

# NEWSLETTER

December 2016



## Elements 15

I am sure you all are aware of the latest edition of Photoshop Elements, the fifteenth in the series but is it worth buying? I think the decision is up to the individuals but here are some of the new features being touted by Adobe:

- Use smart tags to organize images
- Quick facial feature edits
- Create word 'cutouts' out of images
- Create collages
- Add motion blur to images
- Turn images into paintings
- Create custom frames

In addition they are claiming enhanced versions of some existing features such as:

- Improved search
- Guided Edits
- Social and sharing
- Batch editing
- Find filters easier
- eLive tutorials

All of these can be checked out on the Adobe website by clicking [here](#) but here are a couple of examples of the changes.

The layout and UI are pretty similar to Elements 14 but Adobe has worked on further automating the organization and editing processes to make it easier and quicker to use. This includes the introduction of more Guided Edits and easier ways to search for photos. The Organizer and Quick Edit modes are also touch friendly so when working with touchscreens, users can simply tap the screen to find, sort and make quick

changes to photos. Instant Fix has had a few tweaks so batch photos can be edited faster and filters can be accessed more easily. Other interesting new features include tools for editing facial features and various ways to get a little more creative with your photos. There are also improved tutorials and sharing images to social media is easier to do.

Elements 15 offers several levels of editing, from quick and basic photo fixes and easy-to-use editing workflows to advanced color correction and composition in the Editor workspace.

There are now 45 guided edits which covers a lot of different scenarios, here is just a couple.

Pictures as Text.

You can now easily create words from your images with a step-by-step guide that makes the process easy and quick to complete. As well as creating the word with various font styles and font sizes, you can also add drop shadows, embossing and lines to the text. It's a tool that fans of scrapbooking or collage creation will find particularly useful.



## Edit Facial Features

You can transform frowns into smiles, adjust squinting eyes and make other quick tweaks to portraits with the help of simple sliders. Edits are applied live which speeds the adjustment process up and there's also a quick 'revert' button should you make any changes you don't like. Although, this does remove all the changes you've made not just the previous edit so you have to start from scratch again.



From this.....To this



## Speed-Pan



Speed-Pan adds motion blur behind your subject to create a sense of speed in your shot and it actually works really well. The Quick Selection tool is a little fiddly to use but you can adjust the edit once it's applied to add / remove blur from your photo.

Elements 15 has a few new useful tools, a lot of which are automated, as well as improvements to existing features and as the price is still very reasonable, it makes it a good choice for those just stepping into the World of photo editing. The software offers far more options and controls than free software that's available.

Elements 15 is ideal for anyone wanting to edit images easily, with the help of the software if needs be, without having to pay a monthly subscription to do so. The software is a easy to learn how to use and the amount of auto features available means you don't have to apply any manual edits if you really don't want to.

You can read reviews on several websites, just do a Google search for Elements 15.

Whether you buy or not is up to the individual. I believe there are enough improvements in this edition to warrant buying if you have versions 12 or older. Newer version owners may want to wait for the next update. Unlike previous releases there has been a lot of discounting and I have seen version 15 on sale for as little as \$35. Right now (beginning of December) you can still buy it for as little as \$42.99 at Target and B&H had a one day special at \$37! If you want to buy look all over the web and do several searches it will pay off!

Well that is all for the December edition of the Elements Newsletter and this completes **ten years** of publishing! When I put together the first edition we were using Photoshop Elements 4 and now we are talking about 15! Boy time flies, a lot has happened over this period but we are still hanging in!

I hope everyone has a great Christmas and look forward to seeing you in 2017.