

# Comparison of PhotoShop Elements 8 and Pixelmator

Barbara Baros

Scan photos you want to fix saving the file as a **tiff** file (**not a jpeg file**). It is best to scan your photos at a higher resolution (higher DPI-600 or 1200DPI) to capture as much detail as possible. Later we will change this high resolution to 300 DPI for printing good pictures.

Next open Photoshop Elements 8 program.

When “Welcome” screen displays, click on “Start From Scratch” A new window will be shown on your display, click on “Cancel” as we are opening a file to work on already on the computer desktop.

Open the file you choose to work on. (For our demo, the file is named *Vica Skewed*) Sometimes our scans don’t come out as straight as we wish they were, so we can use the “Straighten” tool located on the second column, six tools down. (Look on last page of this handout) Click and hold straighten tool across one edge of the photo and release. This will straighten the photo. Save the photo as a PhotoShop Document (PSD). Be sure you rename the photo something like, VicaLopez.psd

Click on “Crop tool” (second column 5<sup>th</sup> tool down). On the **Width (W)** click and type “8” and on **Height (H)** type “10”. Set Resolution at (300)

Click and Drag crop tool across the photo. Use arrow keys to slightly move the crop lines as needed. Click on the green check mark to accept the crop. Next click on the Rectangular Marquee Tool (First Column, 3<sup>rd</sup> tool down). Crop just above Vica’s head.

Do the following:

Edit Copy

Edit Paste

Image Transform—Free Transform

Stretch in the missing part of the photo – click on green check mark to accept transformation. Go to Layer – Merge Down to flatten photo.

You can also do this using the keystroke commands below:

Command “C” for Edit Copy

Command “V” for Edit Paste

Command “T” for Transform and stretch the photo

Click on Check Mark and then Command “E” (Merge Down)

We will duplicate the created layer (photo) **three addition times** by using a command we need to memorize. **Command J** do this three times to duplicate the layer 3 times. This will leave 4 layers total. We will work on one layer at a time.

**COMMAND SAVE = COMMAND “S”**

**Edit Quick** (the first way to adjust color)

On the Orange Tab above, click on Edit Quick. Click on View - A pallet of selections will appear – choose “Before and After”.

Click on “Auto” for the following:

Smart Fix

Levels

Contrast

Color

**DO NOT CLICK ON AUTO DETAIL – THIS IS THE VERY LAST THING WE DO AT THE END OF OUR REPAIRS.**

When finished the 4 auto selections, go to top of Elements 8 Orange Tab and click on FULL. Turn the eye symbol on and off so you can see the original photo and the Quick Fixed photo. You may rename this layer as “Edit Quick”.

To rename a layer go to the down arrow - upper right corner of layers pallet. Click and Hold mouse to see fly out menu. Continue holding, go down to “Rename Layer”. Let go of mouse. Type in new name (“Edit Quick”) click OK.

**Command Save = Command “S”**

### **The Second way to adjust color:**

Turn eye symbol off on “Quick Edit” layer it will reveal the second layer (a red photo copy). To activate this layer, click on center of the layer. Now we can work on this layer. Next, type Command “L” to bring up the “Levels” control with three eyedroppers, Black, Gray and White. Begin with the White eyedropper. Click on the white eyedropper and select a white part of the photo that gives you some details. Next, click on the Black eyedropper and select a dark area in the photo, probably in the shadow area-- click OK. **(Optional)** Rename this layer “Eyedroppers + Levels”. Turn off first two layers.

**Command Save = Command “S”**

### **Third way to adjust color**

Select next layer and go to menu to “Enhance” – Convert to Black and White.

Select “Style”—Click on each but since this is a portrait, we **select portrait**.

First thing is to adjust **Contrast** on slider. Play with the slider a little and when you are happy with your results, click **OK**. Now you have a Black and White conversion—Rename to BW, click on green check mark to accept change. Since we know now that the B&W will give us the best result, we leave it as a B&W. Convert all three layers to B&W to select which of the three looks best. To do this, activate “Edit Quick” layer – Enhance—Convert to B&W. Now turn off the eye symbol on this layer. Activate “Eyedropper + Levels” layer and repeat -- Enhance—Convert to B&W. Select best of the three B&W photo. We like the Eyedropper + Levels layer the best, so we are going to throw away the layers we don’t want. Drag the “Edit Quick” layer to the trash. Repeat with the “B&W” layer to the trash.

