

Tutorial on Using PhotoShop Elements 8.0 for Small Art Objects (ver 1.0)

©Stephen Hatcher 2011 summitdesign@comcast.net www.stephenhatcher.com

This tutorial is intended to help artists when they first use PhotoShop 8.0. I think these instructions are common to all versions of PhotoShop. These ten instructions are very basic.

Many of the remaining PhotoShop options address special effects whereas my concern is getting a photo to look like the actual artwork while removing the effects of the lights I use and any flaws in my background. With the procedure shown here I take photos with a relatively inexpensive camera and get final photos that have been pretty widely published. I have never had a complaint about the photo quality or that the artwork and photos did not look alike.

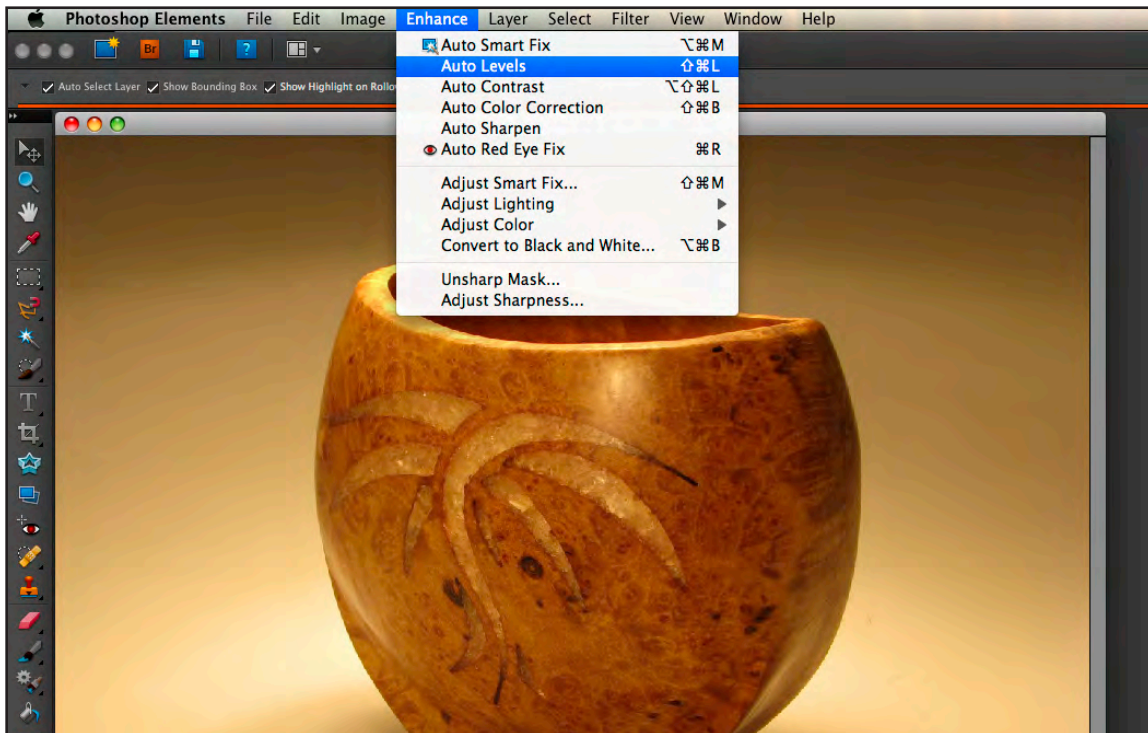
If you have any questions, comments, errors detected, etc. drop me a note and I'll help.

Stephen Hatcher

This is my photo setup. It is a CubeLite enclosure with three lights and a vinyl graduated background I bought from Adorama.com.



