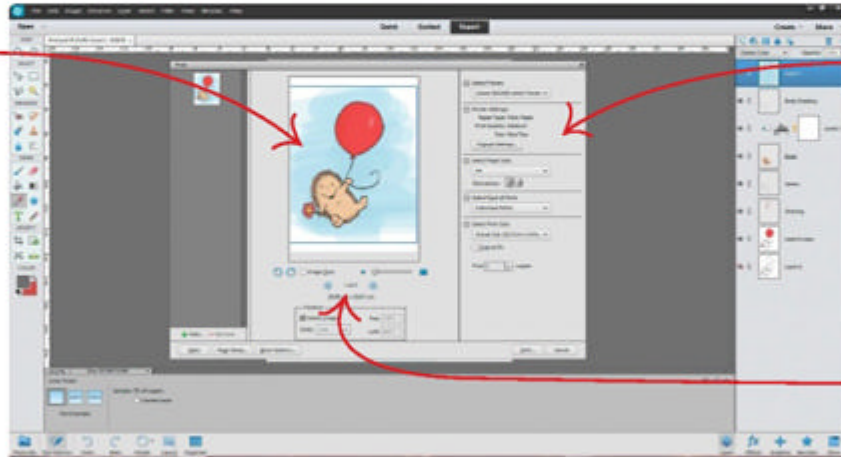
You don't need to spend a lot on equipment to get a decent printout; you just need to know the right settings. Making sure the paper type is correctly selected is vital, whether plain paper or glossy photo paper. You can also use settings to specify if you're printing photos, text, or a mix of both. Don't be daunted by the amount of settings, it's easier than it looks!

IMAGE PREVIEW

This is a preview of your printed page. The bounding blue box indicates the edges of your image.

PICK AN IMAGE

All the open images in Elements run along the bottom bar. To print multiple images, just hold Shift while making the selection.



PRINT OPTIONS

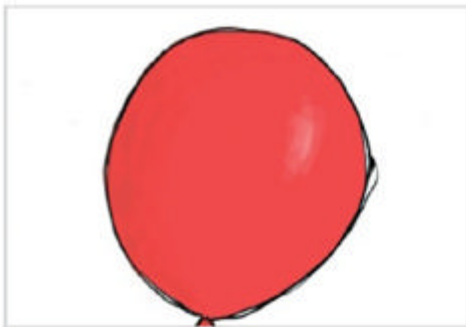
These are the main tools to set the printer and paper. Extra settings and menus can be opened to increase the quality.

ADJUST THE POSITION

Here you can quickly rotate the image, enlarge it on the page and centre it.

Your perfect prints

Follow these steps to get a high-quality colour print



What does it mean?

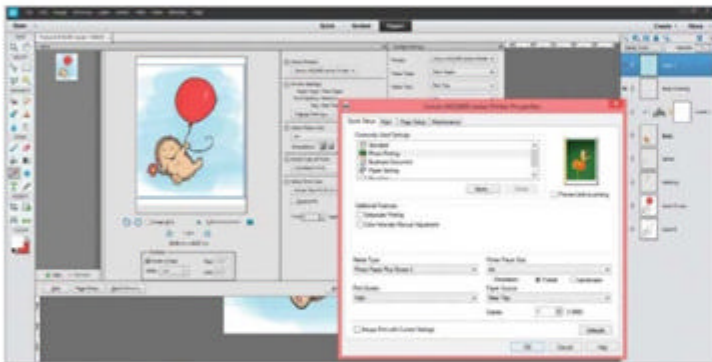
PRINT SIZE This is crucial to getting a high-quality printed image. Actual Size refers to the size of the image you have drawn in Elements, not the paper size. If Actual Size is too small, it's not recommended to zoom or stretch the image too much, as it may look pixelated when it's printed.

Image and printer

01 Go to File>Print to open up the Print menu in Elements. Make sure the correct printer is selected. If you're unsure as to what it's called, the name will be visible on the device.

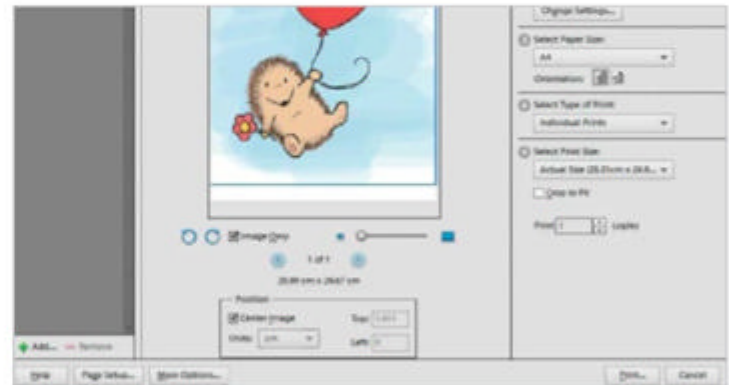
Adjust settings

02 Click the Change Settings button to open a menu. With the correct printer selected, change the paper type to match yours. Most printers print from the rear tray, but check if your printer has one.



Increase quality

03 Click Change to go to the Print Quality option. A new dialog box will open. The appearance of this will depend on your printer. Set the print settings to Photo Printing and Print Quality to the highest setting. Other options are available, but these are all we need for now.



Final options

04 Back in the main print menu, check the paper size is correct and Individual Prints is selected. Now use the rotate, zoom and position options below the image preview to adjust page layout, or use the drop-down menu to set a standard size. Click Print!



Source file available

Use the image provided
to re-create this

Create a stylish display from multiple photos

Handsome photo arrangements are not as hard as you think; follow along as we show you how

In the design world, the term 'collage' is almost seen as a curse word. The idea of just throwing a bunch of photos together and trying to turn them into a design is viewed as the mark of an amateur. But designing an attractive photo display is a different matter altogether. The difference is in the approach.

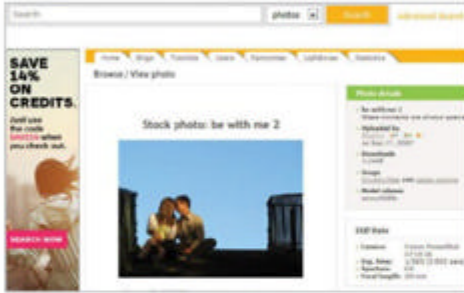
A collage generally starts with a collection of photos and the design is formed from there. A photo display begins with a design concept and envelops the photos into the theme. It's almost counter intuitive, but when you focus on the design, the

end product highlights the photos! In this project we show you how to create this modern and elegant photo arrangement in Photoshop Elements 12. We fully encourage you to incorporate your own photos into the project.

Here we've used some wedding photos to create an invitation or memento, as an example of a project that might suit multiple images. However, you can use images from parties, family events, holidays - it's completely up to you! So with that sorted, let's get to work.

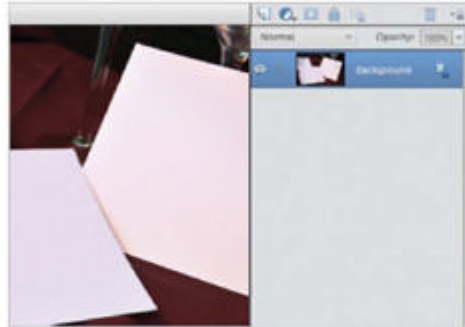
Setting up a photo display

Have an idea in mind and then follow it through



Gather images

01 We've included the starter background for you to use. The rest of the images came from the free site www.sxc.hu. The reference numbers are 872375, 1354438, 1111151, 1245416, 602266, and 1128323.



Let's get started!

02 Launch Photoshop Elements. When in the Photo Editor, click on the Expert workspace. Now head up to the Open menu to open the 'StarterImage.jpg' from the supplied files.



Simple selection

03 Open the photo of the couple, #872375, and pick the Rectangular Marquee Tool. Drag a rectangular selection box around the couple like shown here. Then go to Edit>Copy.

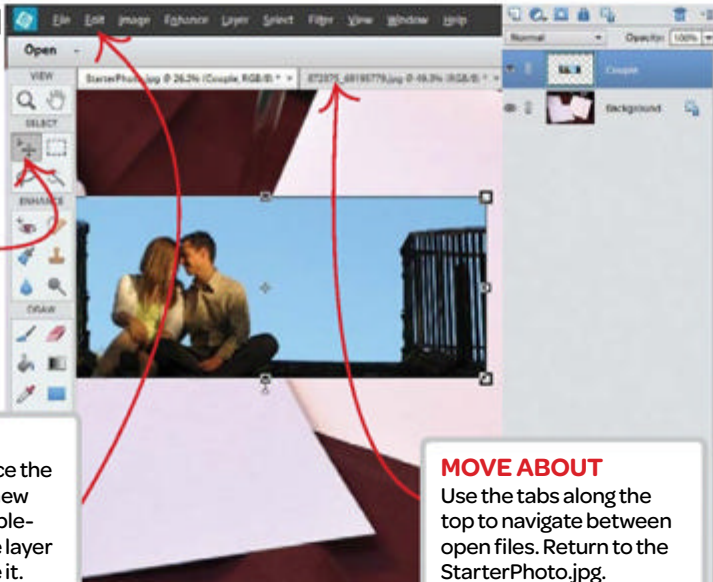
04 Paste and position

TRANSFORM

With the Move Tool selected, the layer will show transformation handles around the photo for some easy manipulation.

NEW LAYER

Go to Edit>Paste to place the photo into the file as a new layer (Edit>Paste). Double-clicking the name of the layer will allow you to rename it.



MOVE ABOUT

Use the tabs along the top to navigate between open files. Return to the StarterPhoto.jpg.

The importance of layer structure

The order in which layers are stacked is a vital task



BLENDS

A blend mode affects how a layer interacts with the one beneath it, so choosing the right one is important.

TOP TRUMPS

Think of the layer at the very top of the palette as the final layer on the artwork.

VISIBILITY

You can turn off multiple layers' visibilities by click-dragging across several eye icons.

MASKS

Use layer masks to hide parts of a layer without causing any damage to its contents.



Transform the layer

05 Roughly position the layer over the paper on the left. Head to Image>Transform>Distort. Drag each corner to match up with the perspective of the paper, leaving a bit of overlap. Click the green tick to commit.

See the tools in action

Create this attractive photo arrangement using just some basic tools and operations in Photoshop Elements

MOVING OBJECTS

The Move Tool is the primary tool for arranging photos in your composition. We suggest always keeping the Show Bounding Box option checked.

