What Graphics Software Should I Get?

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	BEGINNER (rotate, resize, basic edits)	CREATIVE (layers, digital collage, repairs)	GRAPHIC DESIGNER (advanced design, logo, layout)
IMAGE EDITING	MS Paint (Win) Paint.Net (Win)	PicMonkey Adobe Photoshop Elements Corel PaintShop Pro (Win)	GIMP *Our Pick* Adobe Photoshop CC
PHOTOS	Photos (Mac) Photoshop Express App		Adobe Lightroom CC Adobe Premiere Elements
VECTORS			Adobe Illustrator CC CorelDRAW (Win) Adobe InDesign CC

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Casual User / Requires One-off Simple Edits

MS Paint (Windows)

- <u>Pros:</u>
  - Included free with Windows PC
  - Straightforward for simple edits (rotate, resize, basic text)
- <u>Cons:</u>
  - Transparency not supported
  - Difficult to combine images or collage

Photos (Mac)

- <u>Pros:</u>
  - Included free with Mac computer
  - Straightforward for simple edits (rotate, resize, basic text)
- <u>Cons:</u>
  - Really is meant for photo editing
  - Limited edits

Paint.net (Windows)

- <u>Pros:</u>
  - Free download for Windows users
  - Supports layered editing
  - Easier interface to grasp than GIMP, PaintShop Pro & Photoshop
- <u>Cons:</u>
  - Not as robust as other image editing applications
  - Layered files are their own type (.pdn)

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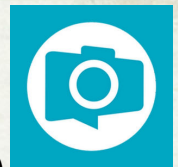# Beginners & Creatives Looking for Features

PicMonkey

- <u>Cost:</u> free trial; subscription ~$6 to ~$9/mo
- <u>Features:</u>
  - Web-based editing tool
  - Straightforward for simple edits (rotate, resize, basic text)
  - Supports layers & transparency
  - Lots of built in templates, effects, filters & themes
- <u>Notes:</u> layers supported only when saving to cloud ("Hub"), Hub storage limits by plan, combining images & creating collages not as straightforward

GIMP

- <u>Cost:</u> free download
- <u>Features:</u>
  - Open source software
  - Supports layers & transparency
  - Similar interface to Photoshop Elements
  - Free floating toolbars
  - Supports brushes
- <u>Notes:</u> layer effects, filters etc. limited & need to install add-ins to enhance functionality, limited support for multi-layer Photoshop .psd files, similar learning curve to Photoshop
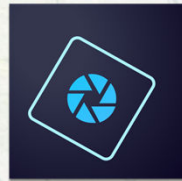
Corel PaintShop Pro

- <u>Cost:</u> ~$80 (one-time)
- <u>Features:</u>
  - Supports layers & transparency
  - Lots of effects & filters
  - Supports brushes
- <u>Notes:</u> requires Windows computer, download or CD version, similar learning curve to Photoshop, less control over effects, selections and text edits than Photoshop

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What's the Difference?

Photoshop Elements
(PSE)

- <u>Users:</u> creatives, digital artists & photographers

- <u>Features:</u>
  - Raster image & photo editing
  - Supports layers & brushes
  - Image correction, text, masking, adjustments, etc.
  - "Light" version of Photoshop

- <u>Cost:</u> ~$99 (one-time fee)

- <u>Method:</u> download or CD to computer

- <u>Learning Curve:</u> great for beginners; requires instruction to get started

- <u>Notes:</u> update version regularly

Our Pick

Photoshop CC

- <u>Users:</u> creatives, digital artists & photographers, artistic professionals

- <u>Features:</u>
  - Raster image & photo editing
  - Supports layers & brushes
  - Image correction, text, masking, adjustments, etc.
  - Less intuitive/user-friendly than PSE

- <u>Cost:</u> ~$30/mo or $240/yr (subscription)

- <u>Method:</u> Adobe Creative Cloud

- <u>Learning Curve:</u> more challenging

- <u>Notes:</u> automatic updates, look for software bundles, includes cloud storage

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IMAGE EDITING

PicMonkey

GIMP

MS Paint (Win)

Adobe Photoshop Elements — *Our Pick*

Corel PaintShop Pro (Win)

Paint.Net (Win)

Adobe Photoshop CC — Ps

PHOTOS

Photos (Mac)

Adobe Lightroom CC — Lr

Photoshop Express App — Ps

Adobe Premiere Elements

VECTORS

Adobe Illustrator CC — Ai

CorelDRAW (Win)

Adobe InDesign CC — Id

BEGINNER
(rotate, resize, basic edits)

CREATIVE
(layers, digital collage, repairs)

GRAPHIC DESIGNER
(advanced design, logo, layout)

Specialized Programs

Photoshop Express
("quick photo retoucher")

- <u>Cost:</u> free app
- <u>Notes:</u> simple photo editor (photo filters, rotate, color adjust); doesn't support multi-layer editing, brushes etc.

Premiere Elements
("video production")

- <u>Cost:</u> ~$99 (one-time fee)
- <u>Notes:</u> video editor; trim and edit videos, add effects & music for professional looking video & audio projects

Adobe Lightroom
("photographer's helper")

- <u>Cost:</u> ~$10/mo or ~$120/yr
- <u>Notes:</u> batch photo editor; uses presets and stores instructions for edits (nondestructive editing)

Adobe InDesign
("professional project layout")

- <u>Cost:</u> ~$20/mo or ~$240/yr
- <u>Notes:</u> cloud-based layout tool for pre-edited graphics & text; used by professional for print projects

Adobe Illustrator
("vector drawings / logos")

- <u>Cost:</u> ~$20/mo or ~$240/yr
- <u>Notes:</u> vector-based editing tool on the cloud; used by professionals to create logos & draw graphics

CorelDRAW
("vector painting & drawing")

- <u>Cost:</u> ~$17/mo or ~$200/yr
- <u>Notes:</u> vector-based editing tool on the cloud or for Windows; professionals use to create logos & draw graphics

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Antique & Vintage Images
Crafty & Artistic Projects

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