

Learn **Adobe Photoshop**
Elements **3**
in a Day

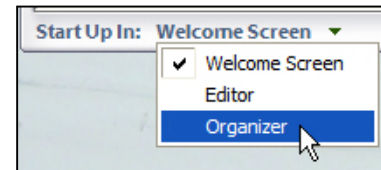
The following
pages contain an
example section
from the book.

For Macintosh Users:

1. To start Photoshop *Elements*; click on the **Applications** icon in the Dock.
2. Find the *Adobe Photoshop Elements* folder and double-click on it to open it.
3. In that window, double-click on the **Photoshop Elements** program icon. The program should start.
4. The **Welcome Screen** will probably appear. Click on the **Quickly Fix Photos** button. If the program starts up in another mode, click the **Quick Fix** button.

**Q-Tip: The Welcome Screen**

If you get tired of seeing the Welcome screen every time you start *Elements*, you can select other ways for the program to start. Next time you launch the program, near the bottom left of the screen, click next to **Start Up In:** and drag down to select **Editor** or **Organizer** (Windows only). To see the Welcome screen again select *Window>Welcome*.

**Bringing in Images**

Before you can edit your photos, you need to get them into the computer. *Elements* is quite adept at doing this in a variety of ways. In this tutorial, we already have the images you'll need to work with on the CD-ROM, but in actual work you can use PSE to import images directly from your scanner or digital camera without having to leave the program. The Windows version includes a utility called the Adobe Photo Downloader, which automatically brings any images into the Organizer from a digital camera, card reader, disk, or USB drive. It does not automatically *transfer* the files; rather, it creates thumbnails that represent the files, and then allows you to transfer all pictures. On a Macintosh, *iPhoto* usually kicks into effect whenever the computer encounters any new image files.

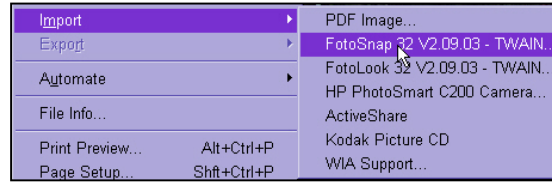
In *Elements*, you can also view thumbnails of a folder of image files via the *File>Browse Folders* command, but I find that this slows the computer down a great deal, so I tend to avoid its use. You can have as many images open at once, as your computer's memory will allow. Let's open our first file.

1. Drag down in the **File** pull-down menu to select **Open**.
2. Navigate in the dialog box to the disk or network drive that contains the tutorial files. Click **Open**.
3. Navigate to the *Elements Tutorial Photos* folder. Click the **Open** button.
4. Click once on the *A First Time* file. Click **Open**.



Q-Tip: Scanning Pictures

After completing this tutorial, you may wish to import pictures from a scanner. Use the **File>Import** command (Mac), or click the **Get Photos** button in the Organizer (Windows) and select the driver for your scanner or digital camera. You may first need to install software that came with your scanner or camera. The computer will bring up the scanning software that came with your scanner and then bring your scan into *Elements*.



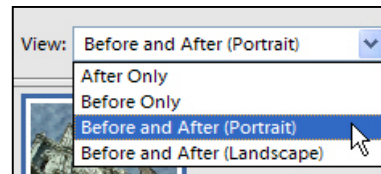
Q-Tip: Turning off Auto-Download

On Windows computers, *Elements* is set to automatically generate thumbnails of every image it encounters. If you have disks or camera cards with a lot of images on them you may not wish to take the time to have *Elements* import and categorize every picture. It's easy to turn this feature off. While in the Organizer, select **Edit>Preferences>Camera or Card Reader...** Then, switch off **Get Photos Using Adobe Photo Downloader**. On a Macintosh, you might want to turn auto-download off in the *iPhoto* program.

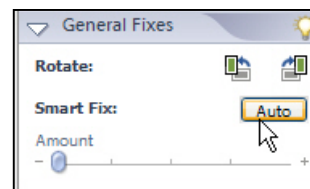
Quick Fix Mode

A good place to start in image editing is to try out some of the Quick Fix techniques. Besides being easy, Quick Fix also comes in handy when you need to tweak a few photos in a hurry. Once you understand its options, the Quick Fix mode allows you to do a remarkably good job of cleaning up many of the most common problems in your photos. In a few minutes, we'll move on to the Standard Edit mode to explore many of the techniques that give you greater control of image editing. But for now, let's apply some quick fixes.

1. Below the lower-left corner of the picture, drag down in the **View:** box to select **Before and After (Portrait)** (**Portrait**). Now you have a split-screen view in which to track your changes.