**COMMAND SAVE = COMMAND “S”**

### **Fourth Way to Adjust Color – Sepia Tone**

Duplicate the “Eyedropper + Levels” Layer, by using the “Command J” keystrokes. Go to “Enhance” to “Adjust Color” on the fly out menu to “Color Variations”, Select only the **Midtones** move amount to about 1/3 on the slider. Click once on increase Red – click once on Decrease blue. Then Click OK. **Optional** – rename this layer Sepia and rename “Eyedropper + Levels” layer—“BW”.

**COMMAND SAVE = COMMAND “S”**

### **Insert Type**

Select the “Type” tool (first column, 5<sup>th</sup> tool down).

Right Click on mouse gives you choices, select Horizontal. Select type size 72 from the Options menu above. Click once on the photo, type Vica... the type remains flashing and a move tool is visible. This way, Vica can be repositioned anywhere on the photo. When you let go of the mouse, the type is accepted. But we want bigger type. Double click the “T” layer to highlight it. –Change font size from 72 to 100. (Note) –Even though the type option is only 72 pts., you can type in larger sizes.

But we don’t like the color, so double click the “T” layer, --go to Color Picker on options bar, and click once. Select your color preference from the color choices or choose a color from the photo using the mouse. (moving the mouse to the photo it becomes an eyedropper) Click around until you find a color you like, and click on OK to accept color.

### **Bending the Type**

Go to create Warped Text (Right of color picker), Click on an option (play with the sliders). If the text comes out too weird and you want to reset the type so you can do it again, type Option + Command.

**COMMAND SAVE = COMMAND “S”**

*This file is already saved as VicaLopez PSD. PhotoShop Document keep all layers and they cannot be printed until converted to a tiff file. This file is not sharpened. If future changes are necessary, all layers are still intact.*

To get the photo ready to print, select Layer—Flatten Layer. Now we want to sharpen the print as the last step. Go to “Enhance” – “Unsharp Mask”. The default settings are the following:

50% Amount

1.0 Radius

0 Threshold

However, I recommend the following settings:

75% Amount

1.5 Radius

0 Threshold

**\*\*\*\*\*Very Important Part\*\*\*\*\***

Go to “File – Save As “VicaLopez [Change from Photoshop file to tiff.”]

A new window appears.

Under default .....Image Compression- **NONE**

Byte Order ....**IBM PC**

Click OK.

This tiff is ready to save to a CD and be taken to a printer.

### **Would you like to e-mail this photo?**

Select Crop tool, change the resolution to 72 from 300dpi

Crop the photo. Now Save As: VicaLopez.jpg - send this file in email

You should now have a Psd, tiff and a jpeg on the desktop.

- Remember jpg are 72 DPI and is acceptable for sharing and viewing on computer screen, but if you want to sent family members copies, send the tiff files on a CD.

**This lesson plan was a joint between Juan Salazar and Barbara Baros.**

**Lesson will also be posted on our sdmug website.**

## **Pixelmator**

We found Pixelmator to be a very low-end image editing program. It is capable of doing some of the same things that PhotoShop Elements 8 does, but it is a much more difficult program to manage. I will include the following link to several reviews on Pixelmator.

<http://image-editing-software-review.toptenreviews.com/pixelmator-review.html>

# Toolbox overview Photoshop Elements 8



## A Navigation and measuring tools

- Move (V)
- Zoom (Z)
- Hand (H)
- Eyedropper (I)

## B Selection tools

- Rectangular Marquee (M)
- Elliptical Marquee (M)
- Lasso (L)
- Magnetic Lasso (L)
- Polygonal Lasso (L)
- Magic Wand (W)
- Quick Selection (A)
- Selection Brush (A)

## C Type tools

- Horizontal Type (T)
- Vertical Type (T)
- Horizontal Type Mask (T)
- Vertical Type Mask (T)

## D Crop tools

- Crop (C)
- Cookie Cutter (Q)
- Straighten (P)
- Recompose (C+C)

## E Retouching tools

- Red Eye Removal (Y)
- Spot Healing Brush (J)
- Healing Brush (J)
- Clone Stamp (S)
- Pattern Stamp (S)
- Eraser (E)
- Background Eraser (E)
- Magic Eraser (E)
- Blur (R)
- Sharpen (R)
- Smudge (R)
- Sponge (O)
- Dodge (O)
- Burn (O)

