



Using Adobe PhotoDeluxe™ to Edit Photos for Digital Display

Introduction—I'm a "hacker" when it comes to digital photo editing. I've worked a little with an old copy of Adobe Photoshop LE, and I've seen experts do some wonderful things with the fancy newer versions of Photoshop, but I'd just like to take some old photos I have scanned and make them presentable on a computer screen and, perhaps, print a few for the fun of it.

About two years ago, I purchased a new color printer and found a copy of Adobe PhotoDeluxe—version 1 was bundled with it. With some experimentation, I figured out how to use many of its features. Recently, I upgraded to version 2 but, frankly, I find the older version did what I wanted to do. PhotoDeluxe is appealing for home use because of its low cost (about \$50) and the fact that it is often bundled free with new printers, scanners, and digital cameras.



Digitizing the Photos—A scanner is the "tried and true" method of initially digitizing a photo. Kodak and others will now develop 35mm film, then digitize the photos onto a CD-ROM and return it with your prints. Also, of course, digital cameras are getting more and more popular.

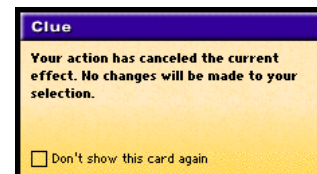
Scanning Old Photos—When scanning old photos, *150 to 300 dpi* resolution is sufficient. Set the scanner on *color* even while scanning black and white photos because stains may be easier to remove in the color mode. If possible, select the TIFF format for your original—it has the highest quality. Save the original scan and *always* work with a copy. I suggest using the JPEG format for the final copy. It may lose a *slight* amount of color quality, but the loss is hardly noticeable and the file takes up much less storage space. There is *no quality loss* with JPEG black and white files.

Copying Photos with a Camera—Many old photos are too large for a scanner but can be copied easily with either a film or digital camera. With film, use an SLR-type camera on a tripod and, for good color balance, make copies outside in the open shade of a building on a sunny day. Try to avoid reflections caused by glass-framed photos. A digital camera is ideal and can be hand-held because of its extremely fast “shutter speed” and its capability to view results instantly.

Starting with PhotoDeluxe—Now, I’ll show you some simple procedures you can use to improve your digitized photos, especially the old black and white photos that may be scratched or faded. I’ll use PhotoDeluxe—version 2 commands because that’s the current version.

Use Long Menus—The first thing you should do is to set PhotoDeluxe to “Long Menus.” If the menu bar has *only three* items on it, click on **File** and chose **Preferences/Long Menus**. RESULT: The menu bar grows to contain eleven menu items.

Turning Clue Cards On and Off—Default settings have clue cards turned on. They are small boxes that show up when the program thinks you may need help.



To turn them off, click on **File** and chose **Preferences/Turn On-Off All Clue Cards**.

Viewing Multiple Photos—To view more than one photo at a time, click on **File** and chose **Preferences/Allow Multiple Document Windows**.

Selecting Areas—Use these commands to select various parts of your photo.

- To select *all of a photo*, click on **Select** and chose **All** (or Cmd-A).
- To make a *rectangular* selection, click on **Select** and chose **Selection Tools/Rectangle**.
- To make *your own selection area*, click on **Select** and chose **Selection Tools/Trace**. Then, as you click and hold your mouse while moving the cursor, the desired path is described. When you release the mouse, the start and end of your desired path is closed with a straight line.
- There are several other selection tools. See the **Help** files under the **Apple** menu for more info.

Orienting Your Photo—Use these commands to change the orientation of your photo.

