

## USING ADOBE CAMERA RAW

*The Photoshop Elements 6 Book, Kelby and Kloskowski, pages 47-87.*

As a first step, make sure you have the latest version of the Adobe Camera Raw (ACR) plug-in. Go to [www.Adobe.com/downloads](http://www.Adobe.com/downloads) and look for those for Camera Raw. The latest version is 5.2, and it is suitable for the Windows version of Elements 7 and the Mac version of Elements 6. (You should use an earlier version of ACR for the Mac version of CS3.)

### 1. OPENING A RAW FILE

*Elements book, page 48*

To open a Raw file using ACR, first display the photos in the Organizer (Windows) or in Bridge (Mac). Then, depending on your platform, follow the procedure below:

- a) In **Windows**, select a file in the Organizer, click on the Editor button on the upper right of the screen, and open in Adobe Camera Raw.
- b) On a **Mac**, double click on the file and it will open in Adobe Camera Raw.

If you want to open more than one Raw file at a time (useful to batch edit files), do the following:

- a) In **Windows**, go to the Organizer and Control-Click on all of the photos you want to open. Once selected, use the Editor button to open the files.
- b) On a **Mac**, use Bridge. To select files next to each other, hold the shift key down and click on the files you wish to open. (To select non-contiguous files, command-click on the files you want to open.) Double click on any one of the files and all will open.

Editing multiple files will be discussed in the Workshop (or see the *Elements book, page 69*).

### 2. OPENING A JPEG FILE TO EDIT IN THE RAW CONVERTER

*Elements book, page 49*

To open a Raw file using ACR, do NOT display the photos in a folder in the Organizer (Windows) or in Bridge (Mac). Depending on your platform, follow the procedure below:

- a) On a **Windows** computer, go under the Editor's file menu and choose Open-As. Click *once* on the file you want to open. Open the pop-up box at the bottom of the screen, and then choose Camera Raw.
- b) On a **Mac**, open Elements and click Open in the File menu. Navigate to the file you want to open, and click *once* on that file. In the Format box that appears at the bottom of the screen, chose Camera Raw (*not* Photoshop Raw).

*Note: it would appear that you cannot open multiple jpeg files in the Raw converter. This seems to be possible only for Raw files. (Multiple files can be opened from Bridge in Photoshop CS3.) This appears to be a significant drawback to Elements.*

### 3. USING THE RAW CONVERTER TO EDIT A FILE

We will work through the functions below. But understand there is no one order that must be followed. Further, there is no one right combination of effects. You decide which settings are best according to your taste. As you become more skilled in working with ACR, you will recognize what tool to use to enhance a particular photo.

<i>Function or Topic</i>	<i>Page in Elements Book</i>
Histogram with highlight and shadow indicators (clipping). The histogram displays separate graphs for the three color channels plus a white composite graph. Using clipping warnings to see if portions are over- or underexposed.	54
Preview button	
Using AUTO and DEFAULT	63
Setting the white balance	50-53
Exposure slider — changes exposure to different f/stops. Makes highlight recovery possible. Highlight clipping is sometimes unavoidable. Reduce the Exposure value first and then use the Recovery slider. You can also increase the Brightness value to lighten the image.	54-59
Fill light — fills in shadows. Similar to the way the Recovery slider works on highlights.	60-61
Recovery slider — can fix overexposed areas. Can also be used to pull highlights back from clipping.	56 and 81-83
Blacks slider and setting black point. A “blunt” tool. Use sparingly.	57
Brightness slider — affects an images midtones.	59
Contrast slider — darkens shadows and lightens highlights (or vice versa). Works like Curves in Photoshop.	64
Clarity slide — boosts contrast in the midtones.	
Saturation and vibrance — the vibrance slider is a modified version of the saturation slider. It boosts less-saturated colors more than ones already saturated.	62
Crop and Straighten	65-68
Editing several photos at once (possible only for Raw files in Elements).	69-70
Sharpening	73-76
Convert to black and white	85-87

#### TIPS AND TRICKS

1. To resize the tool when using the retouch tool, use the paren keys. Use [ to make the size smaller, and use ] to make it larger.
2. If you don't like an adjustment made with a slider, double-click on the pointer and it will reset to the default position.

3. You can move a slider using the up and down keys on the keyboard. To make a slider jump in increments of 10 (useful when experimenting with a change), hold down the shift and command keys (PC: shift and control?), and then use the up and down arrow keys to move the slider.
4. To toggle Preview off and on, press the P key.
5. The histogram is not always an accurate indicator with Raw files. Note that it is usually better to overexpose a shot than underexpose one.

### **FROM THE ADOBE DOWNLOAD SITE:**

<http://www.adobe.com/downloads/>

1. The latest version of the Nikon camera software (Nikon View, Nikon Capture) installs the Nikon NEF plug-in. If this plug-in is in the Photoshop Plug-ins folder, it starts instead of Adobe Camera Raw when you import an NEF file. Photoshop will still recognize Nikon NEF files if you rename the Nikon NEF plug-in, and open the files in Camera Raw instead. However, if you rename the Nikon NEF plug-in and the Photoshop Camera Raw dialog box still doesn't appear, then delete the Nikon NEF plug-in, and make sure that the Camera Raw plug-in is installed to the correct location.
2. Camera Raw 5.2 update: This new version of the Camera Raw plug-in replaces the original Camera Raw plug-in that was installed with Adobe® Creative Suite® 4, Photoshop® CS4, and Photoshop Elements 6 software.
3. The Camera Raw 5.2 plug-in is not compatible with versions of Photoshop earlier than Photoshop CS4 or versions of Photoshop Elements earlier than Photoshop Elements 6.
4. Camera Raw support for Designated Cameras.  
<http://www.adobe.com/products/photoshop/cameraRaw.html>
  - a) Make sure your camera is supported.
  - b) Download a short description of “Digital Raw Capture.”
5. The controls you see in Camera Raw (ACR) depend on your version of Photoshop or Photoshop Elements, or of the ACR plug-in (i.e., Version 3.x or 4.x.) For older versions of Elements, only certain versions of ACR will work. (See point 3 above.)

### **HELPFUL BOOKS AND MAGAZINES**

1. See the series *Focus Guide/Photoshop*. This is a British publication available at Barnes and Noble on an irregular basis. Issue 70 on *Raw Photo Editing* is especially helpful. You may be able to order from the publisher at <http://www.myfavouritemagazines.co.uk>.