

Editing with Quick Fix (PE6)

Basic Photo Editing with Photoshop Elements

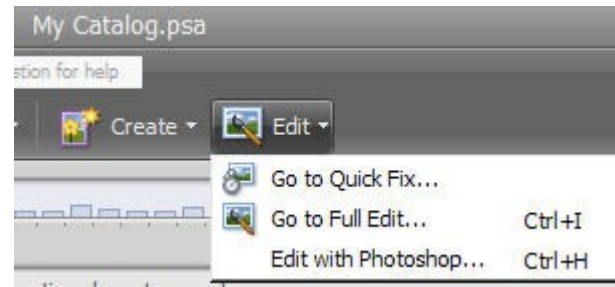
Photoshop Elements is a powerful tool, and can create outstanding changes to your photos. It is important to understand how to use the simplest form of Photoshop Elements, and that is using the Quick Fix Editor.

Open Photoshop Elements Organizer

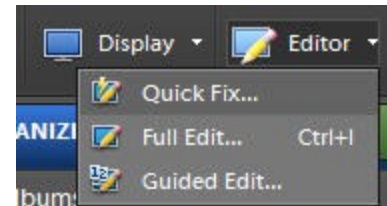
The first step is to Open Photoshop Elements Organizer. Then find the photo that you want to improve (aka edit), and click on the thumbnail of the photo in the Organizer. You have preselected the picture's file, but you have not yet opened it. Don't get misled by double-clicking on the photo thumbnail image because all that does is enlarge the thumbnail to a larger version, but still in the Organizer. Double-clicking in the Organizer does not put you into an Editor.

Note: in Photoshop Elements 6, you can do some minor editing while still within the Organizer. But since many of you may have earlier versions of PE, we will show the normal way to edit the picture. And this works in all versions of PE, including PE 6.

The most basic way to edit pictures for color, contrast, and tone is using Quick Fix. In PE 5 and earlier versions, find the Edit icon at the top of the Organizer and select Edit > Quick Fix. That will open the Editor software program in the Quick Fix mode.

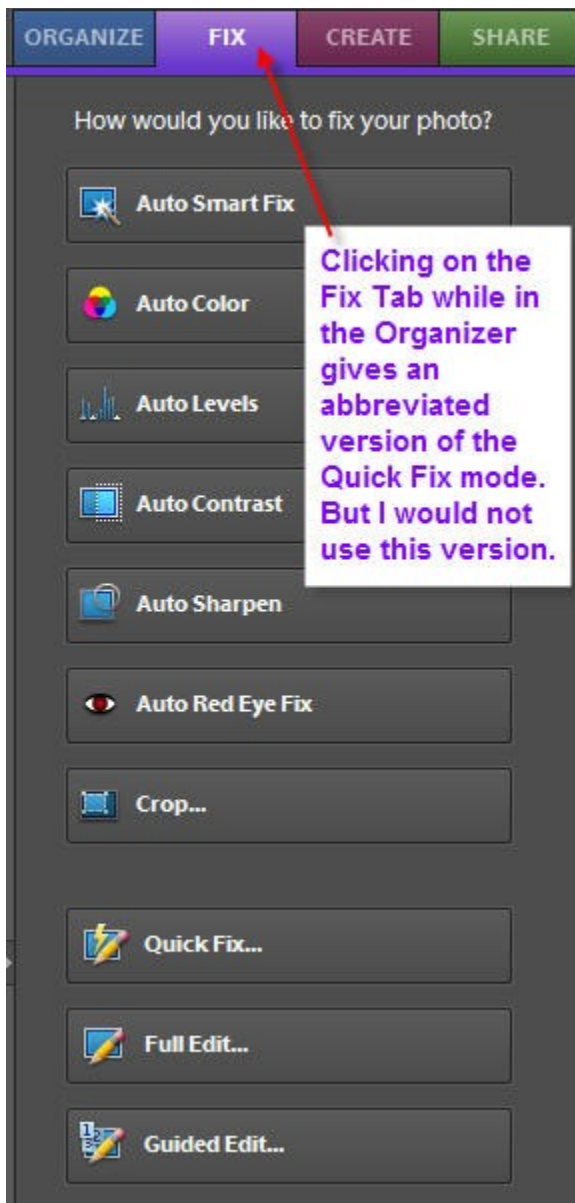


If you are using PE 6, you have two options. The first is similar to the PE 5 approach. Find the Editor icon at the top and select Editor > Quick Fix. That opens the Editor in the Quick Fix mode.



