Elements Resizing
Steve Blanchard   11/19/09

I have Photoshop Elements 6, which is the latest version available for the Mac. Photoshop Elements 8 is the latest version for the PC. I'm not sure how different the two versions are. I'll describe how to resize in my version 6 and I hope you can translate the instructions to your version 8.

First you have to *open* an image file in Photoshop Elements. There are two ways to do this. Perhaps the most convenient is to use Adobe Bridge, which comes with both regular Photoshop and Elements. You can start Bridge separately or you can click on the Browse in Bridge button in the top left corner of Elements, second from the left. Navigate to the folder containing your image files using the Folders tab in the top left corner of Bridge. (Make sure you have the Thumbnails view checked in the View menu.) Select the image you want to resize by clicking on it. Open it in Photoshop Elements by either double clicking on it or pulling down the File Menu and clicking Open.

The other way to open an image file is to just pull down the File menu in Photoshop Elements and click Open. You'll get an Open dialog box, which is pretty much the same as the Open dialog box in any application. Navigate to the file you want to open and click Open or double click the file.

Now that you have the image file open in Photoshop Elements, do any adjusting, cropping, whatever you want to do. When you are ready to resize, pull down the Image menu and select Resize/Image Size. Make sure Constrain Proportions and Resample Image are checked at the bottom of the Image Size dialog box. Select Bicubic Sharper from the pulldown list to the right of the Resample Image check box. (I don't know what the Scale Styles check box does. Can anybody help us out there? I doubt it makes much difference, but it would be good to know what it does.)

It is suggested that you change the Resolution to 100. It is the bottom value in the dialog box. You do not have to change this, but if you want to, do it first.

The most important values to change are the Pixel Dimensions at the top of the Image size dialog box. (If you can't edit these values, you did not check Resample Image at the bottom of the dialog box.) For a horizontal image, enter 1024 as the width. Check to be sure the height is not more than 768. (These two numbers, width and height, change together because you checked Constrain Proportions at the bottom of the dialog box.) If the height is greater than 768 or you are working with a vertical image, enter 768 as the height. Double check to make sure the width is not more than 1024 and the height is not more than 768. In fact, one of these two values and some times both of them will be at their maximum value.

At this point the image shown on the screen got smaller. If you want to see what it will look like full size, pull down the View menu, click Actual Pixels, then resize the image window so the entire image is visible, if possible. (If your screen isn't big enough to see it all, you'll have to scroll around the image.)

Some people probably will sharpen the image at this point, but I don't so somebody else will have to discuss that.

You might want to make sure the color profile for the image is the recommended sRGB. Pull down the Image menu and mouse over the Convert Color Profile. If Apply sRGB Profile is grayed out, you're all set. If not, click Apply sRGB Profile to change the image's profile to sRGB.

You're ready to save the image file now. Make sure to give it a different name so you don't stomp on your original file. Your original file contains many more pixels that the resized file so you don't want to lose them. So pull down the File menu and click Save As. Change the file name (You could change the file name to the name you'll need for submission to Sharon for a BMCC competition or for a NECCC competition.) Check to be sure the correct folder is specified in "Where". Make sure the Format selected is JPEG. Make sure the Embed Color Profile is checked. Finally, click Save.

You'll now see a JPEG Options dialog box. Here is where you select the quality of the JPEG compression. The JPEG compression is "lossy" in that some information is thrown away to get the file size smaller. Selecting Maximum may yield a file size bigger than the 350 Kbyte limit. The JPEG

Options dialog box shows you the size the file will be. I think High is good enough, but if can get away with Maximum, go for it. Select Baseline ("Standard") in the Format Options area. Finally, Click OK.

You're done. You can close the image window now and go back to Bridge and work on another file.

I assume you know how to attach the resized files to an email to Sharon. If not, maybe she can help with that. AOL is sometimes persnickety to which Betty Sartori can attest.

I didn't expect you to send the image file to Sharon using Photoshop Elements, although I guess I didn't make that clear. After you have resized the image and saved it with a new name, you can get out of Photoshop Elements and into your email program. Compose a new email to Sharon and attach the file(s) you just resized to the email message. Then send it.

I didn't even know Photoshop elements offered to send your image file in an email for you. It wouldn't work on my system anyway, since I use gmail via the web.