## F Painting and drawing tools

- Brush (B)
- Pencil (N)
- Impressionist Brush (B)
- Color Replacement (B)
- Smart Brush (F)
- Detail Smart Brush (F)
- Paint Bucket (K)
- Gradient (G)

## G Shape tools

- Rectangle (U)
- Rounded Rectangle (U)
- Ellipse (U)
- Polygon (U)
- Line (U)
- Custom Shape (U)
- Shape Selection (U)



# Pixelmator

Image editing for the rest of us

Download | Buy | Learn | Support | Weblog | Company

FAQ

Documentation

Tech Specs

Forums

Updates

Email Us

## Technical Specifications

### File Formats

- Compatible with over 100 still image file formats



PSD, JPEG, TIFF, PNG, GIF, PICT, ART, AVI, AVS, BMP, CGM, CIN, CUR, CUT, DCM, DCX, DIB, DJVU, DNG, DOT, DPX, EMF, EPDF, EPI, EPS,

EPS2, EPSF, EPSI, EPT, EXR, FAX, FIG, FITS, FPX, GPLT, GRAY, HTML, JBIG, JNG, JP2, JPC, MAN, MAT, MIFF, MONO, MNG, MPEG, M2V, MPC, MSL, MTV, MVG, OTB, P7, PALM, PAM, PBM, PCD, PCDS, PCL, PCX, PDB, PDF, PFA, PFB, PGM, PICON, PIX, PNM, PPM, PS, PS2, PS3, PTIF, PWP, RAD, RLA, RLE, SCT, SFW, SGI, SUN, TGA, TIM, TTF, UIL, UYVY, VICAR, VIFF, WBMP, WMF, WPG, X, XBM, XCF, XPM, XWD, YUV.

- Supports Photoshop images with layers.
- Optimize and save images for the web in JPEG, PNG, or GIF.

### Image Processing

- Layers-based image editing
- Image processing is powered by Core Image technology
- Based on ImageMagick foundation
- Use over 20 tools for selection, crop, slicing, painting, retouching, typing, measuring and navigation
- Use over 15 color correction tools
- Use over 50 filters
- Adjust image size and resolution
- Specify canvas size
- Trim images
- Rotate canvas
- Export images for the web
- Transform images, layers or selections using transform tools
  - Free Transform, Scale, Rotate, Skew, Distort, Perspective, Flip (vertical or horizontal)
- Fill images, layers or selections
- Stroke images, layers or selections
- Graphics tablet support



### Layers

- Layers-based image editing
- Create new, duplicate, delete, rename, load as selection or hide layers
- Create editable text layers
- Use New Layer from iSight feature to add pictures as layers from iSight camera



- Change blending mode for layer
  - Normal, Dissolve, Darken, Multiply, Color Burn, Linear Burn, Darker Color, Lighten, Screen, Color Dodge, Linear Dodge, Lighter Color, Overlay, Soft Light, Hard Light, Vivid Light, Linear Light, Pin Light, Hard Mix, Difference, Exclusion, Hue, Saturation, Color and Luminosity.
- Adjust layer opacity
- Preserve layer transparency
- Create clipping masks
- Add, remove, edit, show or hide layer masks
- Link, unlink or select linked layers
- Rasterize Text layers
- Merge layers
- Flatten image
- Arrange layers
- Drag-and-drop layers onto Mac OS X desktop to export to PNG
- Drag-and-drop pictures into layers palette or Pixelmator image view to place them as layers



### System Requirements

- Mac OS X 10.5.7 or later
- Core Image supported graphics card
- Some features require iLife.

### Support

Pixelmator Team offers a wide range of [support options](#) for new and registered users.

Please visit our [Support website](#) to read FAQ, find manuals, participate in Pixelmator forums, report bugs or contact the Pixelmator Team.

