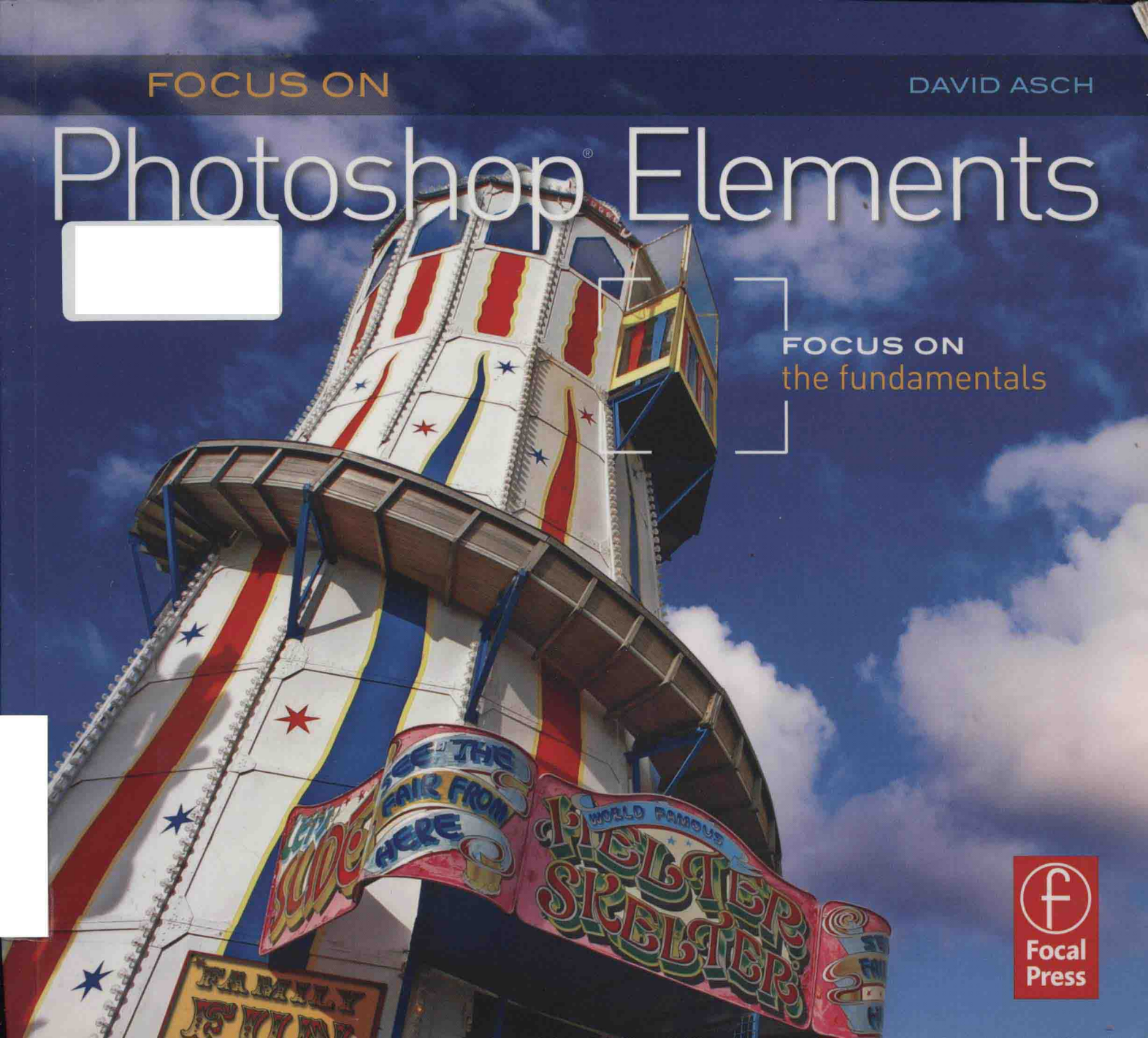
FOCUS ON

DAVID ASCH

Photoshop® Elements

FOCUS ON
the fundamentals



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FOCUS ON PHOTOSHOP® ELEMENTS

DAVID ASCH

Compatible with all versions of Photoshop® Elements

Bewildered by the advanced editing options available to you in Photoshop® Elements? Want to get the most out of your images without going bleary eyed in front of a computer screen? Need helpful, straightforward advice on using Photoshop® Elements?

