



Photoshop Elements

Combining Photos -Tweaking and Bending the Truth

Bring your photos for the panorama, please!

Photomerge!

Use Photomerge Group Shot to create the perfect group photo from multiple photos.

Use Photomerge Faces to combine multiple facial features to create one composite face.

Use the Photomerge Panorama command combines several photographs into one continuous image.

To get the best panoramic compositions, there are a few steps you can take to improve the process.

When you shoot try to overlap images adequately. If you don't have pieces of each shot in each photo, the blending will not work well.

Use the same exposure and focal length. Having areas zoomed in or with a flash

only will be strange.

Use a tripod to stay in the same spot and focal level. Use your timer to get steady shots.

Take several sets of shots, you never know what will be best or if there is something special in one of them.

You shots for the panorama are called source files. It is good to keep them together. When you use the Photomerge, it automatically blends the photos together to make a panorama.

File > New > Photomerge Panorama.

Open the source files you want to stitch together by doing one of the following:

1. Click Add Open Files to add files that are open in the Project bin.
2. Choose Files from the drop-down menu and browse to a file on your hard disk.
3. Choose Use > Folder to add an entire directory.

Select a calculation method – Auto
Click OK to automatically create the panorama composition.

The Interactive Layout calculation is good if your source files can't be automatically assembled. You can line them up yourself, please see the help menu for more details to Photomerge manually.

Clone Tool

My first rule of using the Clone Tool is to use a separate layer to clone on. Then you don't mess up your original.

The Clone Stamp tool paints with an image sample. You can "clone" sampled parts of an image to replace imperfections. Check you options bar before starting to use the Clone Stamp. You must set a sampling point on the active layer by holding down the Alt key

(you will see a target cursor) and clicking the mouse before you paint with the Clone Stamp tool.

Choose a brush size that would work for you. Set to sample All Layers. Play with which Aligned works best for the painting. Then paint away!

Spot Healing Brush

This tool samples pixels for you around a selection to remove blemishes and other imperfections. You can either click once on a blemish, or click and drag to paint in an area.

Just like the Clone Stamp tool, look at your Option Bar. If Proximity Match isn't working for you try the Create Texture option, it is similar to the clone too. Also, you can set a source, like a pattern to paint with.

Shadows and Atmosphere

Every time to combine photos there are telltale signs that may make the image unreal.

If you have extracted an object from one photo to add into another, you put it in place – but it still seems out of place. It needs a proper and matching shadow.

One way of doing that is making a selection of the object, creating a new layer under the object and filling with black. Then askew the black shadow to the same degree the other shadows appear to be in.

Then change your layer's blending mode to Multiply and change the opacity to match the other shadows. You may have to blur the shadow as well just a tad.

It takes practice to get the shadows right. Keep trying.

Don't forget the effect atmosphere has on an object. Depending on where you place an extra object in a photo – you will need to sharpen or blur it.

The closer it is, try the Unsharp Mask filter.

The farther it is, try the Blur filter.

It is a good idea to make a copy of the layer (with the object on) that you are trying these filters on so you can play and see which one looks best.

Bending the Truth

You can do a little touch up and tweaking to improve a photo. Even put people in photos that where not at the party!

Our current lexicon uses the expression – “just Photoshop it” which most people understand as altering a photo to suit one's needs.

Don't get too carried away with this new power. And, question everything.

You'll find this in the Help Menu! © 2007 Adobe Systems Incorporated. All rights reserved.

Copyright © 2011 Renne Emiko Brock-Richmond. All Rights Reserved.