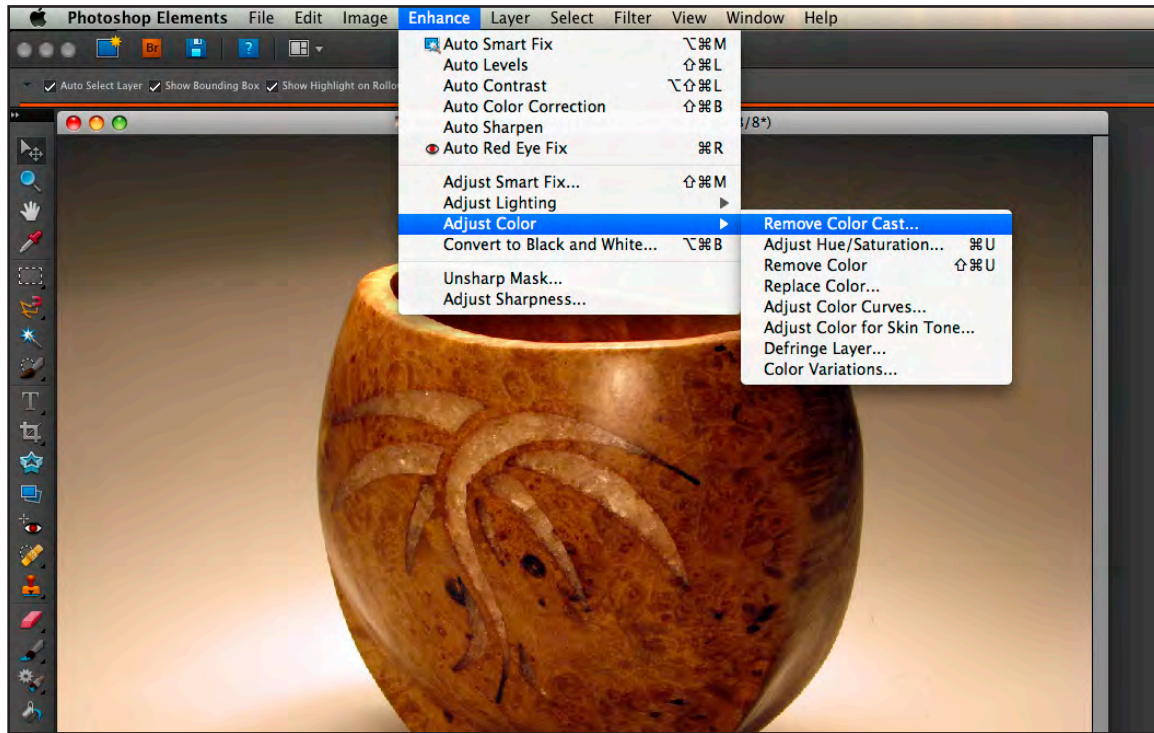
Step 1: Menu Enhance / Auto Levels



Step 1 Result (Levels are balanced - if more control and insight is desired read Help)