This handy guide will show you the ins and outs of using Photoshop® Elements. Using a fabulous combination of easy to follow advice and step-by-step instructions, ***Focus On Photoshop® Elements*** advises you on setting up, storing, and sharing your image library, teaches you the basics of RAW image processing and color correction, plus shows you how to edit and retouch your images for stunning results. These simple tweaks and adjustments will take your images from so-so to amazing – and fast!

- Straightforward advice shows you the top tricks for using Elements
- Easy to follow tutorials will have you adjusting your images in no time, with awesome results
- Stunning examples show the simple tweaks to get the most out of your images

With ***Focus On Photoshop® Elements*** in your hands you'll be making good images look great with just a few simple steps!

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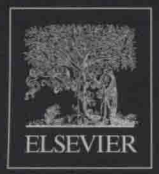

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Focus On *Photoshop Elements*

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Focal Press is an imprint of Elsevier

Focal Press is an imprint of Elsevier
30 Corporate Drive, Suite 400, Burlington, MA 01803, USA
The Boulevard, Langford Lane, Kidlington, Oxford, OX5 1GB, UK

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Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data
Application submitted

British Library Cataloguing-in-Publication Data
A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library.

ISBN: 978-0-240-81445-2

For information on all Focal Press publications
visit our website at www.elsevierdirect.com

Printed in China

11 12 13 14 15 5 4 3 2 1

Typeset by: diacriTech, Chennai, India

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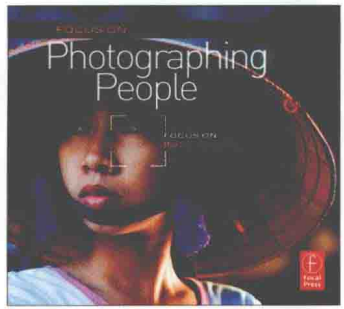
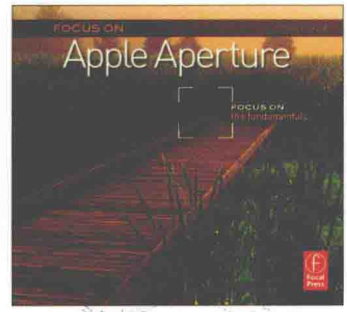
Focus On *Photoshop Elements*

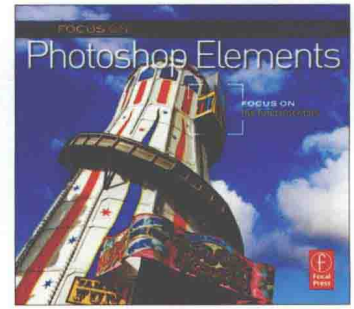
The *Focus On* Series

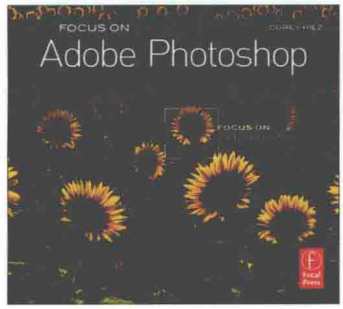
Photography is all about the end result – your photo. The *Focus On* series offers books with essential information so you can get the best photos without spending thousands of hours learning techniques or software skills. Each book focuses on a specific area of knowledge within photography, cutting through the often confusing waffle of photographic jargon to show you simply what you need to do to capture beautiful and dynamic shots every time you pick up your camera.

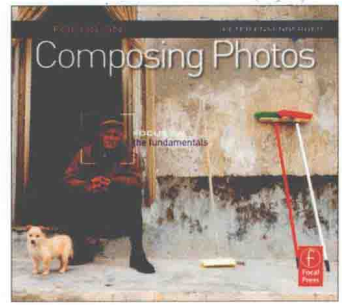
Titles in the *Focus On* series:

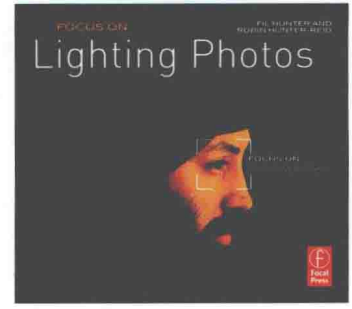












Dedication

This book is dedicated to all those photographers out there who want to make their good pictures into great pictures, but who also want to spend as little time and effort as possible in front of the computer in order to get out there shooting their next batch!