MAKE THINGS FIT

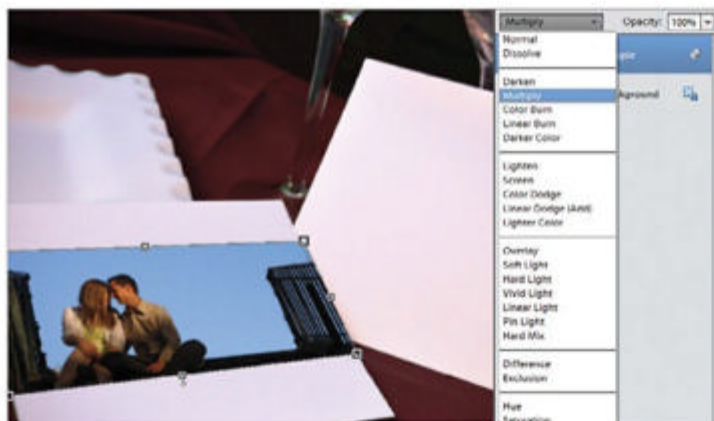
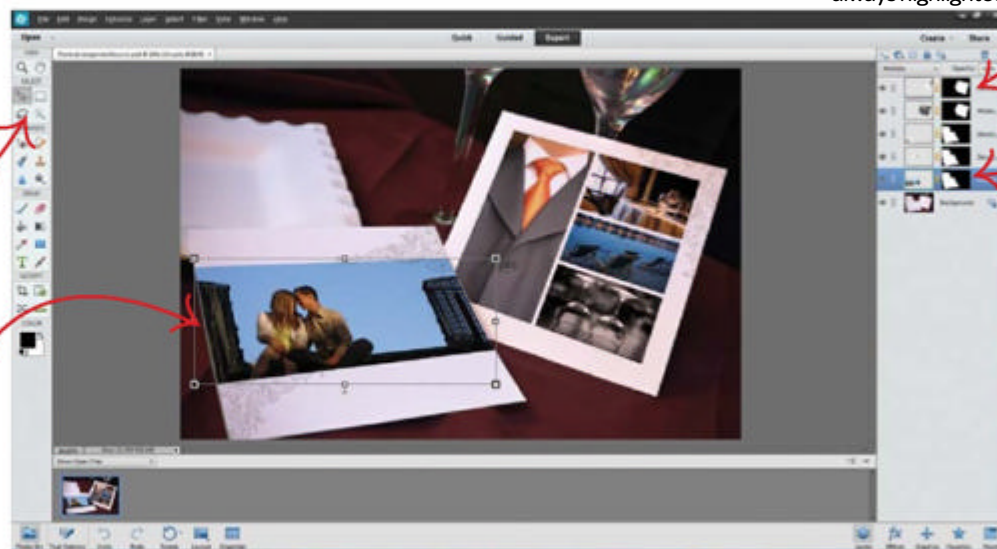
Use the transformation handles to control the scale and rotation of the images. Holding down the Shift key while dragging a corner will maintain the photo's dimensions while scaling.

PHOTO STACK

Layers are essential to creating any photo arrangement. Keep track of them in this panel. The active layer is always highlighted in blue.

MASK AREAS

Layer masks define the visible area of a layer. These black and white thumbnails indicate masks on the layer.



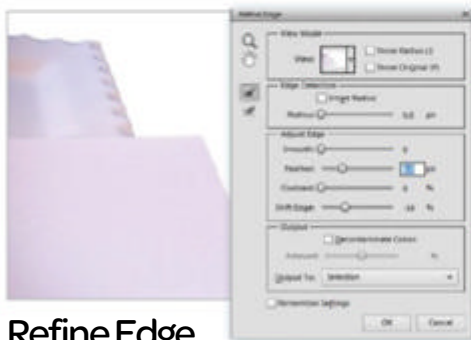
Blending modes

06 Look to the Layers panel on the right. Near the top is a drop-down menu. This controls the blending modes of the layer. Select the Multiply mode to allow some of the paper texture to show through the photo.



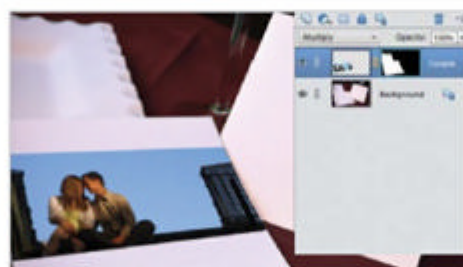
Quick Selection

07 Hide the Couple layer (by clicking on the eye icon) and then click on the Background layer to make it active. Grab the Quick Selection Tool from the toolbox and 'paint' inside the paper to create a selection. The selection might also pick up the white dish.



Refine Edge

08 Click the Refine Edge button in the Options panel. Set the Feather to 6 pixels and the Shift Edge slider to -33%. This will soften the selection edge and pull it in just a bit. When the edge looks good, click OK.



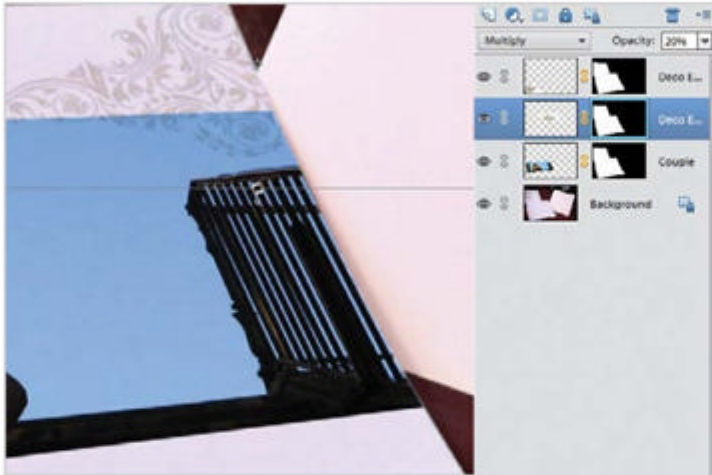
Layer mask

09 Reveal the Couple layer and click the layer name to make it the active layer. Go to Layer>Layer Mask>Reveal Selection to use the selection as a mask on the photo. A mask thumbnail will appear next to the layer.



Decorative edges

10 Open the decorative image, #1354438, and use the position and transform techniques to place one copy in each corner of the paper. Set the blend mode to Multiply, and reduce Opacity to 20%.



Copy layer masks

11 Create a copy of the layer mask by holding down the Opt/Alt key while you click and drag on the mask thumbnail. Drag a copy to each of the decorative corner layers to apply a mask to them.

Expert tip



Clipping an adjustment

Adjustments layers are special layers that alter the look of your image in a number of ways. Use them to do numerous things from adjusting colour to boosting brightness and contrast. They're great because they're editable, which makes any edits you do nondestructive, ie you can get rid of the edit completely if you don't like it later on! However, any adjustment you make to your selected layer will affect every other layer under it. To avoid this, as well as to apply the adjustment only to your current layer, hit Cmd/Ctrl+Opt/Alt+G to apply a clipping mask.

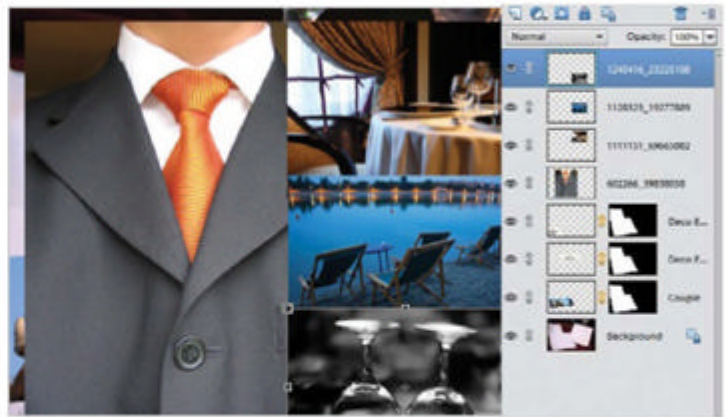
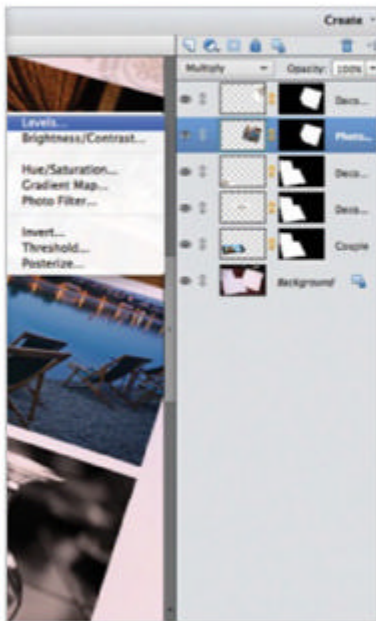
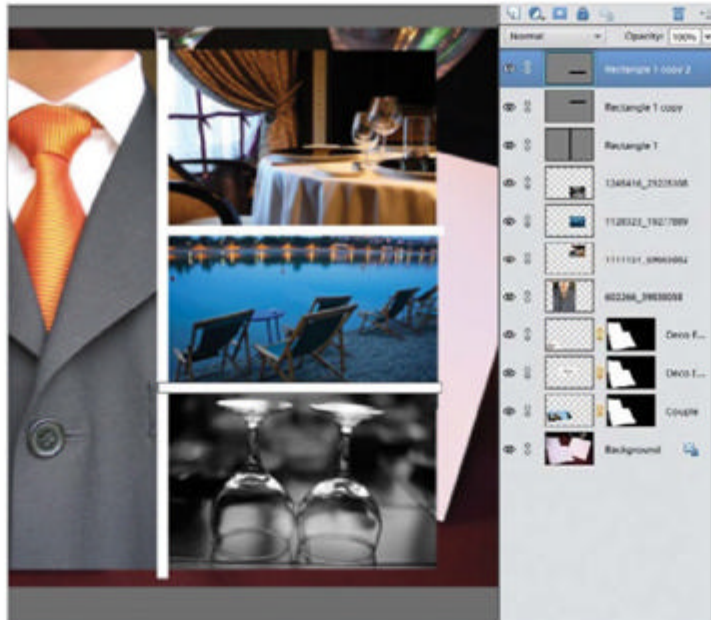


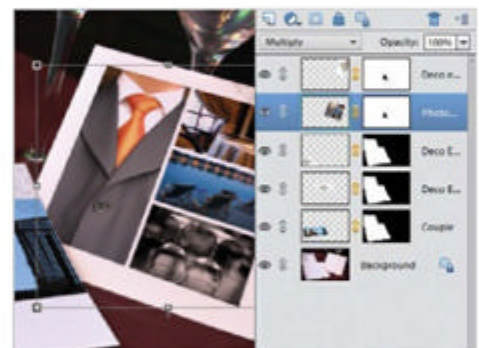
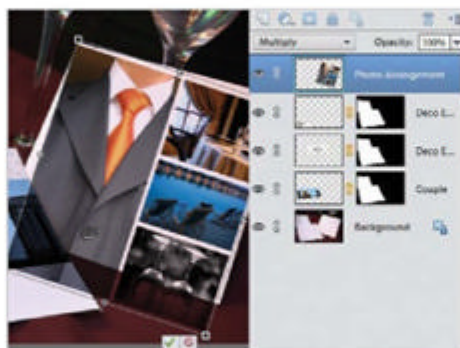
Photo arrangement

12 Open the other photos and paste them into the project. Position and transform the photo layers into a square-ish arrangement. Don't worry about making the arrangement fit with the background just yet. Use the alignment tools in the options panel to align the right side.



