



Photoshop Elements 8: Top 100 Simplified Tips and Tricks (Top 100 Simplified Tips & Tricks)

Rob Sheppard

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Product Description

Photoshop Elements combines an easy-to-use set of features and enhancements with image editing power in an affordable program. The newest version—Photoshop Elements 8—features more online integration with products like the new Flash-based Web galleries.

Packed with beyond-the-basic techniques that show you how to take your Photoshop Elements skills to the next level, this invaluable book reveals ground-breaking ideas and innovative tips and tricks for taking digital images from basic know-how to creative wow!

- Provides adventurous Photoshop Elements users with a visual reference on how to use the bells and whistles found in the latest version of the software, Photoshop Elements 8
- Distinguishes itself as not your ordinary how-to guide by revealing the best features of Photoshop Elements 8
- Offers easy-to-follow, full color step-by-step instructions and detailed imagery throughout

Take your image editing skills to new heights with the featured Photoshop Elements 8 tips and tricks.

Photoshop Elements 8 Tips for Getting Started

Amazon-exclusive content from author Rob Sheppard



1. Work the photo, not the program. It is easy to get overwhelmed by the software and forget what is really important -- your photograph! Do what you need for the photograph, not what you think you should do in the program.

2. Save the originals. Whenever you open a photo into Photoshop Elements, immediately do a “Save As” to create a new image file for you to work on. This allows you to preserve the original file so that it cannot be affected directly and you will always have it if you run into problems with your work later.

3. Always back up your photos. Big external hard drives are very inexpensive now. Copy your digital photos from their folders on your computer to an external drive so that you have at least one complete copy of all of your images for back up. There is a saying in the industry, “It isn’t ‘if’ your hard drive will fail, but when.” Be prepared for that “when” by backing up your photos. Many hard drives now come with automated backup software that can help.

4. Right-click your mouse for more information. Photoshop Elements is filled with extremely helpful context-sensitive menus. They are only accessible when you right-click on a part of the interface. Right-click on the photo and you get a menu related to the tool you are using. Right-click in the layer panel and you get an entirely different menu. If you are working with a Mac, get and use a right-click mouse.

5. Remember the “undo” command. Use Control + Z for Windows and Command + Z for the Mac. This is very freeing because it means you cannot hurt your photo as you work. If anything doesn’t look right, just undo it.

6. Consider using RAW files. RAW files offer you more flexibility in processing your photos and can be processed with Photoshop Elements, in its Camera Raw software. RAW is not arbitrarily better than JPEG but can give you better results if you are willing to work with it and use its flexibility in processing.

7. Learn layers. Layers seem intimidating to many photographers, yet once you start using them, you will find all sorts of ways to use them in order to make your image processing faster, better and more flexible.

8. Never worry about knowing everything in Photoshop Elements. Learn and use what is most appropriate to your photography. After all, Ansel Adams could only make his prints bigger or smaller, lighter or darker, more or less contrasty, as well as lighter/darker or more/less contrasty in small areas, and that was about it. Yet look at what he accomplished with these “limited” controls.

9. Practice makes perfect. The way to get better with Photoshop Elements and to work faster and more efficiently with your images is to spend some time with Elements. You have to put in the time in order to save time later. Playing around with lots of photos, seeing what all the controls do, failing as well as succeeding, will all help you become a better photo processor with Elements.

10. Feel free to experiment. If you aren’t sure how a control works, or even if you should use it at all, just try it. As long as you do not save your work over the image file, you cannot hurt your photo. If you experiment and it doesn’t work, simply undo the changes or go to the Undo History panel to back up in your adjustments.

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