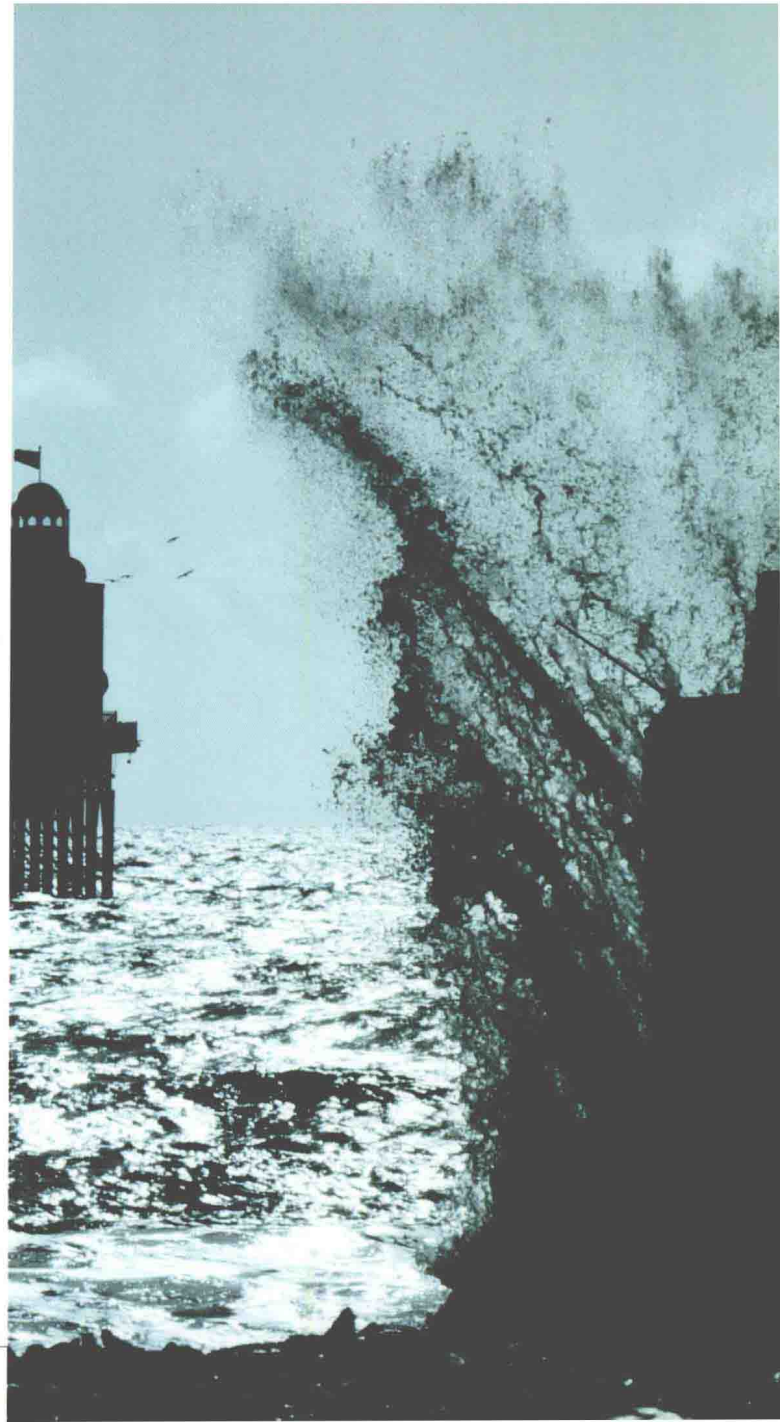
About the Author

I'm a keen photographer and a digital artist specializing in Photoshop and Photoshop Elements. I live on the south coast of England, in (sometimes) sunny Brighton, where many of the images I have used in this book were taken.

I believe that although great photos can be made straight from the camera, sometimes they require a little extra help. There should be no taboos about this; it's the final image that counts, after all, and it really shouldn't matter how you get there.

Acknowledgments

A big thank you to my family and friends for their help, their support, and most importantly their patience and understanding whilst I wrote this book.



Introduction

Digital cameras have given people the ability to be carefree with their photography. There's now no need to worry about spending a fortune on film and processing fees – you can shoot to your heart's content and be concerned only about running out of space on your memory cards. This means, of course, that you might come back with several hundred images stored away. Not all of these are going to be perfect; some may be destined for the recycle bin without a second thought, and others could be winners with a just a little bit of tweaking here and there.

The problem is that with this huge amount of photos, it's easy to lose yourself in front of the computer and see the hours fly past as you work to perfect the images. All this lost time should be spent capturing your favorite subjects and exploring new ones, not banging your head against the keyboard in frustration as you try to figure out how to get the colors just so, or how to remove that annoying telegraph pole and its cables from the otherwise picturesque landscape you shot on your last vacation.