Step 2: Menu Enhance / Adjust Color / Remove Color Cast

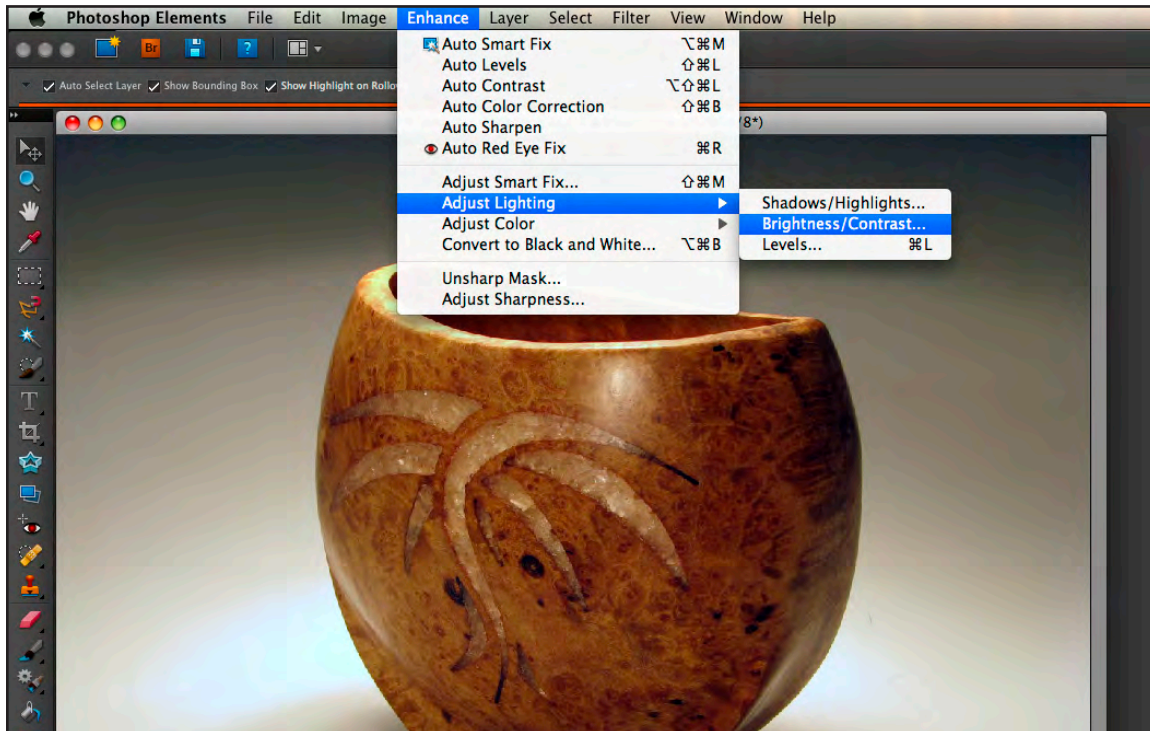


Step 2 Result (Background is gray regardless of light temperature [i.e.color])



Using PhotoShop Elements 8.0 for Artwork ©Stephen Hatcher 2011

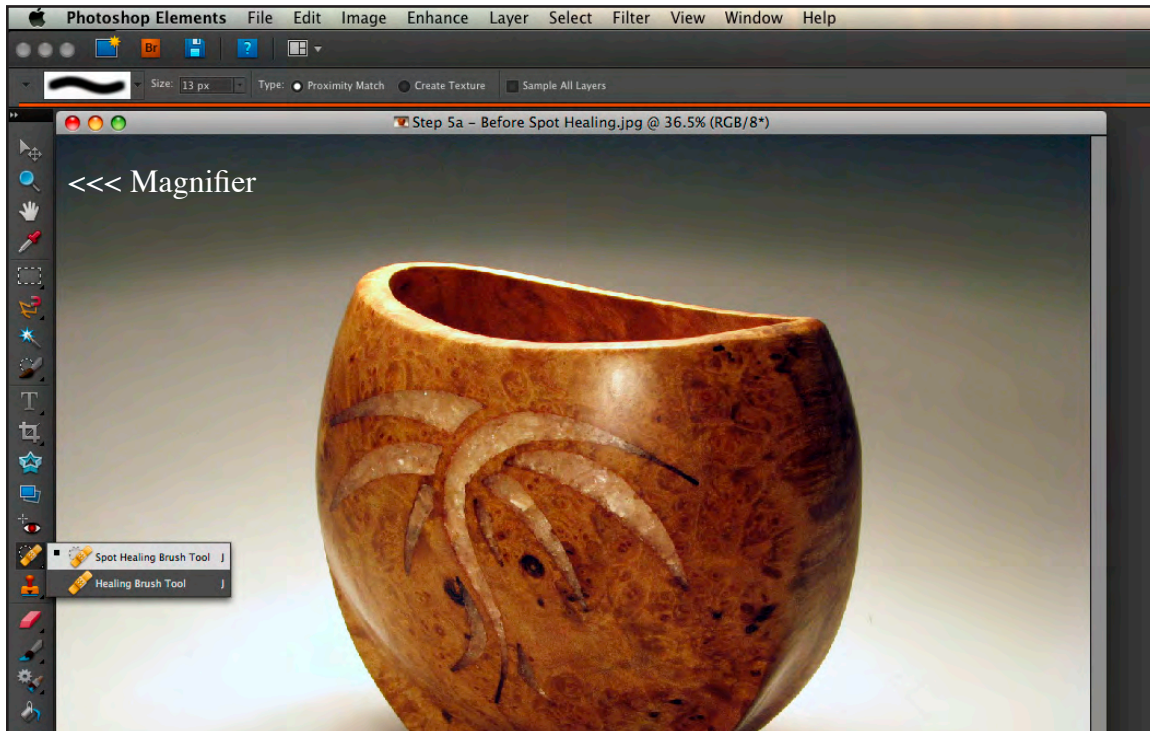
Step 3: Menu Enhance / Adjust Lighting / Brightness & Contrast (add +10% to each)



