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- Working with Layers and Masks
- Filters, Effects, Styles, and Distortions
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**by Barbara Obermeier
and Ted Padova**



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Dedication

Barbara Obermeier: For Gary, Kylie, and Lucky, who constantly remind me of what's really important in life.

Ted Padova: For Arnie.

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Introduction

Photoshop Elements has evolved over several generations to become a sophisticated photo editor. What was once a low-end, consumer-grade product is now a tool for novice photo editors, amateur photographers, and professionals alike.

Elements shines on its own turf and is distinguished from Adobe Photoshop in many ways. Not only a program for improving image quality, Elements is a complex software application that offers you many different editing tools for designing a variety of photo creations and sharing your photos in a number of ways. Of course, it also gives you all the standard editing features you need for, say, controlling image brightness or working with color correction.

Why should you buy Elements (and, ultimately, this book)? The range of people who can benefit from using Elements is wide and includes a vast audience. Elements has something for everyone — from beginning image editors to intermediate users to amateurs and professionals with more advanced skills.

Photoshop Elements grows with the times and supports new technologies with each release. Version 9 is no exception. We find support for the iPhone and iPad and other handheld devices improved in the current version. We also find support for the growing interest in touch screen monitors. And, if you're a Macintosh user, Photoshop Elements has matured to offer you the Organizer application with all its tools and features that were previously restricted to only Windows users.

With many display options for your pictures — such as Facebook, Flickr, Twitter, Web pages, handheld devices, and traditional print output — Elements has something to offer everyone regardless of where their photos are placed for others to admire. Think of this program as your creative companion for all your photo image editing work and for sharing your creations.

About This Book

This book is our best effort to provide a comprehensive view of a wildly feature-rich program for both Windows and Macintosh users. There's a lot to Elements, and we try to offer you as much information as possible within our limited amount of space. We begged for more pages, but alas, our

publisher wants to get this book in your hands in full color and with an attractive price tag. Therefore, even though we may skip over a few topics, all you need to know about using Photoshop Elements for designing images for print, sharing, Web hosting, versatile packaging, e-mailing, and more is covered in the pages ahead.

As we said, Photoshop Elements has something for just about everyone. We know that our audience is large and that not everyone will use every tool, command, or method described in this book. Therefore, we added a lot of cross-references in the text, in case you want to jump around. You can go to just about any chapter and start reading; if a concept needs more explanation, we point you in the right direction for finding some background when it's necessary.

If you're new to a *For Dummies All-in-One*, you should be aware that a book in this series is several books in one. This work contains nine separate books covering distinct areas of Photoshop Elements. You can jump around in the book and investigate the areas that interest you most. Generally, there's no need to read through chapters in order before going to the chapter dealing with the tasks you're most interested in exploring.

Each of the nine books contains several chapters covering a particular category of editing images, sharing files, or making creations.

Book 1: Introducing Elements

We begin Book I by introducing you to Elements as it appears onscreen the first time you launch the program. The Elements Welcome screen permits you to enter several different workspaces.

We talk in Chapter 1 about changing workspaces, setting up your work environment, looking at tools and menus, discovering panels, using shortcuts, and getting help. In Chapter 2, we explore in depth the tools used in Edit Full mode. We provide the basics for using the tools so that you have a clear understanding of what they do before delving into chapters where we use the tools to create a variety of results.

In Chapter 3, we look at navigation and viewing. We explore using the Navigator panel, changing views between workspaces, and zooming in and out of photos, and we cover all you need to know about the Image window when working in Edit Full mode. In Chapter 4, we cover preference settings you use in the Organizer and Edit Full mode for customizing your workspace. Every preference setting you can make in Photoshop Elements is covered in this chapter.

Book II: Elements Fundamentals

As the title of Book II implies, we talk about essential fundamentals in this minibook. Look for opening, closing, and saving files; using the Organizer workspace, now available for both Windows and Macintosh users; acquiring images from digital cameras and scanners; and (in a whole lot of coverage) sorting and finding pictures. We also cover creating albums and keyword tags, creating new catalogs, and backing up photos. We added a new chapter for this version that deals exclusively with cellphones and other handheld devices, particularly the Apple iPhone and iPad.