2. In the top palette on the right side of the screen (**General Fixes**), next to **Smart Fix:** click the **Auto** button. Did that help? Maybe that was too much.
3. Click the **Reset** button just above the right picture.
4. Try clicking **Auto** in the other three palettes: **Lighting**, **Color**, and **Sharpen**.



5. Reset the image and try using the sliders in each palette instead.
6. The image is probably getting pretty ugly, so click **Reset** and let's go into Standard Edit mode.

Standard Edit Mode

To get more control over our images we are going into Standard Edit mode.

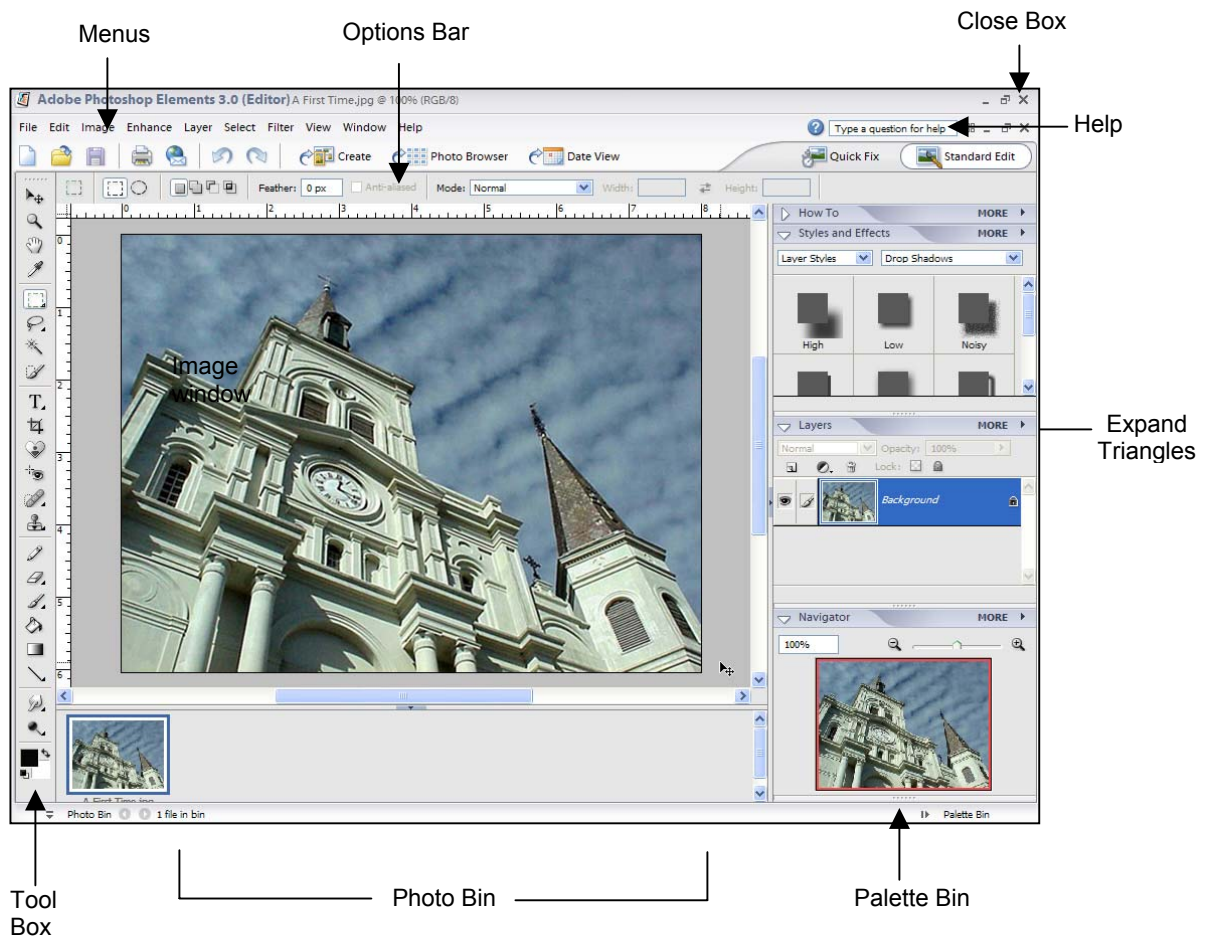
1. Click the **Standard Edit** button in the upper-right corner.



Now the screen is a lot more complicated and our simple auto fix palettes on the right side of the screen are replaced with a set of more complex adjustment palettes.

Exploring the Interface

The main screen, as shown below, is the control center of the program. This interface is the place from which you open files and proceed to various activities.



You can select Photoshop *Elements* tools and features in any combination of three ways: Choose commands from the pull-down menus; click on icons in palettes (windows with tools); or use keyboard shortcuts (pressing one or two keys on the keyboard).