

ADOBE PHOTOSHOP ELEMENTS 2026 MASTERY GUIDE

Explore Essential Tools, Filters, Layers, Creative Techniques, Smart AI Features, Organizer, and many more with Step-by-Step Instructions

KENNETH RADNOR

Copyright © 2026 by Kenneth Radnor

All Rights Reserved

No section of this book may be copied, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means—whether electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise—without prior written permission from the publisher, except for short excerpts used in reviews or commentary.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

TABLE OF CONTENTS	iii
INTRODUCTION	1
QUICK START GUIDE FOR PHOTOSHOP ELEMENTS 2026.....	1
WHAT'S NEW IN ADOBE PHOTOSHOP ELEMENTS 2026	7
UNDERSTANDING THE NEW 3-YEAR LICENSE MODEL	11
SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS (WINDOWS AND MACOS).....	12
UNLOCK YOUR CREATIVITY WITH PHOTOSHOP ELEMENTS.....	13
CHAPTER ONE	17
GETTING STARTED WITH ADOBE PHOTOSHOP ELEMENTS 2026	17
HOW TO INSTALL ADOBE PHOTOSHOP ELEMENTS 2026.....	17
CUSTOMIZE PHOTOSHOP ELEMENTS FOR THE BEST USER EXPERIENCE	20
IMPORTING PHOTOS	29
CHAPTER TWO	33
UNDERSTANDING IMAGES AND RESOLUTION	33
UNDERSTANDING JPEG, PNG, PSD, TIFF, AND RAW FILE FORMATS	33
What Are Image File Types?	33
Key Factors When Choosing an Image File Type	33
Image file types	34
UNDERSTANDING RESOLUTION	36
UNDERSTANDING IMAGE SIZE.....	37
UNDERSTANDING PIXELS, DPI AND ASPECT RATIOS	38
CROPPING AN IMAGE	40
STRAIGHTENING AN IMAGE	46
RULERS, GRIDS AND GUIDE	49
BEST PRACTICES FOR SAVING AND EXPORTING WORKS.....	51
CHAPTER THREE	59
ESSENTIAL TOOLS AND THEIR FUNCTIONS	59
OVERVIEW OF THE TOOLBAR AND PANELS.....	59
UNDERSTANDING PANELS	60
TOOLS IN ADOBE PHOTOSHOP ELEMENTS.....	66

CHAPTER FOUR.....	71
LAYERS FOR BEGINNERS	71
STARTING FROM SCRATCH	71
WORKING SAFELY WITH LAYERS IN PHOTOSHOP ELEMENTS	73
IMPORTING IMAGES AND CREATING NEW LAYERS IN PHOTOSHOP ELEMENTS..	74
WORKING WITH LAYERS AND THE BOUNDING BOX IN PHOTOSHOP ELEMENTS.	76
EXPLORING LAYER PANEL OPTIONS IN PHOTOSHOP ELEMENTS.....	79
USING BLEND MODES, RENAMING LAYERS, AND ORGANIZING WITH GROUPS IN PHOTOSHOP ELEMENTS	84
WORKING WITH TYPE LAYERS, STYLES, AND ADJUSTMENT LAYERS.....	86
USING LAYER MASKS, SIMPLIFYING LAYERS, AND CREATING CLIPPING MASKS...	90
MERGING AND FLATTENING LAYERS.....	94
BEST PRACTICE FOR SAVING YOUR WORK	95
CHAPTER FIVE.....	96
WORKING WITH TEXT AND SHAPES	96
EDITING TEXT IN A TYPE LAYER	96
Selecting Text	96
Choosing Fonts and Styles	97
Adjusting Font Size	97
Color Fonts.....	97
Change Text Color	98
Apply Styles to Text	98
Warp Text	99
Remove Warp (Unwarp Text).....	99
Change Text Orientation	99
HOW TO USE THE NEW SPELL CHECKER TOOL.....	100
TEXT AND LAYER STYLES	101
CHAPTER SIX.....	106
RETOUCHING AND ENHANCING PHOTOS	106
CORRECTING AND RETOUCHING PHOTOS	106
Adjust Facial Features.....	106

Remove Pet Eye Effect.....	107
Remove Red Eye	108
Open Closed Eyes	109
Move and Reposition Objects	110
HOW TO FIX SKIN TONE QUICKLY IN ADOBE PHOTOSHOP ELEMENTS.....	111
REMOVING THINGS WITH PHOTOSHOP ELEMENTS	119
Remove Spots and Unwanted Objects.....	119
Remove Spots and Small Imperfections.....	122
Fix Large Imperfections with the Healing Brush Tool.....	123
Remove Unwanted Objects with Content-Aware Healing.....	124
Correct Camera Distortion	125
Remove Haze, Fog, or Smog from Photos.....	126
HOW TO CHANGE THE COLOR OF OBJECTS	128
CHAPTER SEVEN	135
SELECTION MADE EASY.....	135
HOW TO USE EVERY SELECTION TOOL LIKE A PRO	135
Advanced Selection Options in Photoshop Elements	138
Using the Lasso Tools, Magnetic Lasso Tool, and the Polygonal Lasso Tool in Photoshop Elements.....	143
Mastering Photoshop Elements Selection Brush and Magic Tools.....	147
Using the Auto Selection and Smart Subject Tools in Photoshop Elements..	152
MERGING PHOTOS.....	154
CREATING A TRANSPARENT WATERMARK THE EASY WAY	159
CHAPTER EIGHT	168
APPLYING FILTERS	168
HOW TO APPLY FILTERS.....	168
FILTER CATEGORIES IN PHOTOSHOP ELEMENTS.....	170
Using Blur Effects.....	170
Noise Filters	173
Custom and Other Advanced Filters	175
CHAPTER NINE.....	178

CREATIVE PHOTO EFFECTS	178
TURN ANY PHOTO INTO A PENCIL SKETCH IN PHOTOSHOP ELEMENTS	178
HOW TO USE TEXTURES	184
GUIDED MODE EDITS.....	187
Double Exposure Guided Edit.....	188
Multi-Photo Text Guided Edit.....	189
Effects Collage Guided Edit	191
Meme Maker Guided Edit	193
Puzzle Effect Guided Edit.....	195
Shape Overlay Effect Guided Edit.....	196
Perfect Portrait Guided Edit	197
Depth of Field Guided Edit	198
CHAPTER TEN	199
GENERATIVE AI.....	199
USING THE INSERT OBJECT TOOL	200
GENERATING NEW IMAGES FROM SCRATCH.....	201
NEW PHOTO RETOUCH TOOL.....	202
ENHANCED REMOVE TOOL: FIND PEOPLE IN THE BACKGROUND	205
NEW “CREATE” MENU INTEGRATION WITH ADOBE EXPRESS	207
NEW TEXT TOOL ENHANCEMENTS AND INTERFACE UPDATES.....	209
ENHANCED CONTEXTUAL TASKBAR AND OTHER NEW FEATURES	211
REMOVING COMPLEX OBJECTS WITH GENERATIVE AI	213
INSERT OBJECT BRUSH — ADD ANYTHING WITH AI!	216
EXTENDING IMAGES WITH AI MAGIC.....	217
REPLACE BACKGROUNDS WITH AI	221
CHAPTER ELEVEN.....	225
PHOTOSHOP ELEMENTS ORGANIZER – EXPLAINED.....	225
LAUNCHING THE ORGANIZER	225
Importing Media.....	226
HOW THE ORGANIZER WORKS	227
WHY USE THE PHOTOSHOP ELEMENTS ORGANIZER?.....	227

ORGANIZING THROUGH TAGS.....	227
Adding Custom Keyword Tags.....	228
Why Tags Matter	229
Creating and Managing Tags	230
Filtering Images by Tags	231
USING ALBUMS FOR ORGANIZATION.....	231
ADVANCED ORGANIZATION IN PHOTOSHOP ELEMENTS ORGANIZER.....	232
Multiple Albums and Album Categories.....	232
Folders vs. Albums.....	233
Tagging People, Places, and Events.....	233
Finding Images Using Metadata	233
Saving and Reusing Searches.....	235
CHAPTER TWELVE.....	236
HOBBY AND CREATIVITY: PHOTO PROJECT.....	236
ADOBE EXPRESS TEMPLATES (NEW IN 2026).....	236
CREATING A CUSTOM TO-DO LIST IN PHOTOSHOP ELEMENTS	239
CHAPTER THIRTEEN	250
PRINTING AND SHARING PHOTOS.....	250
PRINTING PHOTOS IN PHOTOSHOP ELEMENTS	250
PRINTING MULTIPLE PHOTOS ON ONE PAGE IN PHOTOSHOP ELEMENTS 2026	257
SHARING PHOTOS ONLINE	262
INDEX.....	264

INTRODUCTION

Adobe Photoshop Elements 2026 represents the latest evolution in Adobe’s consumer-friendly photo editing suite, blending powerful creativity tools with intelligent automation. Designed for beginners, enthusiasts, and everyday creators, this version continues Adobe’s mission of making professional-quality photo editing accessible to everyone — without the steep learning curve of full Photoshop.

