

Digital Photo Editing with Photoshop Elements – Workshop Exercise 5

We will try ways to crop and transform an image, including the crop and straighten tools. We will also look at Divide Scanned Photos, Image Size, and Canvas Size commands.

Straighten and Crop Image: Launch the Organizer, navigate to PSE Lab Images and select *Me at 21.jpg* from the *Lesson 05* folder, and open the Full Editor in PSE. Choose Image > Rotate > Straighten and Crop Image. After a moment you will see an image that is turned even more than before. What has happened is that this PSE command has been fooled by the blue background and the dust in it. This command only works well when the background is completely white. So undo this using Edit > Undo or Ctrl+Z.

Divide Scanned Photos: Now choose Image > Divide Scanned Photos, and in a moment PSE successfully rotates and crops the photo. This command is more powerful, however. To demonstrate this close *Me at 21.jpg*, and open *The gang.jpg*. This is a collection of 7 images that were scanned all at once on a flatbed scanner. Now choose Image > Divide Scanned Photos, and wait while PSE does its work. After it is complete you can choose Window > Images > Cascade and then drag the images around the workspace to see them. You can see that it has performed very well. It even succeeded with the perforated edge of the stamp. However, the cat needs to be rotated, and you can do this by choosing Image > Rotate > 90° Right. Regarding saving photos, usually you will do best by choosing JPEG format and a high Quality setting. But high-contrast artwork, such as stamps, can suffer when JPEG attempts to modify image details. For this type of artwork it is better to save it as a TIFF file. But here in this exercise you probably do not want to save these images at all. Close all the files.

Straighten and Crop Tools: Open *Granary.jpg*, and note that the camera was tilted when the photo was taken. Find the straighten tool on the toolbar and open it. It is the 3rd tool down from the letter T (for the text tool). On the options bar make sure that the Canvas Options is set to Grow Canvas to Fit. Leave Rotate All Layers turned on. Also press the very small icon at the lower left that shows tiny black & white squares. This resets the foreground and background colors to the default black & white. Now click in the sky just above the horizon along the right wall of the granary, and start drawing a straight line to the right-hand edge of the photo. Make sure you make this line parallel to the horizon. When you release the mouse button, PSE rotates the photo to make this line and the horizon horizontal. But now there are some white wedges around the image. Choose the crop tool (right below the T for the text tool). Drag inside the image to select a rectangle around the part of the image you want to keep. Now you are entering the crop mode. From this point until you accept or reject the crop (by entering Enter or Esc or clicking on the appropriate icon at the lower right) most of PSE commands and palettes are unavailable. Change the Aspect Ratio attribute in the options bar by pulling down the menu and selecting 4 x 6 inches. The crop snaps to this aspect ratio. Now you can drag the boundary or any of the 8 square handles around to adjust the crop. The corner handles are helpful here. Drag the center square to move the whole crop rectangle. Press

Alt while dragging to scale with respect to the center of the boundary. So try to capture as much of the original photo as possible while avoiding the wedges. When you are ready click the green check mark or press Enter. Close the file.

Creating a Vignette: Open PSE Lab Images/Lesson 05/sophie-before. We want to work with this portrait and produce a good quality 8 x 10" print on a printer that is capable of 240 dpi resolution. So we want to arrange to make the best use we can of this image that came from a camera, whose sensor produced an image with 1200 x 1600 pixels.

Click on the Crop Tool in the Tool Bin along the left border. Then set the Aspect Ratio to be 8 x 10, and then proceed to crop from the bottom up trying to get the entire width of the photo and moving up as far as this aspect ratio allows. Try starting at the lower right or left corner. Once you have done this accept the crop by clicking on the green checkmark.

Next go to Image > Resize> Image Size (or right click on the upper border of the image). You will see that the image is now 8 x 10", but the resolution is only 149 dpi or pixels / inch. In order to achieve the desired 240 dpi for the printer, we need to Resample the image. So make sure that this check box and the one for Constrain Proportions are checked, and type in 240 for the Resolution desired. When you click OK the image is redone and appears larger, so double click on the Hand Tool. Now check on the Image Size. It now is set for 240 dpi printing, but the size has increased from 5 Mb to 13 Mb.

Duplicate Layer. Select Layer> Duplicate Layer and click OK on the Duplicate Layer box. The Layers window in the Palette Bin on your right now shows the two layers. Click on the Background layer to make it active (it is blue). Click on the Eyedropper Tool (4th from the top), and then select a medium brown color by clicking on a leaf in the background. Note that the Foreground color (lower left) is the same as what you click on. Select Edit > Fill Layer and you will see that in the Layers Window the Background has turned uniformly brown. Select Filter > Texture> Texturizer to get the Texturizer dialog box. Select Canvas as the texture, 100% scaling, and 4 for Relief. Click OK.

Create Vignette. Click the Background copy layer to make it active. Select the Elliptical Marquee Tool. Starting at the upper left make an elliptical selection of her head. If necessary Deselect and try again until you like the selection. Select> Feather and make the Feather Radius 25. Then select what you want to keep by using Select> Inverse. Next click Edit> Cut to remove everything surrounding her head.