

Reviewer's Guide

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Corel® Painter™ Essentials 4 Reviewer's Guide

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Introducing Corel® Painter™ Essentials 4

Corel® Painter™ Essentials 4 is the ideal way to get started with digital art. This simple-to-use home art studio is based on the world's most powerful painting and illustration software — Corel® Painter™ X.

Working closely with its customers, Corel redesigned the Painter Essentials user interface to make it easier for users to discover the tools they need. Customers can now choose between two new workspaces — Drawing & Painting and Photo Painting. Whether users are transforming photos into paintings, or sketching and painting on a blank canvas, Corel Painter Essentials 4 provides everything needed to create stunning artwork.

The popular Photo Painting System has been significantly enhanced to reduce the complexity of turning a photo into a painting. The addition of Smart Stroke™ technology provides more intelligent brushstroke behavior during the auto-painting process. With art tools that faithfully replicate "traditional" paints, brush, and papers, it's now easier than ever before for users to achieve more expressive hand-painted works of art.

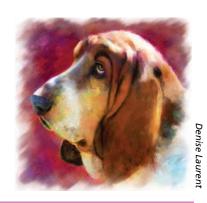
Corel Painter Essentials 4 is perfect for adding a unique touch to photos, greeting cards, scrapbooks, and school projects. Home users, on both the Mac OS® and Windows® platforms, now have everything they need for creating digital art and lasting family mementos. Easy to learn, Corel Painter Essentials 4 is complete with training videos and a helpful guidebook, making it simple to get started on a digital art project.

Corel Painter Essentials 4 is a perfect complement to image-editing applications, such as Adobe® Photoshop® Elements, Adobe® Photoshop®, Corel® Paint Shop Pro®, and Ulead PhotoImpact®. Users can optimize their photos with their favorite image editor and then create a personalized handmade painting with Corel Painter Essentials 4. They can easily output their final painted images on canvas or use them for other creative projects, such as scrapbooks, apparel, and greeting cards.

With its streamlined user interface, easier workflow, and increased creative options, Corel Painter Essentials 4 lets home users create beautiful, handmade digital-art keepsakes that are perfect for framing, using in crafts projects, and sharing as special gifts to friends and family.



2



Customer Profiles

Digital Camera Users and Photography Hobbyists

Digital camera users and photography hobbyists use their cameras to capture special moments and to express themselves creatively. They are always looking for new ways to add unique touches to their photos, and Corel Painter Essentials 4 gives them the ideal solution. The completely redesigned user interface and the simplified Photo Painting System make it easy to add artistic flair to any project. With the new Smart StrokeTM technology, it's now even easier to turn a photo into a natural and expressive hand-painted work of art.

Scrapbookers and Arts & Crafts Enthusiasts

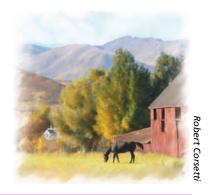
Working with photos, sketching, and painting are some of the hands-on projects enjoyed by scrapbookers and arts & crafts enthusiasts. Whether they want to transform a photo into a painting, sketch or paint an original image, or add creative elements to any project, Corel Painter Essentials 4 makes it simple. Users can create stunning images that are perfect for hanging on the wall or for adding an extra personal touch to scrapbooks or other creative projects.

Art Students and Teachers

Ideal for both at home and in school, art students and teachers have a way to explore the visual arts without the costs and mess associated with traditional art supplies. Corel Painter Essentials 4 provides students with an ideal learning environment in which the techniques of classical art training are combined with all the benefits offered by computers. Students can explore their creativity with digital media in ways that are just not possible with conventional art supplies or photo-editing software.







What's Included?

