Teach Yourself VISUALLY™

Adobe® Photoshop® Elements 11

The Fast and Easy Way to Learn

Mike Wooldridge
Brianna Stuart

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Table of Contents

Chapter 1: Getting Started

Introducing Photoshop Elements 11

Understanding Digital Images

Start Photoshop Elements

Explore the Editor Workspace

Tour the Organizer Workspace

Switch Between the Organizer and the Editor

Introducing the Photoshop Elements Tools

Switch Editor Modes

Work with Tools

Work with Panels

Set Program Preferences

View Rulers and Guides

Chapter 2: Importing and Opening Digital Images

Get Photos for Your Projects

Import Photos from a Digital Camera or Card Reader

Import Photos from a Scanner

Import Photos from a Folder

Watch a Folder for New Images

Open a Photo

Create a Blank Image

Save a Photo

Duplicate a Photo

Close a Photo

Chapter 3: Organizing Your Photos

Introducing the Organizer
Open the Organizer
Create a Catalog
View Photos in the Media Browser
View Photos in Full Screen
Display a Slide Show in Full Screen
View Photo Information
Add a Caption
Work with Albums
Find Photos
Rate Photos
View Versions of a Photo
Remove a Photo from the Organizer

Chapter 4: Using Advanced Organizing Tools

Perform an Advanced Search
Work with Keyword Tags
Define People in Photos
Define Places
View Places
Define Events
Using Smart Events
Apply an Instant Fix
Stack Photos
Find by Visual Similarity

Chapter 5: Applying Basic Image Edits

Manage Open Images
Magnify with the Zoom Tool
Adjust the Image View
Change the On-Screen Image Size
Change the Image Print Size
Change the Image Resolution
Change the Image Canvas Size
Work in Quick Edit Mode

Crop an Image

Rotate an Image

Undo Changes to an Image

Revert an Image

Chapter 6: Making Selections

Select an Area with the Marquee

Select an Area with the Lasso

Select an Area with the Magic Wand

Select an Area with the Quick Selection Tool

Select an Area with the Selection Brush

Save and Load a Selection

Invert a Selection

Deselect a Selection

Chapter 7: Manipulating Selections

Add to or Subtract from a Selection

Move a Selection

Duplicate a Selection

Delete a Selection

Rotate a Selection

Scale a Selection

Skew or Distort a Selection

Refine the Edge of a Selection

Feather the Border of a Selection

Chapter 8: Using Layers

Introducing Layers

Create and Add to a Layer

Hide a Layer

Move a Layer

Duplicate a Layer

Delete a Layer

Reorder Layers

Change the Opacity of a Layer

Link Layers

Merge Layers

Rename a Layer

Create a Fill Layer

Create an Adjustment Layer

Blend Layers

Add a Layer Mask

Edit a Layer Mask

Chapter 9: Enhancing and Retouching Photos

Retouch with Guided Edit

Quick Fix a Photo

Remove Red Eye

Retouch with the Clone Stamp Tool

Remove a Spot

Sharpen an Image

Extract an Object from a Background

Merge Group Shots

Clean Up a Scene

Recompose a Photo

Fix Keystone Distortion

Improve a Portrait

Chapter 10: Improving Lighting and Exposure

Enhance Lighting with Guided Edit

Adjust Levels

Adjust Shadows and Highlights

Change Brightness and Contrast

Lighten Areas with the Dodge Tool

Darken Areas with the Burn Tool

Add a Spotlight

Fix Exposure

Using the Blur and Sharpen Tools

Chapter 11: Enhancing Colors

Enhance Colors with Guided Edit
Adjust Skin Color
Adjust Color with the Sponge Tool
Correct Color with Color Variations
Replace a Color
Turn a Color Photo into Black and White
Add Color to a Black-and-White Photo
Adjust Colors by Using Color Curves

Chapter 12: Painting and Drawing on Photos

Set the Foreground and Background Colors
Add Color with the Brush Tool
Change Brush Styles
Add Color with the Paint Bucket Tool
Using a Brush to Replace a Color
Adjust Colors with the Smart Brush
Draw a Shape
Draw a Line
Apply the Eraser
Apply a Gradient
Add Content from the Graphics Panel

