

Beginning Post-Processing Suggested Workflow Steps

1. Create a copy of the photo(s) you want to work on.

This can be done in a number of ways and varies from Mac to PC. You could:

- a. Create (name & date) a folder on your computer to store image/s and copy the files to the folder; or
- b. Do a "Save As" from within your post-processing software before starting any edits.

Note: this step is not necessary, per se, if using RAW photos in Lightroom or saving in .PSD format. Elements WILL overwrite a JPEG file.

2. Lens correct if needed. Straighten horizon line if needed.

- Photoshop – Filter: Lens Correction; Image: Rotation
- Elements – Filter: Correct Camera Distortion; Straighten tool
- Lightroom – Optics panel: Enable lens correction; Crop Overlay: Crop & Straighten

3. Crop the photo as desired. You might want to crop to change the composition or to eliminate a distracting element.

Note: when cropping, check the size (aspect ratio) of the resulting image in case you want a specific size for printing., like 8x10 or 5x7.

4. Do changes that affect the entire photo:

Adjust the lighting to perk-up your photo. Adjust the hue and saturation of the colors. "Color balance" can help as well. Using "Exposure" in Photoshop can be touchy to use, but can help with correcting highlights and shadows.

- Photoshop – Image: Adjust: Brightness or Contrast sliders and Image: Adjust: Vibrance or Saturation sliders
- Elements – Enhance: Adjust Lighting: Shadows/Highlights, Brightness/Contrast, or Levels, Enhance: Adjust Color: Adjust Hue/Saturation

OR

Save the photo and re-open the photo in camera raw (File: Open in Camera Raw) and use the sliders. It is recommended to do adjustments in this order: color balance (temperature), exposure, contrast, highlights, shadows, whites, blacks, clarity (which really changes contrast), vibrance, saturation. Then click the Open button to go back to the rest of Elements. The photo does not have to be in RAW format; this works on JPEG photos as well.

- Lightroom – Treatment Panel: WB, Tone, Presence sliders, and HSL/Color panel sliders

Sharpen the photo as needed.

- Photoshop – Filters: Sharpen
- Elements – Enhance: Adjust Sharpness
- Lightroom – Detail Panel: Sharpening

5. Do changes that affect portions of the photo. Use clone/heal, eraser, or adjustment brush tools or use selection tools to pick areas. Then:

- Edit out any undesirable features.
- Darken/lighten specific areas
- Change the background, blur areas
- Add/duplicate other images, text, etc.

6. When finished I suggest you “save as” this latest version (and name it version 1 if you like) and then you can go back to the first “save as” to try other ways of post processing the photo.

Note: PSD format is proprietary to Adobe. If you decide to change away from Adobe software, you may or may not be able to transfer PSD files into the new tool. In that case, all of your edits will be lost.

7. If you need to change the resolution for submission to the Camera Club, for competitions, for email, or for social media , resize the photo and do another “save as”.

- Photoshop – Image: Image Size
- Elements – Image: Resize: Image Size
- Lightroom – File: Export: Image Sizing (be sure to have File Settings set to JPEG)