Book III: Image Essentials

In this minibook, we handle all you'd ever want to know about the characteristics of images. This book is *image-centric* — we cover many essential topics such as resolution, color modes, file formats, Camera Raw format, and color management.

Book IV: Selections

This important minibook gives you all the juicy details on, and techniques for, creating and modifying selections. You find out about each of the selection tools and how to modify, feather, save, and load selections, as well as refine edges.

Book V: Painting, Drawing, and Typing

If you want to know about the drawing and painting tools, this minibook's for you. We cover the Brush and Pencil tools along with the multifaceted Brushes panel. We also show you how to create vector shapes by using the shape tools and how to fill and stroke selections.

Head to Book V to find out how to create both gradients and patterns and, last but not least, become familiar with the type tools and how to use them to create and edit standard type, type on and in a path, and type with special effects.

Book VI: Working with Layers and Masks

Book VI gives you everything you need to work with layers and cutting, extracting, and masking to select elements on those layers. From the Cutter tool to the Magic Extractor and on to layer masking, we show you how to select difficult elements and creatively combine layers. We also talk about managing layers, playing with opacity, blend modes, and transforming and simplifying layers.

Book VII: Filters, Effects, Styles, and Distortions

We filled Book VII with tons of handy tips and techniques for using filters to correct images to make them sharper, blurrier, cleaner, or smoother — whatever fits your fancy. You also find out how to use filters to give your image a certain special effect, such as a deckle edge or water droplets. Finally, we introduce the Liquify command so that you can see the wonder of its distortion tools — and how they can turn your image into digital taffy.

Book VIII: Retouching and Enhancing

You find everything you need to know about color correction and color enhancement in Book VIII — getting rid of colorcasts, improving contrast and saturation, remapping, and replacing colors.

In addition, we include using the focus and toning tools to manually lighten, darken, smooth, soften, or sharpen areas of your image. You get to see how you can use the Clone Stamp tool, the Healing tools, and the Red Eye Removal tool to fix flaws and imperfections in your images, making them as good as new. We also show you the Color Replacement tool and how to replace your image's original color with the foreground color. Finally, you get some tidbits on how to composite images by following some easy steps.

Book IX: Creating and Sharing with Elements

The wonderful world of creations and sharing is the topic for this minibook. Elements provides you with some extraordinary creation opportunities, such as creating slide shows, photo books, calendars, greeting cards, flip-books, and more. We go into detail for each of these creation options. Not all files are destined for online viewing, so we cover the complex world of printing color images and getting color right with color profiles in this minibook, and then we move on to sharing projects using online services. In the last chapter, we talk about support for touch screens — a new feature in Elements 9.

About the eCheat Sheet

We have a handy little guide for you that's hosted online. Download the Cheat Sheet file from www.dummies.com/cheatsheet/photoshopelements9aio.

Conventions Used in This Book

Throughout this book, we point you to menus where commands are accessed frequently. A couple of things to remember are the references for where to go when we detail steps in a procedure. For accessing a menu command, you may see a sentence like this one:

Choose File⇨Get Photos and Videos⇨From Files and Folders.

When you see a command like this one mentioned, we're asking you to click the File menu to open the drop-down menu, click the menu command labeled Get Photos and Videos, and then choose the command From Files and Folders from the submenu that appears.

Another convention we use refers to context menus. A *context menu* jumps up at the cursor position and shows you a menu similar to the menu you select at the top of the Elements workspace. To open a context menu, click the right mouse button. For Mac users with a one-button mouse, press the Control key and click to open a context menu.

A third item relates to using keystrokes on your keyboard. When we mention that some keys need to be pressed on your keyboard, the text is described like this:

Press Alt+Shift+Ctrl+S (Option+Shift+Command+S on the Mac)

In this case, you hold down the Alt key, the Shift key, and the Control key and then press the S key (or hold down the Option key, the Shift key, and the Command key and then press the S key on the Mac). Then release all the keys at the same time.