Chapter 13: Applying Filters

Blur an Image
Distort an Image
Turn an Image into a Painting
Turn an Image into a Sketch
Add Noise to an Image
Pixelate an Image
Emboss an Image
Apply Multiple Filters

Chapter 14: Adding Text Elements

Add Text
Change the Formatting of Text

Change the Color of Text

Create Warped Text

Create Beveled Text

Add a Shadow to Text

Add an Outline to Text

Add Text Along a Selection

Chapter 15: Applying Styles and Effects

Frame a Photo with a Drop Shadow

Add a Drop Shadow to a Layer

Create a Vintage Photo

Add a Fancy Background

Add an Outer Glow to a Layer

Add a Fancy Covering to a Layer

Add a Watermark

Apply a Photomerge Style

Apply a Camera Effect

Apply an Effect with an Action

Chapter 16: Presenting Photos Creatively

Create a Slide Show

Create a Photo Book

Create a Photo Collage

Create a Photo Panorama

Chapter 17: Saving and Sharing Your Work

Save a Photo for the Web

Convert File Types

E-Mail Images with Photo Mail

Print Photos

Share Photos on Facebook

Export Photos

Back Up Photos

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How to Use This Book

Who This Book Is For

This book is for the reader who has never used this particular technology or software application. It is also for readers who want to expand their knowledge.

The Conventions in This Book

❶ Steps

This book uses a step-by-step format to guide you easily through each task. **Numbered steps** are actions you must do; **bulleted steps** clarify a point, step, or optional feature; and **indented steps** give you the result.

❷ Notes

Notes give additional information — special conditions that may occur during an operation, a situation that you want to avoid, or a cross-reference to a related area of the book.

❸ Icons and Buttons

Icons and buttons show you exactly what you need to click to perform a step.

❹ Tips

Tips offer additional information, including warnings and shortcuts.

❺ Bold

Bold type shows command names or options that you must click or text or numbers you must type.

❻ Italics

Italic type introduces and defines a new term.

Replace a Color

The Replace Color command enables you to change one or more colors in your image by using the Hue, Saturation, and Lightness controls. By shifting the controls, you can change the color of objects or backgrounds just slightly or to wildly different tints.

If you make a selection before executing the Replace Color command, only the selected pixels are affected. Similarly, if you have a multilayered image, your adjustments affect only the selected layer. See Chapter 6 for more on making a selection, and see Chapter 8 for more on layers. Another option for replacing colors is the Smart Brush. See Chapter 12 for details.

Replace a Color

1. In the Editor, click **Expert**.

Note: For more on opening the Editor, see Chapter 1.

2. Click **Enhance**.
3. Click **Adjust Color**.
4. Click **Replace Color**.

To apply color corrections to a particular layer, select the layer before opening the Replace Color dialog box.

Note: See Chapter 8 for more on layers.

The Replace Color dialog box opens. The mouse pointer ( ) changes to an eyedropper ( ).

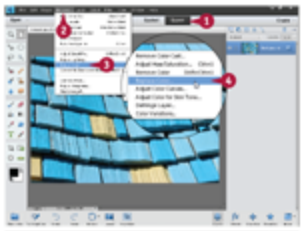
5. Click in the image to select a color to replace.

Photoshop Elements turns the selected color to white in the preview window.

6. Click and drag the **Fuzziness** slider ( ) to control how many pixels with similar colors are affected within the image or selection.

Dragging to the right selects more color and dragging to the left selects less color.

You can also type a value for the fuzziness.

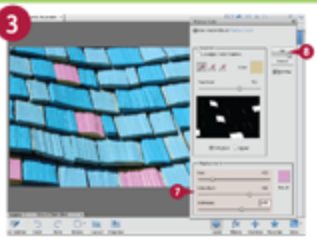


7. Click and drag the sliders ( ) to change the colors inside the selected area.

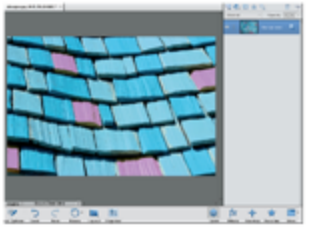
You can also type values for the hue, saturation, and lightness.

Note: For more on these controls, see the section "Enhance Colors with Guided Edit."