Main Application

• Corel® Painter™ Essentials 4, Mac OS® and Windows® versions

Content

• Libraries of unique brushes, paper textures, patterns, and nozzles

Documentation and Training

- Tutorial-based guidebook that provides step-by-step instruction for fun projects and introduces users to different media, techniques, and art tips
- Companion video tutorials that match the guidebook and are accessible from within the application
- Help files (HTML)

Minimum System Requirements

Mac OS® version:

- Mac OS® X (10.4 or 10.5 with latest updates)
- Power Mac® G4, 700 MHz or greater
- 256 MB of RAM
- Mouse or tablet
- 24-bit color display
- 1024 × 768 screen resolution
- CD drive



Windows® version:

- Windows Vista™ or Windows® XP, with latest service packs
- Pentium® III, 700 MHz or greater
- 256 MB of RAM
- Mouse or tablet
- 24-bit color display
- 1024 × 768 screen resolution
- CD drive





Top New Features

Corel Painter Essentials 4 is the ideal way to get started with digital art. This simple-to-use home art studio is based on the world's most powerful painting and illustration software — Corel Painter X.

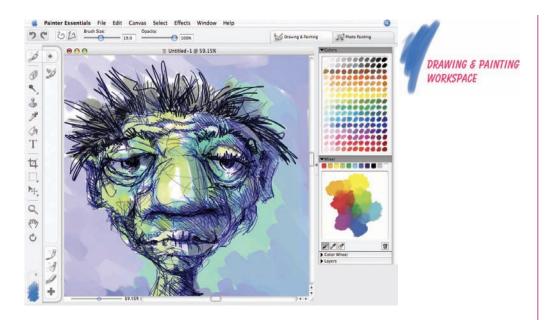
Discover an Expressive, Natural, and Inspiring Home Art Studio

For Corel Painter Essentials 4, the application workspace has been completely redesigned to improve color selection and the discovery of brushes, media, and paper. The new workspace is also easier for users to navigate, especially if they work with a pen tablet.

New! Redesigned workspace: Corel worked closely with its customers to find out how they were using Painter Essentials. The result is a redesigned and simplified environment with two distinct workspaces: Drawing & Painting and Photo Painting. Each workspace is easily accessible from tabs within the application, and each presents users with the tools specifically needed for the task they've selected.

In the Drawing & Painting workspace, users can access relevant tools, such as the Colors, Color Wheel, and Layers palettes. In the Photo Painting workspace, users are provided with the Source Image, Auto-Painting, and Restore Detail palettes. Both workspaces offer a reconfigured toolbox that makes it easier to identify and select brushes, media, and paper.



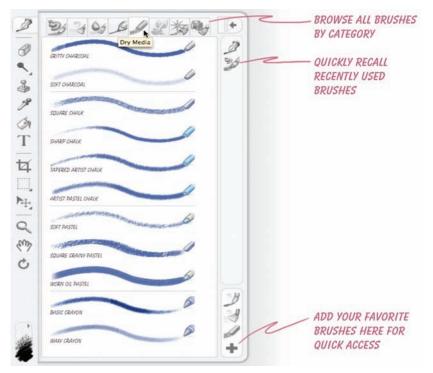




The redesigned and simplified Corel Painter Essentials 4 workspaces. Artwork created by Jerry Stinson (top) and John Derry (bottom).

New! Brush Drawer: With Corel Painter Essentials 4, a new Brush Drawer has been added to the toolbox, making brush identification and selection easier than ever before. The Brush Drawer opens with the click of a flyout button. Redesigned icons for each brush category are displayed on tabs along the top of the Brush Drawer. The list of available brushes changes depending on the selected brush category. When closed, the Brush Drawer displays a column from which users can quickly access their most recently used brushes. For convenience, users can also easily add their favorite brushes to the Brush Drawer column.





The new Brush Drawer makes brush identification and selection easier than ever before.

Give it a try

To use the Brush Drawer

- 1 In the toolbox, click the **Open Brush Drawer** flyout arrow next to the **Brush** tool.
- 2 To choose a Brush Category, click one of the following icons:
 - Thick Paint 👺
 - Thin Paint 📓
 - Water
 - Pencils & Pens
 - Dry Media 🌌
 - Blenders 💹
 - Effects 🖔
 - Photos 🛍
- **3** Choose a brush from the list.