The aim of this book is to provide you with quick and easy methods to get the most from your images and improve your workflow, without having to learn every feature and function of Adobe Photoshop Elements unnecessarily. The techniques are written in jargon-free, bite-size steps, which allow you to fly through the editing process with as little effort as possible to get your photos in tip-top shape.

This book covers everything you'll need to make the most of Photoshop Elements, including importing the images from your camera and into the Organizer catalog; sorting, rating, and keywording the images for quick reference; fixing and enhancing your images; and finally, printing and sharing them with your family and friends.

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Chapter 1: Introducing the Organizer

PHOTOSHOP ELEMENTS IS really two applications: there is the Organizer, where you create and manage your image catalog, and the Editor, where you'll be performing most of your fixes and enhancements. Although they don't have to be used in conjunction with one another, there are many features they share to make your workflow as quick and simple as possible. In this chapter, we'll be looking at the basics of the Organizer and how to import your photos into its catalog.

Key points in this chapter

Exploring the Organizer workspace

Importing photos into the catalog from the camera and other sources

Basic photo management

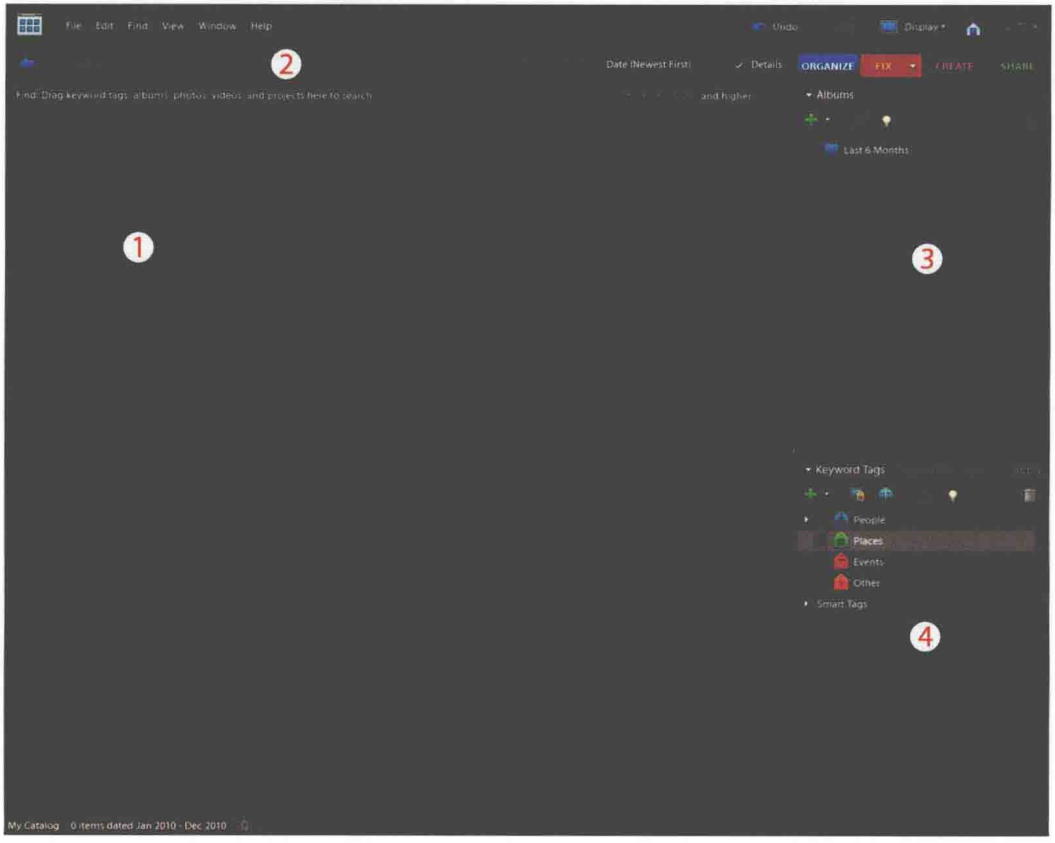
The Organizer workspace

When launching the Organizer for the first time, you are presented with its workspace. This will be empty at this point, of course, as we have not yet added any photos to the catalog.

We'll begin with a tour of the main areas. The media browser (1) is where your image catalog will be displayed. You can control how the photos appear using the toolbar at the top (2). Here you can increase or decrease their display size from the smallest grid view to a single-image preview.

You can also change the photo's orientation, change the sort order, and perform searches. The panels on the right are where you manage your photo Albums (3) and Image Tags (4).

We'll be exploring all these features in depth later on in the book.



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