8. Click **OK**.



Photoshop Elements replaces the selected color.



TIPS

How can I replace more than one area of color?

You can press Shift and then click inside your image to add other colors to your selection. If you are viewing the Selection preview, the white area inside the preview box increases as you click. To deselect colors from your selection, press Alt (Option on a Mac) and then click a color inside your image.

How can I replace a color using the painting tools?

You can click the **Paint Bucket** tool ( ), select a foreground color, and then replace a color in your image with the selected color. You can retain details while applying the color by setting the mode to **Color** in the Tool Options panel. For more on using the painting tools in Photoshop Elements, see Chapter 12.

Chapter 1: Getting Started

Are you interested in working with digital images on your computer? This chapter introduces you to Adobe Photoshop Elements 11, a popular software application for editing and creating digital images. Photoshop Elements also enables you to organize your collection of digital images so you can easily find what you are looking for.

[Introducing Photoshop Elements 11]

[Understanding Digital Images]

[Start Photoshop Elements]

[Explore the Editor Workspace]

Tour the Organizer Workspace

Switch Between the Organizer and the Editor

Introducing the Photoshop Elements Tools

Switch Editor Modes

Work with Tools

Work with Panels

Set Program Preferences

View Rulers and Guides

Introducing Photoshop Elements 11

Photoshop Elements is a popular photo-editing program you can use to modify, optimize, and organize digital images. You can use the program's Editor to make imperfect snapshots clearer and more colorful as well as retouch and restore older photos. With layers, you can isolate objects in your images and apply special effects just to those objects or combine multiple images into a collage. You can also use the program's Organizer to group your photos into albums, assign descriptive keyword tags, discover visually similar images, create slide shows, and more. When you are done with your images, you can use Photoshop Elements to save them for sharing on the web or print them out.

Manipulate Photos

As its name suggests, Photoshop Elements excels at enabling you to edit elements in your digital

photographs. The program includes numerous image-editing tools and commands you can apply to manipulate the look of your photos. Whether you import photos from a digital camera or a scanner, you can apply a wide variety of editing techniques to your images, from subtle adjustments in color to elaborate filters that make your snapshots look like paintings. See Chapter 7 for more on manipulating selected parts of your photos. See Chapter 12 for more on painting and drawing, and see Chapter 13 for more on using filters.

Retouch and Repair

You can use Photoshop Elements to edit new photos to make them look their best as well as retouch and repair older photos that suffer from aging problems. For example, you can restore a faded photo by using saturation controls to make it more vibrant, or you can use the Clone Stamp tool to repair a tear or stain. You can also use the program's exposure commands to fix lighting problems as well as edit out unwanted objects with the Healing Brush. See Chapter 9 for more on retouching your photos.

Add Decoration

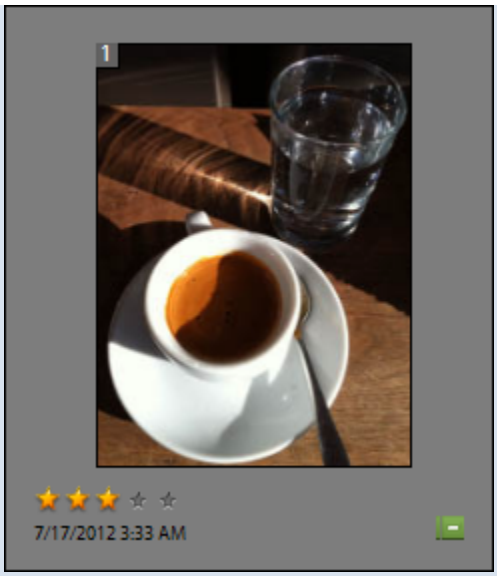
The painting and drawing tools in Photoshop Elements make the program a formidable illustration tool as well as a photo editor. You can apply colors or patterns to your images with a variety of brush styles. See Chapter 12 to discover how to paint and draw on your photos. In addition, you can use the application’s typographic tools to integrate stylized letters and words into your images. See Chapter 14 for more on adding text elements.

Create a Digital Collage

You can combine parts of different images in Photoshop Elements to create a collage. Your compositions can include photos, scanned art, text, and anything else you can save on your computer as a digital image. By placing elements on separate layers, you can move, transform, and customize them independently of one another. See Chapter 8 for more on layers. You can also merge several side-by-side scenes into a seamless panorama, which is covered in Chapter 16.