Icons Used in This Book

In the margins throughout this book, you'll see icons indicating that something important is stated in the respective text.



A Tip tells you about an alternative method for a procedure by giving you a shortcut or a workaround or another type of helpful information related to working on tasks in the section being discussed.



Pay particular attention when you see the Warning icon. This information informs you when you may experience a problem performing your work in Elements.



This icon is a heads-up for information you may want to commit to memory. Usually, the icon tells you about a shortcut for a repetitive task, where remembering a procedure can save you time.



Elements is a computer program, after all. No matter how hard we try to simplify our explanation of features, we can't entirely avoid technical information. If we think that a topic is complex, we use this icon to alert you that we're moving into a complex subject. You won't see many of these icons in this book because we try our best to bring the details to nontechnical terms.



This icon informs you that the item discussed is a new feature in Photoshop Elements 9.

Where to Go from Here

Feel free to jump around and pay special attention to cross-referenced chapters, in case you get stuck on a concept. If you're new to image editing, you'll want to pick up some basics. Look over Books I and II to get a grip on images and the environment you work in with Elements.

When you need a little extra help, refer to Book I, Chapter 1, where we talk about using the online Help documents available in Elements.

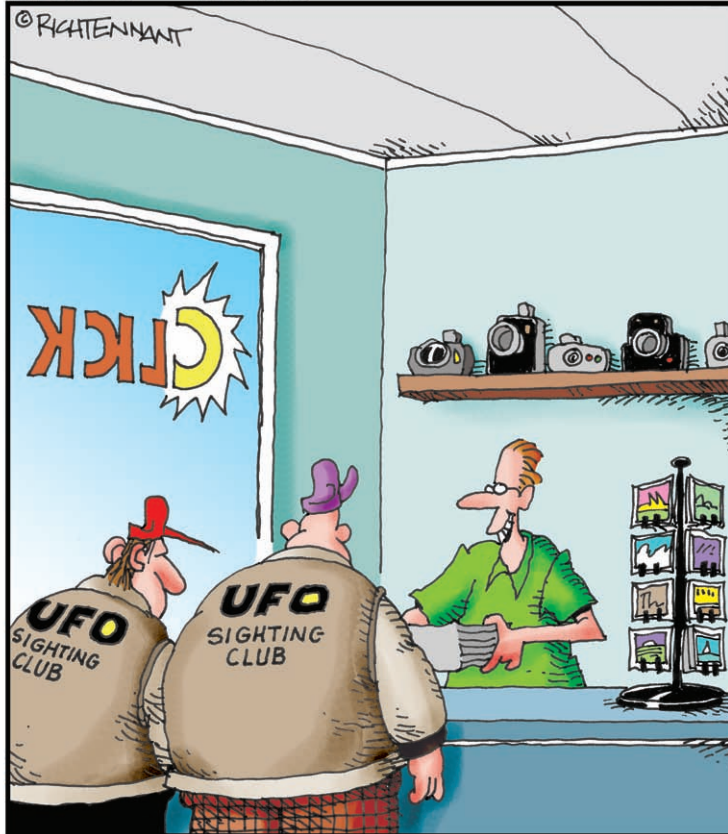
We wish you much success and enjoyment in using Adobe Photoshop Elements 9, and it's our sincere wish that the pages ahead provide you with an informative and helpful view of the program.

Book I

Introducing Elements

The 5th Wave

By Rich Tennant



"I've got some new image editing software, so I took the liberty of erasing some of the smudges that kept showing up around the clouds. No need to thank me."

Because we try to present every minibook as a standalone element so that you can move around and jump in at any chapter, a little foundation always helps make understanding the big concepts a bit easier.

We start Book I with some essentials related to the Elements workspace, tell you how to launch the program, and offer you a description of many resources available to you.

If you're new to Elements, this minibook is your best starting place. Be sure to review Chapter 2, where we cover all the tools used in Edit Full mode, and Chapter 4, where we talk about adjusting Preferences to customize your work environment.