New! Mixer palette: In addition to its traditional Color Wheel, Corel Painter Essentials 4 now provides the Mixer palette. By simulating the traditional experience of mixing colors on an artist's paint palette, the Mixer palette makes it easier for users to get the precise color they want. Users can apply two or more colors to the Mixer pad, and then blend the colors together until they are satisfied with the result.





The Mixer palette simulates the traditional experience of mixing colors on an artist's paint palette.

Give it a try

To choose colors in the Mixer palette

- Click the **Drawing & Painting** workspace tab.
 If the Mixer palette is not displayed, choose **Window** menu ▶ **Show Palettes**, or press **Tab**.
 - If the Mixer palette is not expanded, click the palette arrow.
- 2 On the Mixer palette, click the **Apply Color /** tool.
- 3 Click a **color swatch** along the top of the Mixer palette, or click a **color swatch** on the Colors palette, and paint on the Mixer Pad.
- 4 Choose another color, and paint on the Mixer Pad.
 Use the **Apply Color** tool to add to and blend the colors.
- 5 On the Mixer palette, use the **Eyedropper** 1 tool to pick up color from the Mixer pad.
- 6 Paint on the canvas.

New! Colors palette: Corel Painter Essentials 4 provides the new Colors palette, which lets users choose a color with just one click.

Give it a try

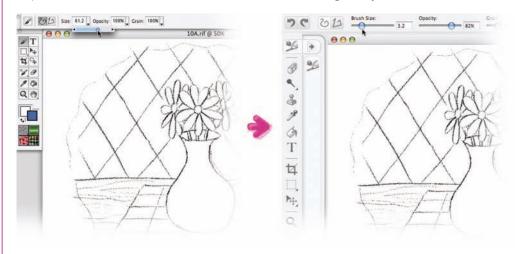
To use the Colors palette

- 1 Click the Drawing & Painting workspace tab.
 If the Colors palette is not displayed, choose Window menu ▶ Show Palettes, or press Tab.
 - If the Colors palette is not expanded, click the palette arrow.
- **2** To choose a color, click one of the **color swatches** on the Colors palette.



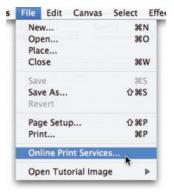
New! Easier pen tablet navigation: With its new workspaces,

Corel Painter Essentials 4 makes it easier for pen tablet users to navigate. Many of the application's buttons and sliders are larger and easier to grab. In addition, the controls for frequent actions, such as Undo and Redo, have been better exposed so that users can access them without using a keyboard.



Compared with the previous version (left), Corel Painter Essentials 4 (right) features larger buttons and sliders that are easier to grab.

New! Professional prints: Accessible from the File menu, the new Online Print Services option lets users get professional prints on canvas, watercolor paper, or other fine art materials.



Users can access professional print services from within Corel Painter Essentials 4.

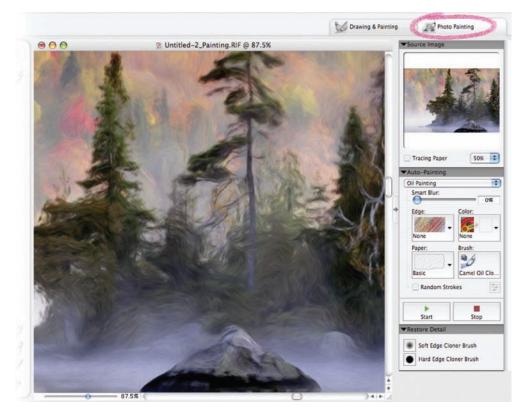
Turn Photos into Paintings

With Corel Painter Essentials 4, it's now even easier for users to turn photos into expressive, natural, hand-painted portraits.

