

# Creative Digital Photography

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## Alternative Programs for Editing Digital Photos

### **GIMP (Download Site: <http://www.gimp.org/downloads/>)**

FREE - The GIMP is sometimes called a free alternative to Photoshop, but reviews say it is appropriate for both beginners and advanced users. The interface, though improved over the years, isn't as intuitive as Photoshop Elements, and reviews say installation can be a little cumbersome. However, The GIMP has many more advanced photo-editing features than Picasa. The GIMP is also the only free image editor compatible with Windows (98 and later), Mac OS X and Linux.

### **Google Picasa (Download Site: <http://picasa.google.com>)**

FREE - If you just need the basics -- cropping, fixing red-eye, adjusting contrast, and adding special effects like sepia or soft focus, reviews say you don't need \$80 photo-editing software. Google's Picasa is really more of a photo organizer, but it does include some easy-to-use editing tools. Since it's compatible with Windows 98, Me and 2000 in addition to Windows XP, it's also a good choice for older or less powerful computers

### **Paint.NET (Download Site: <http://www.getpaint.net/index2.html>)**

FREE - Paint.NET is free image editing and photo manipulation software for computers that run Windows. It features an intuitive and innovative user interface with support for layers, unlimited undo, special effects, and a wide variety of useful and powerful tools. An active and growing online community provides friendly help, tutorials, and plugins. It started development as an undergraduate college senior design project mentored by Microsoft, and is currently being maintained by some of the alumni that originally worked on it. Originally intended as a free replacement for the MS Paint software that comes with Windows, it has grown into a powerful yet simple tool for photo and image editing.

### **Picnik (Website: <http://www.picnik.com/>)**

FREE – Picnik makes it possible to edit your photos on line without downloading software. You can open pictures that you have stored on your computer or on such programs as Flickr, Picasa, or Facebook It works with both Windows and Macs. Its tools are surprisingly sophisticated. Once you have edited your photo, you can download it back to your computer or wherever you store your digital images.