

KERBY SMITH

Intermediate Digital Photography for Quilters

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION AND SUPPLY LIST

Whether you use one of your pictures to create a pieced quilt or you incorporate digital fabric into your art quilt, the better the picture you start with, the easier it is.

This class starts with improving your digital photography skills. Learn how to improve your photos by getting your camera off the AUTO setting. Once you have great images, you have a variety of ways to enhance them and manipulate them in Adobe Photoshop Elements.

The second part of this class brushes up your Photoshop Elements skills and then takes you for a walk on the wild side as you explore layers, masks and filters. Finally, your best images are printed on fabric in the class, either to expand your fabric stash or as the basis for an art quilt top.

You need intermediate computer skills and a working knowledge of Adobe Photoshop Elements. A prerequisite for this class is a previous Digital Quilt class or permission from the instructor.

ENTRY SURVEY – Please go online to our website www.thedigitalquilt.com and fill out the **Intermediate Digital Photography for Quilters Entry Survey**. We tailor each class to the skill level and needs of the students, and your answers from the survey allow us to make the class the best it can be for you.

Please keep in mind that digital technology is changing rapidly and the cycle is about 18 months. This means that the information we give you about digital cameras, computers and software may change from the time we write this and the time the class is held. You can get the latest information on our website www.thedigitalquilt.com.

The following is based on working with our students in previous classes. The most challenging thing we have seen our students encountering in class is the speed of their computer. The students with older, slower computers are frustrated because they are waiting for the computers to process the steps as they follow us in the class exercises.

HARDWARE – we want to keep the computer part as simple as possible. Keep in mind that **laptop computers are like calculators and other electronic devices. They get better and cheaper with time.**

Our best suggestion is to bring the most powerful computer you have. If you are driving to the conference, it is okay to bring a desktop computer and monitor.

You will need a power strip with a SURGE PROTECTOR. We can not guarantee the quality of the electricity on site. A surge protector is CHEAP INSURANCE for your computer and many of you already have them for your sewing machines.

If you are a MAC User, you know more about their computers than we do, so bring the fastest MAC you have with you. Keep in mind that as of this writing Adobe Photoshop Elements for the MAC usually runs about one release behind the PC version. What we have seen is that the even number releases are

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available for both PC and MAC but the odd number releases are usually only available for the PC.

So far, there has not been a lot of difference between the even number release and the next higher odd number release. Check our website www.thedigitalquilt.com for the latest releases that we are recommending for the class.

Since Adobe Photoshop is a cross platform program, we have not had any problems with having both PC and MAC computer users in our class.

We get a lot of hardware questions and we encourage you to ask questions before the class. E-mail us your computer, software and camera questions at class@thedigitalquilt.com.

You can learn a lot in the class, and we suggest that you make the learning process as easy as possible for yourself. **DO NOT LET YOUR EQUIPMENT MAKE THE LEARNING PROCESS HARDER FOR YOU.** Bring the most powerful computer you have to the class.

SOFTWARE – in this class we will use the latest version Adobe Photoshop Elements for demonstrations. If you want to use some other software besides Photoshop, this class is not for you.

You will need to have the latest version of Adobe Photoshop Elements loaded on your computer. Demonstrations will be with a PC running Windows Vista and Photoshop Elements. If you wish to use an older version of Windows and Photoshop Elements you may do so, but keep in mind the screens projected will look different. We recommend that you upgrade to the latest version of Photoshop Elements even if you are still running on Windows XP.

Between the time this is written and the class in 2011 there may be new versions of both Windows and Adobe Photoshop Elements. We always use the latest version and will give you information about the upgrades on our website www.thedigitalquilt.com.

CAMERAS - Cameras are VERY personal -- what one person likes, another does not. Because we explore the power of the RAW format you will need a Digital Single Lens Reflex (DSLR) camera or one of the advanced “point and shoot” cameras that allows you to shoot a RAW file as well as a JPEG. After 45 years in photography, I have a lot of information about cameras. If you ask, I am glad to share my opinions on cameras.

WHAT YOU NEED for the DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY CLASS FOR QUILTERS

1. A laptop or desktop computer with Adobe Photoshop Elements loaded on it.
2. A Digital Single-Lens Reflex Camera or a “point and shoot” camera that allows you to shoot RAW files as well as JPEGs.
3. If your camera’s RAW format is not supported by Adobe Camera Raw (download the latest update from Adobe) then you will also need the software that processes your RAW images that comes with the camera.
4. The camera manual and battery charger for the camera.
5. 2 Blank storage media cards for your camera.

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6. A card reader to download your photos to your computer.
7. A flash drive or thumb drive that plugs into USB2 port on your computer: it needs to be at least 1 GB in size. When you are ready to print you will hand us your files on your flash drive. We will return your flash drive and fabric to you after it is printed.
8. Power Supply for your laptop computer, surge protector and extension cord.
9. A digital Gray Card. If you don't have one we sell them, starting at \$20.
10. We recommend that you bring your original Photoshop Elements installation disk with you in case you have a problem and need to re-install the program.
11. Table top light.
12. Sheet to cover your work at night.

WHAT YOU DO NOT NEED

You do not need a sewing machine. You do not need a printer or laminated fabric for printing on for our class. Your lab fee includes the printing out of fabric for you on our Epson printer with archival Ultrachrome inks. It also includes the laminated fabric that we will use to print your files. You will get three pieces of fabric 17-inches wide by 12-inches high to use in the construction of your quilt top. Time permitting, we will be glad to print more fabric for you for a small fee.

If you have printed fabric before and not gotten the results you want, please, bring samples of your digital fabric to the class. Be sure to bring notes that tell us what fabric you used and what printer you used to print it. We will be glad to discuss any issues you may have had with printing fabric.

If you want to ask more specific equipment questions, feel free to e-mail us at class@thedigitalquilt.com.

PRE-CLASS TELECONFERENCE – Time permitting, I will offer a teleconference call so that you may call in to ask questions about the class and to get the pre-class assignments. The notification is by e-mail so it is important that we have your current e-mail address to notify you of the call.