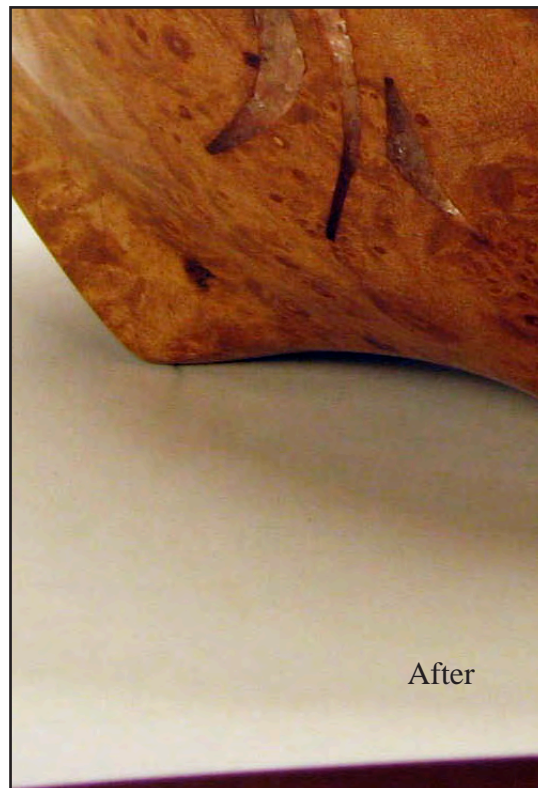
Step 3 Result (My camera photos look a little washed out, this corrects it to “real”)



Step 4: Tools / Spot Healing (use “brush” to remove blemishes)



Step 4 Result (use Magnifier to zoom in and remove blemishes, adjust size as needed)



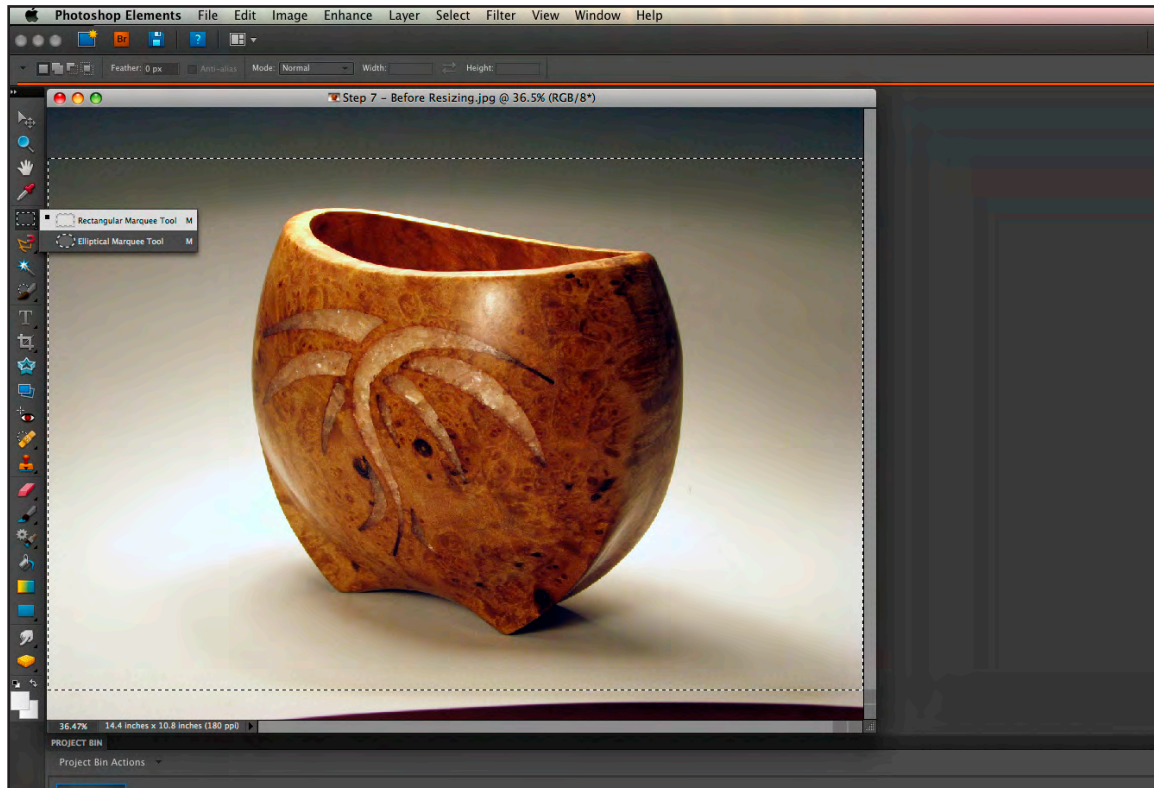
Step 5: Tools / Smudge (to remove small spot left by Spot Healing)



