Five Fast Photo Fixes

We’ve all got photos that would be absolutely perfect if it weren’t for just one minor flaw. In this tutorial we’re going to show you how to remedy the five most common problems that plague digital photos using Paint Shop Pro. These fixes are so quick and easy, you’ll want to use them on all your photos.

What you’ll need:
- Paint Shop™ Pro® 9
- Sample Images (make sure to unpack the zip file before you begin)

When you complete this tutorial, you’ll be able to:
- Crop to a standard photo size
- Fix exposure or lighting problems
- Remove unwanted parts of photos
- Retouch or edit portions of a photo
- Remove Red Eye
Before We Get Started

Choose Start > Programs > Jasc Software > Jasc Paint Shop Pro or double click the Paint Shop Pro Icon on your desktop to open Paint Shop Pro. Then choose File > Browse and browse to where you saved the downloaded sample photos. When you find the images, double-click each of the thumbnails to open them in Paint Shop Pro.

Crop a Photo

Cropping is the quickest way to improve a photo. You can take a photo that has a bunch of distractions and turn into a stunning image with a distinct subject. In this mini-tutorial how you can quickly crop to a standard photo size (perfect for when you get your photos printed) and instantly improve the composition of your photo.

1. Maximize the Bride and Friend.jpg, since that’s the photo we’ll be cropping.

2. Select the Crop Tool from the Tools Toolbar. On the Tool Options Palette, click the arrow next to Presets and choose the size you’d like to crop to. For this example we’ll be using 4x6 vertical.
3. The crop window will automatically appear on the image. If it isn’t in the best place, click any where inside the crop mark to move the crop window. Anything inside that light area of the crop window will be kept, anything in the darker grey area will be eliminated. Here’s the best part - you can resize the box without losing the 4x6 aspect ratio. Click the corner of the box and drag it up or down until the size is appropriate. It will stay in that 4x6 aspect ratio.

4. To apply the crop, just double click your image. If you don’t like it press Ctrl+Z to undo and try again.
Adjust Color, Contrast, Brightness & More

Even if your photo looks okay at first, there is usually a way to improve the look of your photo by making it appear brighter and more vivid. Whether you forgot to use the flash or set your white balance, Paint Shop Pro has the tools to fix any lighting problem, here's how.

1. Maximize the Dog.jpg.

2. From the Photo Toolbar at the top of the screen click Enhance Photo and then choose One Step Photo Fix.

3. The fix (consisting of 7 different image adjustments) will run automatically. If the image needs a bit more work, you can run it again.
Adjust color in photos that look too orange, too blue, etc.:

1. Maximize the `Cat.jpg`.

2. Choose **Adjust > Color Balance > Color Balance**.

3. In the Color Balance dialog, click the **arrow button** at the right of the preset box to clear all the current settings.
4. Now, drag the slider away from the colors that are present in the image. This will cancel the color cast. You can adjust this image by setting the Cyan to -48, Magenta to -23, and Blue to 56. When you’re done, click OK.

Remove Unwanted Elements in Your Photos
Removing unwanted parts of photos can be as easy as painting right over the top of them!

1. Maximize the Before Clone Tool.jpg.

2. In this particular image we want to remove the street lamp that appears to be sitting on the gentleman’s head. Select the Clone Tool from the Tools Toolbar

3. On the Tool Options Palette you’ll want to adjust the size of your brush to approximately 3/4 the size of the object you are going to remove. In this sample the best size is 65.
4. To clone an item out of an image, you must first specify the source from which you want to copy pixels. In this sample we will choose the trees to the right of the street lamp. Place the cursor anywhere in the trees and **right-click** once.

5. Bring your cursor on top of the street lamp and click and drag your mouse over the lamp, you will see the trees copied from the source and pasted over the top of the lamp.

6. You can grab another sample by moving to the trees again and **right-clicking**, and then continue painting over the street lamp by clicking and dragging your mouse until it's covered.
If you make a mistake at anytime, simply press Ctrl+Z to undo your steps.

Retouch parts of a photo

Retouching or editing parts of photos is easy to do with a tool called the Scratch Remover.

1. Since you still have the Clone Before.jpg open, we'll use that photo. Zoom in on the photo until you see just the faces of the people in the photo.

2. Select the Scratch Remover Tool from the Tools Toolbar. We'll adjust the size in the Tool Options Palette. Rule of Thumb: the size of the scratch remover tool should be slightly larger than the size of the scratch. For this example we set the Size to 20.

3. Place your cursor to the left of one of the wrinkles on the man's forehead. Click once and drag the cursor the length of the wrinkle. You can drag right through his hair - the Scratch Remover will make the correct adjustment.

4. Continue to click and drag the mouse along the length of each wrinkle that needs to be smoothed over. The same procedure will work for the blemish on the woman's face. Click to the left of the blemish and drag over the top of it. It will be gone!
Remove Red Eye

1. Maximize the Red Eye.jpg.

2. Select the Saturation Up/Down Brush from the Tools Toolbar. On the Tool Options Palette, adjust the size of the brush to match the size of the red part of the eye (in this sample it’s about 7).

3. Place the cursor over the eye. Right-click and start painting in the red area. Follow the same process for the second eye.

4. To darken each eye after you’ve removed the red, select the Lighten/Darken Brush. Resize the brush on the Tool Options Palette (in this sample the appropriate size is 7). Right-click to start painting on the repaired portion of the eye.

Next Steps:

Here we’ve shown you how to fix the five most common problems that plague digital photos. You can take what you’ve learned and apply these techniques to your photos, making your photos better than ever!