Built on the strength of **Adobe Sensei AI**, Photoshop Elements 2026 introduces a new level of smart editing. From instant background replacement and object removal to automatic color enhancement and portrait retouching, the software handles complex edits in just a few clicks. The 2026 edition also expands its creative capabilities with **AI-generated backgrounds**, enhanced **Generative Fill**, and **refined Guided Edits**, offering users both control and convenience.

Beyond editing, Elements 2026 continues to serve as a complete creative hub. Its **Organizer** helps you effortlessly manage photos, apply AI-powered tags, and find images by people, places, or events. Whether you’re designing collages, greeting cards, social media posts, or video slideshows (with seamless **Premiere Elements integration**), Photoshop Elements 2026 gives you the flexibility to turn simple photos into striking visual stories.

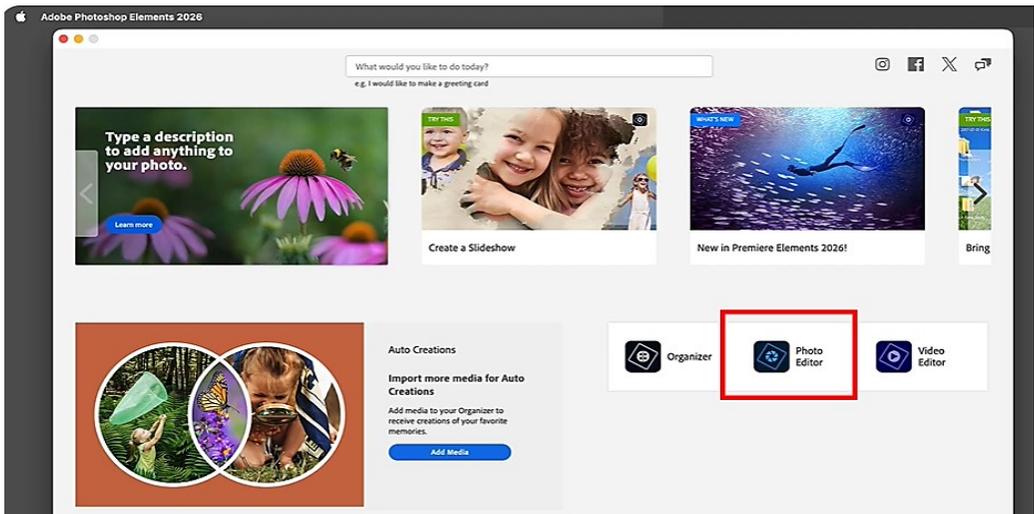
With its updated, intuitive interface, new creative templates, and smarter automation, **Adobe Photoshop Elements 2026** is more than just a photo editor — it’s a digital storytelling platform built for creativity, simplicity, and speed.

QUICK START GUIDE FOR PHOTOSHOP ELEMENTS 2026

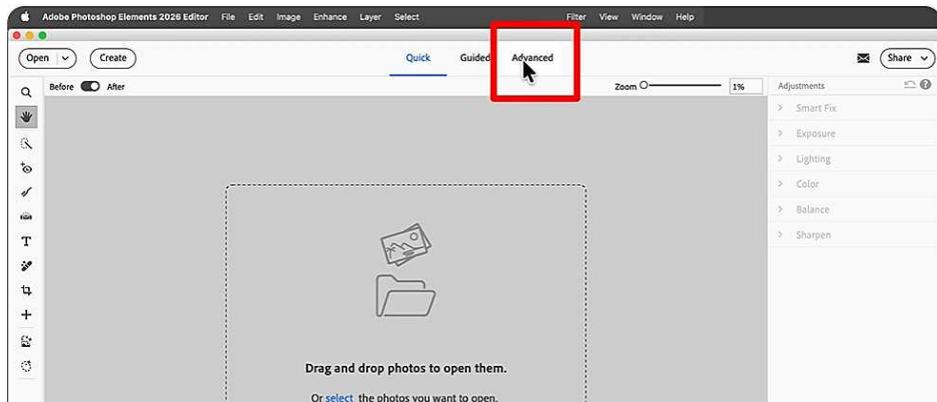
Get started with **Adobe Photoshop Elements 2026** in just **seven simple steps**. This quick guide will help you set up your workspace for a smooth editing experience — perfect for both beginners and digital scrapbookers.

Step 1: Launch and Open a New Document

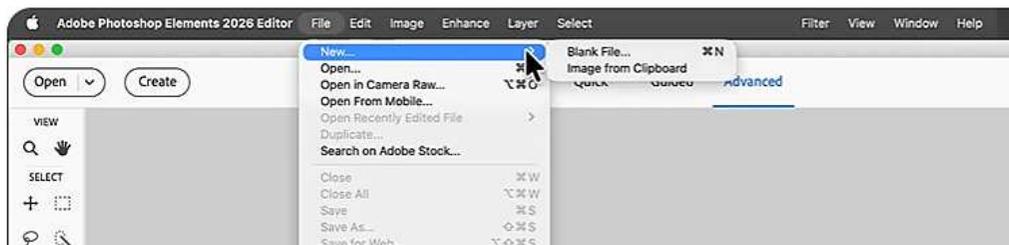
When you open Photoshop Elements 2026, the **Home Screen** appears.



1. Click the **Editor** icon.
2. Select **Advanced Mode** — this is the workspace most instructors use.



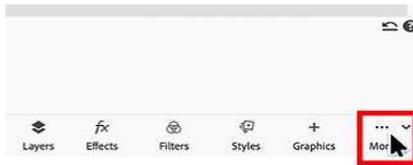
3. To open a document, go to **File > New > Blank File**.



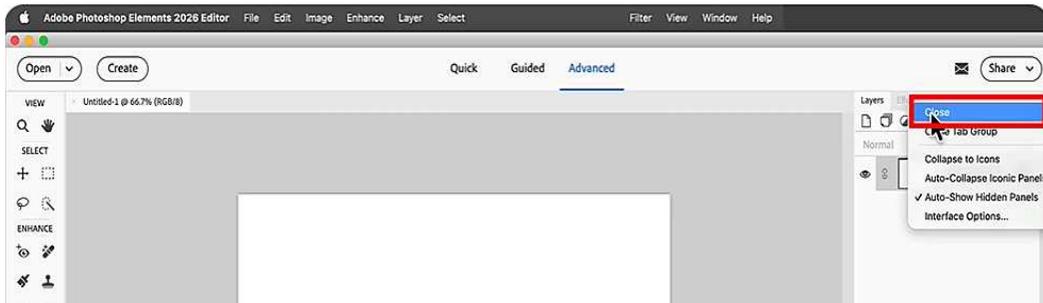
❖ The settings in the dialog box aren't critical for now, so just click **OK**.

Step 2: Create a Custom Workspace

1. In the bottom-right corner, click the **More** dropdown arrow and select **Custom Workspace**.



2. Close all unnecessary panels to declutter your view.
 - ❖ On **Windows**, right-click a panel tab; on **Mac**, Control-click, then choose **Close**.

