

Comparing Photoshop CS (left) with Elements 3 for Windows (right)

TOOLS

	Photoshop CS	Elements 3 for Windows
Marquee	Rectangular, Elliptical	Rectangular, Elliptical
Move	yes	yes
Lasso	Lasso, Magnetic, Polygonal	Lasso, Magnetic, Polygonal
Magic Wand	yes	yes
Selection Brush	no	yes
Crop	yes	yes
Slice	yes	no
Healing Brush	yes	yes
Spot Healing Brush	no	yes
Patch Tool	yes	no
Impressionist Brush	no	yes
Color Replacement	yes	yes
Brush	yes	yes
Pencil	yes	yes
History Brush	yes	no
Art History Brush	yes	no
Clone Stamp	yes	yes
Pattern Stamp	yes	yes
Cookie Cutter	no	yes
Red Eye Removal	no	yes
Eraser	Eraser, Background, Magic	Eraser, Background, Magic
Gradient	yes	yes
Paint Bucket	yes	yes
Blur	yes	yes
Sharpen	yes	yes
Smudge	yes	yes
Dodge	yes	yes
Burn	yes	yes
Sponge	yes	yes
Path Selection	yes	no
Direct Selection	yes	no
Type	Horizontal, Vertical	Horizontal, Vertical
Type Mask	Horizontal, Vertical	Horizontal, Vertical
Pen Tools	yes	no
Shape Tools	yes	yes
Notes Tool	yes	no
Audio Annotation	yes	no
Eyedropper	yes	yes
Color Sampler	yes	no
Measure	yes	no
Hand	yes	yes
Zoom	yes	yes

	Photoshop CS	Photoshop Elements 3
MODES		
Bitmap	yes	yes
Grayscale	yes	yes
Duotone	yes	no
Indexed Color	yes	yes
RGB Color	yes	yes
CMYK Color	yes	no
Lab Color	yes	no
Multichannel	yes	no
8 Bits	yes	yes
16 Bits	yes	yes ¹
IMAGE ADJUSTMENTS		
Levels	yes	yes
Auto Levels	yes	yes
Auto Contrast	yes	yes
Auto Color	yes	yes
Auto Smart Fix	no	yes
Auto Color Correction	no	yes
Adjust Smart Fix	no	yes
Curves	yes	no
Color Balance	yes	no
Brightness/Contrast	yes	yes
Hue/Saturation	yes	yes
Desaturate	yes	yes (Remove Color)
Remove Color Cast	no	yes
Match Color	yes	no
Replace Color	yes	yes
Selective Color	yes	no
Channel Mixer	yes	no
Gradient Map	yes	yes
Photo Filter	yes	yes
Shadow/Highlight	yes	Shadows/Highlights
Invert	yes	yes
Equalize	yes	yes
Threshold	yes	yes
Posterize	yes	yes
Variations	yes	Color Variations
Quick Fix mode	no	yes
Apply Image	yes	no
Calculations	yes	no

1. Limited capabilities in 16 Bit mode

	Photoshop CS	Photoshop Elements 3
SIZING		
Crop	yes	yes
Trim	yes	no
Reveal All	yes	yes
LAYERS		
Adjustment Layers	15	11
Layer Styles	yes	yes ²
Copy Layer Styles	drag-and-drop	copy & paste from Layer menu
Layer Sets	yes	no
Layer Masks	yes	no ³
Vector Masks	yes	no
Layer Comps	yes	no
Fill Layers	yes	yes
Clipping Mask	yes	yes (Group with Previous)
Lock layers	4 locks	2 locks
Shape layers	yes	yes
Advanced Blending	yes	no
Align/Distribute layers	yes	no
Layer based slicing	yes	no
Defringe	yes	no
Fill Opacity	yes	no
PAINTING & COLOR		
Load Brushes	yes	yes
Edit Brush Options	yes	limited
Define Brush	yes	yes
Change Brush size shortcut	yes	yes
Tablet Options	yes	limited
RGB Colors	yes	yes
Hexidecimal Colors	yes	yes
CMYK Colors	yes	no
HSB Colors	yes	yes
Pantone Colors	yes	no
Create your own Swatches	yes	yes
Built-in Swatch sets	31	6
SELECTING		
Quick Mask	yes	no
Transform Selection	yes	no
Select Color Range	yes	no
Save Selection	yes	yes ⁴