Easy borders

13 Grab the Rectangle Tool and make sure the colour is set to white. Draw out a long rectangle to cover the seam of two of the photos. Use a copy of that rectangle for the other seams. This makes sure that all the borders are the same width.



Merge layers

14 Shift-click the rectangle layers and the layers in the photo arrangement. With all of them selected, go to Layer>Merge Layers to merge into one layer. Transform that layer to match the right-most card.

Use what you've learned

15 Use the transforming, blending, and masking techniques to place the photo arrangement onto the card on the right. Likewise, place another copy of the decorative swirls into the top corner.

Photo projects

Before



REPEATING PATTERN

Our mosaic effect comes from the same 3x3 grid of images applied over and over as a pattern.

BLENDING AND OPACITY

The mosaic effect is achieved by using the Overlay blend mode and lowering the opacity, allowing the original image to show through the pattern of images.

Source file available

Use the image provided to re-create this

Make a mosaic montage

This eye-catching effect is a lot easier to create than you might think at first! Give it a go...

Here we show you how to create a mosaic effect; a true mosaic is different to what we are doing here. It is an image created from lots of tiny different photos, pieced together like a jigsaw. To create this would take hours, patience and a great deal of skill, as you select hundreds – if not thousands – of individual photos to build up a new image.

Luckily, we have a workaround for you that involves a lot less time. What we are going to do is create a grid of just nine images. This grid is then turned into a pattern, which is applied

over and over to a layer. This layer is then added to a main image, and blended into it, to give the effect that the image is in fact made from lots of tiny images.

You will learn how to use guidelines in order to create the grid, how to resize photos and get rid of the bits that you don't need, how to make your own pattern and then how to apply it to a layer. You will also play with the various blend modes and the layer opacity to fine-tune the effect. So grab your resources and start up Elements.

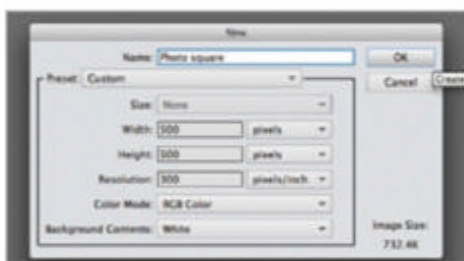
Mosaic photo montage

FIDDLY PROCESS

The actual mosaic effect is the easy bit. It takes the longest amount of time to create the grid of images that we use as the base for our pattern.

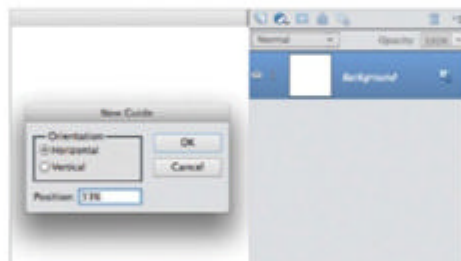
STICK TO A THEME

We have chosen to have a car theme – all of the photos in the pattern and the main image are of cars, which helps to create a great, unified final effect.



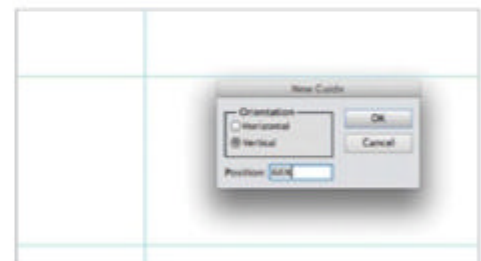
Start your pattern

01 Open Photoshop Elements. Go to New>Blank File. In the dialog that appears, give your document a name (ours is called Photo Square). Next, change the Width and Height to 500 pixels each, the Resolution to 300 pixels/inch and then hit OK.



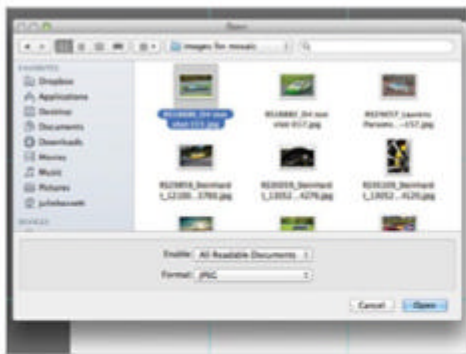
Create some guides

02 We need to use guides to create a grid that will help us with our pattern. Go to View>New Guide and a dialog box will pop up. Make sure that the little circle next to Horizontal is selected, and then enter 33% in the Position box. Hit OK.



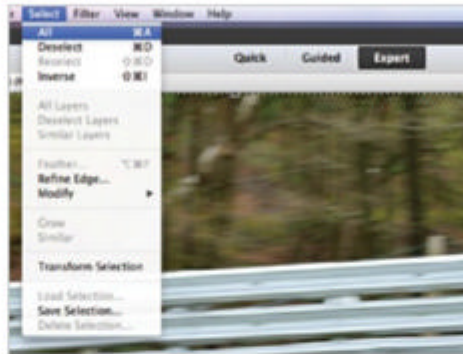
Finish the grid

03 Follow the last step to add another Horizontal guide at 66%. Next do exactly the same, but select the Vertical option before adding guides at 33% and 66%. What you will end up with is a 3x3 grid (don't worry, the lines will be removed soon!)



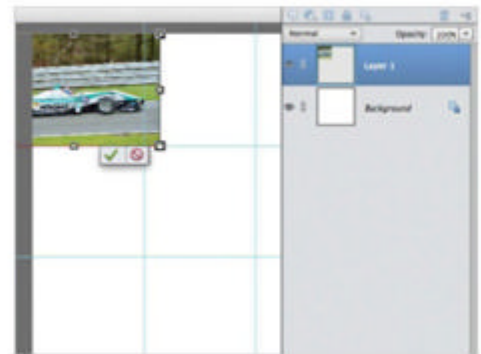
Add an image into the grid

04 We are going to fill each square in the grid with a different image. Go to Edit>Open and then find and click on the first image that you would like to use in your grid. It helps if you have all the images you want to use organised into one folder.



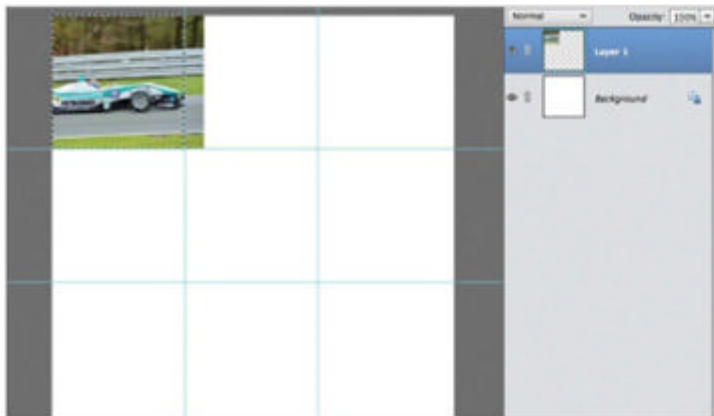
Copy and paste image

05 When your image opens, go to Select>All. Next go to Edit>Copy. Switch back to your new grid document and then go to Edit>Paste, which will place a copy of your image over your grid. It will be far too big for now!



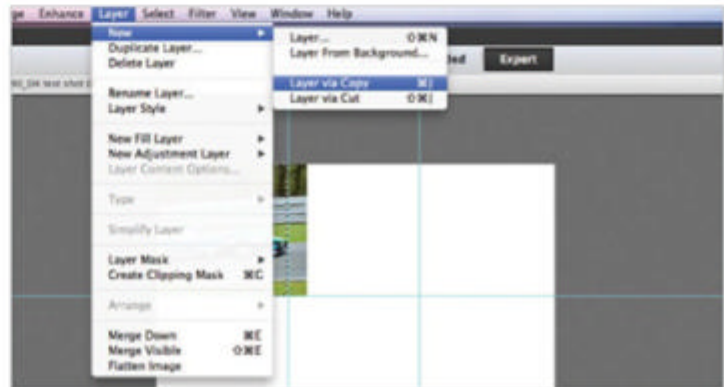
Resize your image

06 Select the Move tool (V). Grab a corner of your image, hold down Shift, then drag to make your image smaller. You may need to move the image around the screen. Try to get the bit of your image you want to keep inside the first grid square.



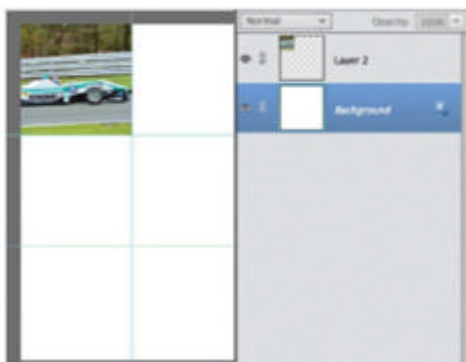
Select your square

07 Hit the tick icon to confirm your new image size and location. Select the Rectangular Marquee tool (M) from the toolbar. Draw a square selection over the top of your image, following the guidelines of the grid to select the first square.



Create a new layer

08 Go to New>Layer via Copy. This creates a brand new layer in the Layers panel that just has the bit of the image you selected in Step 7 on it. You will see that you have two layers containing your image – one with just the square and one with the original image.



Delete what you don't need

09 Check your Layers palette and select the layer that has the original image on it, not the one that is a square. Delete this layer using the little bin icon at the top of the Layers panel. Once you have done that, you should be left with a neat square image that fits perfectly into your grid.



And repeat...

10 Now you need to go back to Step 4 and start again with a new image, this time resizing the image so that it fits into the second square in the grid. Repeat the whole process from Steps 4-9 until you have all nine images in place, filling the grid.



