



Adobe Photoshop PS Express

about the app

App name: Adobe Photoshop PS Express

Subject areas: All

Available for: iPad / iPod Touch / iPhone

Cost: Free

Requirements: Requires iOS 4.2 or later.

iTunes URL: <http://itunes.apple.com/ca/app/adobe-photoshop-express/id331975235?mt=8>

Developer web site: <http://www.photoshop.com/products/mobile>

Internet required: No

What Is Adobe Photoshop PS Express?

Adobe Photoshop PS Express is a limited feature set image editor available for the iPad, iPod Touch, and iPhone.

How Does Adobe Photoshop PS Express Work?

With an image that is imported (iPad 1) or taken using the built-in camera and stored in the photos container (iPhone, iPod Touch, and iPad 2), this application allows students to edit the image, adjust the features of the image, soften and sharpen focus, and apply effects and borders. The completed image can be saved locally on the device or uploaded to Adobe's Photoshop PS Express online space, Facebook, or tweet pictures.

Users load or take a picture and then select the editing tool they want to use. They make the adjustments to the image and finalize them by clicking OK. The Undo feature allows users to undo any changes that are not satisfactory. The basic editing tools (shown in Figures 1 and 2) include *crop*, *straighten*, *rotate*, and *flip*.



Figure 1—Basic editing—crop

The Adjust menu allows users to change the settings, balance the contrast, and adjust the exposure, saturation of colors, and so on. Sliding the finger left or right decreases or increases the percentage of change being applied. Here are your options:

- Contrast
- Saturation
- Tint
- Exposure
- Black and white

This feature set allows users to manipulate the image while experimenting with the different relative strengths of the adjustment at the stroke of a finger across the screen. Stroking the finger to the right-hand side increases the attribute and to the left decreases it. Once the adjustment is made, the OK button must be clicked to keep the changes.

The Effects menu has the border and effects options. This allows users to apply different border styles and add different filter effects (Figures 3 and 4).



Figure 2—Basic editing—straighten



Figure 3—Effects options

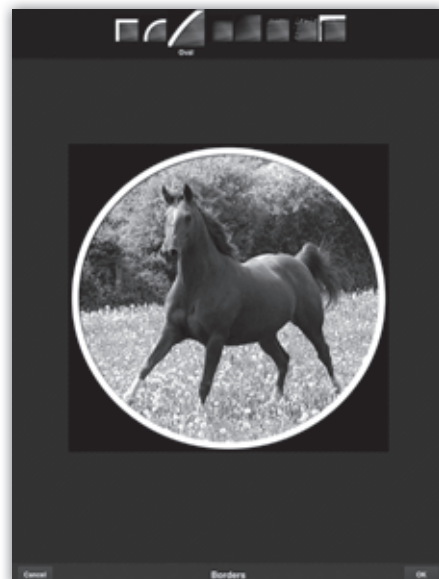


Figure 4—Border options

The effects available to users include Sketch, which applies a drawing-like filter to the image, as well as a selection of other filters and templates to manipulate the image. The border effect allows users to frame an image with a variety of different styles and appearances.

The saved image is stored in the pictures container in .jpg format, and can then be imported into a range of applications on the device including Pages, Keynote, Numbers, Comic Strip HD, and Comic Touch.

Advanced Uses

Adobe Photoshop PS Express has a number of classroom applications. As a simple and free editing tool for images, it can easily become a core component of the device. These basic, but straightforward, tools are unavailable in the photo library so users are unable to perform even the most basic of editing tasks, such as cropping, rotating, or flipping a photo. For the development of a word processing document, a presentation, or a comic/cartoon that requires images to be manipulated, this tool is ideal. The filters and effects allow users to customize the images to suit their needs and requirements, as by brightening a dull image or applying a colorful rainbow filter. As a result, Adobe Photoshop PS Express is usable and applicable to all subject areas that may use images and require these to be adjusted.

For students of photography and their teachers, this tool becomes more valuable. Students can quickly and easily adjust the contrast, exposure, saturation, and tint of photos to see the effect. The changes are easily replicable on full-versioned editors, allowing students in the field or the teacher demonstrating the effect to quickly and simply make changes.

Students learning about the levels of exposure can quickly create and save a series of images ranging from underexposed to overexposed, and then view these using the photo library. In a similar vein, they can adjust the saturation of color by moving their finger partly or completely across the screen. The proportion of the right-hand side of the screen the finger moves across gives the percentage increase and, inversely, the proportion of the left-hand side of the screen gives the percentage decrease in the saturation, exposure, and so on.

The in-app purchase of the Adobe Camera pack allows users to perform more advanced functions such as noise reduction, where even small flaws in the image are smoothed out, a self-timer tool for using the connected camera, and auto review, which allows you to preview and delete the image. These features are not yet supported on the iPad 2's camera.

Having a digital camera on the iPod Touch 4th Generation / iPhone is a benefit for any subject. Also, having an editing tool with a camera is even better. Students in the science classroom can use the Photoshop PS Express app to take pictures of data and edit them as soon as it is rendered to the iPod Touch / iPhone. Students in the social studies classroom can adjust content from their life or an environment with effects in the app, changing the tone of a picture before adding it to the camera roll (Figure 5). A story could be written with the tone of the image as part of the narrative.



Figure 5—Additional effects

After editing, the images are in the photo library of the iPad. These images can be imported into a Pages document or many other word processors on the iPad. In the English language arts classroom, students can take images, edit them, and use the photos to illustrate their words through a text document or one of the presentation tools on the device. The app can be used as a tool for comparing items side by side.



Figure 6—Imported photos with cropping



Figure 7—Final image

Figures 6 and 7 show an apple and orange that have been cropped in Photoshop and imported into Quick Office. If you take a screen shot (by pressing and holding the home and pressing and releasing the power button), you will then need to use the Photoshop PS Express app to rotate any images you may want to place in other apps, such as StoryKit.