

## Digital Doctor



By the  
Digital Doctor,  
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### Advanced Editing Techniques

In most of my classes, I explain the wonders and ease of use of *Picasa*. Did I mention it is FREE? In this month's article, we take *Picasa* about as far as you can go. *Picasa* has three tabs: Basic Fixes, Tuning and Effects. The Basic Fixes are used for basic editing techniques like cropping and enhancement. The Tuning and Effects tab is used to make adjustments in some editing parameters like fill-light, highlights, shadows and color temperature. This month we are discussing advanced editing techniques and the limits of *Picasa* are quite evident, because your editing must include most of the entire image. When you want to sharpen, you must sharpen the entire picture. You can also make the image black and white or sepia. You can also "warmify" — make redder — the entire picture, add a film grain to make the image age and you can play

with various degrees of tint — a slight shading of areas with various colors.

The most amazing effect you can make is called "soft focus" — where you can actually blur parts of the image to accent other parts of the image. When we used film we called this "depth of field" which put certain parts of the picture in focus and other parts out of focus.

With an advanced photo manipulation program like *Adobe Photoshop Elements 5.0* you can do all these things but can do it to a specific part of the image. The reason you can do more to certain parts of the photo is that most advanced programs have something called a selection tool which allows you to select a specific part, color, shape, etc of the individual photo. This tool allows you to enhance a particular portion of the photo and make it another color, shape, texture, etc. Learning to work the selection tool is the most important part of any advanced photo editing program.

The photo above, right, was a simple



color photo of my granddaughter walking along the seawall of Lake Michigan in Chicago. All I did was work the selection tool to outline just the baby, invert the selection (so that the entire background was selected), and make the selected area black and white. The entire family enjoys this photo called "Baby by the Lake." Your imagination is the only limit you have!

I have nothing special planned for

next month's column so I would appreciate questions and suggestions from you. Please e-mail them to [digital-doc50@optonline.net](mailto:digital-doc50@optonline.net).

*Stuart Gershon is known as "The Digital Doctor." He has given over two hundred classes at 56 different venues in Nassau and Suffolk. You can get more information and the schedule of his classes at: [www.DigitalDocOnline.com](http://www.DigitalDocOnline.com).*