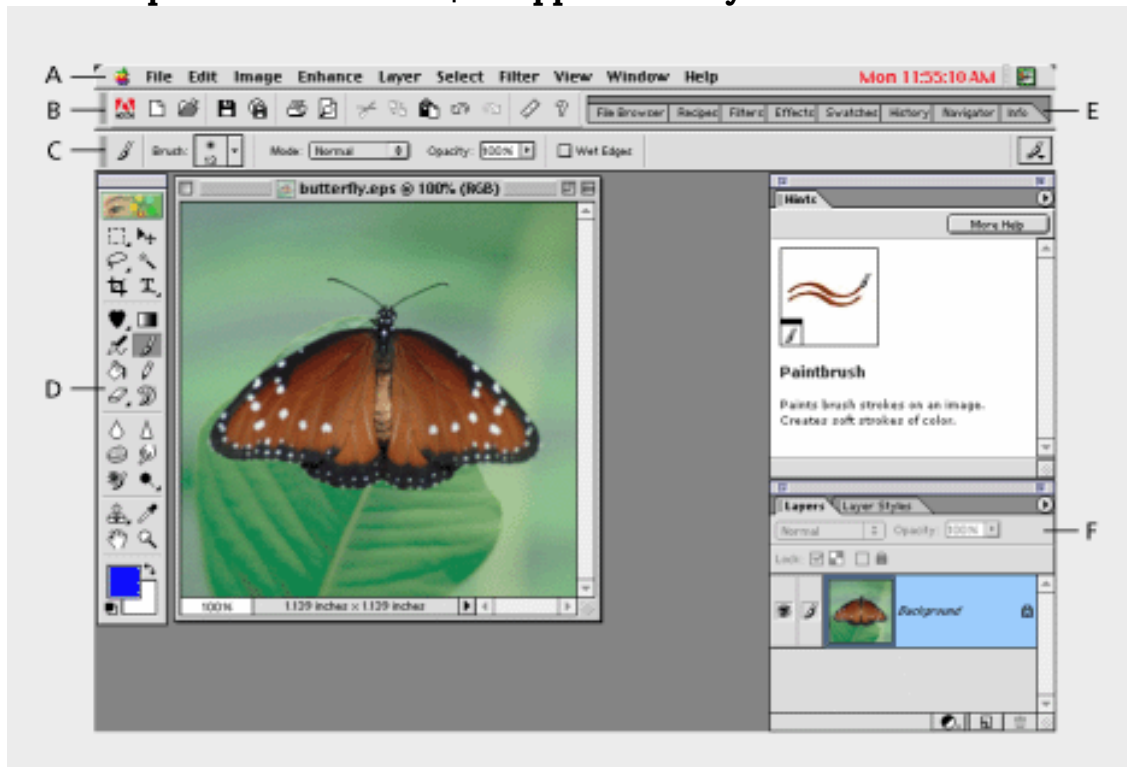


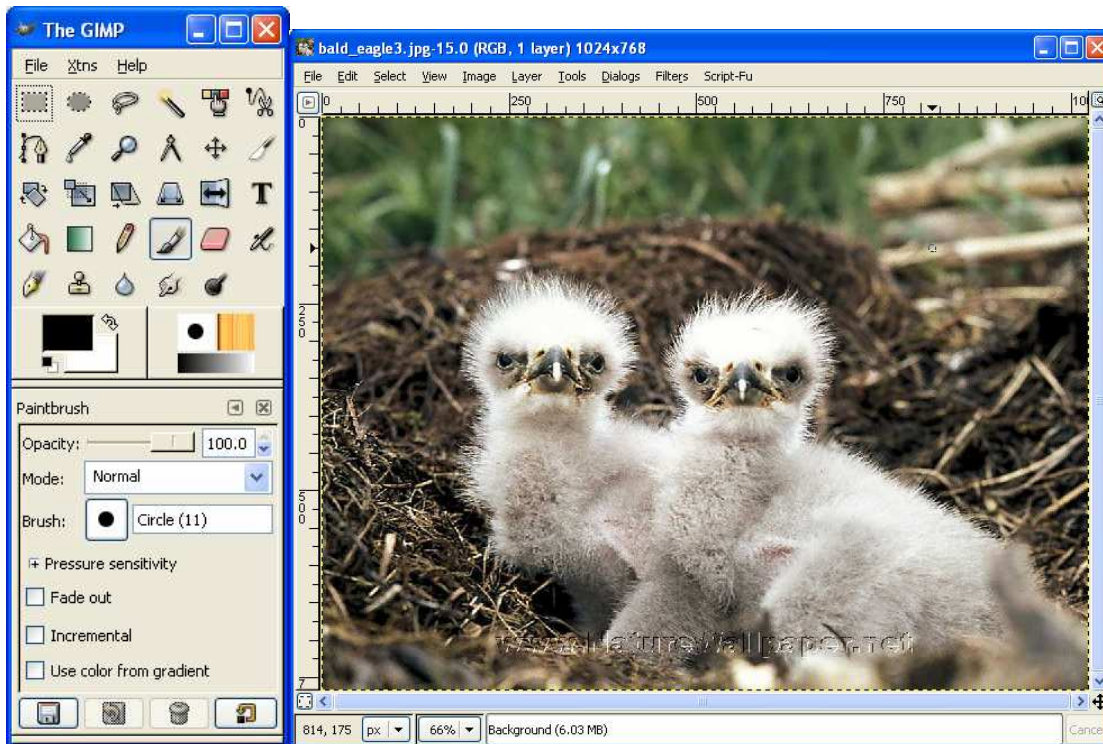
**Adobe Photoshop Elements cost ? \$99 approximately**



**A. Menu bar B. Shortcuts bar C. Options bar D. Toolbox E. Palette well F. Palettes**

- ☞ **Menu bar** The menu bar contains menus for performing tasks. The menus are organized by topic. For example, the Layers menu contains commands for working with layers.
- ☞ **Shortcuts bar** The shortcuts bar displays buttons for executing common commands. (See [Using the shortcuts bar.](#))
- ☞ **Options bar** The options bar provides options for using a tool. (See [Using the options bar.](#))
- ☞ **Toolbox** The toolbox holds tools for creating and editing images. (See [Using the tools.](#))
- ☞ **Palette well** The palette well helps you organize the palettes in your work area. (See [Using the palette well.](#))
- ☞ **Palettes** Palettes help you monitor and modify images. (See [Using palettes.](#))

Elements Help: <file:///d:/Program%20Files/Adobe/Photoshop%20Elements/Help/Help.htm>



## **Gimp cost? FREE!**

Gimp offers a very extensive online manual at:

<file:///d:/Program%20Files/GIMP-2.0/share/gimp/2.0/help/en/index.html>

*Toolbox Menu:* This menu is special: it contains some commands that cannot be found in the menus that are attached to images. (Also some that can.) These include commands for setting preferences, creating certain types of dialogs, etc. The contents are described systematically in the [Toolbox Menu](#) section.