### Reign of Technologies

Pixelmator takes advantage of many powerful technologies. Here are a few of them:

#### ImageMagick

ImageMagick is an open source technology to create, edit, and compose bitmap images. It is used as a core for Pixelmator [Learn more about ImageMagick...](#)

#### Core Image

Core Image is an extensible, pixel-accurate, non-destructive image processing and rendering framework for Mac OS X. Core Image provides Pixelmator performance,

### Tools

### Painting Engine

- Use over 20 tools for selecting, cropping, painting, retouching, typing, measuring and navigation
- Selection tools
  - Rectangular Marquee
  - Elliptical Marquee
  - Polygonal Lasso
  - Lasso
  - Magic Wand
  - Move
  - Modify selection
    - Smooth
    - Feather
    - Size
  - Inverse selection
  - Load selection from layer
  - Save selection as Mask
  - Edit selection in Quick Mask mode
- Crop tool
- Slice tool
- Painting tools
  - Brush
  - Pencil
  - Gradient
  - Paint Bucket
  - Specify blend mode, opacity, brush for painting tool
- Retouching tools
  - Clone Stamp
  - Eraser
  - Magic Eraser
  - Blur
  - Sharpen
  - Specify strength, brush. Specify blending mode, brush, opacity for Clone Stamp tool.
- Type tool
  - Creates editable type layer
- Measuring and navigation tools
  - Eyedropper
  - Hand
  - Zoom



## Color Correction Tools

- Use over 16 color correction tools
  - Levels
  - Auto Enhance
  - Curves
  - Color Balance
  - Brightness and Contrast
  - Hue/Saturation
  - Desaturate
  - Colorize
  - Replace Color
  - RGB Channel Mixer
  - Exposure



- Advanced brush settings
  - Size, hardness, spacing, scatter, flow, follow angle, stroke jitter, size jitter, angle jitter, opacity jitter, hue jitter, saturation jitter, lightness jitter, graphics tablet sensitivity and control by mouse speed settings.
- Adobe Photoshop brushes support

## User Interface

- Interface designed for work with images
- Transparent HUD (heads-up display) palettes
  - Tools, Tool Options, Layers, Brushes, Swatches, Scratch, Mask, Gradients and Photo Browser palettes
- Info labels
- Full-screen mode
- QuickMask mode
- Use rulers, guides, grid
- Add layer from iSight sheet shows preview
- Smart Palette Hide
- Action Tooltips

## Mac OS X Integration

- Photo Browser offers quick access to iPhoto Library, events, albums, Smart Albums and Pictures folder
- Use your iSight camera to add pictures to your compositions
- Comes with Automator actions
- Spotlight support
- Drag-and-drop support
- Built-in Help
- Apple Fonts and Apple Color Picker palettes
- Send To (Mail and iPhoto)
- Quick Look plug-in built-in
- Quartz Composer compositions support



## Automator Actions

- Pixelmator includes Automator actions for converting, resizing, enhancing and adding special effects (Leopard-only)
- Special Effects action allows you to add over 130 Core Image-powered filters
- Change type of image action allows conversion of over 100 still image file formats
- Enhance actions offers over 16 color correction tools
- Resize images action allows you to edit size and resolution of images



## Colors

filters and color correction tools. [Learn more about Core Image...](#)

### Quartz Composer

Quartz Composer is a development tool for processing and rendering graphical data. [Learn more about Quartz Composer...](#)

### Gradient Panel

Gradient Panel is an innovative framework that delivers the power and feature-rich gradients experience. [Learn more about Gradient Panel...](#)

### Automator

Automator is an application for Mac OS X that implements drag-and-drop creation of workflows for automating repetitive tasks. Pixelmator supports Automator by providing image manipulation actions for Automator workflows. [Learn more about Automator...](#)

### Cairo

Cairo is a 2D graphics library used in Pixelmator tools. [Learn more about Cairo...](#)

### Sparkle

Sparkle is a module that developers can stick in their applications to get instant self-update functionality. [Learn more about Sparkle...](#)

### Documentation

Pixelmator comes with built-in Help. However, Pixelmator manual is available as a [free download](#) as well as printed version. [Click here](#) to order the printed version of Pixelmator 1.0 User Manual.

### News and Updates

[Subscribe](#) to Pixelmator mailing list to be the first to hear about new releases and special offers.