Flatten image

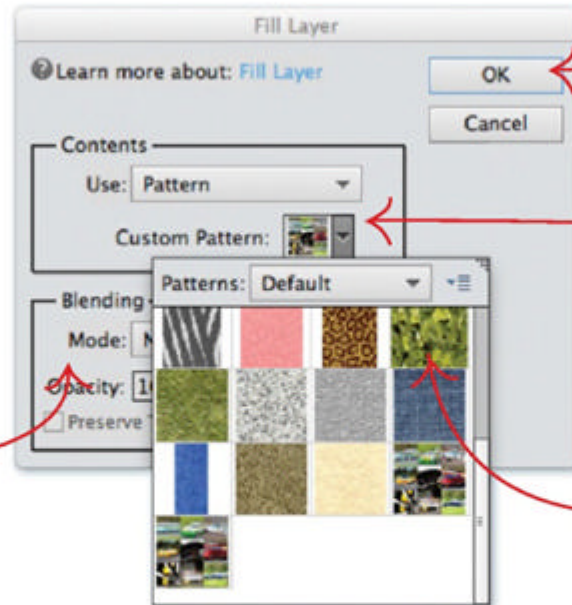
11 This grid is going to be the base pattern for creating our mosaic. We need the image to be on one clean layer, so go to Layer>Flatten Image to flatten everything down onto one single layer. Also, go to View>Clear Guides to get rid of our guidelines.

In detail: Fill Layer

Not just a paint bucket, you can apply patterns with this tool

OTHER SETTINGS

Make sure that the blend options are left at Normal and 100% Opacity for this tutorial.



APPLY PATTERN

When you hit OK, the pattern will be applied over and over again to your image seamlessly, filling the whole layer.

CONTENTS

In the Contents section, you can define what you want to fill a layer with. There are loads of options, but for this tutorial we want to hit Use>Pattern.

PICK A PATTERN

A Pattern menu will come up, from which you can scroll down and select your new pattern. This is at the bottom of the built-in patterns.



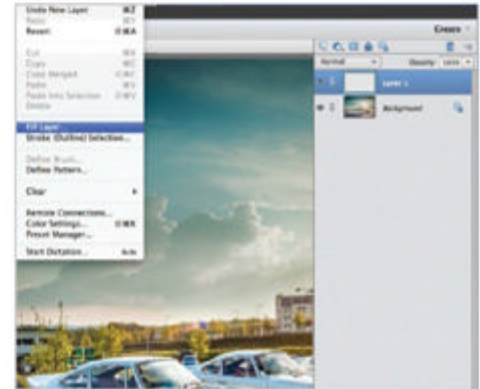
Make a pattern

12 The trickiest bit of this tutorial is now finished. With your nice, neat photo square, go to Edit>Define Pattern. A dialog box will pop up and ask you to name your pattern. Give it an obvious name, as you will need it in a moment. Ours is called Photo Square.



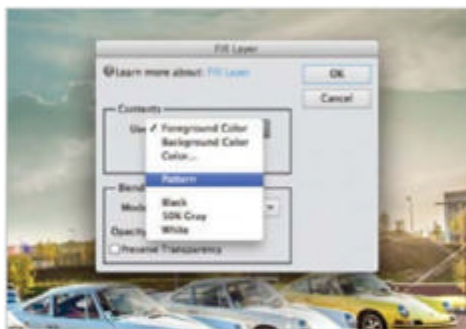
Open your main image

13 Go to File>Open and find the image that you want to apply the mosaic effect to. You can do this on any image – as the pattern can be applied to landscapes and portraits of any subject – though it is nice to stick to a theme, as we have done with cars.



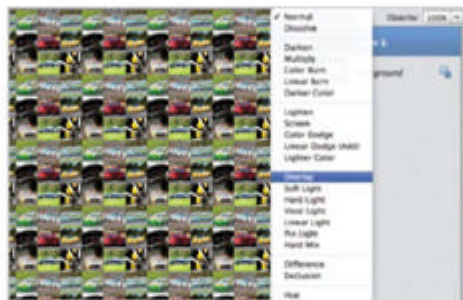
Get ready for the pattern

14 Add a new blank layer to your main image by going to Layer>New>Layer and then hitting OK to the dialog box that comes up. With this layer selected in the Layers panel, go to Edit>Fill Layer and a dialog box will pop up.



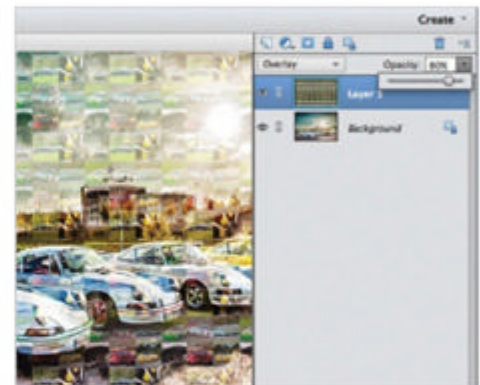
Select your pattern

15 In the Contents section of this dialog box, click on the drop-down menu next to Use. Select Pattern, and then a new menu with all the available patterns will come up. Scroll through these to find your new pattern, which will be at the bottom. Hit OK to apply.



Change the mode

16 The pattern will be applied to the whole of the blank layer, completely hiding your main image. You will need to change the blend mode in the Layers panel to see your mosaic effect properly. We have changed it to Overlay, as it works best for this image, but you could experiment with the other options.



Adjust the Opacity

17 We felt that the effect was still a bit strong, so we have taken the Opacity of the pattern layer down to 80%. Again, you can experiment with this to find the look that you want for your image. And we're done!



Create a filmstrip effect

Do away with boring photo albums and create a retro filmstrip

Vintage-style photography and filter effects are bang on-trend right now. But if you're looking for a slightly different way to edit and display a set of your photos, but still want to give them a retro edge, why not try a filmstrip effect? This mimics the look of the traditional 35mm roll of film that was used long before digital imagery and is still well-loved today. The best part is that it can be created in Photoshop Elements using some really simple tricks.

However, you don't have to stop there; the filmstrip provides a simplistic border for your shots but you can also edit your images to reflect different styles of film. Colour-positive always looks great, but why not convert your images to monochrome for a classy black-and-white finish? Or go authentic and use a colour-negative adjustment to mimic the look of real film negatives?

Here we'll show you three easy techniques to try out with your own filmstrip images. All you need to get started is a few sets of images to show off and Photoshop Elements. The sky is the limit for what you can achieve so get your creative juices flowing and try it out for yourself!

Begin in colour

Create a filmstrip of vibrant images

The film-style borders of this effect lend themselves really well to colour images, giving a standout way of framing photographs. Elements has all the tools you need, and so with just a few easy colour tweaks and great use of a 35mm film border, your strip can start to take shape.

MOVE TOOL

This is the main tool you'll need to create your easy-peasy filmstrips once you've altered the colours. It's perfect for rotating, resizing, dropping and dragging.

BOOST COLOURS

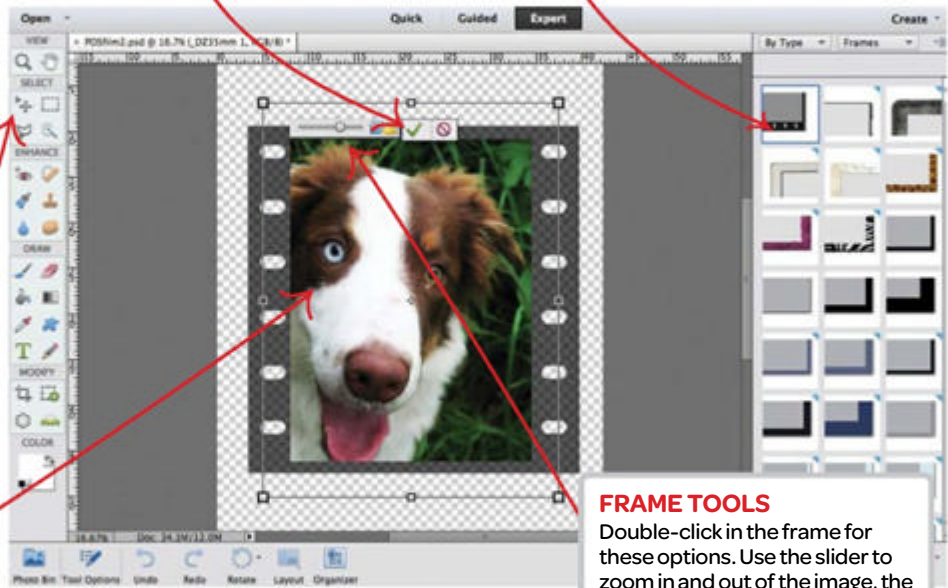
Use the Enhance drop-down menu to make colours pop. Auto adjustments will do the job for you, or why not give precision edits a go with options under Adjust Color.

TICK AND CROSS

You'll see these symbols whenever you transform an object. Click the green tick if you're happy or the red crossed-circle to go back.

BORDER SELECTION

The 35mm film border is found in the Graphics pane. Ensure that you have Frames selected from the drop-down menu at the top to find the filmstrip option.



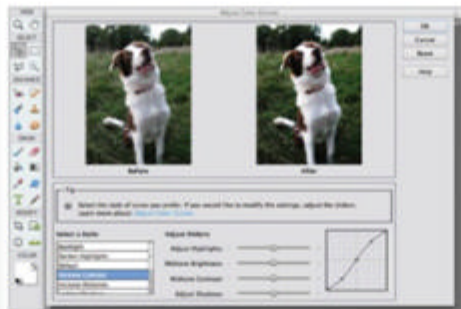
FRAME TOOLS

Double-click in the frame for these options. Use the slider to zoom in and out of the image, the left icon to rotate 90° and the right icon to replace the image.



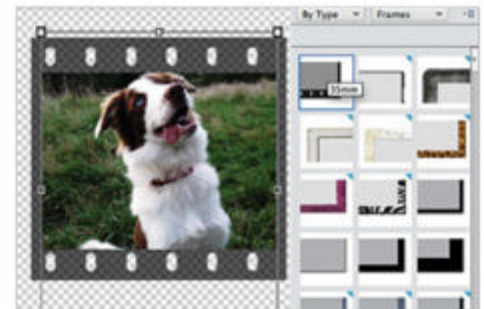
Create your colour strip

Boost colours for a vibrant roll of film



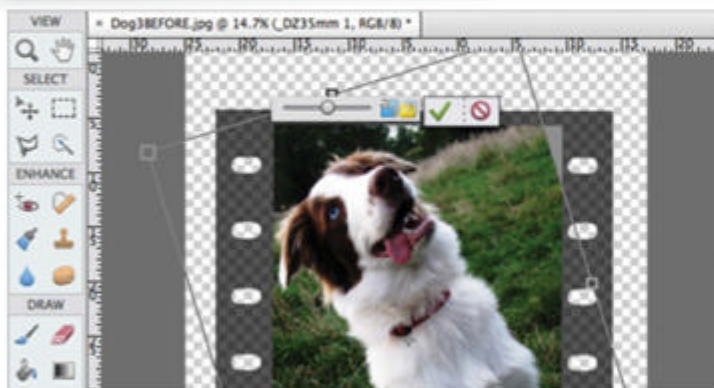
Colour correction

01 Open your image in Photoshop Elements. For a quick colour fix click Enhance>Auto Contrast, or for more precision head to Enhance>Adjust Color>Adjust Color Curves and play with the sliders.



