

From James Trigwell, June 27, 2020

I use Photoshop Elements 2018 and improve photos in a few easy steps using:

- Straighten and Crop tools
- Auto Smart Fix (photo must be in RGB Color mode for this)
- Adjust Lighting
- Sometimes, but rarely, I will use Auto Sharpen if really necessary – it can make the photo look too grainy

For difficult images like John Fearn's, contrasty with little detail, I did the following:

1. Straighten image
2. Crop (usually 8x6" or 9x6" at 300dpi)
3. Check mode is RGB (in Image tab)
4. Click Auto Smart Fix (in Enhance Tab)
5. Change mode back to Grayscale before you forget, to keep file size down (unless color photo of course)
6. Go to Adjust Lighting in Enhance Tab:
 - a. Shadows/Highlights – 5 to 25 (rarely default number 35) for Shadows, maybe 10 for Highlights, sometimes +10 for contrast
 - b. Levels – 10, 20 or 30 for black, maybe increase grey by a similar amount or less, usually leave white alone
 - c. then Brightness/Contrast – maybe +10 to 30 for Brightness
7. Keep playing with Lighting tabs until happy
8. Lastly, Auto Sharpen if necessary

That usually does it!

Good luck, Jim