



# The Phoenix Project

## Adobe Photoshop Elements 2.0

corning  
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### Image Editing Tools & Techniques for Beginners

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#### OBJECTIVES

##### Introduction to Digital Editing

- Digital photo characteristics
- Trimming or cropping images
- Sizing, saving and storing images
- Sharpen, balance and other tips
- Create a Web photo gallery

##### Disk Resources

- Example jpeg file for the exercise
  - Internet Resources: Word file
  - Images for Web album exercise
  - Trial versions of PE2.0 (Mac & PC)
  - Color Chart: Gif file
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#### INSTRUCTOR'S NOTE

The goal of this workshop is to offer a practical introduction to digital image editing using *Adobe Photoshop Elements 2.0*, software included with the fourth edition of the book, *Digital Photography for Dummies*, and packaged with some models of digital camera. This workshop focuses on modifications to photographs, however, the issues covered are relevant to a range of images created for Web and print production. The *Appendix* contains additional information for future reference. The *Internet Resources* Microsoft Word file on the disk is an interactive copy of the printed version available in this booklet. **Note:** Computer techniques described are based on the Windows 2000 operating system and may vary on other systems. A free 30-day trial version of Photoshop Elements 2.0 is available on the CD provided, and the new 3.0 trial version is available from Adobe's Web site at: <http://www.adobe.com/products/tryadobe/main.jsp>

### Introduction to Digital Editing

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# INTRODUCTION TO PHOTOSHOP ELEMENTS

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## WHY ADOBE PHOTOSHOP ELEMENTS?

### IMAGE EDITING BASICS—a note about digital camera photos

Let's say you took pictures with a digital camera; what do you do with them? Here is your chance to edit a photo taken with a digital camera to give you a good idea how to approach the subject of digital editing. Most digital cameras already take photos in *jpeg* format, but keep in mind they can take different levels of *quality*; i.e. how *compressed* the photo will be to start with *before* you begin to edit in software like Adobe Photoshop Elements, the software chosen for this exercise. Usually the camera settings are something like *good*, *better*, and *best*; the better the setting, the better the quality of the photo, and the *less* compressed it is at the start (and the *larger* the file size). In addition, most digital cameras are set to take pictures at a resolution of 72 pixels per inch, which is great for the Web, but not for printing (we'll cover that later). It's a good idea to take a higher quality image in case you need to print the image later. Whatever software you use to edit your photos, remember to keep the original *unedited* photo as a backup for future use, just in case. Before launching into Photoshop Elements, let's briefly discuss some software choices and editing recommendations to provide background on some of the issues digital image editors face today.



### What Software Should I use?

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There are many tools available on the market to edit digital images, with new versions of software appearing every year. However, the trend in tools is towards user friendliness and creative power, and many tools are available as free trials that offer you a valuable opportunity to try something new before investing loads of your time and money; I've listed several Web sites where you can get free trials on great software in the **Appendix**. In fact, blame or credit the Internet with giving you many opportunities to find and try new tools to see what suits your creative style. Simply put, five years from now we don't know what software will dominate the market, but you still have a job to do and you will need software to solve similar issues you face now. Moreover, all software is not the same in price; in fact they vary widely, so that is another consideration. In addition, your computer may already have some kind of software loaded for image editing. Microsoft usually bundles simple editing software with the operating system, and *Word* offers some picture tools to edit images but the edited photo becomes part of a Word document, even if the document contains no text. These programs are more limited than the recommendations below for those who would like software with greater image editing capabilities.

### Image Editing Software Recommendations

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**Adobe Photoshop Elements** is a reasonable place to start; it's easy to use, comes bundled with some digital cameras and books such as *Digital Photography for Dummies*, and is cross-platform, which means it is available for PCs and Macs. If you find yourself ready for *more* robust software, my suggestion is to download free trials of the following options from their respective Web sites before making a decision: **Adobe Photoshop** and **Jasc Paint Shop Pro**. Both are excellent for editing images, but some people like one over the other for various reasons; be aware the free trial for Photoshop will not let you save your trial work, but you can with Paint Shop Pro. Moreover, Paint Shop Pro is less expensive, but also less robust than Photoshop in some features. Photoshop is the more robust version of Photoshop Elements. Try the imaging software that came with your camera or computer first so you know what you like or don't like about it *before* investing in other software. **Note:** We are using Photoshop Elements version 2.0 (a new 3.0 version is available as of Fall 2004). For *Windows*, Photoshop Elements 2.0 requires one of the following operating systems: 98, 98 SE, Me, 2000, or XP. The next page provides a look at the menus and tools available in Photoshop Elements.

