Basic Photo Editing using Paint.net

By Martin Hugall u3a Photo Group 13 March 2023

1. Storing photos in folders on computer and finding file size

Golden Rule – make a copy before editing – always keep the original. Click on properties to find file size and details

2. Examples of Purchased software

eg Corel PaintShop Pro2023 for PC £89.99 from Amazon

eg Photoshop Elements 2023 for PC £86.56 from Amazon

Using Paint.net – free image editing software – Basics

Paint.NET is not available for Mac but there are plenty of alternatives that runs on macOS with similar functionality. The best Mac alternative is GIMP, which is both free and Open Source.

"Paint.NET is a lightweight yet capable program that's easy to navigate and is regularly updated.

You'll quickly become acquainted with this powerful, yet easy-to-learn program's features; tools, layers, adjustments, and effects. See how to correct exposure, digitally retouch and repair damaged photos, and handle a broad spectrum of photo editing tasks—even how to colorize a black-and-white image. You'll also learn how to create digital art using the Paint.NET drawing tools and effects. Practice files are provided with step-by-step instructions to jump into photo editing and art creation."

1. Download

Download from **getpaint.net** (not paint.net) - https://www.getpaint.net/download.html

See YouTube video https://youtu.be/feReFb6sNvs   3 minutes

2. Cropping images

Demo – open image – rectangular select – can use move selection tool – image – crop to selection - save as

3. Cropping to a specific ratio or size

Boots prints:

6 x 4 inches = 10 x 15cm

6.7 x 4.5 inches = 11 x 17cm

7 x 5 inches = 13 x 18cm

5 x 3.5 inches = 10 x 15cm

8 x 6 inches

10 x 8inches

12 x 8 inches

Additional BonusPrint sizes
4 x 4 inches
5 x 5inches
6.5 x 5 inches
4.8 x 4 inches
7.5 x 5 inches

For step by step guide see https://chrismenardtraining.com/post/crop-picture-specific-size

See YouTube Video: Crop an image to a specific size with Paint.Net by Chris Menard
https://youtu.be/UAZInn7lYEI   6.35 minutes

Demo:
1. Open an image in Paint.Net.
2. Click the rectangle Select in Tools. ...
3. Change normal to fixed ratio.
4. Adjust the width and height and drag on your image.
5. Image - Crop to Selection. ...
6. File – Save As
7. Give it a new file name and choose where to save it
8. Decide on quality-file size – and Press OK

4. Printing photos with Paint.net

i. Copy and paste in Word or Publisher and then print
Demo

ii. Print direct from Paint.net
Demo – file – print- then choose options

5. Changing brightness, contrast and colour

Demo – see options under Adjustments menu - including brightness/contrast, hue/saturation (don't use hue), levels plus others

YouTube video: Editing brightness-contrast and hue-saturation in Paint.net

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pu58qFfIXPQ   3.4 minutes

6. Image – Resize and Rotate

Demo

7. Red Eye Removal

Demo – Select eye – Effects – Photo – Red Eye Removal

8. Other Effects inc Sharpen

Demo – Effects – Photos - Sharpen

9. How to use clone stamp tool in Paint Net

See YouTube videos https://youtu.be/Z77P5T5i6-M 3.30 minutes

Demo – Control left click to select are to copy and then left click on mouse on area to be changed.

10. Have not found out how to change perspective of images in Paint.net

11. Much more to Paint.net

Paint.net can also be used for **creating posters with text**

A lot more can be found out about the use of **layers**.

Also more features can be added by downloading using **plugins**

12. Book – Whatever you buy, check that it is a fairly recent edition

(I have not looked at this book but seems to be main one on Amazon – could try to see if Library has it?) Eg. Practical Paint.NET: The Powerful No-Cost Image Editor for Microsoft Windows Paperback – 29 Sept. 2021 by Phillip Whitt - Amazon £20.19

Learn to use the most up-to-date version of Paint.NET, the free, Windows-based program for image editing. This book is ideal for PC users who find Microsoft Paint too lacking, and Photoshop or GIMP too overwhelming.

Practical Paint.NET highlights this powerful program's rich set of features and capabilities providing you the pathway for just about any kind of image editing. Join the large community behind it today!

What You'll Learn

Use layers, which are essential in any professional quality image editing program

Acquire and install plugins to maximize Paint.NET's capabilities

Enhance, retouch, and modify digital images

Create compelling digital artwork using the drawing tools and applying artistic filters

Who This Book Is For

Windows-based PC users who require the ability to edit digital images without the ongoing cost of subscription-based software, or complex open-source software. This group includes art or photography instructors (especially those in schools systems with limited budgets), small business owners, casual photographers, aspiring graphic designers, or anyone requiring a solid, basic editing program.

13. Some other YouTube videos on editing in Paint.net

See: Image Editing with Paint.NET by Bloomingdale Public Library   15 mins (*6 mins)

https://youtu.be/WbJSLFd9hGE   *Start video at 9 minutes

Plus many more on YouTube