New & Enhanced! Photo Painting System: The Photo Painting System has been redesigned and enhanced, reducing the complexity of turning a photo into a painting. With Corel Painter Essentials 4, the streamlined Photo Painting System is now available as a separate workspace. All brushes within the Photo Painting workspace act as cloners and take their color from the source image.



The new Source Image palette makes it simpler to choose a clone source, and includes controls to adjust the opacity of tracing paper and to toggle tracing paper on and off. In addition, the source image is now saved with the painting, meaning that users do not have to keep a separate photo open. The enhanced Auto-Painting palette now includes Smart Stroke™ technology, which provides more intelligent brush behavior during the auto-painting process.



The redesigned and enhanced Photo Painting System now comprises a separate workspace tab.

Give it a try

To use the Photo Painting system

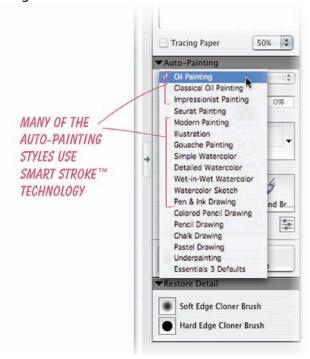
- 1 Choose **File** menu ▶ **Open**, choose an image from the Open (Mac OS) or Select Image (Windows) dialog box, and click **Open**.
- 2 Click the **Photo Painting** workspace tab.
- 3 On the Source Image palette, click **Use Open Image**.

 This step creates a new document that is linked to the source image. In previous versions, this new document was referred to as a "clone." The source image appears as a layer in the Layers palette.
- 4 At the top of the Auto-Painting palette, choose a preset from the **Auto-Painting Style** pop-up menu.
- 5 Click Start.

To fine-tune your results, choose another Auto-Painting Style, or adjust any of the following settings: **Smart Blur**, **Edge**, **Color**, **Paper**, **Brush**.



New & Enhanced! Smart Stroke™ technology: Built into the Auto-Painting palette, the new Smart Stroke™ technology paints with brushstrokes that follow the forms of the original photo. Smart Stroke technology dynamically changes brush size, stroke length, and pressure, based on the detail and focal areas of the original photo, which helps users quickly achieve impressive paintings or sketches.



The Auto-Painting palette provides preset styles that paint with Smart Stroke $^{\text{TM}}$ technology.

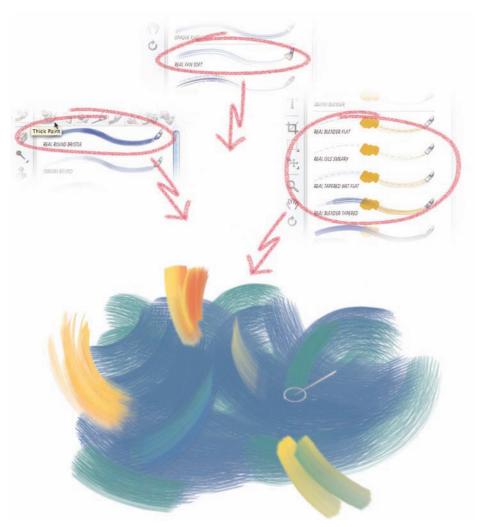
New! Source image saved with file: Previously, if users wanted to continue working on a Photo Painting project, they needed to remember which image file had been used as the source. With Corel Painter Essentials 4, the source image is now saved with the RIFF file, making it easier to return to a project later.

Try the Broader Selection of Natural-Media® Materials

Painter has always led the way with its unrivaled selection of Natural-Media materials. With Corel Painter Essentials 4, users get access to an even greater selection of Natural-Media brushes, pens, and paper textures.