Step 5 Result (the small area that couldn't be fixed with Spot Healing is removed)



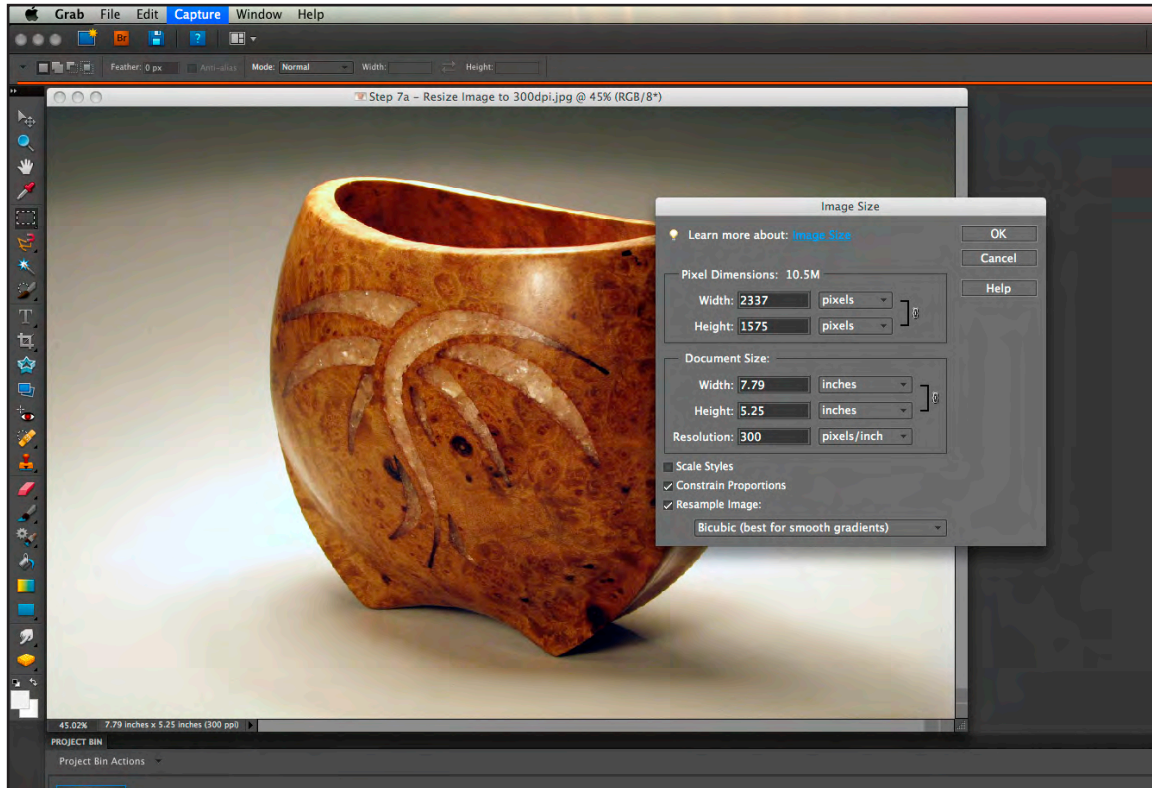
Step 6: Start to Crop Image by Framing Top and Bottom with Rectangular Marquee Tool