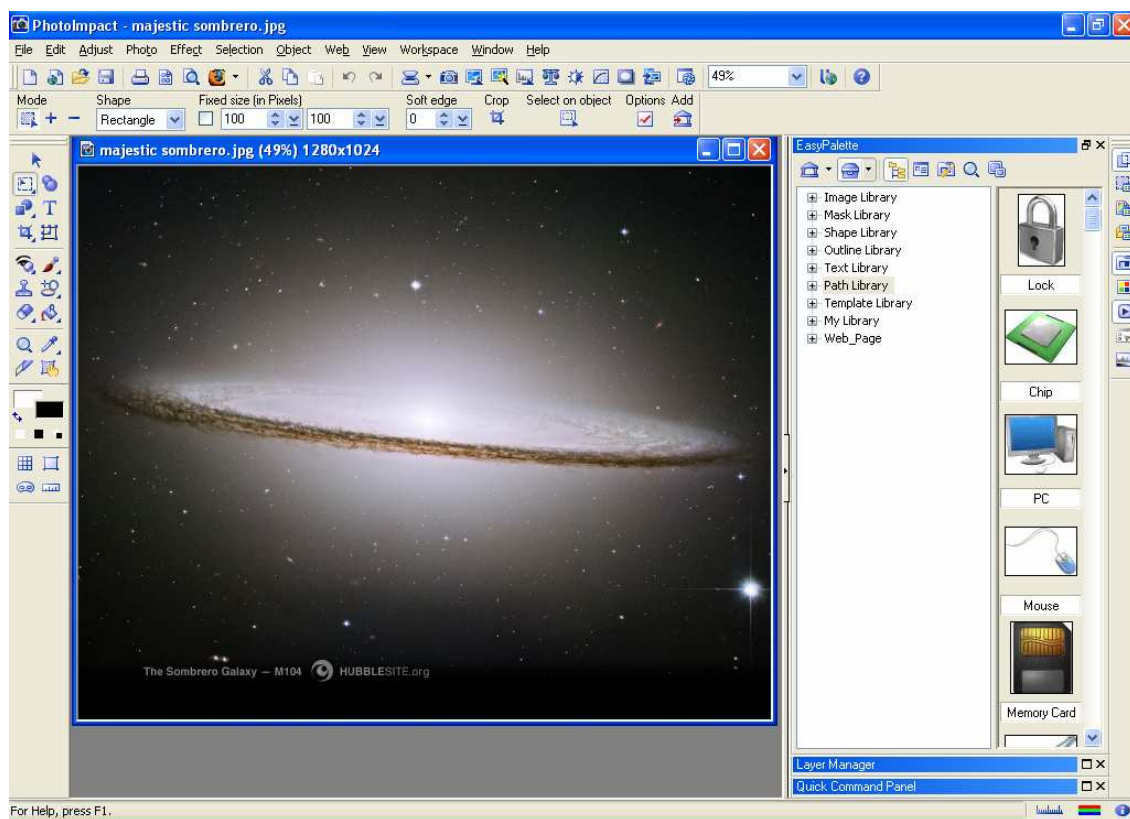
*Tool icons:* These icons are buttons that activate tools for a wide variety of purposes: selecting parts of images, painting on them, transforming them, etc. The [Toolbox Introduction](#) section gives an overview of how to work with tools, and each tool is described systematically in the [Tools](#) chapter.

*Foreground/Background colors:* The color areas here show you Gimp's current foreground and background colors, which come into play in many operations. Clicking on either one of them brings up a color selector dialog that allow you to change to a different color. Clicking on the double-headed arrow swaps the two colors, and clicking on the small symbol in the lower left corner resets them to black and white.

