

Photoshop Elements SIG – September 10, 2008

by John Durrett

Using Quick Fix

Open **Photoshop Elements** into the **Organizer**. Find a **picture** you want to improve, single click **on the image**, and select **Edit > Quick Fix** from the drop down menu under the Edit icon in the upper right corner (of PE 6). You can also download the December 12, 2007 PE SIG notes from our Computer Booters web site (www.computerbooters.com).

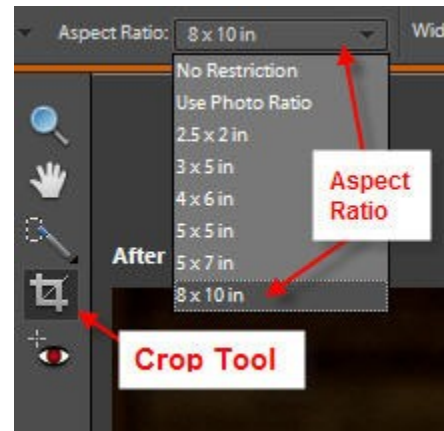
Cropping and Basic Photo Enhancement

This is a picture I took of flowers at one of the dinner tables at the conference.



The photo is very dark. The flowers are in focus, but the woman is not and is a distraction in the shot. So the first thing I want to do is Crop the picture so only the flowers are remaining. Then I will fix the color and contrast. I select the **Crop Tool** in the left hand side of the screen by clicking on the Crop icon. Then I change the **Aspect Ratio of the Crop** to 8x10 in before I do the actual Crop. I could crop to the default of No Restriction on the Aspect Ratio, but I

prefer starting with one of the more common print sizes for my printer – just in case I may want to get a print some day. I can always make it smaller, but I can't always regain that 4 to 5 ratio.



After you have expanded and placed the Crop rectangle where you want it, click on the **Commit check mark** or hit the Enter key to set the Crop.



That's a nice shot, but we need to recapture some brightness. The process using **Quick Fix** is to try a fix, and if you don't like it, enter **Ctrl + Z** to go back one step. That will remove the last correction. Then try again. For **this photo**, I used **Auto Levels**, **Auto Contrast** and **Auto Color** sequentially. I like this result.



Second Photo - Basic Crop and Fix

This was a photo I took of friends at the dinner table. It has some distracting background, and can be cleaned up a little.



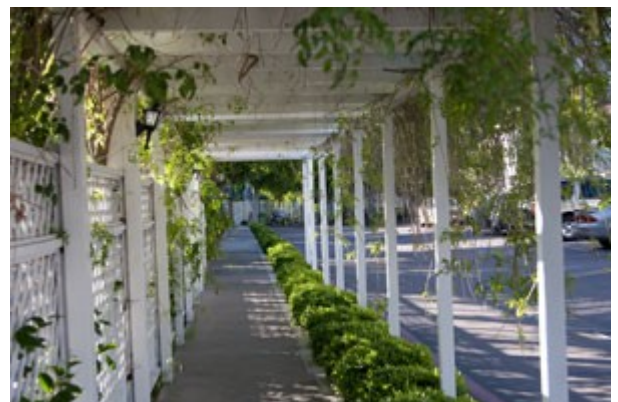
I used the **Crop Tool** at the 10x8 in setting to remove some of the unneeded background. Then I increased the slider for the **Darken Highlights** just a little to take some of the glare off her face.



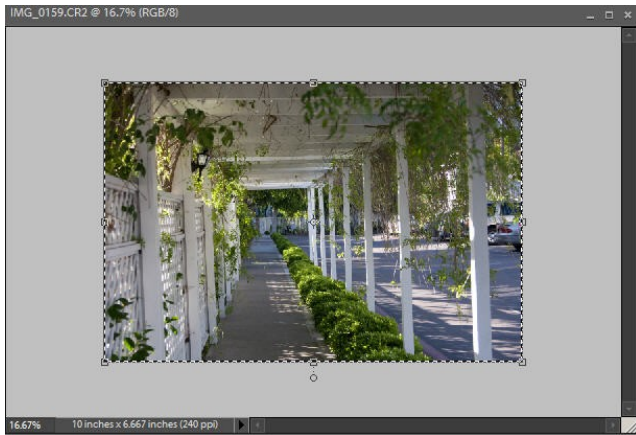
This is a great shot of the couple. Their smiles really stand out in this final version.

Correcting Tilted Pictures

I am not always able to hold the camera level when I take a shot. Sometimes I am in a hurry, and don't watch those details. We can correct this in the **Full Edit** mode. This is a nice shot of an arbor at the hotel, but something is off. It just doesn't look right.



The color and contrast on this picture are good, but the arbor seems tilted. I need to select the entire picture, and I can do that using **Select > All** from the menu. Then I grab the lower right hand corner of the layout and pull it open so I can **see the corners of the original image**.



I select the **Move Tool** (the top icon on the left side), and place my mouse just **outside the bottom right corner** until I see the **two headed arrow**. I click the mouse on that arrow, and **rotate the picture** slightly clockwise until the columns are vertical. It is really amazing that they all line up pretty well. Click the **check mark** to commit to the current operation and lock in that rotation. Choose **Select > Deselect** to remove the selection lines around the image.



Next step is to use the **Crop Tool** to crop the picture within the image to remove those white triangles at the corners. You can use a No Restriction crop or a 10x8 in crop (that's what I did here and removed the cars from the right side).



I like this final version much better than the original.

Final Thoughts

This is all fairly basic, and suitable for both beginners and advanced photographers. Sometimes Basic is good enough.

jdurrett@gmail.com