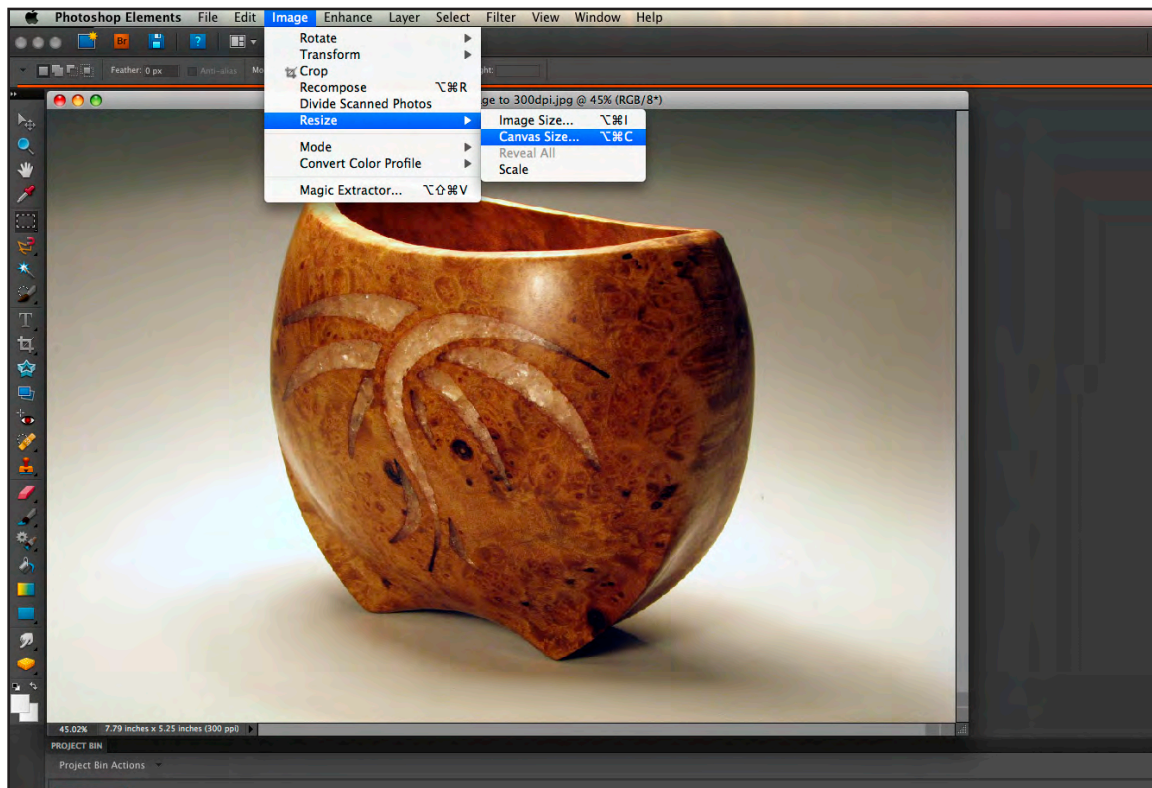
Step 6 Result (The image has the right amount of background above and below the object)



Step 7: Menu Image / Resize Image to 300dpi and 5.25” Tall (no change to Width)