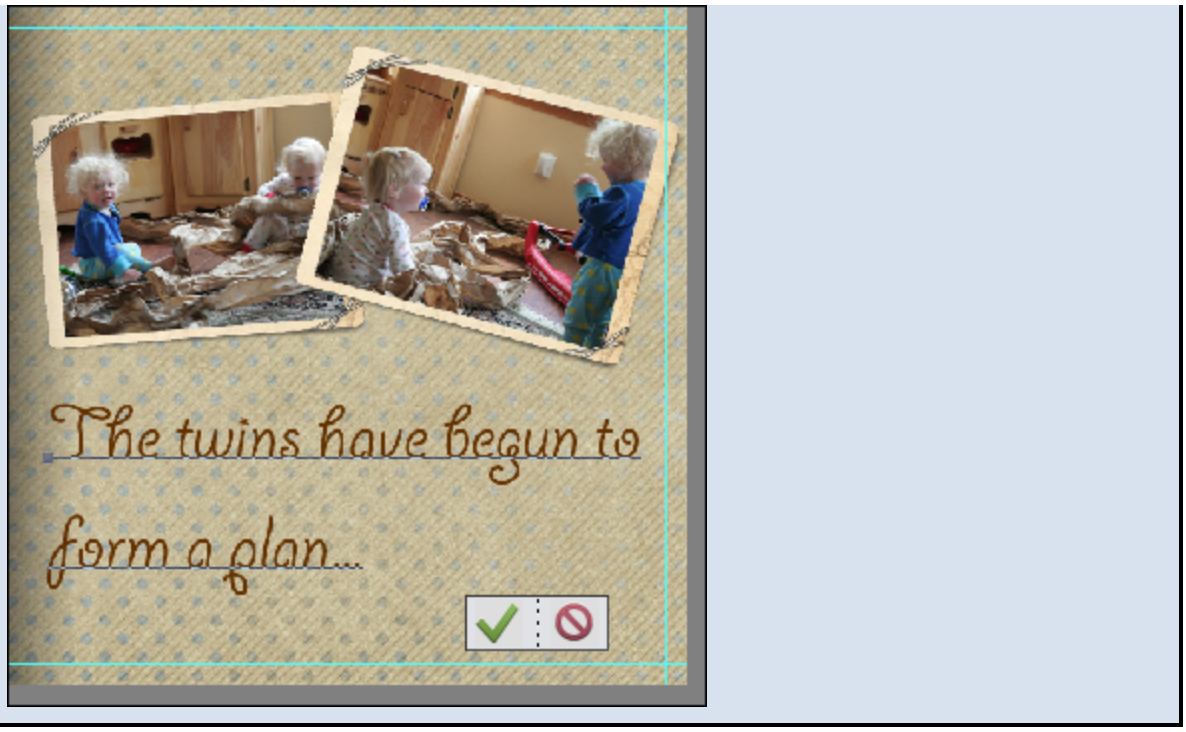
Organize and Catalog

As you bring photos into Photoshop Elements, the program keeps track of them in the Organizer. In the Organizer, you can place groups of photos into theme-specific albums, tag your photos with keywords, and search for specific photos based on a variety of criteria. You can also define the people who are in your photos, the places where photos were taken, and the events during which they were taken. See Chapters 3 and 4 for more on the Organizer.



Put Your Photos to Work

After you edit your photographs, you can use them in a variety of ways. Photoshop Elements enables you to print your images, save them for the web, or bring them together in a slide show. You can share your photos on Facebook directly from the Organizer. You can also create photo books, calendars, and other projects. For more on creating and printing your photo projects, see Chapters 16 and 17.



Understanding Digital Images

To work with photos in Photoshop Elements, you must first have them in a digital format. When a computer saves a photographic file, it turns the image content into lots of tiny squares called *pixels*. Digital cameras capture their photos as files made up of pixels. Editing a digital image is mostly about recoloring and rearranging pixels, at least on a small scale. Using Photoshop Elements can be a little easier when you remember this. This section introduces you to some important basics about how computers store images in digital form.