New! RealBristle[™] Painting System: First introduced by Corel Painter X, the new RealBristle[™] Painting System heightens the responsiveness of the brush for the artist and represents a major milestone for digital painting. With Corel Painter Essentials 4, users get access to several RealBristle brushes in a variety of brush categories. Brushes that use RealBristle technology are identified by the prefix "Real" in their name. By authentically reproducing the sensation of the interaction between the paint, canvas, and brush, RealBristle brushes take realism to a whole new level.





The new RealBristle™ Painting System heightens the responsiveness of the brush.

RealBristle brushstrokes created by Cher Threinen-Pendarvis.

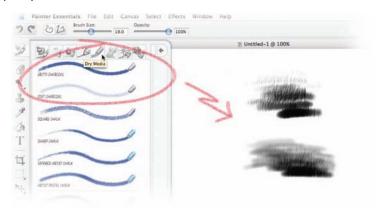
Give it a try

To use the RealBristle™ Painting System

- 1 Click the **Drawing & Painting** workspace tab, and choose **File** menu **New**.
- 2 In the toolbox, click the **Open Brush Drawer** flyout arrow next to the **Brush** tool.
- **3** Choose a brush category by clicking one of the following icons:
 - Thick Paint 👺
 - Thin Paint 📓
 - Blenders 🌌
- 4 Choose any of the **Real** brushes.
- **5** Paint on the canvas, and note how the bristles on the brush bend and splay just like their traditional counterparts.



New! Charcoal brushes: The new Charcoal brushes range from pencils to hard or soft charcoal sticks. As with other dry media brushes, the opacity is linked to pen pressure.



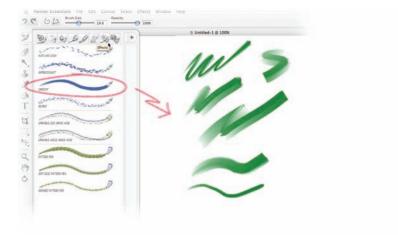
The new Charcoal brushes in action.

Give it a try

To use a Charcoal brush

- 1 Click the **Drawing & Painting** workspace tab, and choose **File** menu **New**.
- 2 In the toolbox, click the **Open Brush Drawer** flyout arrow next to the **Brush** tool.
- 3 Click the Dry Media icon, and choose one of the following brushes:
 - Gritty Charcoal
 - Soft Charcoal
- 4 Paint on the canvas.

New! Sargent brush: The new Sargent brush in Corel Painter Essentials 4 helps users paint in the style of master artist John Singer Sargent.



The new Sargent brush in action.

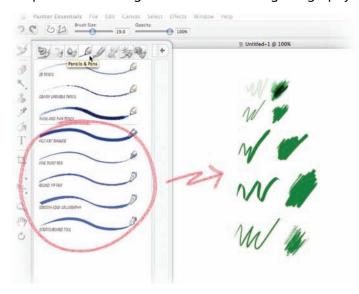


Give it a try

To use the Sargent brush

- 1 Click the **Drawing & Painting** workspace tab, and choose **File** menu **New**.
- 2 In the toolbox, click the **Open Brush Drawer** flyout arrow next to the **Brush** tool.
- 3 Click the **Effects** icon, and choose the **Sargent** brush variant.
- 4 Paint on the canvas.

New! Pens: Corel Painter Essentials 4 introduces pens in the Pencils & Pens brush category, such as the Scratchboard Tool and Smooth Edge Calligraphy, which are perfect for inking comic books or doing calligraphy.



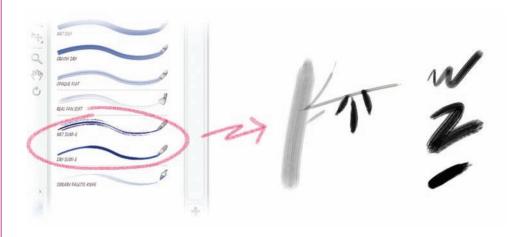
The new Pens in action.