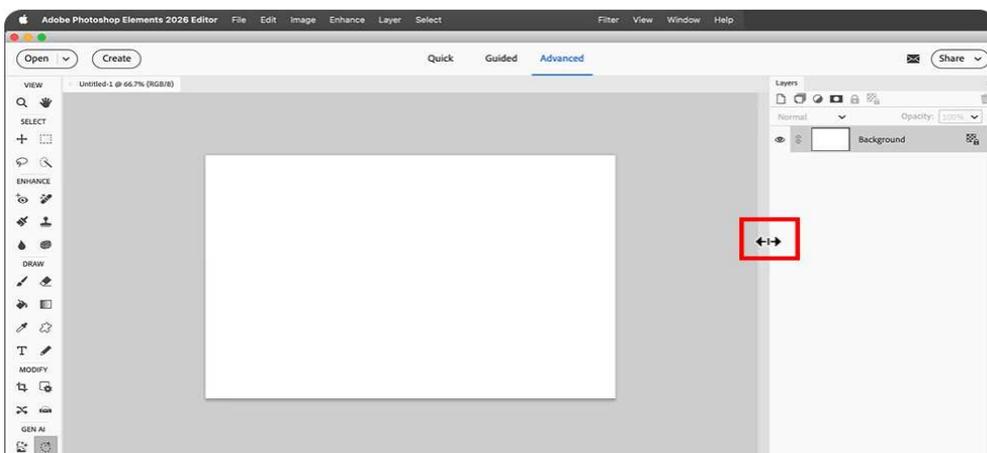


- ❖ Close panels like **Effects**, **Filters**, **Styles**, and **Graphics**.
3. To reopen a panel later, go to **Window** in the menu bar and select the desired panel.

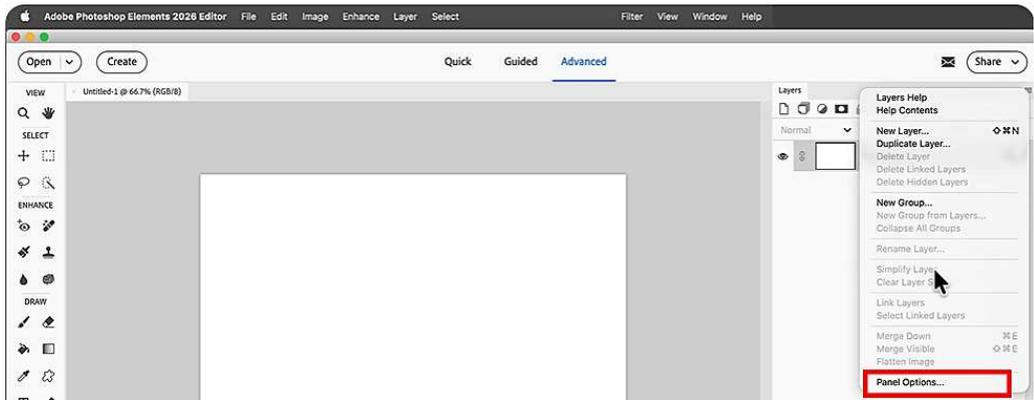
Tip: Keep only the **Layers panel** visible for now — it's the core of most edits.

Step 3: Optimize the Layers Panel

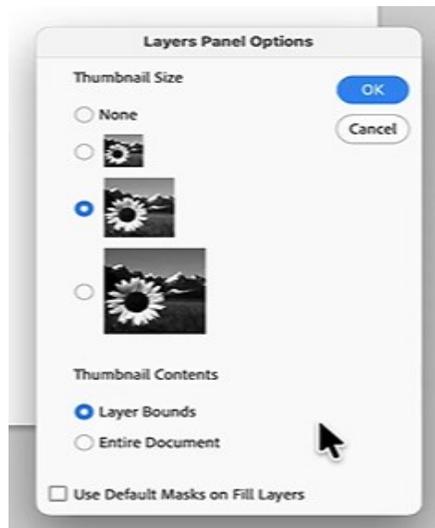
1. Hover over the **left edge** of the Layers panel until a double-headed arrow appears.



2. Drag it left to **widen** the panel for a clearer view of your layers.
3. Open the **Layers Panel Menu** and select **Panel Options**.

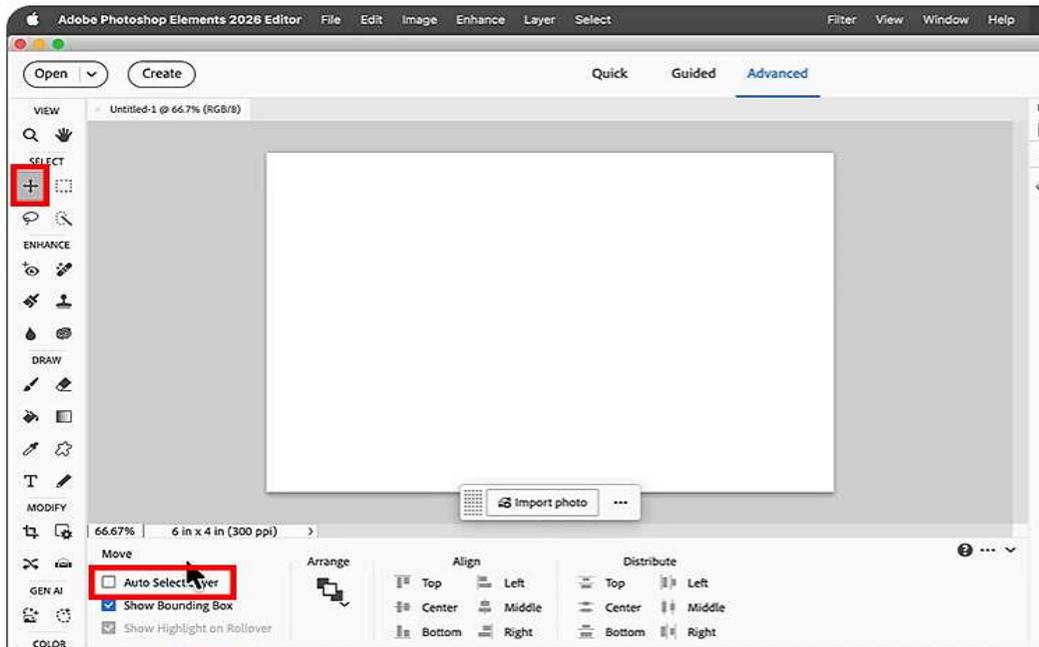


- ❖ Set **Thumbnail Size** to *Medium*.
 - ❖ Choose **Layer Bounds** under *Thumbnail Contents* for better layer previews.
 - ❖ **Uncheck Use Default Masks on Fill Layers** to avoid unnecessary masks.
4. Click **OK** to apply changes.



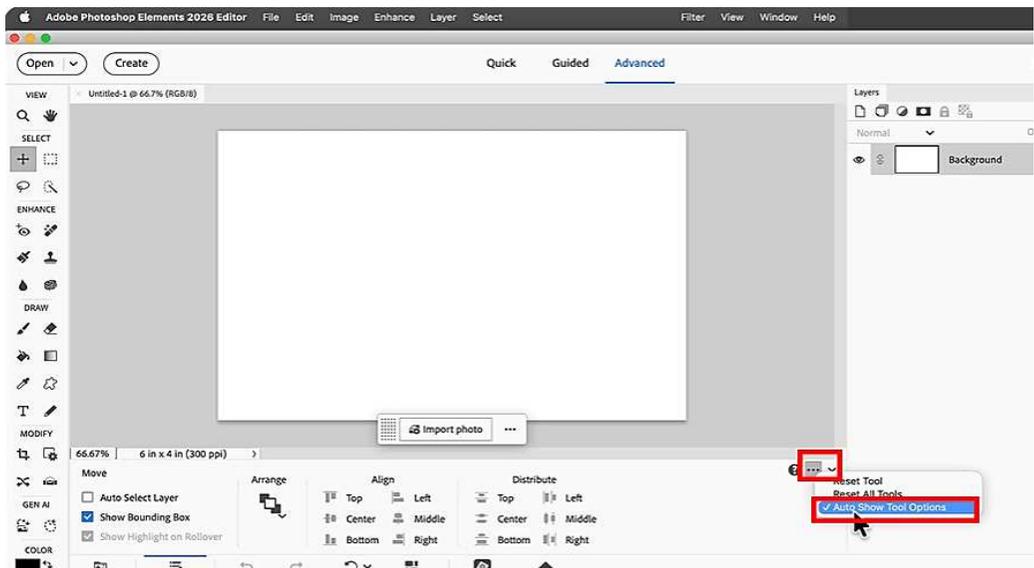
Step 4: Adjust the Move Tool

1. Select the **Move Tool**.
2. In the **Tool Options** panel, **uncheck Auto Select Layer**.
 - ❖ This prevents accidental layer switching and helps maintain better control during edits.

