

PRE COURSE CHECKLIST & SUPPLEMENTARY ADVICE
PICTURE PERFECT - Improving Your Digital Photography

Is this the course for you?

In order to get the most out of the course programme as well as feel comfortable with its pace, very little prior knowledge and experience will be assumed. The checklist should help you be able to decide if this course is right for you.

The checklist uses two categories: **E (Essential)** and **O (Optional)**.

This course is designed to be suitable for beginners as well those who have used their digital camera for a while but would like to learn more about it. It follows this same approach involving time spent using a computer. If you feel that you are more experienced than this, why not consider our other course run in the autumn.

If you would like to explore any part of this checklist further with the course tutor, we will be happy to arrange this.

USING YOUR CAMERA

1	Apart from knowing how to switch on your camera, put a memory card into it and take a photo in automatic mode, there is nothing else you MUST know before joining this course.	E
2	You will need to bring a copy of your camera's full manual, preferably a paper copy although a copy on disk as a .pdf file will do.	E
3	Depending upon the capacity of your memory card, you will need to bring at least one additional memory card for your camera.	E
4	You should bring spare batteries and, if appropriate, a battery charger.	E

USING A COMPUTER

1	As long as you can use and control a computer mouse there is nothing else you MUST know or be able to do before joining this course.	E
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EQUIPMENT LIST*

1	You need to bring a digital camera to use. It can be any type of digital camera e.g. a digital compact, digital "super-zoom", digital "bridge camera", digital travel zoom, Digital Interchangeable Lens camera or a digital SLR camera (DSLR).	E
2	You need to bring a <u>standard-sized</u> tripod e.g. comfortable for use when you are standing. For further information about suitable tripods, please refer to the Supplementary Advice	E
3	If you have a PC Notebook (laptop) running Adobe Photoshop Elements any version 6 - 10 , please bring it.	O
4.	If you are bringing a PC Notebook, please bring a mouse.	E
5	If you already use Adobe Photoshop Elements (any version) at home, or want to purchase a copy, see the Supplementary Advice .	O

Supplementary Advice

- ✓ **MEMORY CARDS** - Please bring sufficient cards to cope with being away from the centre during photoshoots. However, the course tutor will have storage available to clear cards as well as USB & card reader connectivity using his PC Notebooks. If you have portable USB storage e.g. a portable hard drive onto which you can download/backup your photos please bring it with you.
- ✓ **BATTERIES** - If you have spare rechargeable batteries please bring these **AND** the charger. If you use throwaway batteries, bring lots with you.
- ✓ **TRIPOD** - A tripod will be **ESSENTIAL** for this course. If you are buying one, any full size tripod will do, but consider one with a **quick release head**, as this is more convenient for attaching and removing a camera.
- ❖ **Monopod** - Do **not** buy one especially but if you own a monopod bring it along.
- ❖ **Umbrella** - a large umbrella could be useful (for dry or wet weather).
- ❖ **PC Notebook** - You do **NOT** need to own or bring a computer with you.

Bryan will be providing some PC Notebooks (laptops) for use by course members. These PC Notebooks will be running Adobe Photoshop Elements version 10, 9, 8, 7 or 6. All will be Windows XP, Windows Vista or Windows 7 computers. There will not be an Apple Mac alternative, although Bryan is a regular Mac & PC user. Apple Mac Users welcome.

If you own a PC Notebook that is running Adobe Photoshop Elements version 6, 7, 8, 9 or 10 or any other image editing and manipulating software and would like to bring it to use during the course, please do so. ***It would be very helpful to let us know about this in advance including details of the image editing software that will be on it.*** Also, remember to bring a mouse and mouse mat.

Additional Guidance

If you are interested in buying your own copy of the latest version of Adobe Photoshop Elements to sort, store and retrieve your digital images as well as for use editing, manipulating and printing, check that your PC can run the software. How to go about this is detailed overleaf. Whilst purchasing the latest version is preferable, Version 7 (only available on-line) is worth considering as an alternative providing your PC is not running Windows 7.

PC Specifications - These vary for each version of Adobe Photoshop Elements. The requirements, as specified by Adobe, for versions 9 and 7 are detailed below. For version 10 - see the Adobe website www.adobe.co.uk

- **Adobe Photoshop Elements v.9.0** - Requires 2GB RAM and a 1.6 GHz or faster processor. (From my experience, a Dual Core/Core 2/i3 processor is best). Additionally it requires Windows XP Service Pack 2 or 3 or Windows Vista, or Windows 7. If running Windows Vista or Windows 7, I would recommend a minimum of 2 GB RAM (3 GB - 4 GB RAM even better). The available hard disk space requirement is 3 GB.
- **Adobe Photoshop Elements v.7.0** - (Requires 1GB RAM and a 2.0 GHz or faster processor. (From my experience, if Dual Core/Core 2 processor, less than 2.0 GHz is likely to be OK). Additionally it requires Windows XP Service Pack 2 or 3 or Windows Vista. If running Windows Vista, I would recommend a minimum of 2 GB RAM (3 GB - 4 GB RAM ideally). The available hard disk space requirement is 1.5 GB.

To find out about the amount of RAM a PC has installed and to see what version of the Operating System you are running do one of the following: -

Windows XP - Right mouse button click on "My Computer", then from the drop down menu list, click on "properties". You will then see "System Properties", from a list under the "general tab". Your System, Processor and RAM will be shown.

Windows Vista/Windows 7 - Do much the same as above for XP but "My Computer" is called "Computer". After clicking on "properties" you will see "View Basic information about your computer". Under "Windows Edition" you will see your version of Vista/Windows 7 and under "System" see "Processor, Memory (RAM)". You can also find this information from Control Panel > Welcome Centre.

Purchasing Adobe Photoshop Elements (PSE)

The price varies according to promotions and retailers: -

- To upgrade from any previous version expect to pay around £51 on-line www.adobe.co.uk or via telephone from Adobe Direct 0800-028-0148
- A full-boxed version is around £75 in PC World but www.amazon.co.uk usually sells this cheaper. (Amazon also sell upgrade versions)
- For an on-line purchase of PSE 7 "**warren-m software**" is well worth considering. You will find this seller by visiting the "Market Place" on www.amazon.co.uk where OEM and/or used copies are available. On the Amazon site, choose **Software** > (then the) **Elements Version** > **New/Used**. Sometimes Warren-M is sold out & not listed, so check again after a few days. Warren-M delivers very promptly by 1st Class Royal Mail.

FINALLY - Remember, you don't need any software or even to own a computer to enjoy this course.