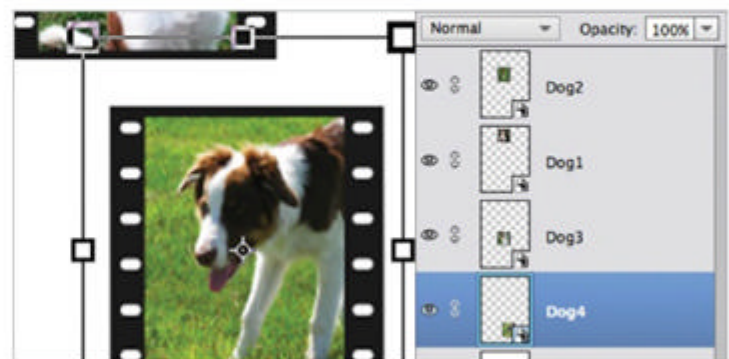
Add the border

02 Click the Graphics tab in the bottom menu, then select Frames from the drop-down menu. Once you see the 35mm film frame option, click and drag this over to the image.



Rotate the frame

03 With the frame selected, hover the mouse until you see the rotate icon, then click and drag to rotate the frame 90°. Click inside the frame to rotate the image.



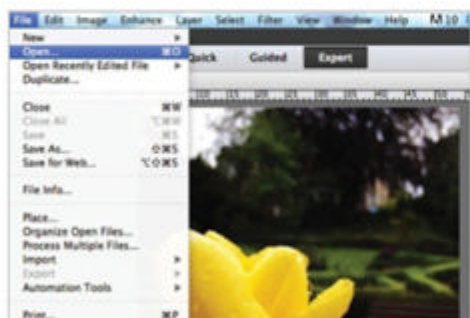
Repeat and stitch

04 Repeat steps 1-3 for three more photos. Then, on a new blank document click File>Place and insert all four filmstrip-bordered images. Arrange them beneath one another to complete the strip!

Film negatives

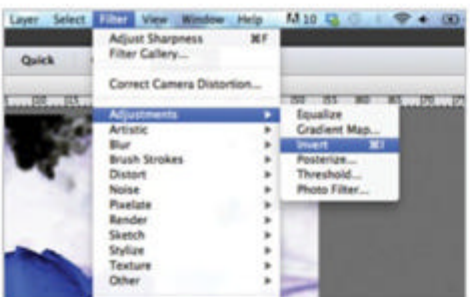
Create a strip of authentic-looking photo negatives

Replicating the look of film negatives is surprisingly easy to do, so grab a set of images, open up Photoshop Elements and let's get started!



Open your image

01 Select four images to use for the colour negative filmstrip and open them in Photoshop Elements. Here we've opted to use some colourful flowers.



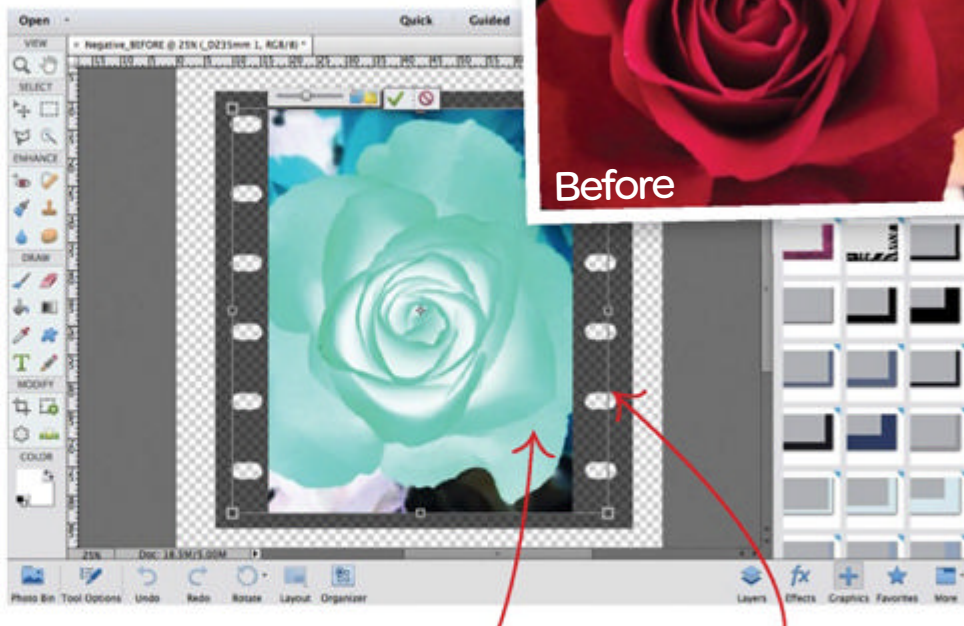
Invert the colours

02 Now it's time to create a colour-negative effect for the filmstrip images. This is achieved by clicking Filter > Adjustments > Invert, or simply use the shortcut Cmd/Ctrl+I.



Rotate the image

05 Double-click inside the frame for a small bar of options. Click the icon to the right of the slider to rotate the image 90° within the frame, and use the slider to zoom in and out.



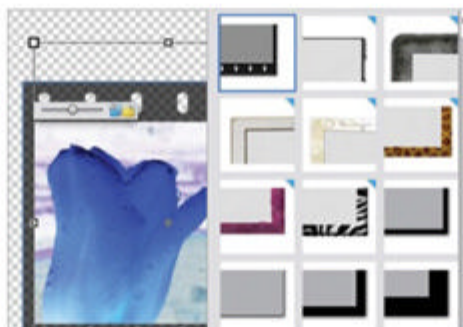
Before

FILTER MAKEOVER

A simple blast of the Invert filter (from the Adjustments set), enables you to quickly transform any photo into a colour negative.

ROTATE TO FIT

The Move tool is a good way to rotate the frame because you can enter specific angles. In most cases, 90° will do the job.



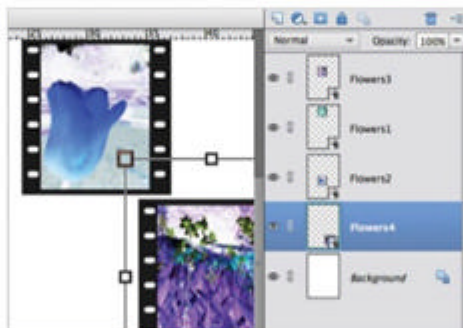
Add the frame

03 The next step is to add the 35mm filmstrip found in the Graphics pane. Click, drag and drop the border onto the new negative image.



Rotate the frame

04 For a more precise way to rotate vertically, select the Move tool and click on the 35mm frame. In the bottom Move tool pane, hit Rotate and enter 90° in the angle box.



Create the strip

06 Once the negative effect and frames have been added to more images, create a new blank document. Use File > Place to insert the negative frames then place them beneath one another.

Piece it together

Tips for a perfect filmstrip

Once you have edited your image for your filmstrip's style and saved your creation, it's time to add it all together. As you place (File > Place) each of your images on a new document, you will probably need to resize them. With the Move tool, place the mouse in a corner of the image box then click and drag. A great way to ensure your filmstrip pieces are correctly sized is to use rulers. Head to View > Rulers or hit Shift+Cmd/Ctrl+R. Click and drag a guide from one of the rules at the edge of the canvas and use as a guide when resizing.

Monochrome magic

Create an arty strip of beautiful black-and-white shots

Monochrome images are classically beautiful and when placed within a filmstrip like this they can ooze sophistication. Portraits can look especially flattering in black and white and in a filmstrip border they have an air of 50s-style glamour. Thankfully Photoshop Elements makes monochrome conversions a piece of cake.

What does it mean?

ADJUSTMENT INTENSITY SLIDERS These sliders work by including more or less data from the colour channel into your image. If you slide the Green slider all the way to the right, the green tones in your photo would all be represented as dark tones in your black-and-white conversion.

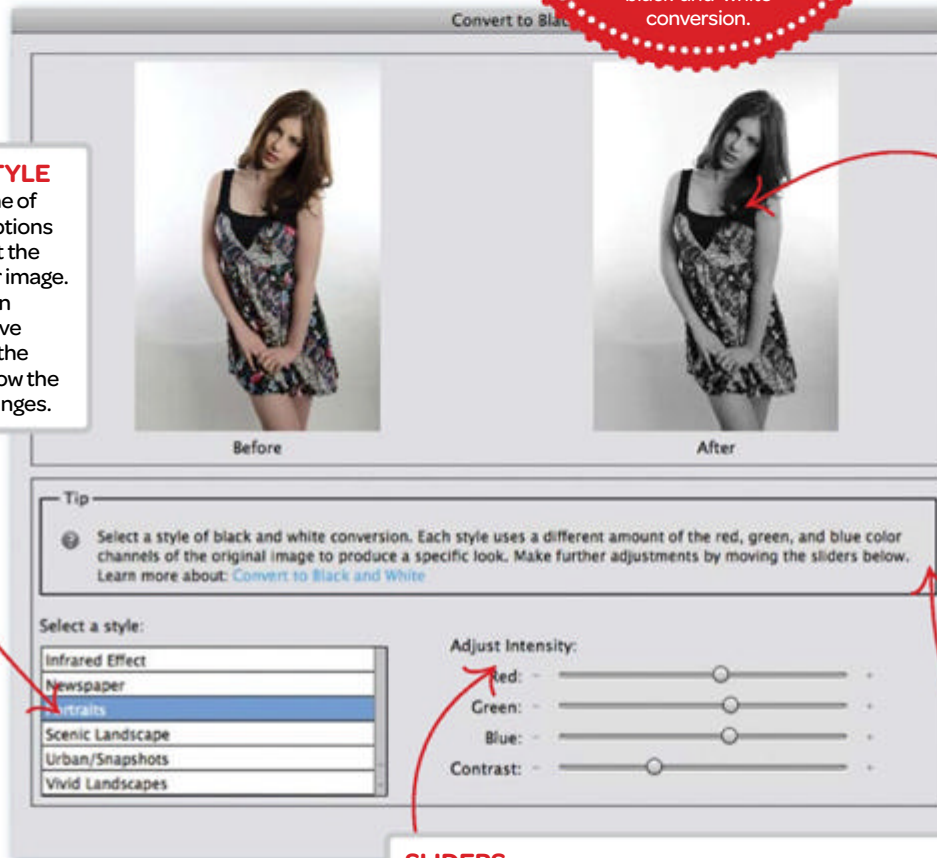
Before

SELECT A STYLE

You can pick one of these preset options to complement the content of your image. We have chosen portrait, but have a click through the others to see how the conversion changes.

