

**Sun City Summerlin Computer Club Seminar**

**Image Editing with**  
**Adobe Photoshop Elements**  
**2026**

**Tom Burt**  
**October 29, 2025**

# Where to Find the Materials

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- **Sun City Summer Computer Club Website:**
  - <http://www.scscclub.com/smnr>
- **Direct Hyperlink**
  - <http://www.scscclub.com/smnr/AdobePSE2026Tour.pdf>

# Seminar Agenda

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- **Introduction**
- **Getting and Installing PSE 2026**
- **The PSE Main Window**
- **The PSE Tool Palette**
- **Basic Image Editing Actions**
- **The PSE Color Window**
- **Using PSE Layers**
- **The PSE Menu Bar**
- **Using PSE Filters**
- **Saving in Various Formats**
- **Printing**

# Introduction

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- **Photoshop Elements (PSE) is a “Lite” version of Photoshop.**
- **Now sold as a 3-year subscription.**
  - **At the end of 3 years, if not renewed, the program stops working.**
  - **Versions for Windows, MacOS.**
  - **Is a very rich graphic arts and image editor.**
  - **2026 version incorporates a number of new “AI” features.**
- **This seminar will focus on most useful features for “mere mortals”.**
- **Ask questions as we go.**
- **We’ll work on several interesting photo projects as a way to demonstrate the programs many features.**



# Getting and Installing PSE

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- **Go to the Adobe Website’s “Elements” page:**
  - <https://www.adobe.com/products/elements-family.html>
- **Scroll down to the “Buy” area.**
  - If you’re a first-time buyer, click the “Buy” button. Current price is \$99.99
  - If you’ve bought PSE before, click the “Upgrade” link. Current price is \$79.99
- **Follow the purchasing / registration prompts.**
  - Eventually, you will have a “download” link for the Setup file.
  - Download and save the Setup file to a folder on your hard drive.
  - The file name will be: PhotoshopElements\_2026\_LS30\_win64.exe
- **Run the Setup file to install PSE 2026 on your computer.**
- **The PSE 2026 license allows PSE to be installed on up to 3 devices.**
  - You can be running PSE on up to two of those devices at the same time.
- **Documentation (You will need it!)**
  - The PSE program’s Help system is very extensive.
  - There are many tutorials on <https://YouTube.com> and on <https://www.adobe.com/learn>

# The PSE Main Window

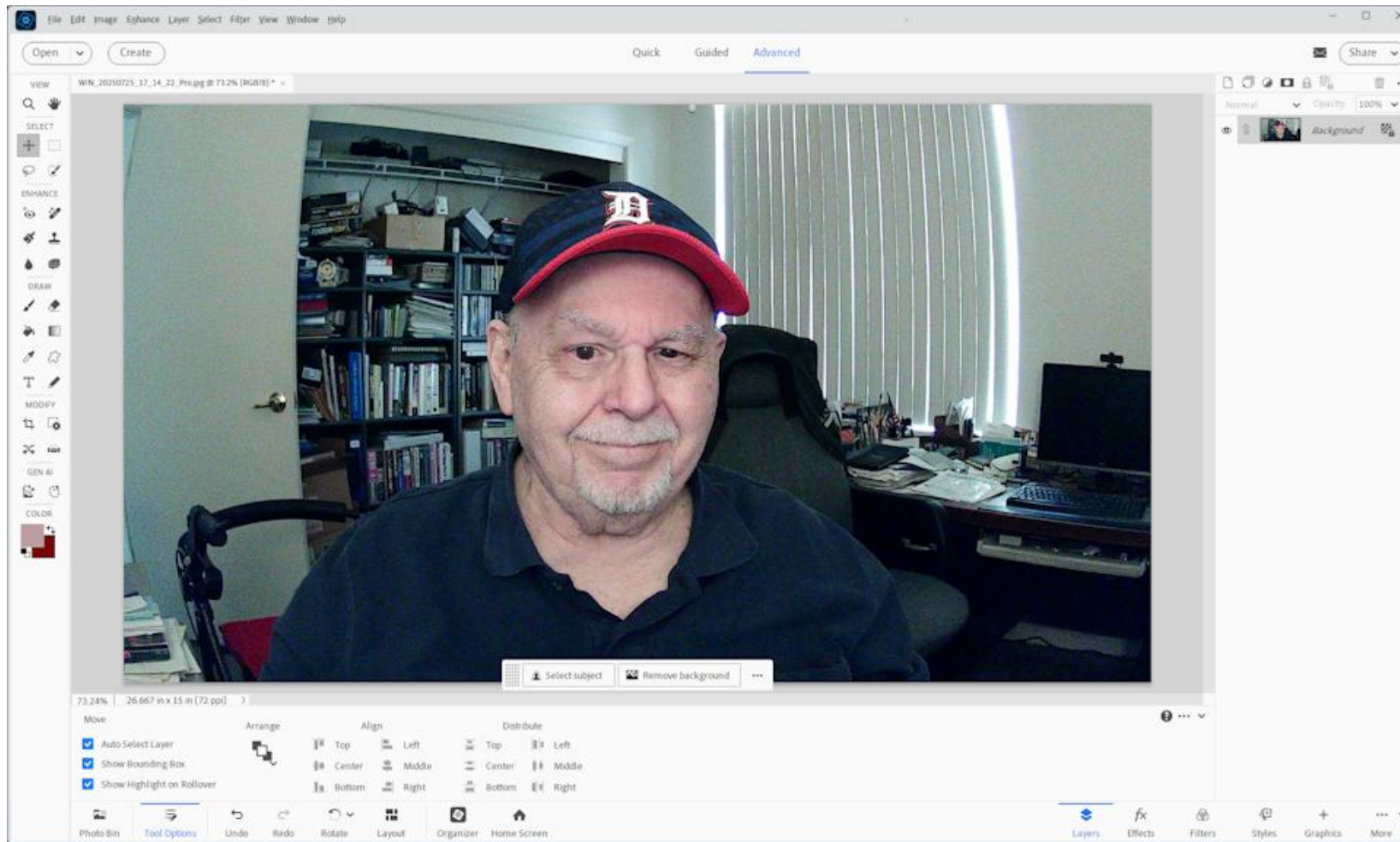
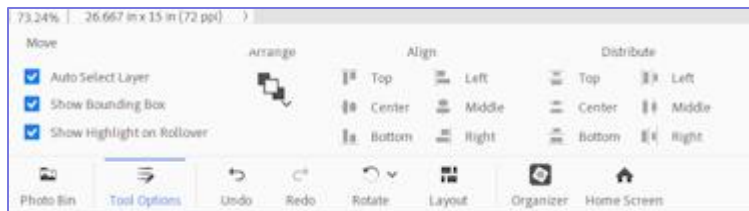