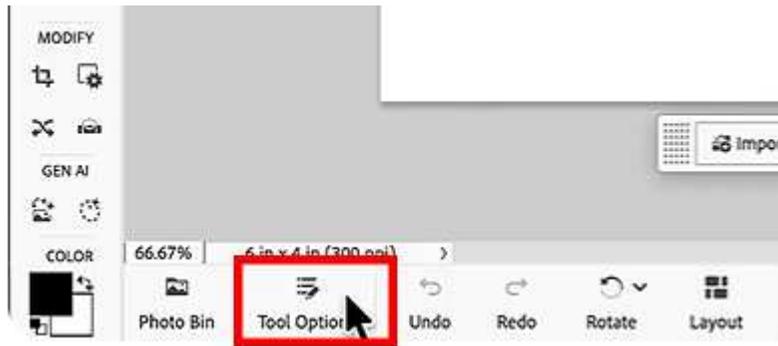


Step 5: Simplify the Tool Options Panel

1. With the Move Tool still active, click the **three-dot (•••)** menu in the Tool Options panel.
2. **Uncheck Auto Show Tool Options** to hide unnecessary tool settings while you work.



3. Click the **Minimize icon** to collapse it.
4. To view tool options again, click **Tool Options** at the bottom of the interface.



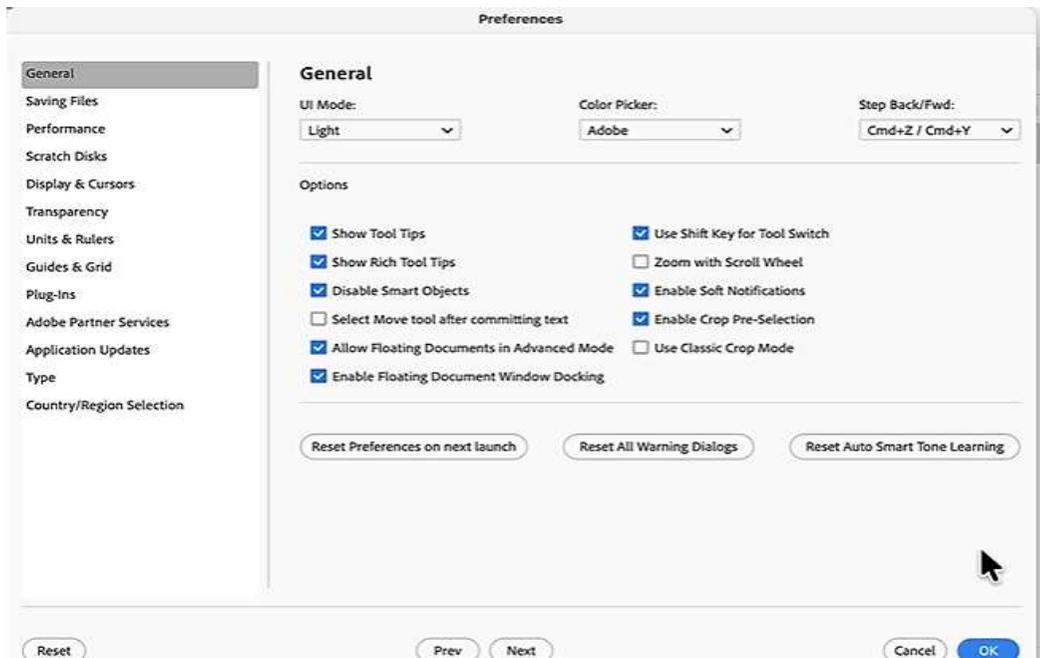
Step 6: Disable the Contextual Taskbar

1. Go to **Window > Contextual Taskbar**.
2. **Uncheck** it.
 - ❖ Many creators find the taskbar distracting, especially when focusing on layout design or scrapbooking.

Step 7: Update Your Preferences

Press **Ctrl + K (Windows)** or **Command + K (Mac)** to open **Preferences**, then:

- ❖ **Check** *Disable Smart Objects*.
- ❖ **Uncheck** *Select Move Tool After Committing Text*.
- ❖ **Check** *Allow Floating Documents in Advanced Mode*.
- ❖ **Check** *Use Shift Key for Tool Switch*.



Digital instructors often disable **Tool Tips** to reduce distractions during tutorials, but beginners should leave them **enabled** for helpful guidance.

Click **OK** to save your preferences.

WHAT'S NEW IN ADOBE PHOTOSHOP ELEMENTS 2026

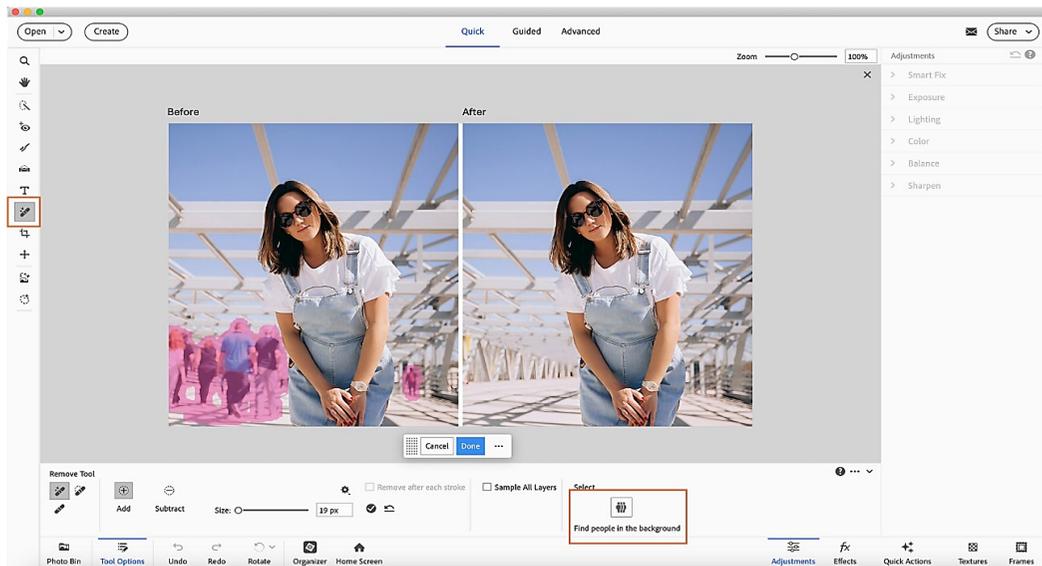
Adobe Photoshop Elements 2026 makes photo editing smarter and more intuitive than ever. With improved **Quick, Guided, and Expert modes**, you can edit with ease and build your skills naturally. Powered by enhanced **Adobe Sensei AI**, this version lets you instantly enhance photos, replace backgrounds, remove objects, and even generate new images or scenes automatically.

New **artistic effects, motion tools, and creative templates** help you add style to every project, while the upgraded **Organizer** uses AI tagging and sorting to keep your photos neatly arranged and easy to find.

In essence, Photoshop Elements 2026 blends automation and creativity—offering a faster, simpler, and more enjoyable photo editing experience for everyone.

New Features in Adobe Photoshop Elements 2026

1. Enhanced Remove Tool



The upgraded **AI-powered Remove Tool** now detects and highlights people in the background for effortless removal.

How to Use:

1. Open a photo and select the **Remove Tool**.
2. In the options panel, click **Find People in the Background**.
3. The AI highlights detected figures automatically.
4. Use **Add/Subtract** to refine your selection.
5. Click **Done** on the contextual toolbar to apply changes.