There is another way to stay within the Organizer in PE 6 and edit your photos. Find and click on the Fix tab within the Organizer. (The default tab is the Organizer tab.) You can see on the next page of the notes that this creates a tabbed section with many options:

- Auto Smart Fix
- Auto Color
- Auto Levels
- Auto Contrast
- Auto Sharpen
- Auto RedEyeFix
- Crop

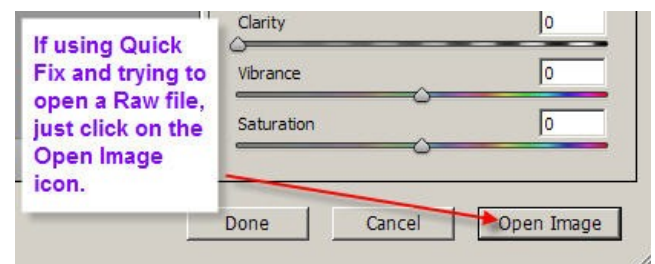


However tempting this may be, I do NOT recommend using this option to make any modifications on your pictures. The reason is that it is hard to undo any adjustments while on this Fix panel. Instead, go to the Quick Fix mode within the Editor. You could get there as described above or by clicking on the Quick Fix icon within the Fix tab screen.

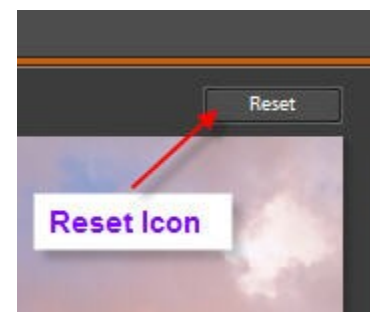
Quick Fix

The simplest way to correct your photos is by trying the Quick Fix mode of the Editor. This doesn't always work, and sometimes you need the power of the Full Editor. But when it works, it is fast and simple. So try this first.

After you select your picture in the Organizer and open Quick Fix, you are shown your picture on the left side with a choice of options on the right side. Note: if you have used your camera's Raw settings to take your pictures, just click on the Open Image icon and don't worry about making any adjustments in the Raw conversion screen.



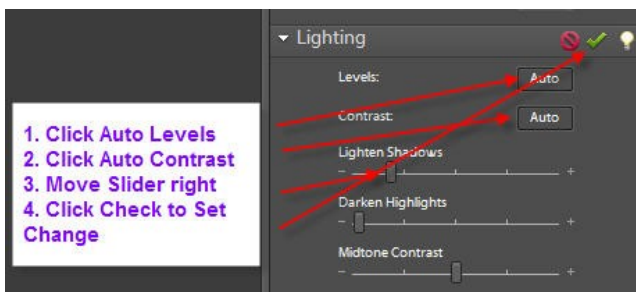
There is a key icon on the Quick Fix screen and it is the Reset icon. It is right above the picture and looks like this in PE 6.



After any, or after all changes you try, if you don't like what has happened to the picture, then just click on the Reset Icon and it will revert back to your saved file.



But I don't like the darker foreground. So I use my mouse and click and drag the Slider for Lighten Shadows and move it to the right just a little bit. Now the photo is better balanced.



It may be hard to see the changes in these notes, but the improvement on my computer screen is super. This would be my final version, and I would stop here. If I wanted to print a copy, I could. Or I could send a version of this final picture to a friend using the Share > Email approach. I will cover that another time.

After you have made all your changes, and you like what you have, do a File > Save or File > Save As. I recommend you save your file as a PSD file, and at the same time rename your file so you know this is one you worked on. I would save this one as evening_sky.psd. Good luck and have fun with Photoshop Elements.

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