

Do-it-yourself Digital Image Editing

Digital Photo Lab

Even Google has a dedicated index for them. Digital photograph images are very useful. With digital cameras appearing in most stores it is becoming the standard to have your snaps stored on your computer. This month we take a look at the photo manipulation side of the equation. This ranges from different ways to view and show off your images, to digitally changing individual images to make a better quality picture. Not that the camera would ever lie.

BY JOHN SOUTHERN

Digital cameras have quickly become commonplace. They have fallen in price but risen in quality. Having taken the mass market by storm, digital images are easy to come by.

Having filled up many a hard drive with our snaps of important personal images, we need the best way to show them to whoever we want. The range of software to look at the pictures is a huge. Each in turn has advantages and disadvantages. Rather than test each of these image viewers before friends, we have taken the time to explore the best and show you their best features. This will allow you to quickly make an informed choice on which image viewer best suits your needs.

Once we have the ability to look at our images, we tend to find that they need some manipulation. This can range from changing the format to something we are more familiar with to the removal of a dead pixel in every image. Having to edit hundreds of photos by hand is a task most of us would tend to put off for another day. Luckily, we can automate much of this process by using simple command line tools.

On page 25 onwards we explore just how this is done, saving our most limited of resources – time.

Unfortunately we are all not professional photographers, and some of our images could sometimes benefit from a little help with the effects. Using some simple tools from The GIMP, we show you how to change simple snaps into those expensive photo shoot images that normally cost a fortune to arrange.

Starting on page 34, we find the hidden data in digital

cameras, so you can repeat the settings for that perfect shot. ■

Cover Story

Image Viewers20

We bring order from the chaos. By looking at the range of image viewers, we show you their strengths so you can use the best.

Digital Photo Editing.....25

Faced with the job of editing hundreds of images? The command line shows its power and flexibility.

Gimp Workshop30

Touching up digital photographs has never been easier. Our GIMP tutorial guides your hand for that professional feel.

EXIF34

Digital cameras store more than just the image. Extract the information so you can learn and repeat that perfect shot.