2. Generate Image



Create stunning visuals instantly using AI-powered image generation.

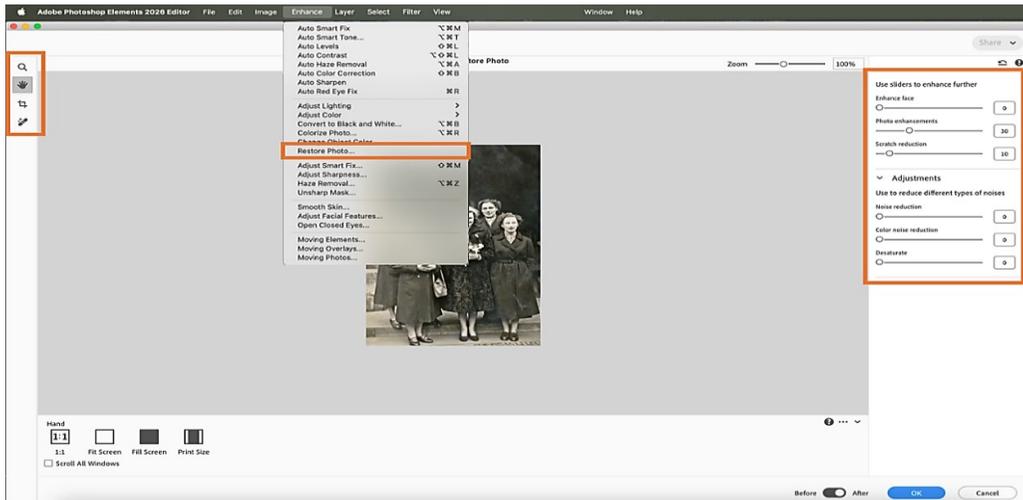
How to Use:

1. Select the **Generate Image** tool from the Toolbar.
2. Type a short prompt describing the image you want to create.
3. Click **Generate** to produce results.
4. Choose from one of the four generated variations to preview or apply.

Note:

Photoshop Elements 2026 includes **25 generative credits per month**. Each AI action consumes one credit. When your credits are used up, you can either purchase more within the app or wait for your monthly renewal.

3. Restore Photos

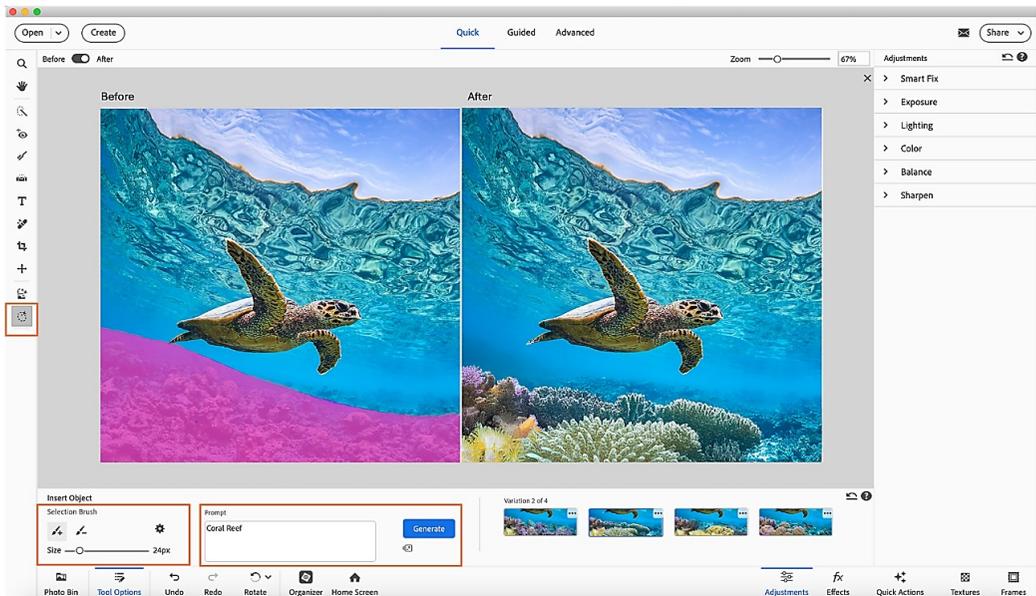


Bring old memories back to life by removing scratches, creases, and damage automatically.

How to Use:

1. Go to **Enhance > Restore Photo...**
2. Photoshop Elements automatically removes visible damage.
3. Adjust enhancement sliders to fine-tune the restoration.
4. Use tools like **Zoom**, **Hand**, **Crop**, and **Remove** for precision results.

4. Insert Object



Effortlessly add new elements to your photos using text-based AI generation.

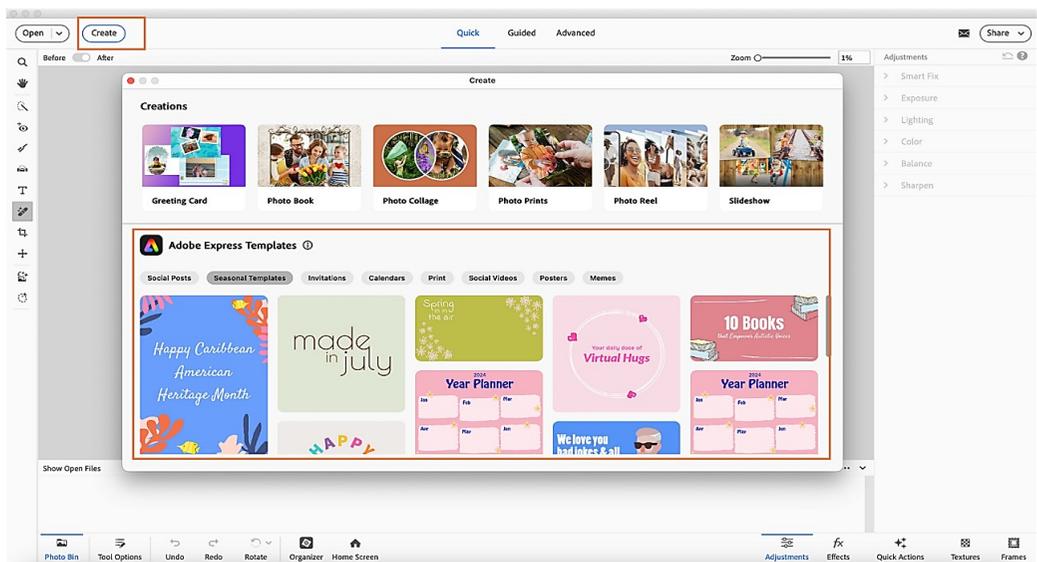
How to Use:

1. Select the **Insert Object** tool from the Toolbar.
2. Use the **Selection Brush** to mark the area where the new object should appear.
3. Type a prompt describing the object you want to insert.
4. Click **Generate** to create and place the object.
5. Select your preferred variation from the four available options.

Note:

This feature also uses the same **25 monthly generative credits** system as other AI tools.

5. Access Free Adobe Express Templates



Expand your creativity with **thousands of free templates** from Adobe Express for social media posts, posters, videos, and more — directly accessible within Photoshop Elements 2026.

Other New and Enhanced Features

- ❖ **Spell Checker:** Automatically detects spelling errors, allows dictionary customization, and manages ignored words.
- ❖ **WebP File Format Support:** Open and save files in the WebP format, ideal for modern web graphics and high-quality compression.
- ❖ **Dynamic Scaling:** Adjust scaling fluidly to fit elements across small and large layouts.

- ❖ **Live Blend Mode Preview:** Instantly preview blend effects by hovering over different modes for real-time visual results.
- ❖ **Color Fonts:** Add vibrant, multi-colored text for eye-catching designs.
- ❖ **Enhanced Photo Text Guided Edit:** Quickly select the main subject in Photo Text using the **Select Subject** option.
- ❖ **Double Exposure Guided Edit:** Fine-tune the blend strength using the **Intensity Slider** for precise artistic control.
- ❖ **Contextual Task Bar:** Access tools, options, and quick adjustments relevant to your current editing task.
- ❖ **Rich Tooltips:** Get instant guidance through built-in hints and animations that make learning faster and easier.
- ❖ **Optimized Crop Tool:** Use modern crop handles and AI-suggested framing for perfectly balanced compositions.
- ❖ **Import Mobile Photos via QR Code:** Instantly transfer images from your mobile device into Photoshop Elements by scanning a QR code.

