

Art of Blending Pre-Class Videos

PSE Color Workaround (Photoshop Elements 10 or Earlier)

There are ways to install actions in any version of Photoshop Elements, but they're complicated, and they change from version to version and from Windows to Mac, so I'm going to keep it simple by supplying you with two documents that give you the same result as the Digital Scrapper Color Action set.

Prepare Your Workspace

In order to use the Color Workaround documents, you must be in a view where you can see two documents at the same time.

- Press Ctrl K (Mac: Cmd K) to get Preferences.
- Check Allow Floating Documents in Full Edit Mode, and click OK. (Your version may have a slightly different look or wording, but it will be a similar option to check.)
- Open your photo and one of the two layered files that came with this lesson. The files are called Color-Cool-PSE.psd and Color-Warm-PSE.psd.
- In the Menu Bar choose Window > Images > Float All In Windows, or a similar command that allows you to see more than one file at a time.
- Move your photos as needed so you can see both your photo and the warm or cool document at the same time. (Click and drag on the bar at the top of the photo to move it.)
- Make sure the color document is the active document by clicking on it.
- In the Layers panel, click on the top layer and Shift click on the bottom color layer, the layer just above the Background layer.
- While pressing the Shift key, click and drag from one of the selected layers to your photo document. Now you have all the layers that come with the Action. Proceed to adjust and tweak the colors, Levels, and Hue/Saturation as necessary.

Dark Edge

The only thing that's a little bit different than the action is the dark edge. The action creates a dark edge that perfectly fits any size photo, but a pre-made dark edge is not likely to fit your photo size, so what I have here is a generic size that you'll need to adjust yourself.

- Click on the visibility icon of the layer with the edge that corresponds most closely to your photo, vertical or horizontal. If your image is square, just pick one of them.
- Click on the Dark Edge layer you chose to make it the active layer.
- Press Ctrl T (Mac: Cmd T) to get Transform Options.
- If you can't see the handles of the Transform outline, choose View > Fit on Screen.
- Drag from any side handle to make the edge fit. (If you click from a corner handle it will maintain its proportions, and that may not work for you.) Since it's just a single color, it won't distort.
- Double click inside the outline to commit the change.