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How to Edit an Image in Paintshop Pro 7

To begin image editing with Paintshop Pro 7, start by scanning your photo at a highest possible resolution your scanner allows. Assuming your storage space can accommodae the file size save is as an RGB Paintshop Pro file (.psp). If not, reduce the resolution just enough to fit the space you have.

Image Editing can be handled by using the following commands/tools:

Crop

Photos generally contain areas surrounding the main subjects that are extra and won't add value to the final image.

1. To crop and eliminate these areas, select the **Crop** tool from the **Tools** palette.

2. Click and drag a rectangle around the area of your photo that you want to keep. Releasing the mouse creates a box around the area. You can adjust the size of the box by placing the cursor on the corners and sides of the box and dragging.

3. When the box's size and position meet your needs, go to the **Image** menu and select **Crop,** double-click inside the image**,** or type **Shift R**. The area outside the box is cropped out.

Enlarge

If the remaining subject area is a wallet size picture, you can enlarge the image to some degree.

1. From the **Image** menu, choose the **Resize** option. Click in the dialog box under **Print Size**.

2. Change the values in the Width field and the Height field automatically adjusts proportionately. Reduce the resolution to 300 ppi. Image quality will remain fairly good as long as the resolution stays above 300 ppi. Retaining image quality after enlarging is the reason for scanning your photo earlier at the highest possible resolution.

Editing

Photos are prone to having some visual glitches caused by age, poor treatment, bad photography or even dust particles in the scanner. With some careful retouching you can create a new image that's an improvement over the original.

1. To begin retouching, use the **Zoom** tool to enlarge the area containing the problem spot.

2. Select the **Clone Brush** from the **Tools** Palette and set the size and shape of the brush in **Tool Options**. To do this, right-click on the **Clone Brush** and select **Tool Options**. From the resulting dialog box, select a brush size that's appropriate for the area you're retouching. Don't use the largest brush, if the problem spot is only a couple pixels wide. Close the **Tool Options** window.

3. With the **Clone Brush** selected, hold down the **Shift** key, right-click and drag in an area closest to the problem spot. This will load the **Clone Brush** with pixels of similar color.

4. Release the **Shift** key and click and drag the **Clone Brush** over the spot. The spot's pixels are now replaced with the pixels from the nearby area.

5. Repeat this process wherever there's an imperfection you want to eliminate. Don't over do. Remember much of this pixel-level manipulation won't be noticeable when you return the image to normal magnification.

An alternative to using the **Clone Brush** can be found in the **Effects** menu. Select the **Noise, Median Filter** option. Keep the Filter Aperture low to blur out imperfections.

Unsharp Masking

The **Unsharp Mask** filter is a great tool for replacing focus that's lost when an image is scanned. It adjusts the contrast of the edges and creates the illusion of a more focused image.

1. To use this filter, select the **Sharpen, Unsharp Mask** options from the **Effects** menu. In the displayed dialog box, an original and a Preview image portion are displayed. The portion of your image on the right that reflects the settings you choose, while the portion of your image on the left displays a portion of the original settings.

2. The **Strength** setting sets the percentage amount your image is sharpened. The Preview image will reflect the change. Adjust the strength until the image looks right to you.

3. The **Radius** setting controls the thickness of the sharpened edges. Try a setting of 1.5 for a 300 ppi image. If you don't like it, increase or decrease the amount to your liking.

4. The **Clipping** setting left at 0 will sharpen all pixels in the image, while a higher setting will sharpen fewer pixels. Try several settings and check the Preview image for the effects of each.

5. After adjusting these settings where you want them, click **OK**.

The resulting improved image is ready for saving as a .tif file (if you plan to use it in a printed document) or as a .jpg or .gif file (if you plan to use it on the web or as an Email attachment).