UNDERSTANDING THE NEW 3-YEAR LICENSE MODEL

As of the 2025 version, Adobe has replaced the traditional perpetual license for Photoshop Elements with a non-renewing, 3-year term license. This means you no longer own the software indefinitely after a one-time purchase.

Key features of the new license model

- ❖ **One-time payment:** It is purchased with a single payment, similar to how Elements was sold previously. However, it is not a perpetual license.
- ❖ **3-year term:** The license is valid for exactly three years (36 months) from the date of redemption.
- ❖ **Editor expires:** After the 3-year term ends, the main Photoshop Elements editing application will no longer be accessible and will disable itself.
- ❖ **Organizer remains functional:** The Elements Organizer, used to view and manage your media catalog, will continue to be accessible indefinitely, even after the 3-year term expires. This allows you to retain access to your photos and files.
- ❖ **No automatic renewal:** The license does not automatically renew. You will need to manually purchase the latest version of the software to continue using the editing features after your term ends.
- ❖ **Upgrades restart the term:** If you purchase an upgrade to a newer version during your license term, the 3-year period will reset with the new purchase.
- ❖ **No serial numbers:** Beginning with the 2025 version, activation is done through a redemption code instead of a serial number.
- ❖ **Pricing**
 - ❖ **New users:** \$99.99

- ❖ **Upgrades from previous versions:** \$79.99
- ❖ **Bundle with Premiere Elements:** \$149.99 for new users or \$119.99 as an upgrade

This pricing structure makes it easier to stay current with Adobe's latest tools and AI-driven improvements without committing to a full Creative Cloud subscription.

- ❖ **Activation Process:** Instead of using a traditional serial key, users activate Photoshop Elements through their **Adobe ID**—the same one used during purchase from **Adobe.com**.
If purchased from a third-party retailer such as **Amazon** or a **physical store**, a **24-digit redemption code** will be provided. To activate, visit:

👉 <https://redeem.adobe.com/elements>

What this change means for users

For previous users who were accustomed to the perpetual license model, this is a significant shift toward a subscription-based approach.

- ❖ **Long-term costs:** You must now budget for a regular, three-year purchase to maintain access to the photo editing features. This will be more expensive over time than the old one-time purchase model.
- ❖ **Forced updates:** To continue editing your photos after the three-year term, you will be forced to upgrade to the latest version, which may have new and different system requirements.
- ❖ **Flexibility versus ownership:** While it lacks the ongoing monthly fees of a full Creative Cloud subscription, it also removes the guarantee of indefinite use that came with a perpetual license. It is a middle ground between the two pricing models.

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS (WINDOWS AND MACOS)

Adobe Photoshop Elements 2026 was released in October 2025, and its system requirements are determined by your operating system.

For Windows

- ❖ **Processor:** Intel 8th Generation or newer (or equivalent AMD) with AVX2 and SSE4.2 support (ARM-based processors are not supported).
- ❖ **Operating system:** 64-bit Windows 11 (version 23H2 or later) (Windows 10 is not supported).
- ❖ **RAM:** 8 GB minimum; 16 GB recommended.

- ❖ **Hard disk space:** 9 GB for the application, plus extra space for content and temporary files (Case-sensitive file systems or removable storage are not supported).
- ❖ **Graphics:** 1.5 GB of GPU memory and a Microsoft DirectX 12 compatible display driver.
- ❖ **Display:** 1280x800 resolution at 100% UI scaling; 1920x1080 or higher is recommended.
- ❖ **Internet:** Required for product activation and to download content.

For macOS

- ❖ **Processor:** Intel 8th Generation or newer, or Apple silicon M1 or newer (M1 or newer recommended).
- ❖ **Operating system:** macOS 14 (14.4 or later) or macOS 15 (15.5 or later).
- ❖ **RAM:** 8 GB of unified memory minimum; 16 GB recommended.
- ❖ **Hard disk space:** 8 GB for the application, plus extra space for content and temporary files (Case-sensitive file systems or removable storage are not supported).
- ❖ **Display:** 1280x800 resolution at 100% UI scaling; 1920x1080 or higher is recommended.
- ❖ **Internet:** Required for product activation and to download content.

Other recommendations for both Windows and macOS

For improved performance, an SSD for installation and cache is recommended. For media editing, more RAM is advised: 16 GB for HD and 32 GB or more for 4K. An additional high-speed drive for media and 4 GB of GPU VRAM for HD media are also suggested.

UNLOCK YOUR CREATIVITY WITH PHOTOSHOP ELEMENTS

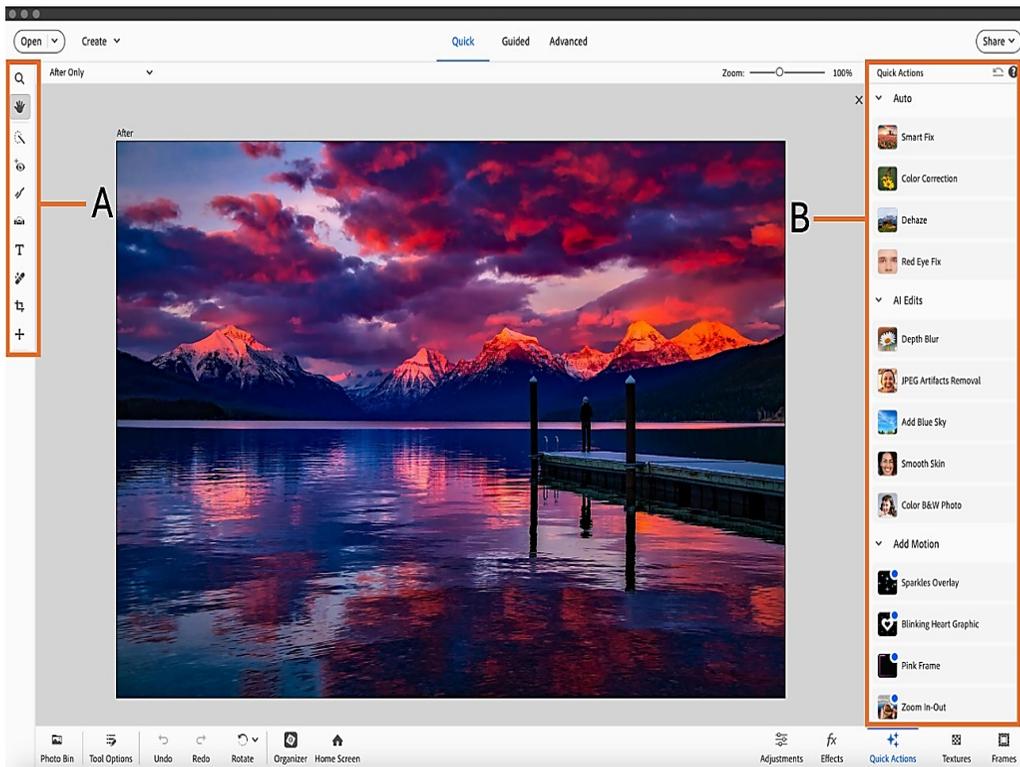
Adobe Photoshop Elements is the perfect photo editing solution for everyone—from casual users to creative enthusiasts. Whether you want quick automatic fixes, guided step-by-step edits, or full manual control, Elements provides all the tools to transform your photos with ease.

Editing Workspaces: Designed for Every Skill Level

Quick Edit: Instant Enhancements

Ideal for beginners, **Quick Edit** offers one-click corrections and intuitive sliders to adjust brightness, contrast, color, and sharpness in seconds.

Key Components:



- A. Toolbar:** Simplified tools for fast edits such as *Zoom, Hand, Selection Brush, Eye, Whiten Teeth, Straighten, Type, Remove, Crop, and Move*.
- B. Quick Actions Panel:** Apply instant AI-powered enhancements like *Blur, Skin Smoothing, Dehaze, and Colorize* with a single click.

