

# Google Photos - Editing Workshop

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## **Google Photos Editor** (Online, Apple and Android)

The Google Photo Editor is built into Google Photos. Choose a photo to edit and double click on it. It's that easy!

Top left:

1. Share
2. Edit (pencil)
3. Enlarge (magnifying glass icon)
4. Information
5. Trash
6. Settings

Before editing a photo, click the 3 vertical dots (menu icon) and choose "Save copy." Go back and you should see that there are now two of the same images. Now, you can adjust one of them and still have the original.

Let's edit! Click the Pencil icon. You can click the Auto (under the slider menu) to let Google adjust the photo as they believe it should be.

Otherwise, you edit photo manually using the three icons at the top. They are:

- The Slider
- The square with the star
- And the cropping/rotating icon.

## **Cropping**

Although it is the last icon, I advise that you Crop and Rotate first. There is much debate on this subject. Sometimes, it depends on the image.

There are four icons at the top. The first one lets you crop to preset dimensions. This is important if you plan to print the photo. Common sizes are, 4X6, 5X7, 8.5X11, 16X20 and 11X14. Or, you can crop it to any size you want!

## **Editing**

The Sliders let you adjust aspects of the photo, such as light, color, etc. I advise that you click on a slider and push it all the way to the right and left slowly. This will give you a feel for what each can do. Then, go back and fine tune the photo.

## **Filters**

The middle icon brings up a variety of filters. These basically are preset adjustments that can adjust the settings for you. Click on each to see what it will do for your image.

When you are finished, click to either Done to accept the adjustments or Undo Edits.

## **Photoshop App - From the Windows Store.(Free) and Android**

Adobe makes Photoshop in many different plans. The top of the line product is a subscription price which includes editing and storage. It is ranges from \$9.99/month to 79.99/month.

There is a popular and less complicated version called Photoshop Elements. You can find this on Amazon for \$39.99. It's a one time purchase. The club has taught a 4 day class on this subject.

They now have a product in the Microsoft Store called the Photoshop App. Since it is free, click to install it. Once it is installed follow these steps.

1. Click Start
2. Click the All Apps icon
3. You might find the App in the "Recently Added." If you do, go to the step 5.
4. If not, click the second icon from the top on the far left and find the App.
5. Drag it to where you want it.

Open the App and you first have to bring photos in from your device storage or directly from your camera. The editing tools are at the bottom starting with cropping and rotating.

### **Cropping and Rotating.**

Open the app and find the controls at the bottom. The first four are standard rotating 90 degrees and flipping. The next icon is a lock. If it is unlocked, you can turn the photo by free hand. Click to lock it and you will see the aspect ratios. They have the popular ones like: 4X6, 5X7, 8X10, 16X20 and square. **Can you find them?**

**For editing**, there are three major categories, Contrast, Exposure and White Balance. You can see these at the bottom. There are subcategories under each of these. Also, at the bottom are options for fixing Red Eye. Red eye is often caused by the use of a flash. You can also Reduce Noise and Auto Fix. You should probably try the Auto Fix before you go to the other Adjustments. Often this all you will need to do with your photo.

While in the Contract screen, click on the white square on the bar. Slowly slide the square all the way to the right. Then, slowly all the way to the left. This will give you an idea of what you can do with this

control. With the slider all the way to the left, click the Reset icon on the bottom right. Reset is always available to you.

Do the same with the other two control options: Clarity and Vibrance. You can always reset to the original or you can see how the current image compares to the original.

Now, do the same for the other two icons on the bottom left: Exposure and White Balance.

While in the White Balance category, there is an option at the bottom right called, Auto White Balance. Click it and see what happens. Sometimes this might be the only correction you need!

The Photoshop App has enough features to make some necessary adjustments. It is not as complicated as Polarr, but doesn't have as many features as Polarr.

The Looks icon on the bottom left. Adobe calls them Looks. Other editors call them Filters. They have some Free ones. You can also get other Looks.

**Polarr Photo Editor** (Windows App, **Online**, Apple and Android)

This product is loaded with features. On Windows, you will find it in the Windows Store. There is a free version and a paid version (\$14.99)

Top Left: Click this icon to load the File Explorer and load your image.

On the right, you can see that there are many more adjustments that can be made. Click the Square on far right for tutorials. The Circle icon show just the image.

Click the Rotate icon (far right, bottom), then click Aspect. You see that they have many more options and popular frame sizes. Click on the image and see the photo divided into thirds horizontally and vertically. Click the Square to return to editing.

On the left, click the triangle made of circles. This brings up the filters. Well, at least The Unsplash Collection of filters. Click the 3 horizontal dots at the top and you will see many more filters. It can be fun just to scroll through them!

You can see that this is for serious photo editor! If you are, you should consider this product. And, you can find out much more about how to use it by visiting their website. <http://polarr.co>

**Making a Panoramic Photo**

When Google Photos first came out in the Summer of 2010, they automatically converted photos into panoramic photos. You simply had to take a series of overlapping photos, upload them to Google Photos and they would do the rest.

They have since taken that feature away. You are on your own when it comes to making Panoramas. You can make them if you have Adobe Photoshop or Photoshop Elements. It is a fairly simple process.

I am still looking for a good option for creating Panoramas. Two that are simple to use and are free are:

**Cleavr** and **Dermander** These two are online. To find them, type either Cleavr or Dermander into the search bar of the browser.

You upload your individual images and they put them together. You will then be able to download the results. It's pretty easy. The key is in the taking of the photo. Professionals always use a tripod when taking photos for a panorama. You can skip the tripod if you are not fussy about the results. Here's how:

1. Plan the scene that you want to make into a panorama
2. If you have a viewfinder on the camera, hold the camera tight to your face.
3. Hold your elbows tight on your sides, body facing the center of the panorama
4. Move to where you are looking at the far left, make a note of some elements that are on the right side. Like a tree, bush or building.
5. Take the picture, but don't move your feet.
6. Slowly, swivel to the right, until the above tree, bush or building is in view at the far left. Take another picture.
7. Repeat, remembering to include landmark on the left and right of consecutive pictures. These are important to help the software line up the images correctly.

Both of these have a free version and a paid version. The free version Cleavr will put their logo on the panorama result

A software product that sound good is Panorama Plus for \$29.00. But, you can buy the latest version of Photoshop Elements for \$39.00 on Amazon. You can make a panorama with Photoshop Elements and also do much more.