PREVIEW BOXES

These two boxes show you your original image and then a preview of how your image will look once you have applied your black-and-white transformation. Handy for making precise edits!



HANDY TIPS

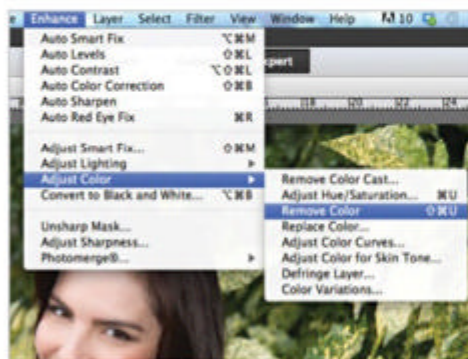
If black-and-white conversions are still a little bit of a mystery for you, Elements has some really great tips on hand to help out. Look out for the Tips boxes!

SLIDERS

If you're not happy with the preset options available, you can make a much more precise black-and-white conversion of your photo by clicking and dragging these sliders.

Strip away colour

Make a monochrome filmstrip



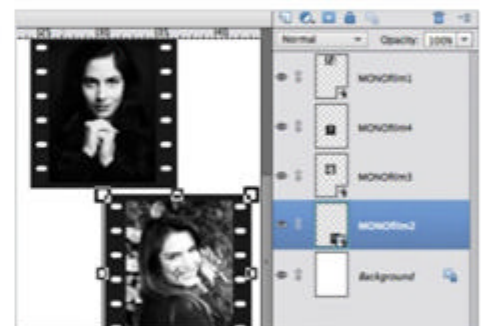
Convert to monochrome

01 Elements provides two options for converting to black and white. The simplest is to go to Enhance>Adjust Color>Remove Color.



Precise adjustments

02 For a more precise monochrome edit, select Enhance>Convert to Black and White. It is then possible to fine-tune the Red, Blue and Green Adjustment Intensity sliders, or pick a preset.



Add frames

03 Once all of the shots are in beautiful black and white, use the steps in the previous tutorials to add a frame, rotate and place together to create a wonderful monochrome filmstrip.



Add a frame to your photographs

Add creative edging to your snaps in Elements

Photo compositing several images together is a fun and eye-catching way to show off your images.

Display them online, in a portfolio, on the wall or as a gift – the options are endless – but the effect is striking and will get your photos noticed. Adding a frame to a photo is simple to do in Photoshop Elements or even using the full Photoshop program, as the techniques are very similar, so this tutorial can easily be adapted for either. Making such a small addition to your photo can have a huge impact,

transforming a mundane image into something really attention-grabbing.

It is a simple technique so even the most novice Photoshop user can follow along. The main focus is on the Transform function, which will enable you to manipulate your photo to fit into a set shape or frame. We will first show you how to do it by slightly skewing your image's perspective. Secondly, if your shot requires some cropping before placing within a frame, we'll cover how best to tackle this using the Crop tool to remove

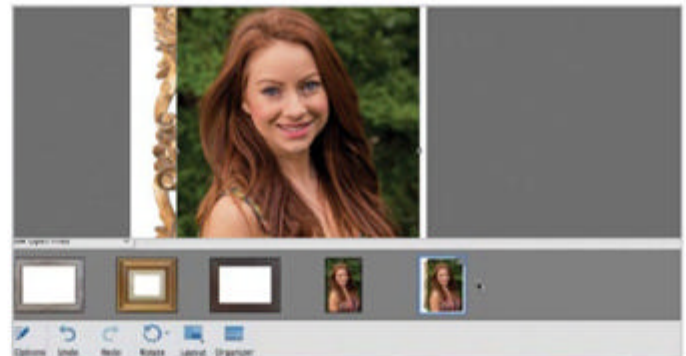
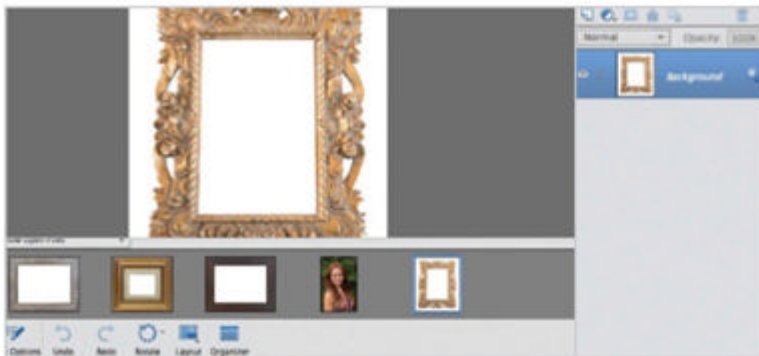
any excess areas you don't need.

Composition is key when framing an image, so read the whole tutorial before you begin. Also keep the photo rule of thirds in mind when cropping, ensuring that the main focus of the image is positioned along one third of the image for visually pleasing results.

Once your image is in place, add shadowing to the inside of the frame, to really finish off the realistic effect. So let's get those photos open and begin compositing our images together.

Photo composites

Frame photos in Elements

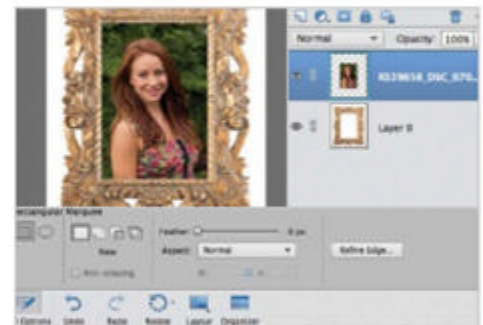
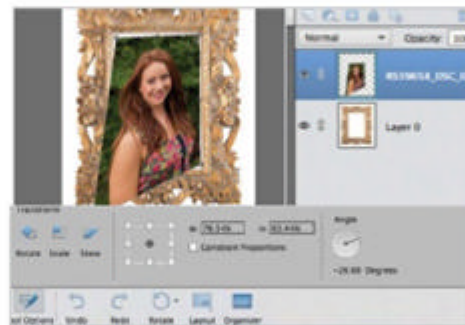


Display your open images

01 Go to File>Open and select your start photos. When they're open in Elements, go to the bottom-left corner of your window and press Photo Bin. You will see all open images lined up in this palette.

Drag and drop to merge

02 Double-click the frame image in the Photo Bin to display it in full. Back in the Photo Bin palette, click the photo to add to the frame image, then drag it into the canvas.



Get ready to move

03 Both photos can be seen as separate layers in the Layers panel on the right. Select the Move tool (V) from the left Toolbar, click the top layer and pointers will appear around the photo's edge.

Fill the frame

04 Holding Cmd/Ctrl to move individual pointers, move each corner pointer inwards. Move the corners into place, lined up with the frame below. Zoom in to ensure the frame is filled.

Keep perspective

05 If your photo must stay in perspective, resize holding Shift. Use the Rectangular Marquee to draw round the inside frame. Hit Cmd/Ctrl+Shift+I to invert the selection then hit Delete.



Source file available

Use the image provided to re-create this

Blend for incredible composites

Before



Learn how to make an eye-catching photomanipulation using several tools and filters in Photoshop Elements

You can easily create fun and unique photomanipulations; all you need is a bit of creativity and Photoshop! We used Photoshop Elements here but the full CC version will do the trick too!

The secret to a successful edit is knowing how to seamlessly blend images together, and how to use shade and light to set ambience and add a certain level of realism to your work.

Here we'll guide you through a simple but very effective process to help you create a believable (well, maybe not quite!)

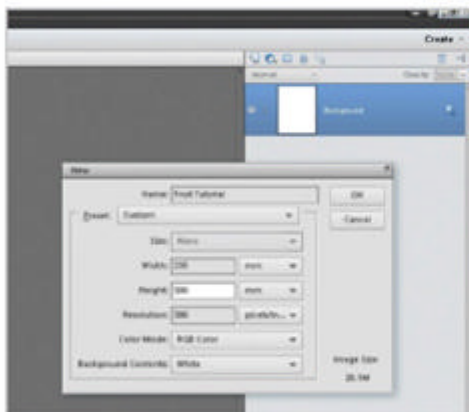
and striking hybrid fruit. Learn how to combine brushes, the Eraser and Clone Stamp tool with other filters to achieve this incredible result.

Once you know the right techniques to use and the tools available, you can develop your skills and create the most amazing art.

Download the resources to get started and don't hesitate to open the full PSD file to check how the layers are distributed. Let's get started!

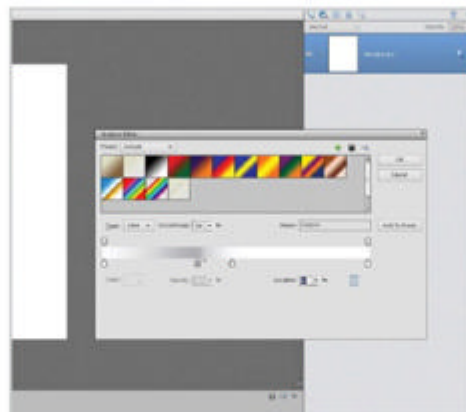
Make a tasty montage

Combine imagery to create a realistic photomanipulation



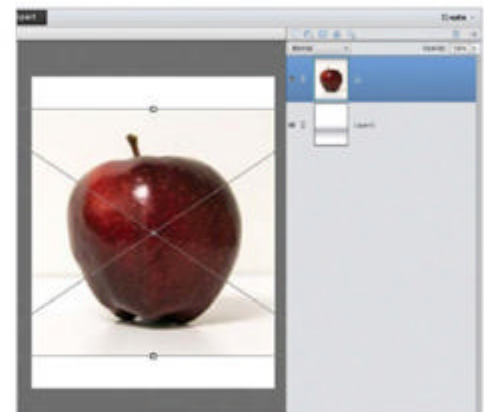
Create a new document

01 Begin by creating a new blank file. Hit Cmd/Ctrl+N to open the New dialog box, name your project Fruit tutorial, Then set the Width to 235mm, the Height to 300mm and the Resolution to 300. Confirm this by clicking OK.



