

Filter and Effects Creation

Read Me

Adobe Photoshop Elements

February 15, 2001

About this document

This document explains how to add items to the Filter and Effects palette in Adobe Photoshop Elements. The Filter and Effects palettes are two separate palettes. Their behavior is very similar. The headings will be specific to the Filter palette but everything applies to the Effects palette.

What is the Filter palette?

The Filter palette is an easy way for the user to see the results of a filter before applying. A user can quickly scan through all of the filters and look for the effect he or she is looking for without having to apply each filter. The user then selects the filter he or she wants to run and simply drags, double clicks, or applies the filter to the image. The filter palette is displayed via a multi layered Photoshop file. The filter is executed by running action files. We will get into the details later.

Where is the Filter palette?

The Filter palette is located in the docking well to the upper right of the main Photoshop Elements window. Use the File > Window menu option to show and hide the Filter palette. The initial palette looks like this:

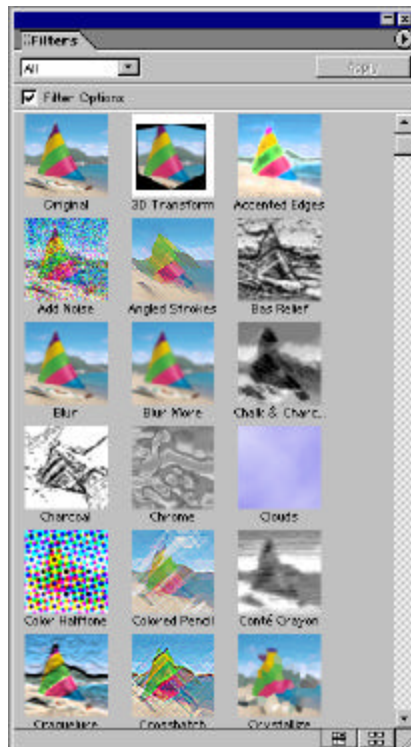


Figure 1

How does the Filter palette work?

As I stated earlier the Filter palette is a multi layered Photoshop document. Actually, it is multiple Photoshop documents. Each category found in the pull down menu is grouped together in a single document. The Noise category thumbnails are all contained in the `Noise.psd` document found at `Photoshop Elements install directory/Previews/Filters/Noise`. This directory also contains the action files, `.atn`, for each of the filters in the document.

How do I add to the Filter palette?

This is so easy it hurts. I will walk you through the process of adding the *Dissolve* filter from the Photoshop SDK to the Filter palette. If you don't have the Dissolve filter from the Photoshop SDK don't worry, any filter will work. You will need a couple of things to start. You need Photoshop, the full version, to create the action file. You need the filter in question installed in the Photoshop Elements and Photoshop, the full version, `PlugIns` directory.

1. Launch Photoshop, the full version, and open the `Original.psd` file found at `Install directory/Previews/Filters`.
2. Open the `Noise.psd` file found in `Install directory/Previews/Filters/Noise`.
3. Start recording an action in a new action set called *Dissolve* and a new action called *Dissolve*.
4. Run the Dissolve Filter on the `Original.psd` file. DO NOT save the `Original.psd` file.
5. Copy the result into a new layer in the `Noise.psd` file called *Dissolve*.
6. Stop recording.
7. Decide whether you want dialogs displayed or not in your action.
8. Save the action file, the Dissolve action we just recorded, into the Noise directory and call it `Dissolve.atn`.
9. Save the `Noise.psd` file.

How easy was that? Launch Elements and see your new filter preview. Drag the preview into an open document and your plug in will launch.

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