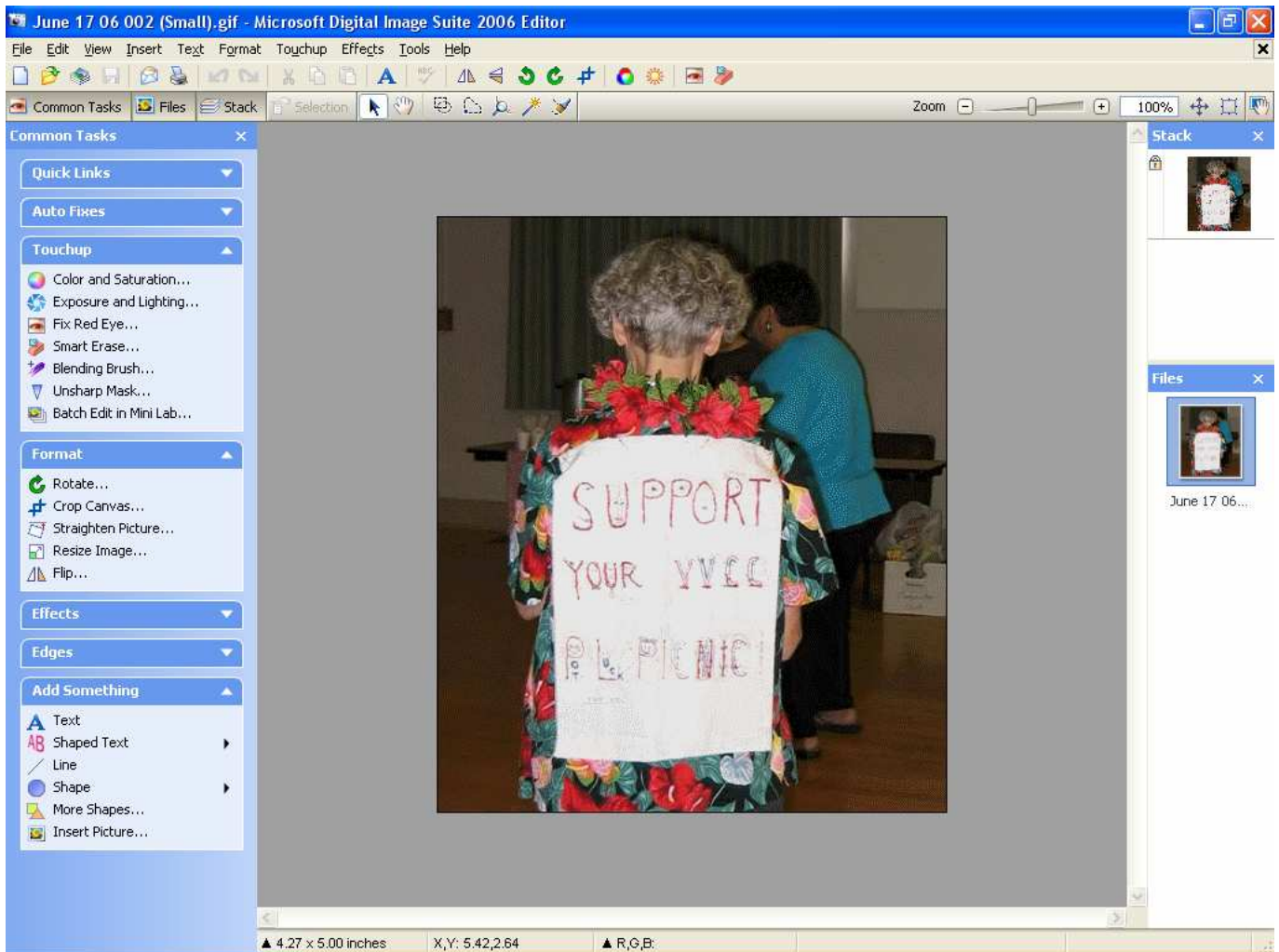
*Brush/Pattern/Gradient* The symbols here show you Gimp's current selections for: the Paintbrush, used by all tools that allow you to paint on the image ("painting" includes operations like erasing and smudging, by the way); for the Pattern, which is used in filling selected areas of an image; and for the Gradient, which comes into play whenever an operation requires a smoothly varying range of colors. Clicking on any of these symbols brings up a dialog window that allows you to change it.

*Active Image:* (This is a new feature in Gimp 2.2) In Gimp, you can work with many images at once, but at any given moment, one of them is the "active image". Here you find a small iconic representation of the active image. Clicking on it brings up a dialog with a list of all the currently open images, allowing you to make a different one active if you want to. (Clicking on the window where the image is displayed will accomplish the same thing, though.)