2. Layer Styles are predefined and have limited editing capabilities

3. Layer Masks appear in adjustment layers but are not available directly

4. Selections can be saved and loaded but you cannot view the Channels

	Photoshop CS	Photoshop Elements 3
AUTOMATION		
Actions	yes	no
Picture Package	yes	yes
Contact Sheet	yes	yes
Web Photo Gallery	yes	yes
PDF Presentation	yes	yes
Batch Process (Actions)	yes	no
Process Multiple Files	no ⁵	yes
Crop & Straighten Photos	yes	yes
Divide Scanned Photos	no	yes
Droplets	yes	no
Conditional Mode Change	yes	no
Fit Image	yes	no
Multipage PDF to psd	yes	yes
Straighten image	no	yes
Scripting	yes	no
OPERATIONS & FUNCTIONS		
Save Workspace	yes	no
Preset Manager	yes	yes
Create keyboard shortcuts	yes	no
History palette	yes	yes
Fill with History	yes	no
Save for Web	yes	yes
New Window for current document	yes	yes
Photo Bin	no	yes
Full Screen view	yes	yes
Ruler Guides	yes	no
Organizer	no	yes
Tool Presets	yes	no
TYPE		
Horizontal or Vertical	yes	yes
Warp text	yes	yes
Convert text to shape	yes	no
Convert trxt to path	yes	no
Anti Alias	5 choices	on or off
Kerning	yes	no
Tracking	yes	no
Leading	yes	yes
Vertical/Horizontal Scale	yes	no
Baseline Shift	yes	no
Paragraph indents	yes	no

5. Recording an action and running a Batch process offers the same result, but it is not a built-in feature.

	Photoshop CS	Photoshop Elements 3
TYPE (cont'd)		
Faux Bold/Italic	yes	yes
Underline	yes	yes
Strikethrough	yes	yes
All Caps	yes	no
Small Caps	yes	no
Superscript	yes	no
Subscript	yes	no
Rasterize type	yes	yes (Simplify)
Spell Check	yes	no
Multiple Languages	yes	no
Create Paragraph type	yes	no
Smart Quotes	yes	yes
Find & Repace Text	yes	no
FILE BROWSER		
Customizable	yes	yes
Flag images	yes	no
Search	yes	yes
Change order by dragging	yes	yes
Batch Rename	yes	yes
Metadata templates	yes	yes
Keywords	yes	no ⁶
Camera Raw		
Advanced options	yes	no
Auto Controls	no	yes
Rotate images	yes	yes
Resize images	yes	no
Change Resolution	yes	no
Change depth (8 bit vs 16 bit)	yes	yes
Save Settings	yes	no
Apply Camera Raw Settings	yes	yes ⁷
Apply Color Space	yes	no
FILTERS		
Extract	yes	no
Liquify	yes	yes
Filter Gallery	yes	yes
Pattern Maker	yes	no
Reduce Noise	no	yes

6. The Organizer offers many of the File Browsers keyword and search functions, and more.

7. Elements can apply Camera Raw settings from Previous Conversion, Selected Image or Camera Default. Photoshop CS can also apply settings from loaded settings and offers advanced options such as choosing which settings to update.

	Photoshop CS	Photoshop Elements 3
PREFERENCES & SETTINGS		
New Document Presets	yes	no
Color Settings	many	limited
History Log	yes	no
Version Cue	yes	no
Enable large document format (.psb)	yes	no
PALETTES		
Actions	yes	no
Brushes	yes	no
Channels	yes	no
Character	yes	no
Color	yes	no
File Browser	yes	yes
Histogram	yes	yes
History	yes	yes (Undo History)
How To	no	yes
Info	yes	yes
Layer Comps	yes	no
Layers	yes	yes
Navigator	yes	yes
Options	yes	yes
Palette Bin	yes (Palette Well)	yes
Paragraph	yes	no
Paths	yes	no
Styles	yes	yes (Styles and Effects)
Swatches	yes	yes (Color Swatches)
Tool Presets	yes	no
SAVING/EXPORTING/PRINTING		
Save for Web	yes	yes
File formats	18	24
Attach to email	no	yes
Export Paths to Illustrator	yes	no
Print with Preview	yes	yes

Needless to say, this is not a complete list of every feature, menu or palette, but is intended to give an overview of the key differences between Photoshop CS and Photoshop Elements 3.

This comparison provided by the *Photoshop Elements Techniques* Newsletter. For more information or to subscribe go to www.photoshopelementsuser.com