Give it a try

To use a pen from the Pencils & Pens brush category

- 1 Click the **Drawing & Painting** workspace tab, and choose **File** menu **New**.
- 2 In the toolbox, click the **Open Brush Drawer** flyout arrow next to the **Brush** tool.
- 3 Click the **Pencils & Pens** (See icon, and choose one of the following brushes:
 - Fine Point Pen
 - Round Tip Pen
- 4 Paint on the canvas.

New! Sumi-e brushes: Corel Painter Essentials 4 has added Sumi-e brushes, which let you create flowing sumi-e-style brushstrokes.



The new Sumi-e brushes in action.

Give it a try

To use a Sumi-e brush

- 1 Click the **Drawing & Painting** workspace tab, and choose **File** menu **New**.
- 2 In the toolbox, click the **Open Brush Drawer** flyout arrow next to the **Brush** tool.
- 3 Click the **Thin Paint** icon, and choose one of the following brushes:
 - Wet Sumi-e
 - Dry Sumi-e
- 4 Paint on the canvas.

New! Paper textures: Corel Painter Essentials 4 includes a greater selection of paper textures that accurately reproduce the feel of using traditional art materials. Users can control the texture of the canvas to achieve the results expected from using traditional media on a given surface — for example, pencil on watercolor paper, felt pens on cotton paper, or chalk on the sidewalk.



Corel Painter Essentials 4 includes a greater selection of paper textures.



Give it a try

To use paper textures

- 1 Click the **Drawing & Painting** workspace tab, and choose **File** menu **New**.
- 2 In the toolbox, click the **Open Brush Drawer** flyout arrow next to the **Brush** tool.
- 3 Click the **Dry Media** icon, and choose **Square Chalk**.
- 4 In the toolbox, click the **Paper Selector** arrow, and choose a paper texture from the list.
- Paint on the canvas.Try several of the available paper textures to see their different effects.

Explore Learning Materials

Getting started with Corel Painter Essentials and digital art has never been simpler. Users can take advantage of inspiring, tutorial-based videos and a companion guidebook, in addition to the application's Help system.

New! Tutorial-based guidebook: The Corel Painter Essentials 4 Guidebook provides step-by-step tutorials that help users discover the application while completing fun projects. With projects ranging from beginner to advanced levels, the guidebook introduces various Corel Painter Essentials media and provides tips that introduce some of the elements and principles of art.



A sample page from the Corel Painter Essentials 4 Guidebook.



New! Video tutorials: Corel Painter Essentials 4 includes video tutorials that are accessible from within the application. Users benefit by learning from the experience of Painter Master and Ambassador John Derry. The video tutorials guide users through a variety of projects, including those in the guidebook.

Enjoy Compatibility

Users who work with the latest operating system from Apple or Microsoft can rely on the compatibility features of Corel Painter Essentials 4. The application is designed to work with the industry-standard software and hardware that digital artists and hobbyists use every day.

New! Universal binary: While still providing a great experience with PowerPC® processors, Corel Painter Essentials 4 is optimized for use with Intel processors.

Enhanced! Windows Vista[™] support: Corel Painter Essentials 4 Works with Windows[™] Vista.

Enhanced! Support for Wacom® products: Corel Painter Essentials 4 supports the entire Wacom product line, including the Graphire® pen tablets, the Cintiq® 21 UX interactive pen display, the Intuos®3 pen tablet, and the Wacom® 6D Art Pen.







Natural-Media® Brushes

Brushes are the heart and soul of Corel Painter Essentials. The following sections explain how brushes and media are organized within the application.

Thick Paint

Thick Paint brushes let users simulate painting with thick, sticky paints, such as acrylics and oils. All Thick Paint brushes cover underlying brushstrokes. Many of the brushes can produce multicolored strokes, and others interact with underlying pixels to create realistic effects. The Thick Paint category includes Acrylics, Artists' Oils, Impasto, Oils, Palette Knives, and RealBristleTM brushes.