## Ulead Photo Impact 10 cost? Approximately \$80



- **Extensive image editing tools** make it easier to enhance lighting, color, focus, and other attributes of images acquired from digital cameras and scanners. Use Paint Tools to blur, smudge, sharpen, use High Dynamic Range to fix the problem of dramatic differences between light and shadow, or Retouch Tools to remove red-eye, noise, scratches, and other imperfections.
- **Photo and image effects** simulate camera lens, artist media, textures, and photographic effects to bring out the best in your images. Improve your photograph's tone, lighting and color balance using PhotoImpact's powerful image enhancers. Unleash your creativity by adding creative and dazzling effects using a multitude of special effects. What's more, you can add motion effects to your images and save them as animated GIFs.
- **Flexible text creation tools** let you easily create text (including EXIF data) for your graphics and give you options for fine-tuning attributes such as spacing, kerning, styles and formats. Unique type effects let you twist, wrap, and skew words, as well as animate and transform them to 3D. With PhotoImpact's WYSIWYG on-screen text editing, you can accurately adjust text properties according to your preference on the fly!
- **Enhanced productivity functions** let you work with a large number of image files with maximum speed and ease. The EasyPalette offers a convenient collection of presets, which can be quickly applied to your images using intuitive drag and drop actions. You can even create and save your own presets, such as custom animated effects, fills, and shapes. For repetitive task and procedures, let the Quick Command Panel record your common commands for easy accessibility. The Document Manager puts your recently opened images (documents) within easy reach, so you can open and edit them using drag and drop. Finally, the integrated screen capture lets you take screenshots of any part of your workspace quickly and easily.
- **Vector graphic editing support** lets you create 2D and 3D graphics that look and feel exactly the way you want using the different Path Tools and a vast range of other options. Convert your images to path objects and freely distort them without losing quality. PhotoImpact's unique Z-merge tool lets you create and merge 3D compositions at the click of a button.
- **Convenient photo management with Album** lets you organize your files visually using thumbnails with detailed descriptions, so you can search and locate your files more easily. Plus, Album provides convenient tools for sharing your images over the Internet. You can also burn your albums and slide shows directly to CDs or DVDs for storage and archives.



### Microsoft Digital Image Suite 2006 ( Windows)

Microsoft Digital Image Suite 2006 is an easy-to-use and powerful image editor with a great organizer.

**Specs:** 1 user, Complete package, Microsoft Windows 2000, Microsoft Windows Millennium Edition, Microsoft Windows XP, Microsoft Windows 98 Second Edition, 700 MHz

CNET Rating  
 7.5  
 Reviewed on  
 09/20/2005

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Get powerful digital photography tools and perfect your shots - whether you're a beginner or a pro. New, easy-to-use features help you organize, creatively enhance and share your pictures with the world. As your passion for great photography grows, Microsoft Digital Image Suite gives you exactly what you need to bring your vision to life.

**Adobe Photoshop CS2 cost? \$649.99** Adobe® Photoshop® CS2 software, the professional image-editing standard and leader of the Photoshop digital imaging line, delivers groundbreaking creative tools; unprecedented adaptability; and more efficient editing, processing, and file handling.

**Jasc Paint Shop Photo Album 5.0 approximately \$50**

Paint Shop Photo Album 5.0's attention to archiving and photo recovery sets it apart from other programs in its class.

## [Download.com Review of The GIMP](#)

The volunteer developers of The GIMP have been working hard to develop a polished, user-friendly, and freely distributed image editor. This application caught our attention--and hearts--as one of the most powerful general-purpose image editors around. The application's features include channels; layers and masks; filters and effects; tabbed palettes; editable text tools; and color operations such as levels. The application provides professional tools that can stand against the big boys without the hefty price tag. The only downside to this otherwise flawless program is the installation process. As it stands now, you have to install the GTX Runtime Environment and The GIMP separately. Once installed, though, the program is extremely powerful and easy to work with. The GIMP is ideal for amateur photographers, Web designers, and anyone who wants to create and edit professional-quality digital images on a budget.

## [Adobe Photoshop Elements 3 Review](#)

Vincent Bockaert, November 2004. Combine Adobe Photoshop Elements 2 and an improved Adobe Photoshop Album 2, add some new unique features, and some reduced functionality features of Adobe Photoshop CS, and there you have Adobe Photoshop Elements 3. Just like Photoshop CS, this upgrade is specifically targeted towards digital photographers.

## [PhotoImpact 10 :REVIEW DATE: 10.29.04](#)

If you're looking for a terrific image editor, one that particularly excels at creating Web graphics, PhotoImpact is a first-rate choice. If you're in the market for a package that provides both image editing and organizing software, Adobe Photoshop Elements 3.0 is the way to go.

For a complete listing of CNET software reviews please visit:

[http://reviews.cnet.com/Software/4502-3634\\_7-0.html?tag=dir.ie](http://reviews.cnet.com/Software/4502-3634_7-0.html?tag=dir.ie)

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- [GIMP Savvy](#)

Don't forget to check the VVCC site for photo links too!