Guided Edit: Learn While You Create

The **Guided Edit** workspace includes over **50 step-by-step tutorials** that help you create professional-quality results effortlessly. Perfect for learning while editing, it covers essentials like: Brightness & Contrast, Shape Overlay, Lighten & Darken, Sharpen Photo, Object Removal, Levels Adjustment, Correct Skin Tone, and Replace Background.

Advanced Edit: Full Creative Control



For experienced users, the **Advanced Edit** workspace unlocks powerful tools, layers, masks, and precision selections for detailed control.

It features an expanded toolbar offering comprehensive editing capabilities—ideal for those who want complete creative freedom beyond basic corrections.

Professional Editing Tools

Adobe Camera Raw (ACR)

Work with RAW images using advanced sliders for exposure, color balance, highlights, and detail refinement—essential for photographers seeking top-tier quality.

Presets & Assets

Enhance your work with an extensive library of creative resources:

- ❖ **Graphics:** Frames, borders, and stickers.
- ❖ **Fonts & Text Effects:** Stylish typography and editable text layers.
- ❖ **Filters & LUTs:** One-click artistic color grading options.

AI-Powered Quick Actions

Accelerate your workflow with over **30 automated features** powered by Adobe Sensei AI, including:

- ❖ **Auto Colorization:** Bring black-and-white photos to life in color.

- ❖ **One-Click Subject Selection:** Instantly isolate people or objects.
- ❖ **Sky Replacement:** Replace dull skies with stunning, high-quality alternatives.

Creative Projects & Photo Creations

Bring your photos to life through creative projects designed to impress:

- ❖ **Photo Collages:** Combine multiple photos using stylish templates.
- ❖ **Photo Books:** Design personal keepsakes with professional layouts.
- ❖ **Slideshows & Animations:** Turn photos into moving visual stories.
- ❖ **Photo Reel:** Create cinematic, animated slideshows with smooth transitions—perfect for sharing cherished memories.

Social media & Sharing

Easily resize, optimize, and export your images for social platforms. Share directly to Instagram, Facebook, and other networks—without leaving the app.

Introducing Elements Organizer

Elements Organizer is your central hub for managing photos and videos across both Photoshop Elements and Premiere Elements.

What It Does

It's a smart, user-friendly media manager that helps you:

- ❖ **Import and Organize** photos and videos efficiently.
- ❖ **Tag and Search** files using keywords, facial recognition, and visual similarity.
- ❖ **Share and Sync** across devices for effortless access.

No advanced technical skills are required—its simple design hides powerful organization tools that bring order to your creative library and keep your projects easily accessible.

CHAPTER ONE

GETTING STARTED WITH ADOBE PHOTOSHOP ELEMENTS 2026

To get started with Photoshop Elements 2026, download and install the software from the Adobe website, sign in with your Adobe ID, and then launch the Photo Editor. Once open, click "Advanced Mode" in the Editor and set up your custom workspace by adjusting the tools and panels to your liking.

HOW TO INSTALL ADOBE PHOTOSHOP ELEMENTS 2026

Bring your photos to life with **Adobe Photoshop Elements 2026**—a creative powerhouse designed for all skill levels. You can keep multiple versions installed on your computer, so there's no need to uninstall older editions.

Download and Install from the Adobe Website

Before You Begin

To ensure a smooth installation:

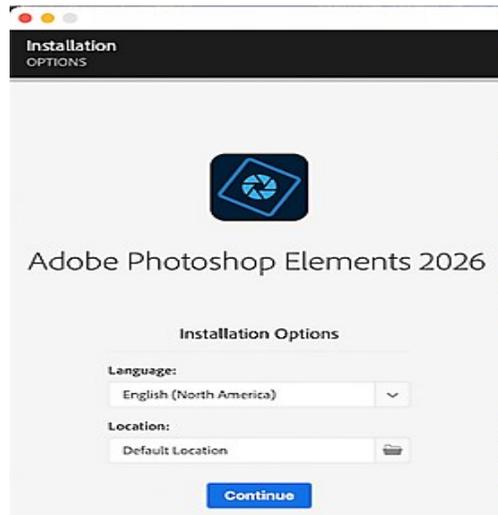
- ❖ Log in with an account that has **administrative privileges**.
- ❖ Use the latest version of **Chrome, Firefox, Safari, or Edge**.
- ❖ Have a **valid Adobe ID** (create one if you don't).
- ❖ **Disable pop-up blockers**, antivirus, and firewall temporarily to speed up installation.
- ❖ Maintain an **active internet connection** until installation is complete.

Step 1: Download Photoshop Elements 2026

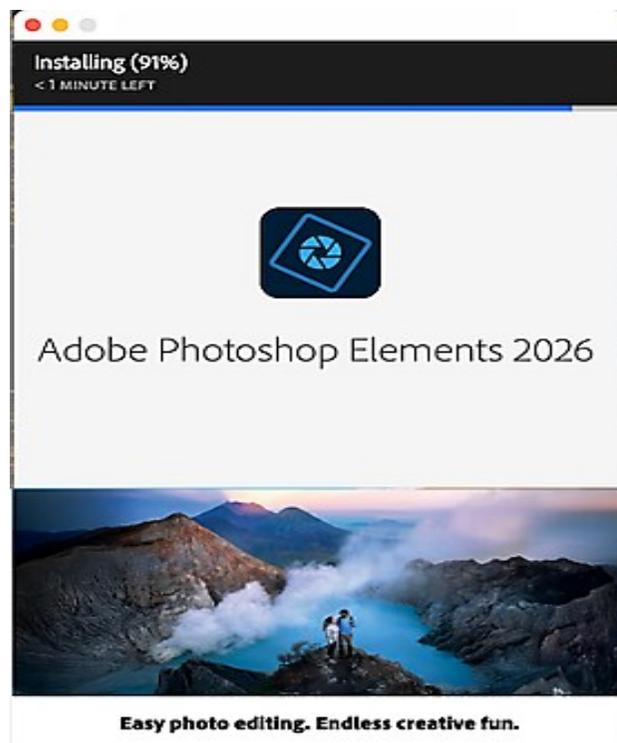
1. Visit the official Adobe Photoshop Elements download page.
2. Sign in using your **Adobe ID** (or create one if needed).
3. Click **Download** to begin the process.

Step 2: Install Photoshop Elements 2026

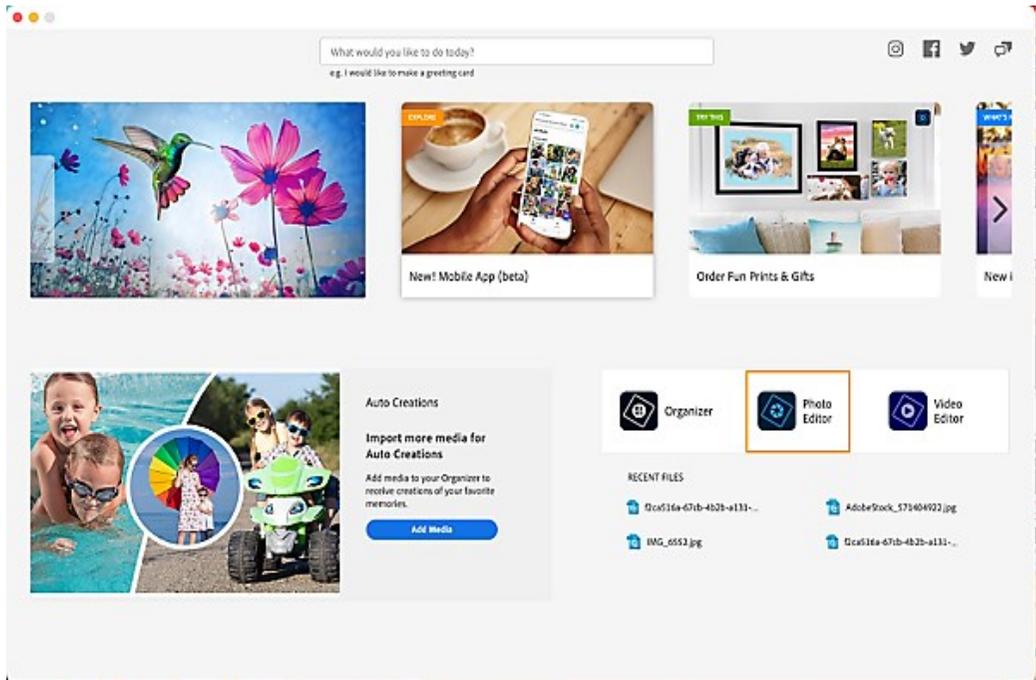
1. Open the **installer file** you downloaded.
2. Sign in again using your **Adobe ID** and password.
3. Click **Continue** to proceed.
4. On the **Installation Options** screen:



- ❖ Choose your **preferred language**.
 - ❖ Select your **installation location**, then click **Continue**.
5. While the installation runs, view the bottom image carousel to explore **what's new in Photoshop Elements 2026**.



