

Photoshop Elements 5

CREATING WALLPAPER

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Did you ever take that breath-stealing photo you're so proud of that you wish it could welcome you into Windows every time you start up your PC?

Elements lets you create wallpaper from that photo.

Wallpaper is a pattern or picture used to represent the Desktop surface (screen background) in Windows. Windows comes with some wallpaper, and third-party wallpaper files are available. You can also scan in your favorite picture and make it wallpaper.

With Windows XP, it is called "Background." However, you will find the selection of background images in the "Windows" folder (C:\Windows) or in the Windows XP's "Wallpaper" folder (C:\Windows\Web\Wallpaper). It is into this latter folder that I suggest you place any new wallpaper.

This lesson shows how to create wallpaper using Photoshop Elements 5, but the steps in any graphics program are essentially the same.

Here's how to create wallpaper. The process is the same in Elements 4 and in all editions of Photoshop.

Before you create wallpaper, you'll have to know the screen settings for your monitor. To do this:

1. RIGHT-click on the desktop — away from any icons — and left-click on "Properties" (Figure 1).



Figure 1

2. In the “Display Properties” box, click on the “Settings” tab (Figure 2).

3. Under settings (Figure 3):

- ❶ Note the “Screen resolution.”
- ❷ Click on “Cancel” button to ensure you have not made any changes in the settings.

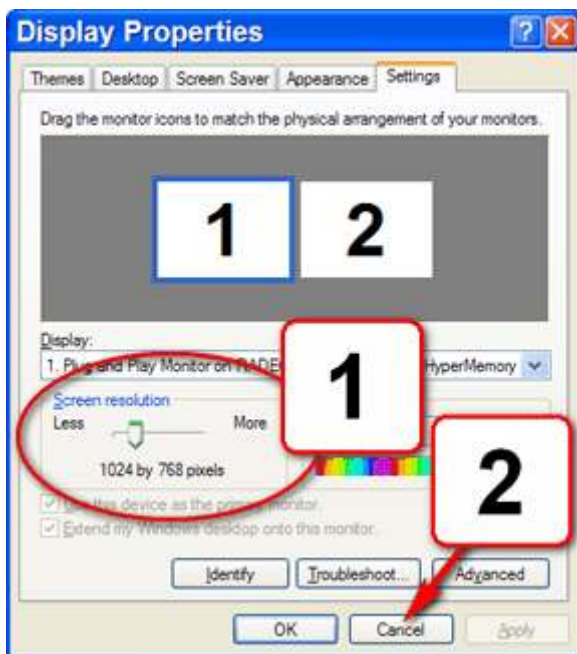


Figure 3



Figure 2



Figure 4

4. In Elements, use File > Open and select the photo you want (Figure 4). When selecting photos:

- ❶ Avoid overly complicated photos since it will be difficult to see the icons.
- ❷ Don't create wallpaper that is so compelling that it slows down your use of the computer.
- ❸ Windows icons do not show well against white and light colors.

5. From the MenuBar, select Image > Resize > Image Size or use Alt+Ctrl+I (Figure 5).



Figure 5

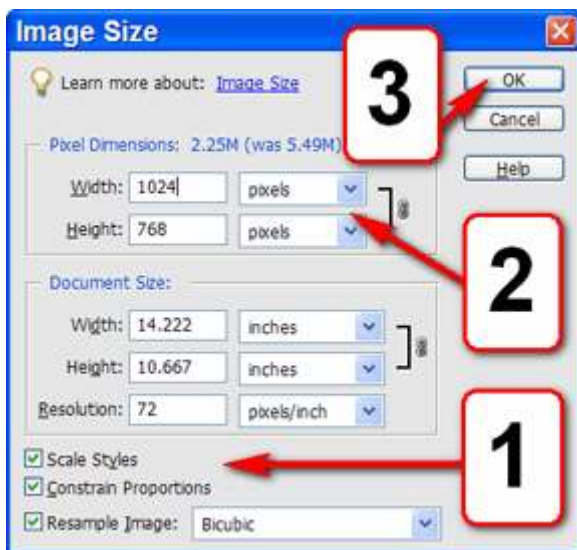


Figure 6

6. Change the Image Size (Figure 6):

- ❶ Ensure that *both* “Scale Styles” and “Constrain Proportions” are checked.
- ❷ Change your “Pixel Dimensions” to match the “Screen Resolution” in Step 3.
- ❸ Touch the *Enter* key, on the keyboard, or click on the “OK” button.

7. From the MenuBar (Figure 7), select File > Save As.

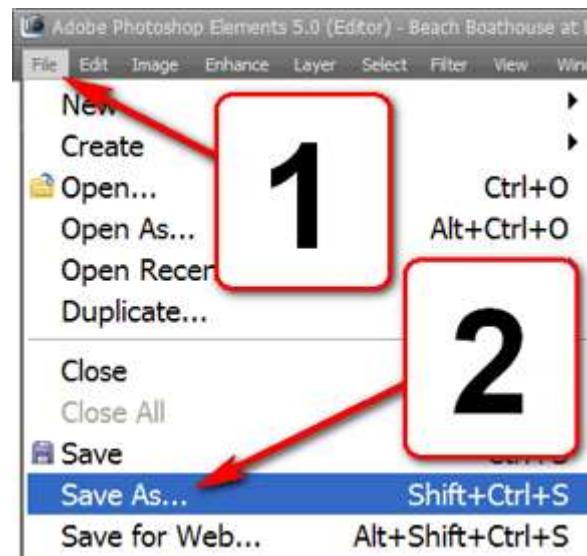


Figure 7

8. In the “Save As” window (Figure 8):

❶ Type the name for the file.

I type “_Darry D” in front of all my wallpaper so that they are listed before the wallpaper that came with Windows.

❷ The format *must* be in BMP format to be shown in your desktop’s Display options.

❸ I do not include my wallpaper in the Elements Organizer.

❹ Either touch the *Enter* key, on the keyboard, or click on the “OK” button.

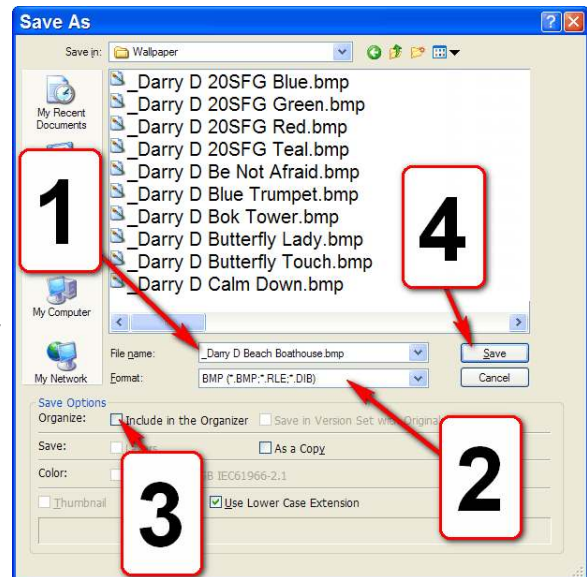


Figure 8



Figure 9

9. The wallpaper (Figure 9) must support, not conflict with the icons for the programs. Look at how much better the wallpaper becomes when I horizontally rotate the graphic (Figure 10).



Figure 10

10. To select a wallpaper/background for Windows, see my lesson “Wallpaper Changed” at <http://darryd.com/Windows>