Image Editing with Photoshop Elements 2026

# PSE Tool Palette Pane



- **Hover over each tool to see its name, description and a mini-video showing how the tool is used.**
- **The various tools let you select or act on areas of the image or current layer.**
- **The tools that paint or edit pixels interact closely with the color window.**
- **As you select a tool, a “tool properties” panel at the bottom allows you to fine tune the properties of that tool**
- **Now we’ll run through a demo of the most commonly used tools using Project 1 (next slide).**



# Example Project 1 – Outdoor Retouch (1)

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- **Outdoor wedding photo on a golf course**
- **Much visual clutter, poles, lines & unwanted people in background**
- **Subject not emphasized**
- **Overcast sky**



# Example Project 1 – Outdoor Retouch (2)

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- **Eliminate “undesired” elements**
  - Use the remove and clone stamp tools to get rid of people, poles, power lines, cars, etc. Created background trees. Save as an interim .png file.
- **Crop the photo**
  - Use the rectangle crop tool.
- **Use the color tool to make a light blue for the sky.**
  - Use the paint bucket tool to turn the sky blue. Use the paint brush at 50% opacity for spots around the trees and bushes.
- **Adjust brightness, contrast and light / dark levels, hue / saturation**
  - Try the various “auto” enhancements. Can undo with Ctrl+Z.
- **Use the Filters menu to fix red-eye, if needed.**
- **Resize the photo (as appropriate).**
- **Save the final result to an image file and print or publish.**

# PSE Color Pane



- You can set a foreground and a background color. These apply to the drawing, gradient and fill tools
- You can work numerically in RGB or HSV.
- You will often set the color by using the eyedropper tool.
- You can select the part of the spectrum in the vertical pane.
- Then fine-tune the lightness/darkness of that color.
- Let's demo the color window.

# PSE Layers

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- **A PSE “image” is comprised of one or more layers, stacked vertically. The image you see is the composite of viewing through all the layers, top to bottom.**
- **The background layer is usually the base image, sometimes a background pattern or image.**
- **Each layer applies its modifications to the layers below it.**
- **You can reorder the layers to change how they affect the composite image.**
- **You can also merge or flatten layers when you have the desired effects.**
- **Let’s look at some simple layer actions using Project 2.**

## Example Project 2 – Portrait Retouch (1)

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- Original image shot against a wall – heavy shadows, highlights on glasses from flash.
- Reworked to composite with a different background.



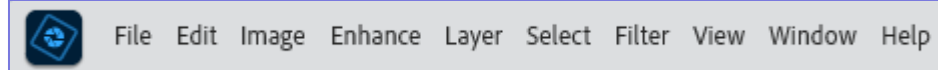
# Example Project 2 – Portrait Retouch (2)

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- **Take an existing portrait (head shot) and re-do the background color.**
  - Use the rectangular crop tool.
  - Use the remove tool to remove the background.
  - Use the eraser tool to clean up any spots missed by remove background.
  - Use the remove tool to fix flash spots, blemishes.
- **Add a new (transparent) layer.**
  - Use the color tool to select a light blue foreground and dark blue background.
  - Choose the gradient tool with a circular gradient.
  - Hide the foreground layer (the headshot)
  - Select the background layer and then drag to draw the gradient.
  - Show the foreground layer again.
- **Also adjust the overall contrast, brightness & saturation of the image.**
- **Save the project as a .psd file.**
- **Save the final image.**

