

Image editing



Tips for choosing photo editing software

Points to consider



YOUR
EQUIPMENT



YOUR
EXPERIENCE



YOUR GOALS



YOUR BUDGET

Your equipment

- Make sure that you know the specifications of your computer/laptop/Mac
- Do you already have any editing programmes?
 - There may already be some photo editing tools available on your computer/laptop/Mac
 - You may have basic editing tools as part of your camera software

Your experience

- How easy do you find it to learn new programmes?
- How much time do you want to spend learning how to use the programme?
- Consider what is available to help you learn the programme
(tutorials, Youtube videos, manual, workshops)

Basic editing features

Examples of frequently used editing features

- Crop
- Resize for different outputs
- Adjust exposure
- Adjust contrast and sharpness
- Apply effects (vignette)

Advanced editing features

Examples of more advanced editing features

- Clone
- Local adjustments
- Layers
- Masks



Your goals



Consider what you want to achieve?

List some of the tools and features that are important to you



Be realistic

Your choices



INTEGRATED TOOLS



DOWNLOADING FREE
SOFTWARE



PURCHASING SOFTWARE

Integrated tools

Do you already have integrated editing tools that you can use?

Examples include:

- Microsoft PhotoEditor
- Microsoft PowerPoint
- Windows Paint
- Editing tools that are part of the camera software

Downloading free programmes

Before downloading

- Ensure the free programme is compatible with your computer and existing software
- Check whether the 'free' download is only available for a limited period
- Check that the programme has the tools that you need
- Look at the interface to see whether it looks user friendly or familiar

Purchasing programmes

Before purchasing programmes

- Ensure the programme is compatible with your computer and existing software
- Check that the programme has the tools that you need
- Look at the interface to see whether it looks user friendly or familiar
- Consider the purchase options
- Check if automatic upgrades are included
- Seek opinion and advice from those with experience of the programme



Useful links

Follow the links below to read reviews of photo editing programmes

- [Digital Trends – The Best Free Photo Editing Software in 2022](#)
- [PC Magazine – Best Photo Editing Software for 2022](#)
- [Digital Camera World – Best Photo Editing Software in 2022](#)



Final thoughts

- The information here is for general guidance only
- The information focuses on general PC/laptop use
- You need to research in relation to your existing equipment, particularly if looking for advice with Macs, tablets or mobile phones
- Working frequently with photo editing, implies that you will have a large number of photo images. You should also consider how/where these will be stored and a general workflow process to keep your images organised

Only YOU can decide what is best for you.