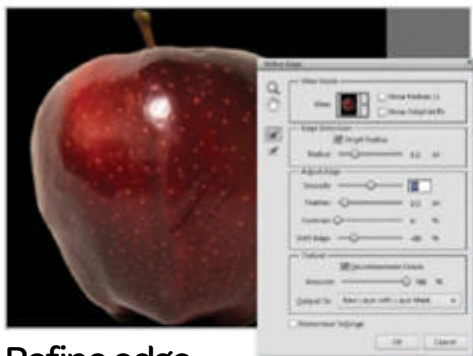
Add a gradient background

02 Select the Gradient tool (G) and click on Edit to open the Gradient Editor. Create a new gradient using the colours #fdfdfe and #afafb3 and add more colour stops to reduce the blend. Set it to Linear and drag it from top to bottom.



Place the first image

03 Go to File>Place and select 'Apple.jpg' from the free disc. On the Tool Options bar, tick the Constrain Proportions box and resize the image to around 65%. Ctrl/right-click on the layer and choose Simplify (CC users click Rasterize layer).



Refine edge

04 Grab the Quick Selection tool (A), and select the apple. Go to Layer>Refine Edge. Tick the Smart Radius box and set the Radius to 5px, Smooth to 50, Feather to 2, Contrast to 0, and Shift Edge to -50. Click Decontaminate Colors and set the Amount to 100%, then press OK.



Enhance the image

05 Ctrl/right-click on the layer mask and choose Apply Layer Mask. Grab the Spot Healing Brush tool (J), set Type as Proximity Match, choose a soft brush at around 80px and remove the imperfections.



Remove hard shadows

06 Hold Cmd/Ctrl and click on the Apple layer to select it. Click the Clone Stamp tool (S), set the Opacity to 40% and choose a soft brush size at 120px. Press Opt/Alt to sample the image and paint over the areas with hard shadows.



Add the bite mark

07 Now grab the Lasso tool (L). Duplicate the Apple layer again and name it 'Apple copy 2'. Click on the Eye icon to hide the extra layer. Drag the Lasso tool to create an irregular selection on the apple and then press Delete.



Place the kiwi image

08 Go to File>Place and choose 'Citrus.jpg'. Ctrl/right-click on the layer and choose Simplify Layer. Grab the Quick Selection tool (A), and select only the kiwi image. Cut and Paste into a new layer, rename it 'Kiwi', and delete the Citrus layer.



Duplicate the Kiwi layer

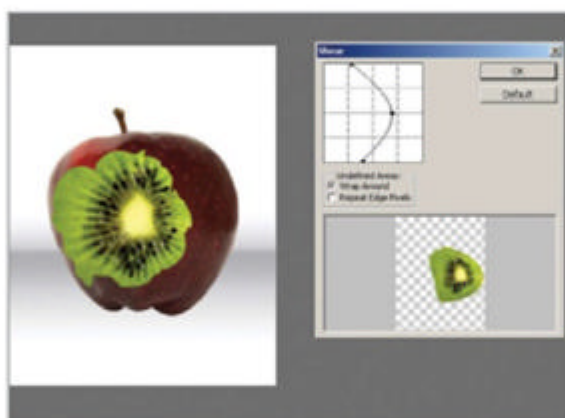
09 Ctrl/right-click on the Kiwi layer and choose Duplicate layer. Drag the Kiwi copy layer under the Apple copy 2 layer. Hold Cmd/Ctrl+T to open the Free Transform tool. Grab the handles to scale, skew and position the kiwi image.

Expert tip



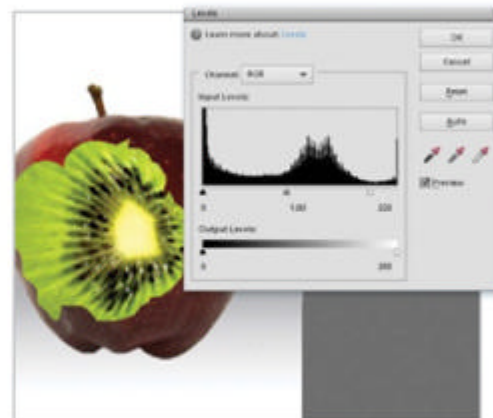
Liquify Filter

Use this to adjust sizes, and to push, pull, skew and reshape your image. To open the Liquify workspace, go to Filter>Distort>Liquify (CC users go to Filter>Liquify). The key to success using Liquify is to apply a very low brush pressure and use a larger brush. The Liquify tool moves the pixels around, so using a small brush only affects a small group of pixels, creating rough edges. A larger brush will affect a larger group, resulting in very smooth lines.



Apply a Shear filter

10 Now head to Filter>Distort>Shear. Tick Wrap Around, click on top of the vertical line, and then drag to create a curve point and drag another point to create a subtle curve. Press Cmd/Ctrl+T to resize and use the Eraser tool (E) to rub out the edges.



Adjust the lighting

11 Select the Kiwi copy layer and go to Enhance>Adjust Lighting>Levels or hold Cmd/Ctrl+L. Drag the Highlight adjustment slider to 220 or type 0, 1.00, 220 in the text boxes. Click OK.



Create a clipping mask

12 Hold Opt/Alt and click Add New Layer. In the dialog, enter Name as Dodge, set mode to Overlay, and check Fill with overlay-neutral color (50% gray). Click OK. Press Cmd/Ctrl+G to create a clipping mask.



Add highlights

13 Now let's add some highlights. Grab the Dodge tool (O), set the Range to Highlights, pick a soft brush at size 500px and change the Exposure to 40%. Paint around the kiwi edges.

Expert tip



Photoshop CS users

In Photoshop CS, you can use the Warp tool instead of the Shear filter to transform objects. It lets you freely move and position elements as if you were trying to warp a surface using the handles. Select the layer and press Cmd/Ctrl+T to open the Free Transform. Ctrl/right-click and choose Warp from the pop-up menu. Grab the corner handle and drag in any direction to create a warp effect. You can select anywhere on the bounding box to transform your image.



More highlights

14 Now click on the Apple copy 2 layer and repeat Step 12. After, create the layer Overlay, grab the Dodge tool (O), set the Range to Highlights, pick a soft brush, size 200px, and change the Exposure to 60%. Carefully paint around the bite mark.



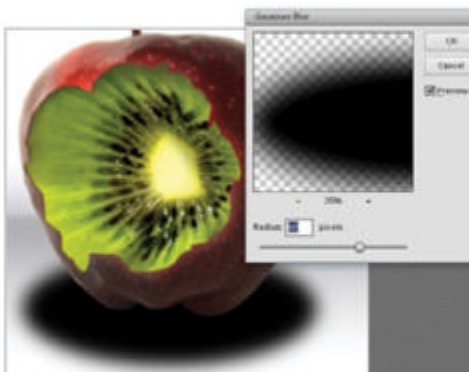
Create inner shadow

15 Add a new layer and rename it Inner Shadow. With the Magic Wand tool (A), select the bite mark. Grab a soft brush (B), size 300 px, set the Opacity to 40%, and paint over the Inner Shadow layer to create a very soft shadow.



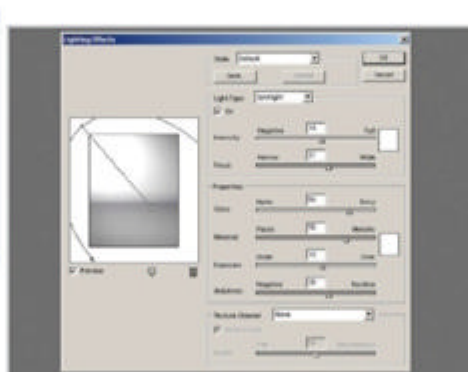
Add a border

16 Create a new layer and name it 'Border'. Make sure the bite mark is still selected, then go to Select>Modify>Border, set the Width at 15px and click OK. Grab the Brush tool (B), select the colour #7d5149 and paint the selection.



Form a shadow

17 On a new layer above the Background select the Elliptical Marquee tool and draw an ellipse, then fill it with black. Go to Filter>Blur>Gaussian Blur, change the Radius to 60px and press OK. Hold Cmd/Ctrl+T and adjust the perspective.



Lighting effects

18 Click on the Background layer. Now go to Filter>Render>Lighting Effect. Choose the default Spotlight and reposition the light. Set Intensity to 10, Focus to 21, Gloss to 55, Material to 50, Exposure to 10 and Ambience to 20. Then click OK.

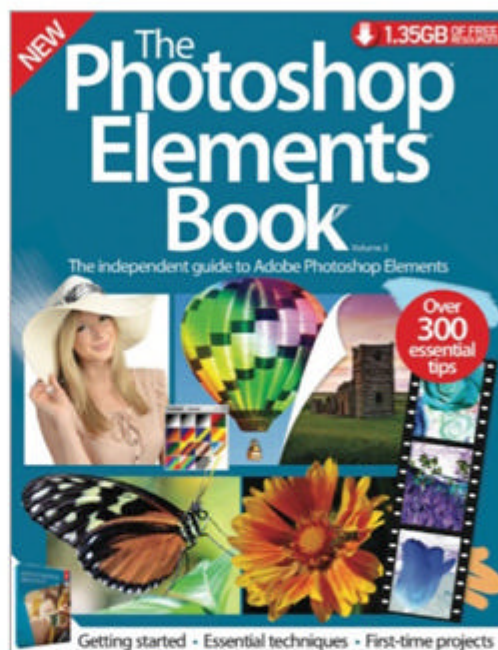


Final step

19 Finally, select the Apple copy 2 layer and press Cmd/Ctrl+F to apply the lighting effects again. Now click on the Border layer, grab the Eraser tool, and using a very small tip, rub out some areas to create a more realistic image.

**Special
trial offer**

**Enjoyed
this book?**



Exclusive offer for new



* This offer entitles new UK Direct Debit subscribers to receive their first 3 issues for £5. After these issues, subscribers will then pay £25.20 every 6 issues. Subscribers can cancel this subscription at any time. New subscriptions will start from the next available issue. Offer code 'ZGGZIN' must be quoted to receive this special subscription price. Direct Debit Guarantee available on request.

** This is a US subscription offer. The USA issue rate is based on an annual subscription price of £65 for 13 issues which is equivalent to \$102 at the time of writing compared with the newsstand price of \$15.50 for 13 issues being \$201.50. Your subscription will start from the next available issue.



Master the art of Photoshop

Expert tutorials

In-depth guides and step-by-step tutorials to help with your Photoshop and Elements projects

Inspirational features

Get inspired with the features and interviews, and learn from the experts

Plus free downloads!

subscribers to...

