

Editing Made Easy

Enhance your photo-editing prowess with Adobe Elements.

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For years, professional photographers have relished the endless editing capabilities found in Adobe Photoshop. But the program's sophistication can overwhelm new and even advanced photographers who are trying to edit their digital camera's images.

Adobe's first solution to this problem was releasing a simpler version of Adobe Photoshop with some disabled functions, but it still had the look and feel of a professional program.

Now the company is trying a new approach with Adobe Elements, which has the same power of Adobe Photoshop with a friendlier interface that excels at correcting common photo problems.

The Elements toolbox has a slightly different configuration than Photoshop but features most of the same basic tools. Some of the more advanced editing tools have been removed to make room for new ones, including a handy device that allows you to replace a subject's red eyes with a specific color choice.

Flash Fill will lighten midtones, and Adjust Backlighting can correct exposure gaffes. Variations provides a simple side-by-side comparison of color correction possibilities so you can see changes immediately.

You can also merge several photos into a panoramic image using the new function called Photomerge. In order for it to work smoothly, you'll need images that contain data overlap of about 30 to 40 percent. The program can automatically or manually align the images into a single panorama.

Adobe Elements also makes it easy to prepare images for the Web, e-mail and printer output. The Save for Web command allows you to optimize graphics and even produce your own Web pages with the Web Photo Gallery. With the Picture Package, you can print multiple copies of a photo on a single sheet of paper, create a digital contact sheet and vary the size of the images.

We use Elements for editing underwater images and find it a great program for both beginner- and advanced-level editors,



NOTICEABLE IMPROVEMENT An underexposed shot of an anemone (top) is transformed into a vibrant underwater image by using Adobe Elements' levels editor and brightness controls.

especially with a cost of less than \$100. The features lend themselves well to both scanned images and those taken with digital cameras.

Adobe Elements works with Windows 98, Windows 98 Second Edition, Windows ME, Windows 2000, Windows NT 4.0. It also works with Macintosh OS 8.6, 9.0, 9.0.4 or 9.1.

For more information regarding Elements, go online and check out Adobe's Web site at www.adobe.com.

Send us your questions at digitalduo@jackandsuedrafaahl.com. And check out our new book, *Digital Imaging for the Underwater Photographer*, which is available online at www.amherstmedia.com or www.jackandsuedrafaahl.com.