

Reviews

Software & Hardware Review

Photoshop 7.0

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Every new version of Photoshop has brought forth-notable improvements. “Photoshop 4.0 unveiled Layers and Actions; Photoshop 5.0 brought us the History Palette and Layer Styles; Photoshop 6.0 introduced Shapes.” Improvements to Photoshop 7.0 do not mount to much, and it may not be worth upgrading to at this time. But Photoshop is still the best, most sophisticated image-editing software available.

Photoshop 7.0’s standard Adobe look complete with drop-down palettes and menu options, remain relatively unchanged. Adobe has introduced a few new improvements, including the handy Tool Presets option,

which lets the user change and save custom parameters for any tool to a quick-access palette. “With Tool Presets you can, for instance, define a 4-by-6-inch, 300dpi crop box and save it as a preset.” A Windows Explorer-like file browser has been added to help sort, locate and organize projects by name, date, and resolution. Other improvements to Photoshop are added tools that let the user vary opacity, hue, and flow for brushes such as pastels, oils, and charcoal. “The result is a more real-world painting experience than before.” The Brushes palette now lets the user set many more dynamic brush parameters, including jitter, color, and shape.

Without a doubt, Photoshop 7.0 remains the premier image-manipulation package in its class. The upgrade to Photoshop is not necessary unless the user is working with a very old version or if the user has money to spend.