- Invert
- Threshold
- Posterize



## Filters


- Use over 130 Core Image–powered filters
- Distortion filters
  - Bump, Circle Splash, Circular Wrap, Displacement, Glass, Glass Lozenge, Hole, Pinch, Torus Lens, Twirl, Vortex
- Blur
  - Gaussian Blur, Median, Motion Blur, Noise Reduction, Zoom Blur, Box Blur
- Sharpen
  - Sharpen Luminance, Unsharp Mask
- Color
  - Color Map, Color Monochrome, False Color, Mask to Alpha, Sepia Tone, Gamma Adjust
- Stylize
  - Blend with Mask, Bloom, Crystallize, Edge Work, Edges, Equalize, Gloom, Height Field from Mask, Noise, Pixellate, Pointillize, Shaded Material, Spot Light, Comic Effect, Hexagonal Pixellate, Line Overlay, Spot Color, Spotlight



- Halftone
  - CMYK Halftone, Circular Screen, Dot Screen, Hatched Screen, Line Screen
- Tile
  - Affine Clamp, Affine Tile, Kaleidoscope, Op Tile, Parallelogram Tile, Perspective Tile, Triangle Tile, Eightfold Reflected, Fourfold Reflected, Fourfold Rotated, Fourfold Translated, Glide Reflected, Perspective, Sixfold Reflected, Sixfold Rotated, Twelfold Reflected
- Generators
  - Checkerboard, Clouds, Constant Color, Lenticular Halo, Random Generator, Star Shine, Stripes, Sunbeams
- Transitions
  - Copy Machine, Disintegrate with Mask, Dissolve, Flash, Mod, Page Curl, Ripple, Swipe, Bars Swipe
- Use over 60 Quartz Composer compositions as filters
- Distortion compositions
  - Bulge, Dent, Light Tunnel, Pinch, Squeeze, Twirl, Fish Eye, Mirror, Stretch
- Stylize compositions
  - ASCII Art, Blue Print, City Lights, Compound Eye, Concert, Crystallize, Dot Screen, False

- ColorSync
  - Assign ColorSync profiles
  - Match to ColorSync profiles
- Select colors using Apple Color Picker



- Web Color plug-in for Apple Colors Palette for quickly copying hexadecimal color to the HTML or CSS applications. 
- Add, remove and pick colors from Swatches palette
- Pick colors from Scratch palette
- Eyedropper allows picking colors from images

## Metadata

- View or extract metadata from images
- Add, remove or edit keywords
- Use Spotlight to find images by any metadata info
- Available over 50 metadata tags

## Technologies

- Pixelmator is built using Cocoa
- ImageMagick foundation is used as a base of Pixelmator
- Image processing is powered by Core Image and Open GL
- Includes Automator actions
- ColorSync color management
- Quartz Composer
- Quick Look support
- Core Animation
- Spotlight support
- QuickTime
- Sparkle
- Cairo

## Languages

- English, German, French, Spanish, Japanese, Italian

Color, Film Stock, Glow, Kaleidoscope, Line Overlay, Line Screen, Monochrome, Neon, Pixellate, Pointillize, Posterize, Tracer, Zoom Blur, Black and White, Color Pencil, Comic Book, Pop Art, Sepia, Thermal Camera, X-Ray

- Generator compositions
  - Defocus, Fall, Floor, Gradient, Grid, Image Hose, Moving Shapes, Travelator, Wall
- Transition compositions
  - Copy Machine, Cube, Dissolve, Mask, Mod, Mosaic Flip, Push, Swing, Zoom Dissolve
- Other compositions: Blur, Color Controls, Exposure Adjust, Flip-Flop, Gamma Adjust, Image Resizer, Motion Blur, Sharpen, Color Invert
- Use filter rope to control center of the filter
- Use custom Core Image units
- Use custom Quartz Composer compositions as filters

*Portions of the Pixelmator Team Software utilize or include third party software and other copyrighted material. Acknowledgements, licensing terms and disclaimers for such material are contained in the "online" electronic documentation for the Pixelmator Software, and your use of such material is governed by their respective terms.*

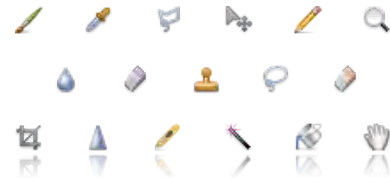
**Try Pixelmator for free**  
Download the 30-day trial.



**Pixelmator Manual**  
Download a detailed introduction to Pixelmator.



**Technical Specifications**  
Take an in-depth look at all the Pixelmator features and technologies.



Copyright © 2010 Pixelmator Team Ltd. All rights reserved.