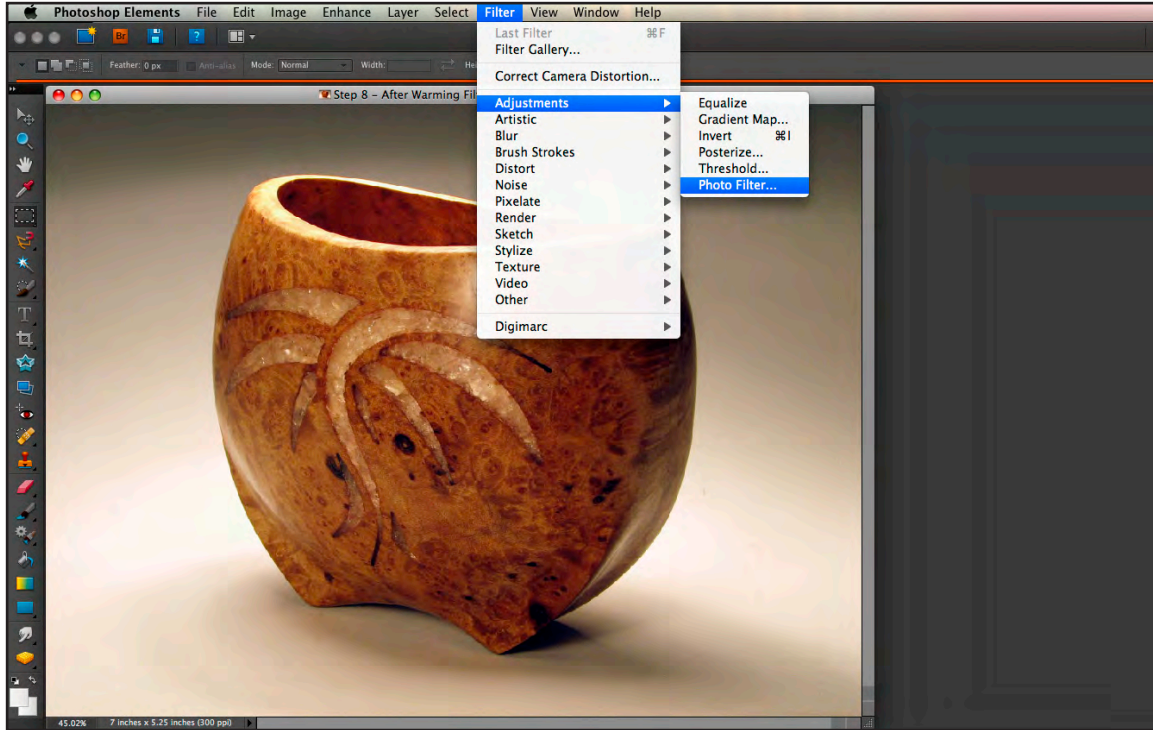


Step 8: Menu Image / Resize / Canvas (set Width to 7.0”, do not change Height)

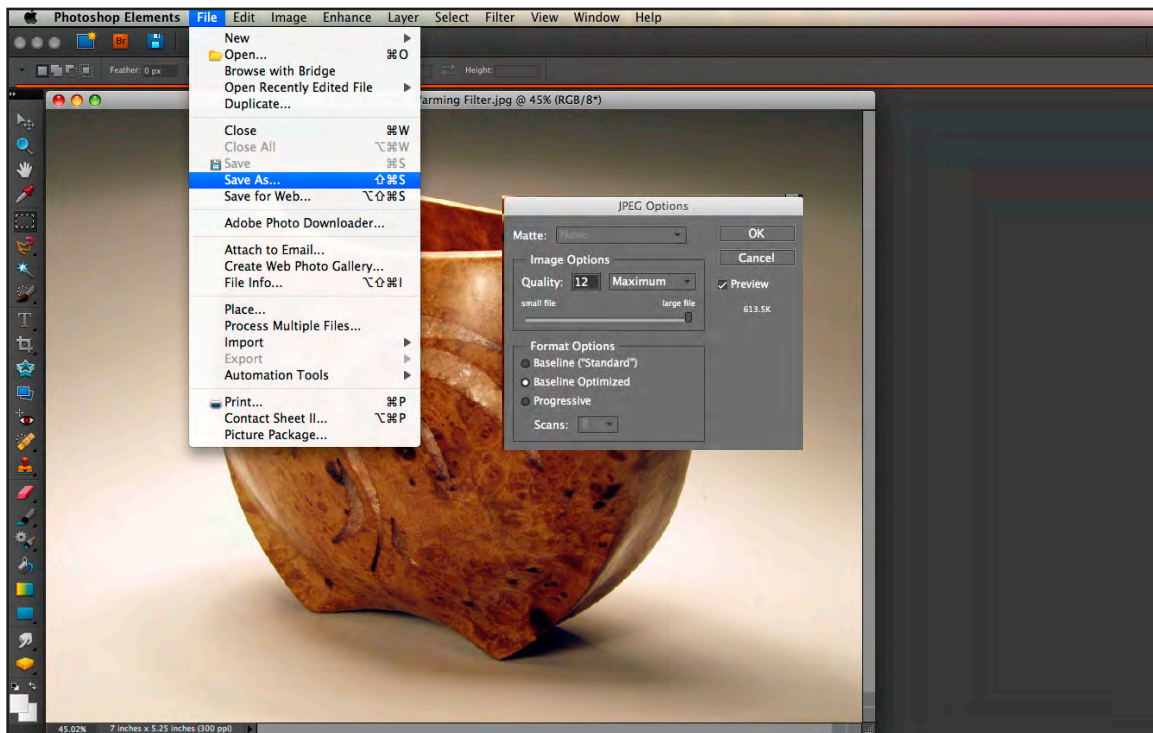


Using PhotoShop Elements 8.0 for Artwork ©Stephen Hatcher 2011

Step 9: Menu Filter / Adjustments / Photo Filter (optional - I use “Warming” here)



Step 10: Menu File / Save As (enter name and directory then choose Quality (use 7 or above))



Final Image Suitable for Publishing:

7.0"W x 5.25"W

300dpi

Gray Background

No Blemishes

Low Compression (here quality = 12)

For email and websites use the same size but set to 72dpi (Image / Resize) and save with Compression Quality 7. A monitor cannot display with a resolution or quality above these settings and, if these setting aren't lowered, the photo file will load slowly.

