



Photoshop Elements 12: Essential Keyboard Shortcuts

from the ebook: *The Skinny on Photoshop Elements 12*

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Action	Shortcut
Zoom in	Command-plus (PC: Ctrl-plus)
Zoom out	Command-minus (PC: Ctrl-minus)
Reposition a zoomed-in document	Spacebar-drag
Undo your last step	Command-Z (PC: Ctrl-Z)
Activate multiple layers or images within the Organizer	Shift or Command-click (PC: Ctrl-click)
Constrain cursor to horizontal, vertical, or 45-degree	Shift-drag
Fill a selection with foreground color	Option-Delete (PC: Alt-Backspace)
Jump a copy of a layer to a new layer	Command-J (PC: Ctrl-J)
Create a stamped copy of all visible layers	Shift-Option-Command-E (PC: Shift-Alt-Ctrl-E)
Clip or group one layer to another	Option-click the dividing line between them (PC: Alt-click)
Unclip or ungroup one layer to another	Option-click the dividing line between them (PC: Alt-click)
Invert (flip-flop) a mask	Command-I (PC: Ctrl-I)
Create a new layer	Shift-Command-N (PC: Shift-Ctrl-N)
Toggle the visibility of all layers except one	Option-click (PC: Alt-click)
Resize a crop box or selection marquee from its center	Option-drag (PC: Alt-drag)
Create a perfectly square or circular selection marquee	Shift-drag
See lightest pixels in a Levels adjustment	Option-drag white slider (PC: Alt-drag)
See darkest pixels in a Levels adjustment	Option-drag black slider (PC: Alt-drag)
Set the sample point for Healing Brush & Clone Stamp	Option-click (PC: Alt-click)
Decrease brush size	[(left bracket key)
Increase brush size] (right bracket key)
Reset foreground and background color chips to black	D
Reverse foreground and background color chips	X
See unselected areas as red overlay in Refine Edges	V
Shortcuts in Camera Raw:	
Turn on clipping warning for shadows	U
Turn on clipping warning for highlights	O
Toggle image preview on/off	P



Selective background blur

A shallow depth of field is a great way to accentuate the focal point of your image. If you didn't do it in-camera, you can do it in Elements 9. Open an image in Full Edit mode and duplicate the background layer by pressing Command + J (PC: Ctrl + J). Choose Filter > Blur > Gaussian Blur. In the resulting dialog box, increase the radius to blur the heck out of your image, and then click OK. Add a layer mask to the blurry layer by choosing Layer > Layer Mask > Reveal All. Press B to activate the Brush tool and set your foreground color chip to black (when using masks, painting with black conceals and white reveals). From the Brush Preset Picker in the Options bar (far left) choose a soft-edged brush. Increase brush size by pressing the right bracket key repeatedly (]) and click once atop the focal point to hide the blur from it. Reduce brush size by pressing the left bracket key ([) and paint back across the focal point to ensure the blur is hidden from that area.



Easy vintage/romantic look: Softly darkened edge with beautiful color tint

Elements' effects make it super easy to apply creative color treatments to your images. Open an image in Full Edit mode and choose Filter > Correct Camera Distortion. In the resulting dialog box, drag the Vignette Amount slider all the way left and click OK. Elements adds a gorgeous, softly darkened edge around your image (which is a great effect to use on its own!). Next, open the Effects panel (if you don't see it, choose Window > Effects) and click the third button at the top of the panel to open Photo Effects. From the pop-up menu to this button's right, choose Show All. Scroll down to the bottom of the resulting list of tiny thumbnails. Double-click the very last one to add a brown overlay to your image. Elements will duplicate your image layer automatically to protect your original. This is a fabulous way to turn a snapshot into a piece of art, or save a photo that you can't seem to color correct in any other way.



Gorgeous black-and-white technique

Open a photo in Full Edit mode and set your color chips to black and white by pressing D (for default), and make sure black is on top (if not, press X to flip-flop them). Click the half-black/half-white circle icon at the bottom of your Layers panel and choose Gradient Map. Instantly, Elements maps the shadows to one end of the gradient (black), and the highlights to the other end (white). For a faded color effect, press G to activate the Gradient tool and then click and drag for about 2 inches across the middle of your image. Instantly the color fades to black and white!



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