Photoshop[®] creative

Try 3 issues for **£5 in the UK***
or just **\$7.85 per issue in the USA****
(saving 49% off the newsstand price)

For amazing offers please visit

www.imaginesubs.co.uk/pcr

Quote code ZGGZIN

Or telephone: UK 0844 848 8415 Overseas +44 (0) 1795 592 871

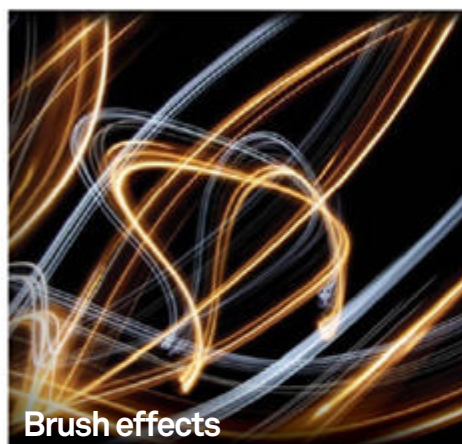
YOUR **FREE** RESOURCES

Log in to filesilo.co.uk/bks-618/ and download your tutorial resources **NOW!**

EVERYTHING
YOU NEED
TO FOLLOW THE
TUTORIALS AND
CREATE GREAT
PROJECTS

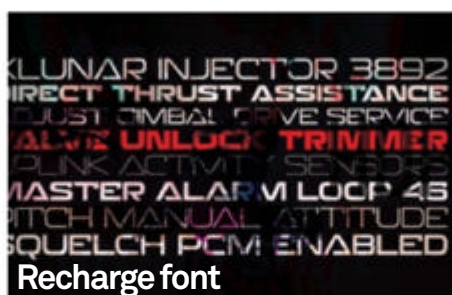


WINTER STOCK IMAGERY

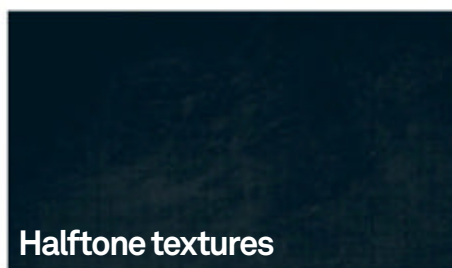


Brush effects

**PACKED WITH FREE
PREMIUM CONTENT**



Recharge font



Halftone textures

YOUR BONUS RESOURCES



ON FILESIL0 WE'VE PROVIDED
FREE, EXCLUSIVE CONTENT
FOR PHOTOSHOP ELEMENTS
BOOK 2 REVISED EDITION
READERS, INCLUDING...

- Over 1000 brushes including, light effects, tech rings, essential brushes and drips and sprays
- Recharge font
- 10 subtle halftone textures
- All the files you'll need to follow along to the tutorials in this book, including creating mixed media effects, simple photo edits, gradients, photomontages and much more

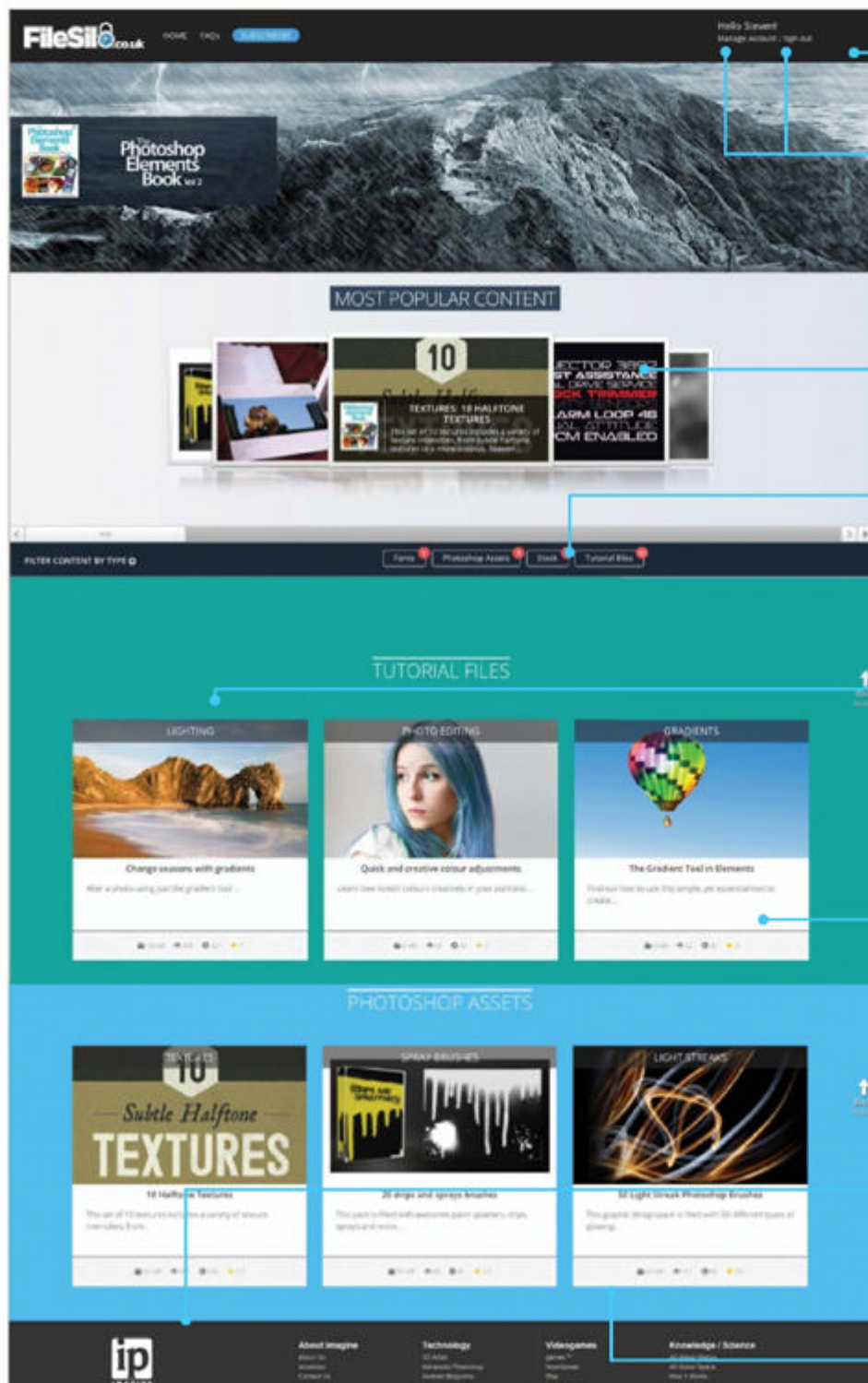
FileSil0

Go to: <http://www.filesilo.co.uk/bks-618/>

FILESILO – THE HOME OF PRO RESOURCES

Discover your free online assets

- A rapidly growing library
- Updated continually with cool resources
- Lets you keep your downloads organised
- Browse and access your content from anywhere
- No more torn disc pages to ruin your magazines
- No more broken discs
- Print subscribers get all the content
- Digital magazine owners get all the content too!
- Each issue's content is free with your magazine
- Secure online access to your free resources



This is the new FileSilo site that replaces your disc. You'll find it by visiting the link on the following page.

The first time you use FileSilo, you'll need to register. After that, you can use your email address and password to log in.

The most popular downloads are shown in the carousel here, so check out what your fellow readers are enjoying.

If you're looking for a particular type of content, like software or video tutorials, use the filters here to refine your search

Whether it's tutorials, Photoshop actions, or video workshops, categories make it easy to identify what content you're looking for

See key details for each resource including number of views and downloads, and the community rating

Find out more about our online stores, and useful FAQs, such as our cookie and privacy policies and contact details.

Discover our fantastic sister magazines and the wealth of content and information that they provide.

HOW TO USE FileSilo

EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT
ACCESSING YOUR NEW DIGITAL REPOSITORY

To access FileSilo, please visit <http://www.filesilo.co.uk/bks-618/>

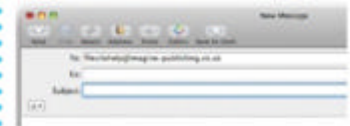
01 Follow the on-screen instructions to create an account with our secure FileSilo system, or log in and unlock the issue by answering a simple question about the edition you've just read. You can access the content for free with each edition released.



02 Once you have logged in, you are free to explore the wealth of content made available for free on FileSilo, from great video tutorials and online guides to superb downloadable resources. And the more bookazines you purchase, the more your instantly accessible collection of digital content will grow.

03 You can access FileSilo on any desktop, tablet or smartphone device using any popular browser (such as Safari, Firefox or Google Chrome). However, we recommend that you use a desktop to download content, as you may not be able to download files to your phone or tablet.

04 If you have any problems with accessing content on FileSilo, or with the registration process, take a look at the FAQs online or email filesilohelp@imagine-publishing.co.uk.



NEED HELP WITH THE TUTORIALS?

Having trouble with any of the techniques in this issue's tutorials? Don't know how to make the best use of your free resources? Want to have your work critiqued by those in the know? Then why not visit the Bookazines or Digital Photographer Facebook page for all your questions, concerns and qualms. There is a friendly community of experts to help you out, as well as regular posts and updates from the bookazine team. Like us today and start chatting!



facebook.com/ImagineBookazines
facebook.com/PhotoshopCreative

The Photoshop Elements® Book

Create stunning images with this expert guide, packed with step-by-step tutorials and creative project ideas

FREE DOWNLOAD

Online assets free for all readers



The ultimate creative resources

Enhance your photography with:

- Over 1,000 Photoshop brushes
- 10 varying halftone textures
- 15 winter photography stock images



From the makers of

Photoshop® creative



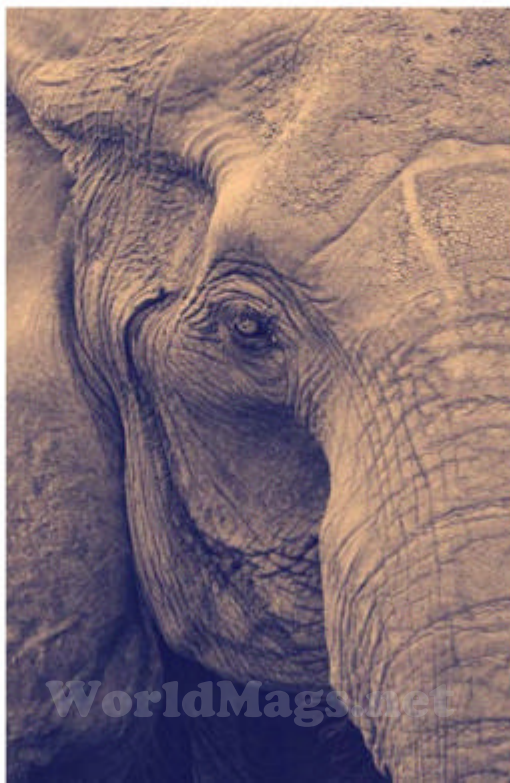
www.imaginebookshop.co.uk



100% UNOFFICIAL



Includes
guides to
Elements
13



WorldMags.net