6. When prompted, select **Photo Editor** to launch the application.



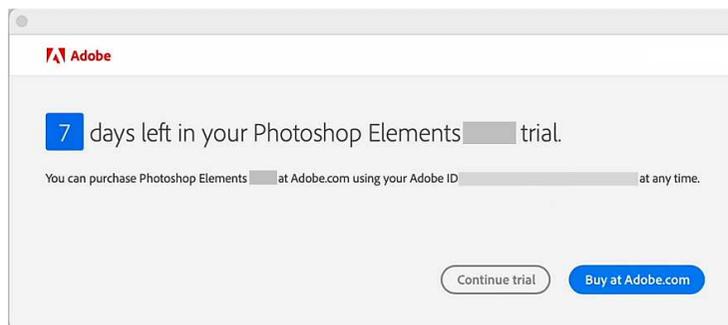
7. Sign in once more with your **Adobe ID**, if requested.

Step 3: Activate or Convert the Trial Version

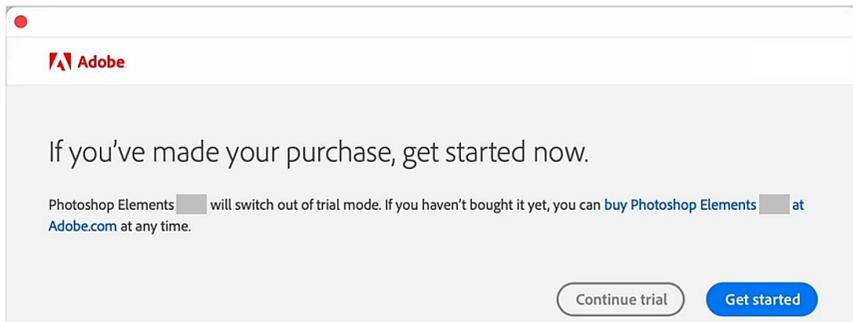
If your Adobe ID isn't linked to a valid license, you'll receive a **7-day free trial**. You can upgrade at any time during or after the trial period.

To activate your full version:

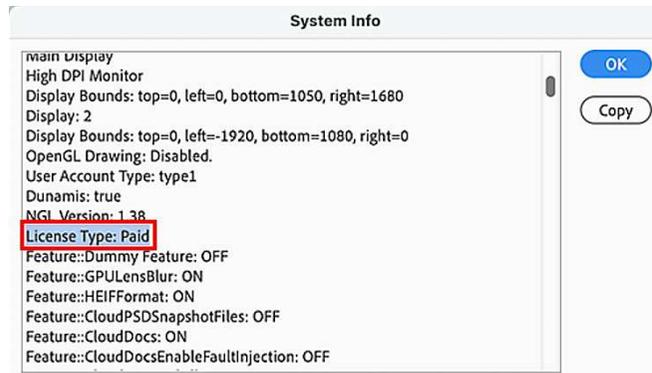
1. Purchase a license on **Adobe.com**, or sign in with an Adobe ID that already has one.



2. After conversion, a pop-up will appear—select **Get Started** to launch your licensed copy.



3. To confirm activation, go to **Help > System Info** and verify that the **License Type** reads *Paid*.



CUSTOMIZE PHOTOSHOP ELEMENTS FOR THE BEST USER EXPERIENCE

Enhance your workflow and visual comfort in **Adobe Photoshop Elements 2025** (and earlier versions) by customizing the interface. Below are key adjustments you can make to improve visibility and usability based on your personal preferences.

1. Switch Between Light and Dark Modes

Photoshop Elements 2024 and later versions include both **Light** and **Dark** interface modes.

1. Go to **Edit > Preferences > General**.
2. Under **UI Mode**, choose between **Light** or **Dark**.
3. Click **OK**, then **relaunch** the application to apply the change.

The **Dark Mode** uses white text and icons on a dark background, which some users find easier on the eyes. The **Light Mode** maintains the traditional look many users are familiar with. Choose whichever provides better visibility for you.

2. Enable Floating Documents

To freely move and arrange open images:

1. Navigate to **Edit > Preferences > General**.
2. Check **Allow Floating Documents in Advanced Mode**.

This setting is disabled by default but highly recommended for users who prefer flexible window layouts when working with multiple files.

3. Use the Mouse Scroll Wheel for Zooming

Zoom in and out effortlessly with your mouse wheel:

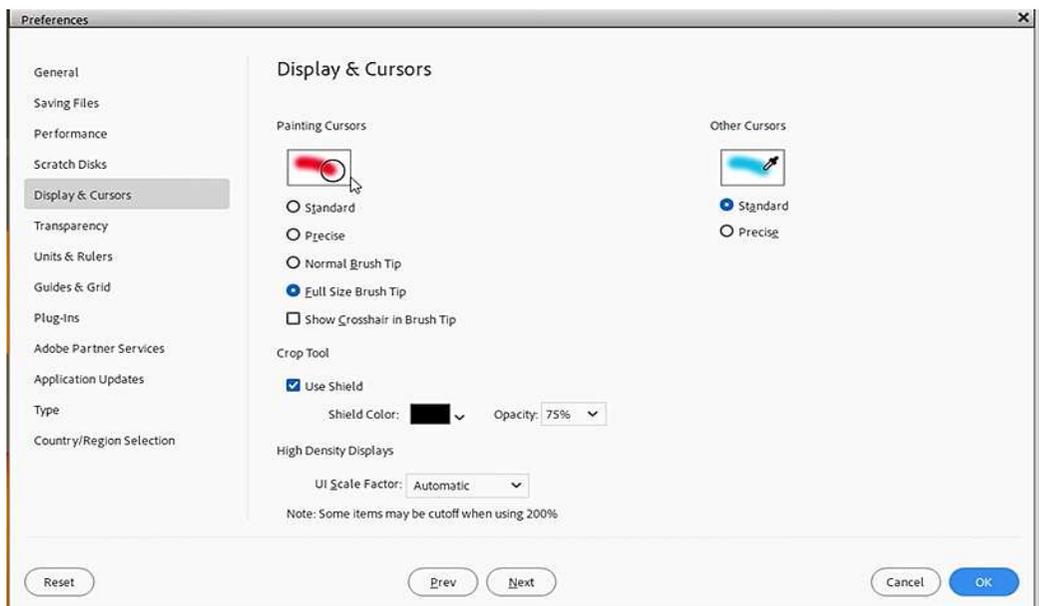
1. In the same **General Preferences** panel, enable **Zoom with Scroll Wheel**.
2. Click **OK** to save changes.

This feature significantly speeds up navigation and precision when editing.

4. Adjust Cursor Display Options

For improved visibility and control of your brush or editing tools:

1. Go to **Edit > Preferences > Display & Cursors**.
2. Under **Painting Cursors**, select **Normal Brush Tip**.
 - ❖ **Normal Brush Tip** displays the solid area of the brush for accurate strokes.
 - ❖ **Full Brush Tip** shows the entire feathered edge but may reduce precision.



3. Optionally, enable **Show Crosshair in Brush Tip** for detailed work—though many find it visually distracting.