# Exploring the PSE Menu Bar

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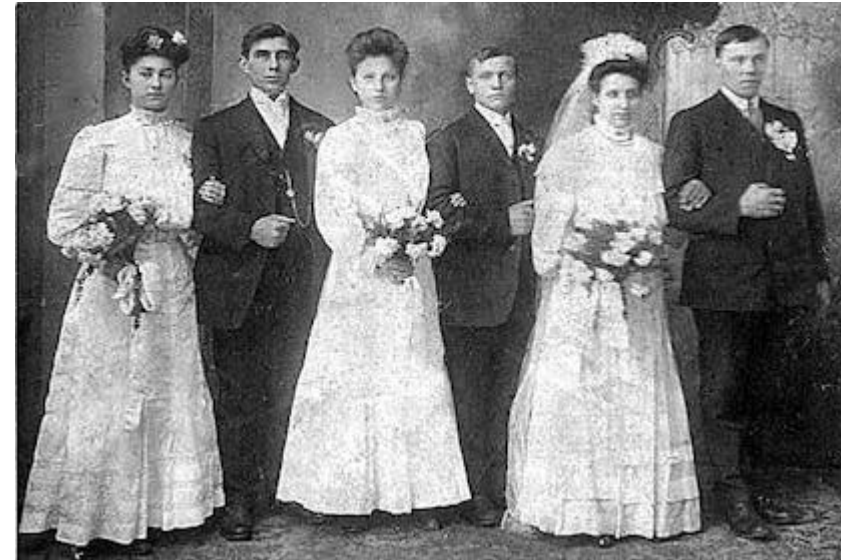


- **Much of the photo editing capability of PSE is in the menu bar.**
  - **Plain, Windows 95-style – minimal toolbar.**
- **The Image menu provides cropping, rotations and transformations.**
- **The Enhance menu provides brightness/contrast, hue / saturation, black / white, levels and other adjustments.**
- **The layer menu offers various layer functions.**
- **The Filters menu provides a rich array of special effects, plus some common actions like red-eye removal.**
- **The View menu controls how the image looks on the screen.**
- **Let's explore some of the menu bar actions via Project 3.**

## Example Project 3 – Restore an Old Wedding Photo (1)

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- Original photo was faded, had some cracks, spots and loss of detail.
- Original was also fairly small.



## Example Project 3 – Restore an Old Photo (2)

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- **Rotate or Straighten as needed.**
- **Crop as needed using rectangular crop tool.**
  - May need to fill in corners after rotation.
- **Use the Enhance menu to adjust the overall contrast of the image.**
  - Try the desaturate adjustment.
  - Adjust contrast & brightness.
  - Experiment with the Auto-Levels & other Auto tools.
  - Goal is to bring out more detail.
- **Then repair blemishes (spots, cracks)**
  - Caution – easy to overdo it.
  - Use the clone tool or smart remove tool.
  - If needed, use the pencil & paintbrush.
- **Use the Image menu to resize larger if small.**
  - Don't try to go too far with enlarging.
  - After resizing, can try the Sharpen menu tool

## Example Project 4 – Straightening a Photo (1)

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- Working with a photo of an oil on canvas painting.
- Suffers from perspective distortion and skew.
- Also, slightly over-exposed and had a few minor blemishes.



## Example Project 4 – Straightening a Photo (2)

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- **Rotate as needed.**
- **Crop as needed using perspective crop tool.**
  - May need to fine tune crop in corners after perspective crop.
- **Also adjust the overall color and contrast of the image.**
  - Try the Auto-enhance to adjust color, contrast & brightness.
  - Experiment with the Auto-Levels tool.
- **Repair any blemishes (spots, cracks)**
  - Caution – easy to overdo it.
  - Use the clone tool or healing brush tool.
  - Use the pencil & paintbrush if needed.
- **Use a slightly larger background layer to add a gold border.**
  - Add the layer and make it the background.
  - Choose a color similar to the original frame.
  - Use the image menu to resize the canvas of the background layer.
  - Use the paint-bucket tool to fill the layer with color.

# Saving in Various Image Formats

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- **Click the File menu.**
  - A list of action choices will appear in the menu.
- **Click “Save As”.**
  - This will open a classic “Save As” dialog.
  - You can choose the file name, folder and file type.
  - “Flattened” types include: .BMP, .PNG, .GIF, .JPG, .TIFF and .TGA
  - You can also Save the file as a .PSD (Photoshop) file, which retains all the separate layers and edits. Use this if you are saving in the middle of working on a complex image project.
- **When you have the Save settings defined, click the “Save” button.**
  - PSE may display a second dialog that is dependent on the file type, asking for more specifics. Choose the desired settings and then click OK.

# Printing PSE Images

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- **Click File > Print to get to the Print dialog.**
- **You can select the printer, paper size, quality and copy count.**
- **You can also specify a variety of settings for how the image will be rendered to the printed page.**
- **When you've made your selections, just click the "Print" button.**

# **Final Q and A**

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## **Final Questions and Answers**