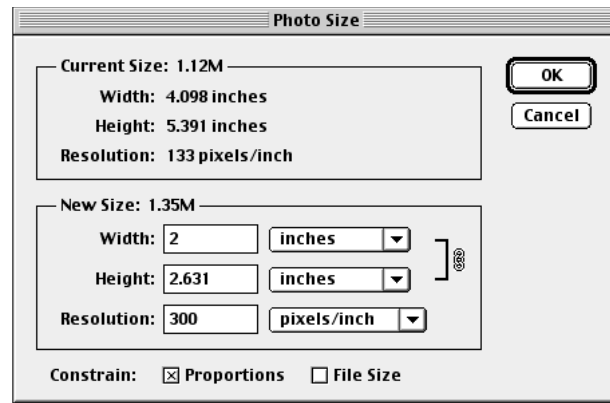
- To *rotate the photo 90 degrees*, click on **Orientation** and chose **Rotate Left** or **Rotate Right**.
- To *freely rotate* the photo, click on **Orientation** and chose **Free Rotate**. Small circular arrows appear in the photo’s corners. Grab one and move it to the desired position. You can re-position the arrows at will. When satisfied, click on the picture and the photo will be permanently rotated.
- To make a *mirror-image* or *flip the photo upside-down*, click on **Orientation** and chose **Flip Horizontal** or **Flip Vertical**.

Trimming Your Photo—Click on **Size** and chose **Trim**. RESULT: Your cursor changes to cross-hairs when over the photo.

- Click and hold where you want *one corner* of the trimmed photo to be and move your cursor to the desired *opposite corner*. Release the mouse.
- If the selected trim is *not correct*, press the **ESC** key and start over.
- If the selected trim is satisfactory, click on the photo. RESULT: The photo is trimmed.

Re-sizing Your Photo—I don't like to use the *Free Resize* function. Instead, I choose the size I want and I don't want the photo to distort. For that reason, I click on **Size**, then select the **Photo Size** command. RESULT: A dialog box similar to the one at right appears.

The top part lists the current resolution and size and the bottom part can be changed to what you want. To keep from distorting the photo, make sure the **Proportions** box is checked.



Instant Fix—This is probably *one of the best commands in PhotoDeluxe*. It seems to work very well on color pictures, and sometimes does a good job on black and white photos. To use it, just click on **Quality** and chose **Instant Fix**. That's it! ...but, always be ready to *Undo* this command. I don't know how this command works, but *try it first* when you want to improve the quality.

Dust and Scratches—Click on **Quality** and chose **Remove Dust & Scratches** to use this command. A dialog box opens where you can select the number of nearby pixels you want to use to attempt to “cover up” the dust particle or scratch. I generally use from 2 to 4 pixels. You must first select the area where you want the scratches removed—I use the **Selection Tools/Rectangle** command most of the time but sometimes find the **Selection Tools/Trace** command works better.

Brightness and Contrast—When the *Instant Fix* doesn't work, I click on **Quality** and chose **Brightness/Contrast**—this seems to work better than *Instant Fix* with black and white.

A Sharper Image—Old black and white photos that may have been taken with a *Brownie* camera can sometimes be sharpened. Click on **Quality** and chose **Sharpen**. Watch the image closely because this is a one-time process. If you want to try sharpening the image more, click on **Effects** and chose **Sharpen/Sharpen More**. Be careful, though—you may find that this is just too much!

Change to Black and White—To change a color photo to black and white, click on **Effects** and chose **Color to Black & White**. If you don't have stains to remove, you may want to change a color scan to black and white when the photo is first opened.

Smudge—You can sometimes remove spots better by using this command. Click on **Tools** and chose **Smudge**. A *Smudge* box opens showing you the size of the brushes. To remove a spot, select a brush, click and hold the mouse while you move it around the spot. You may have to experiment with different pictures and smudge brushes to get the “hang” of this technique.

Clone—This tool is similar to the *Rubber Stamp* tool in other photo editing programs. It takes a piece of the photo and transfers it to another place on the photo. Click on **Tools** and chose **Clone**. A box opens showing you the size of the brushes and a *clone target* appears on the photo. Move the target to the place where you want to *get a piece of the image*. Then move the cursor to the point where you want to *put a cloned piece of the image*. When you click and hold the mouse button and move it around you transfer the target image to the cursor position, based on the size of the brush. Remember, the clone target moves as you move, so don't pick up something you don't want! This tool is something like the *Smudge* tool, but you are *copying* a piece of the background instead of *smudging* it. You should re-position the target and its distance from the cursor several times to make the background look realistic.

Demonstration—If I have time, I'll demonstrate some of the PhotoDeluxe tools by using real digital photos. I still have a lot to learn about graphic editing, but I hope this short tutorial has been of some help to your understanding of the subject. Ted Finch <tedfinch@techie.com>