Thick Wet Impasto



Loaded Palette Knife

Thin Paint

Thin Paint brushes let users simulate the application of thin paint or ink, such as thin acrylic, oil paint, gouache, or Sumi-e ink. All Thin Paint brushes cover underlying brushstrokes. The Thin Paint category includes Acrylics, Gouache, Oils, RealBristle, and Sumi-e brushes.



Fine Camel



Wet Sumi-e



Wet Acrylic



Water

There are two classes of Water brushes: watercolor brushes and airbrushes. Users must dry both airbrush and watercolor brushstrokes before applying effects.

Watercolor brushes produce watercolor effects that react with the canvas texture. With the exception of the Wet Eraser, the width of watercolor brushstrokes is affected by stylus pressure. In previous versions of Corel Painter Essentials, the Watercolor brushes were referred to as Digital Watercolor.

Airbrushes apply fine sprays of color. The Digital Airbrush carefully mirrors the feel of a real airbrush. The Wacom airbrush stylus is fully compatible with the airbrushes in Corel Painter Essentials.



Pencils & Pens

Brushes in the Pencils & Pens category are marking tools that simulate pencils, ballpoint pens, markers, and calligraphy pens.

Just like their traditional counterparts, the pencils in the Pencils & Pens category interact with canvas texture and are great for a variety of artwork — from rough sketches to fine line drawings. The pencils and the Felt Art Marker build to black and link opacity to stylus pressure. Dragging quickly with a Pencils brush produces a thinner line, while dragging slowly leaves a thicker line.

Pens, such as the Round Tip Pen and Scratchboard Tool, create realistic effects without the drawbacks of traditional pens, which can clog, spatter, or run dry.

2B Pencil Smooth Edge Calligraphy Scratchboard Tool

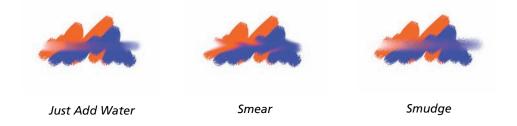
Dry Media

Dry Media brushes range from charcoal and chalk to pastels and crayons. The opacity of Dry Media brushstrokes is linked to stylus pressure and all strokes interact with the paper texture. These brushes range from hard styles that reveal the paper grain to soft styles that glide on to completely cover existing brushstrokes. The Dry Media category includes Charcoal, Chalk, Crayons, and Pastels.



Blenders

Blenders brushes affect underlying pixels by moving and mixing them. Blenders can reproduce the effects of blending paint by applying water or oil. Blenders can be used to smooth drawing lines and create shading just like a traditional pencil sketch or charcoal drawing.



Effects

There are three types of Effects brushes: Artist brushes, Image Hoses, and Pattern Pens.

Artist brushes let users paint in the styles of master artists, such as Vincent Van Gogh (with brushstrokes that are multishaded), or Georges Seurat (with multiple dots combining to form an image).

Image Hoses are special brushes that apply images, instead of color, to the canvas. The images that these brushes "paint" with come from special image files called nozzles. Each nozzle file contains multiple images. The Variable-Size Image Hose varies the size of images as you paint. The Variable-Angle Image Hose varies the angle at which the images are applied.



Brushes in the Pattern Pens category apply a pattern to an image. Users can vary the size and transparency of the pattern.



Photo

Photo brushes are based on popular brushes from other brush categories, but are optimized for auto-painting.





Summary of New and Enhanced Features

The following is a list of the new and enhanced features offered by Corel Painter Essentials 4.