Acquire Photos

You can acquire photographic images to use in Photoshop Elements from a number of sources. You can download photos to Photoshop Elements from a digital camera, memory card, or photo CD. You can scan photographs, slides, or artwork and then import the images directly

into the program. You can also bring in photos that you have downloaded from the web. For more on importing photos, see Chapter 2.

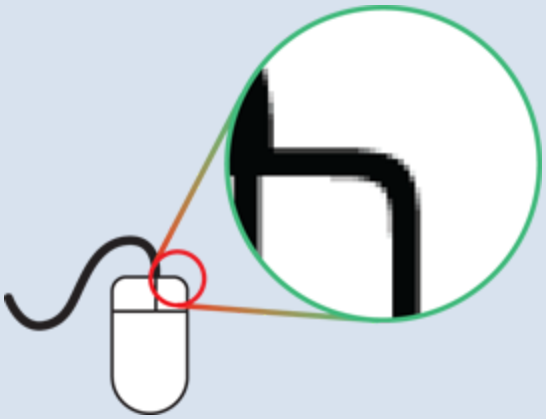
Understanding Pixels

Digital images that you download from a camera consist of pixels, each composed of a single color. Photoshop Elements works its magic by rearranging and recoloring these pixels. You can edit specific pixels or groups of pixels by selecting the area of the photo you want to edit. If you zoom in close, you can see the pixels that make up your image. Chapter 5 covers the Zoom tool.

Bitmap Images

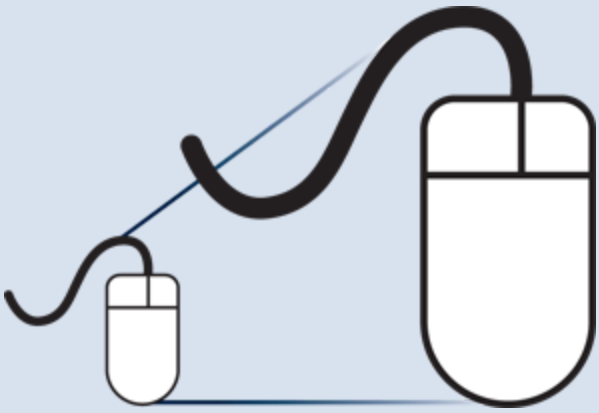
Images composed of pixels are known as *bitmap images* or *raster images*. The pixels are arranged in a rectangular grid, and each pixel includes information about its color and position. Most of the time when you are working in

Photoshop Elements, you are working with bitmap content.



Vector Graphics

The other common way of displaying pictures on your computer is with vector graphics. Vector graphics encode image information by using mathematical equations instead of pixels. Unlike raster images, vector graphics can change size without a loss of quality. When you add shapes or text to your photos in Photoshop Elements, you are working with vector graphics.



Supported File Formats

Photoshop Elements supports a variety of file types you can both import and export. Popular file formats include BMP, PICT, TIFF, EPS, JPEG, GIF, PDF, PNG, and PSD, which stands for Photoshop Document. Files that you

save in the PSD, TIFF, and PDF formats can include layers and other information that cannot be saved with the other formats.

For images published on the Internet, JPEG, GIF, and PNG are the most common formats.

