

**The files you need to complete Exercise 5 can be downloaded from ImageMedic.com. The zip file will create a folder called “Exercise 5 Files.”**

### **Exercise 5a - Photomerge Panorama (Page 290, Brundage book)**

With each new version of Photoshop Elements, the ability for it to stitch together and blend your sets of panorama shots improves considerably.

1.  From your “**Exercise 5 Files**” folder, open all three files, “**Pano center.jpg**”, “**Pano left.jpg**”, and “**Pano right.jpg**” into *Elements*. [Shortcut: Select all three in Finder and drag them to the *Elements* icon on the dock!]
2.  Examine these three pictures. These three pictures were taken in the middle of a busy street in New York. They were properly taken by pivoting from left to right, taking three shots while overlapping 25% to 30%. The camera was also set on *manual focus and manual exposure* so that there are no focus and exposure changes spread across the three photos.
3.  Select **menu:FILE>NEW>PHOTOMERGE PANORAMA ...** click **OPEN ALL** when prompted
4.  You are next presented with the Photomerge Panorama Open File Dialog Box. On the left side, you can choose between Merge Layouts (or methods). By default, AUTO is selected. *Elements* will examine the photos and decide which method (Perspective or Cylindrical) is most appropriate. Click on **ADD OPEN FILES**. (Of course, this assumes you had opened the three files in Step 1). Then, click **OK**.
5. *Elements* proceeds to put together your panorama and creates a new layered file for you. For larger resolution files, and/or more files in the set, it may take a considerable amount of time as *Elements* and your computer work very hard to stitch and blend. Be patient!!!!

For more complex panoramas, you may need to manually try each method at the start of the merge to optimize your results.

Many times, you will see a resulting image cropped like a bow tie or other shape. This is the result of *Elements* attempting to adjust perspective changes between images (especially when using a wide-angle lens). For these, you will need to *crop* your final image. By the way, this is why I like to take *vertical oriented* images for my panos ... gives me more area to work with when having to crop the final image, but I will have to take more pictures to get it all in.

Don't forget: 1. focus manually on your subject, 2. set your exposure to manual so it doesn't shift - preferably a smaller aperture for good depth-of-field, 3. keep camera glued to your face, 4. *pivot* the camera (and your body) to get pictures from left-to-right, 5. maintain your horizon, keeping your camera straight throughout the set of photos, 6. overlap each shot by 20% to 35%, 7. This all works more reliably with a tripod, 8. Remove glue from face, 9. Name your files, sequentially to easily identify the set later in software. **Read the Help files for more info on advanced features of Photomerge Panorama!! There's a lot more to learn and do if you love Panos!**

### **Exercise 5b - Photomerge Group Shot (Page 299, Brundage book)**

With this **new feature** in *Photoshop Elements 6*, you can mix-and-match people in a series of group photos. This is why professionals take several shots when getting a group together, because some people will have their eyes closed, others might have a sick expression, etc. With this feature, you can pick and choose the best depictions of people from the set of photos to combine them in one final “perfect” group shot.

6.  From your “**Exercise 5 Files**” folder, open both files, “**Group-1.jpg**” and “**Group-2.jpg**” into *Elements*. [Shortcut: Select both in Finder and drag them to the *Elements* icon on the dock!]
7.  Examine these two pictures.
8.  Select menu:**FILE>NEW>PHOTOMERGE GROUP SHOT ...** click **OPEN ALL** when prompted
9.  In the Photomerge Group Shot control panel, the Source photo you see (outlined in blue), will be loaded in the **SOURCE** slot (left). Into the **FINAL** slot (right) drag the other photo - with the yellow border - from the Project Bin at the bottom. **We want to use the baby’s face from the left side in the final picture on the right -- for the perfect family portrait!**
10.  In the **SOURCE** photo (left), select the **PENCIL TOOL** (in the tool bin on the right). Paint over the baby’s face. Like other brushes, you can decrease the size of the brush stroke with the *left bracket key*, or increase the stroke with the *right bracket key*. If you go over, use the **ERASER TOOL**. You will notice that the happier face will transmogrify to the right FINAL photo.
11.  Open up the **ADVANCED** panel on the right. See if **PIXEL BLENDING** helps.
12.  When satisfied, click **DONE** to be returned to the Editor with a new image containing the enhanced group photo. **Notice the layers!** You can now proceed to do further editing, and you can clean up any inconsistencies by first making sure the TOP layer is active (selected) and using the eraser to clean up any stray pixels from the areas that were modified - the baby’s face, in this example.

For future reference, you can use up to ten group photos to pick and choose from for the perfect group shot. Also, this tool works best when the people in the group shots stay in the same relative positions.