Discover an Expressive, Natural, and Inspiring Home Art Studio

- Redesigned and simplified, Corel Painter Essentials 4 provides two new workspaces Drawing & Painting and Photo Painting which give users a tailored environment containing the tools needed for a specific task.
- The new Brush Drawer makes brush identification and selection easier than ever before.
- With the addition of the **new Mixer palette**, Corel Painter Essentials 4 users can easily get the precise color they want.
- The **new Colors palette** lets users pick a color with a single click.
- The redesigned workspaces feature larger icons, buttons, and sliders, which
 make it easier for pen tablet users to navigate the application.
- From directly within the application, the new Online Print Services
 option lets users order prints of their artwork on canvas, watercolor paper,
 and other fine art materials.
- In the toolbox, the addition of the **new Magic Wand tool** makes it easier for users to select specific portions of a photo or painting.
- **New selectors** for gradients, nozzles, and patterns appear on the property bar when they are relevant to the current task.
- In the toolbox, the **new Paper Selector** provides quick access to paper textures and displays the current color.
- The **enhanced Rotate tool** now snaps to 0 degrees, which makes it easier for users to make selections.
- Corel Painter Essentials 4 now provides users with **32 undo levels**.
- From the **new, streamlined Welcome screen**, users can quickly access the Drawing & Painting and Photo Painting workspaces, open image files or recent projects, access video tutorials, and explore the guidebook.



- For Mac OS® users, the **new Full Screen mode** is easily activated with a single click, which hides all other windows to let users focus only on their artwork.
- To save memory, users can now turn the **auto-backup** feature on or off.

Turn Photos into Paintings

- The **enhanced Photo Painting System** reduces the complexity of turning a photo into a painting.
- During auto-painting, preset styles that use the new Smart Stroke™
 technology paint with intelligent brushstrokes that follow the forms of the
 original photo.
- When users save a Photo Painting project, Corel Painter Essentials 4 now saves the source image with the painting, making it easier to return to a project for further editing.

Try the Broader Selection of Natural-Media® Materials

- Several **new RealBristle™ brushes** authentically reproduce the natural movement of the artist's brush.
- New pens in the Pencils & Pens category, such as the Scratchboard Tool and Smooth Edge Calligraphy, are perfect for inking comic books or doing calligraphy.
- The new Charcoal brushes range from pencils to hard or soft charcoal sticks.
- The two new Sumi-e brushes let users create flowing sumi-e-style brushstrokes.
- The new Sargent brush lets users paint in the style of master artist John Singer Sargent.
- The **enhanced Brush Ghost** gives users better control through unprecedented visual feedback of brushstroke behavior.
- Additional nozzles for use with the Image Hose, and patterns for use with Pattern Pens have been added.

Explore Learning Materials

- With the **new tutorial-based guidebook**, users can learn to use the application while completing fun, instructional projects.
- Corel Painter Essentials 4 provides access to new video tutorials that accompany the guidebook, and offers additional instruction from Painter Master and Ambassador John Derry.
- **New sample files** for the guidebook and video tutorials are accessible directly from the application.



Enjoy Compatibility

- With new Universal binary support, the Mac OS version of Corel Painter Essentials 4 is optimized for use with either the Intel or PowerPC processors.
- Corel Painter Essentials 4 Works with Windows Vista™.
- Support for Wacom® products is enhanced, and Corel Painter Essentials 4
 works with the entire Wacom product line including the Graphire® pen
 tablets.
- Corel Painter Essentials 4 works with major photo-editing applications, such as Adobe® Photoshop® Elements, Adobe® Photoshop®, Corel® Paint Shop Pro®, and Ulead PhotoImpact®.



About Corel Corporation

Corel is a leading developer of graphics, productivity, and digital media software with more than 100 million users worldwide. With hundreds of industry awards for leadership in software innovation, design, and value, Corel's products have built a loyal following of customers and partners around the globe. For more information, please visit www.corel.com.

Special Thanks

In recognition of the artwork used throughout this document, the Corel Painter team extends special thanks to the talented artists whose contributions helped make this reviewer's guide possible.



Media Contact

Kelly Manuel PR Manager, Graphics kelly.manuel@corel.com 613-728-0826 x 5405

Corel Corporation

1600 Carling Ave. Ottawa, ON Canada K1Z 8R7