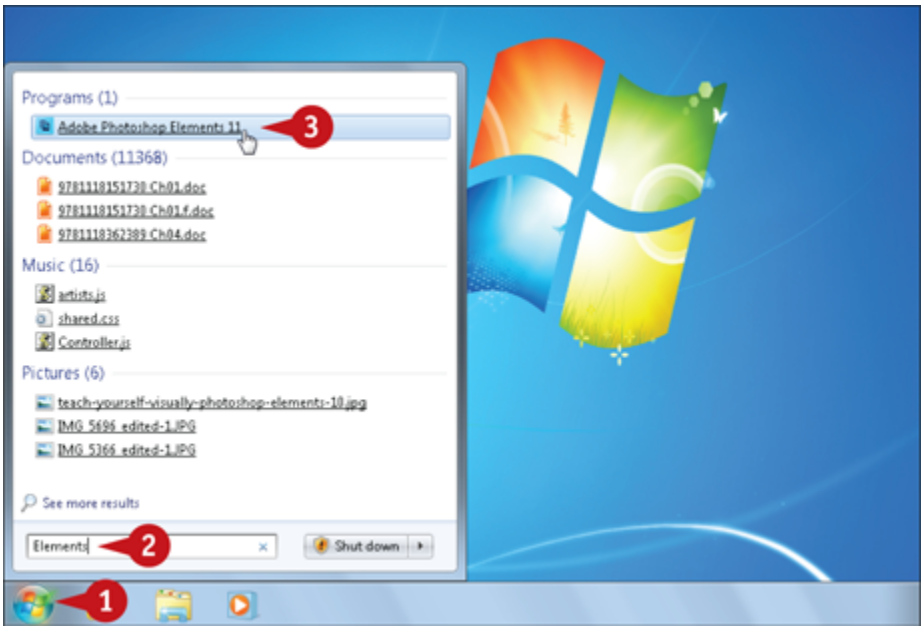
File Size

An important way file formats differ from one another is the amount of storage they take up on your computer. File formats such as PSD and TIFF tend to take up more space because they faithfully save all the information that your camera or other device originally captured. Those formats can also include multiple layers. JPEG, GIF, and PNG files, on the other hand, are built to be sent over the Internet and usually sacrifice some quality for the sake of compactness.

Start Photoshop Elements

After you install Photoshop Elements, you can start it to begin creating and editing digital images. Common ways of obtaining and installing the program include from a DVD or from downloading it from Adobe over the Internet. On a PC, you can access Photoshop Elements as you do other programs — through the Start menu. On a Mac, you can access it through the Finder in the Applications folder or through Launchpad.

Start Photoshop Elements



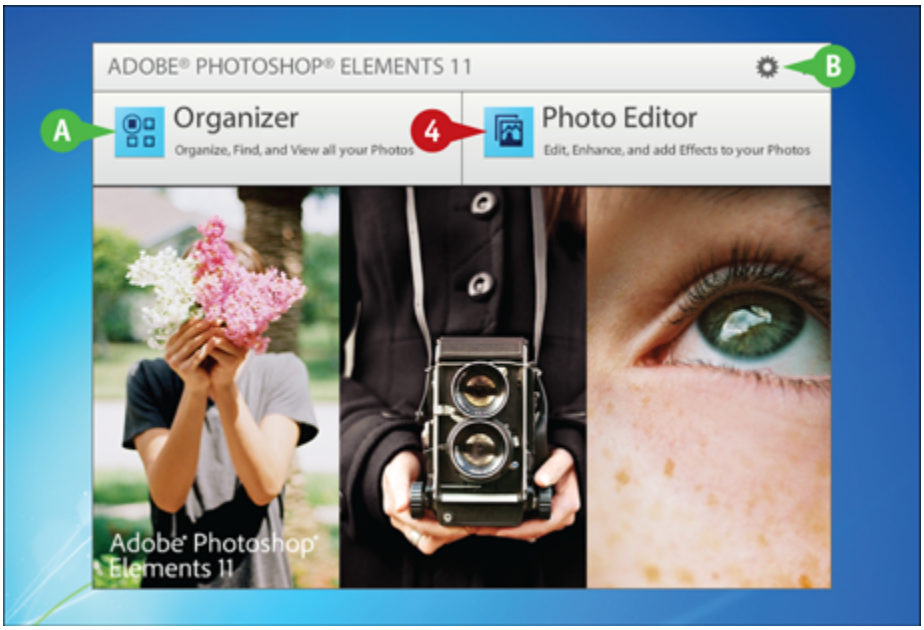
1. Click **Start**.
2. Type **Elements** in the search box.

Windows displays a list of search results.

3. Click **Adobe Photoshop Elements 11**.

The Photoshop Elements welcome screen opens.

The welcome screen enables you to access the two different workspaces in Photoshop Elements.



4 Click **Photo Editor**.

The Photoshop Elements Editor opens.

A You can click **Organizer** to open the Organizer.

B You can click ⚙ to access the startup settings.

Explore the Editor Workspace

In the Photoshop Elements Editor, you can use a combination of tools, menu commands, and panel-based features to open and edit your digital photos. You can switch between editing modes to access different tool and panel arrangements. The main Editor pane displays the photos that you are currently modifying. To open the Editor, click **Photo Editor** on the welcome screen.