

Review Auto FX Platinum Edition by Albany studios 2009!

A software program that creates edges around images of digital photographs is for me very important. It is one of the few areas where I can create images without substantially altering the content of the existing image. Only the appearance changes and this in most cases (can) enhance the photograph. Actually I'm bored with the straight edges of most images, everybody has them and I like to be different.

Auto FX platinum edges does just what I want it to do. And even more - it is like a discovery trip, so many choices, I feel like a kid in a toyshop...

The interface of this program works on the general principle of all the previous DreamSuite programmes.

If you have another software program like 'dreamsuite' you will already be familiar with the layout. The layout of this program feels more intuitive than the other program of photo frame pro number three. This is more user-friendly, it shows immediately the changes you have applied, and allows you to alter the edges or any other attributes you have given to the image on-the-fly.

You can either use this program as a plug-in for Photoshop, or use it as a standalone program. I use it as a standalone program because all my image editing is done in Photoshop, and I consider creating edges something I can do better and quicker than with running Photoshop in the background.

It takes a little while before you have worked out all the settings, but even if you do not know any settings go ahead and choose a frame. Considering most of us will be quite new to this interface it works amazingly easy and intuitively. Especially because all the preselected options are presented as a frame or image, you see what you get. Not all the options that you can choose from are totally professional-based. You find many other additions, like images for your scrapbook, birthday and seasonal edges, everything has been covered as well as an extensive collection of professional frames that you can put around your image. You can place preselected templates inside your frames, you could almost make an image just out of all the templates provided.

You just have to watch out that you do not get carried away and create an image that is so wildly different from your original, and perhaps this is where there is a small problem, although it's not really a problem it's more an exciting opening, there are so many possibilities to create an image that you are just lost which is the right choice? There are too many opportunities... you may end up with a couple of images based on the same original.

I have been a long-time user of Photo frame Pro number three. Photo frame Pro offers many frames, but it has not got the facility to change each frame in the same endless ways as this program does. It feels a little wooden in comparison to this program. Possibly because I am a very visual person. The flexibility of photo auto fx platinum edition is really beyond belief. When you experiment and you have made a mistake, it is easy to go back to one or more steps back in order to retrieve your original. You can create these new edges on new layers, it is a non destructive program

This edition offers something new, Polaroid transfers, you can create your transfer that looks very closely to a realistic transfer. As I have created many real Polaroid transfers, I really know how to make them in reality, somehow this clinical remake of a transfer in pixels is slightly different but it gets very close to reality, most people will not know the difference. If you carefully select the correct settings you can make it look very realistic, if you know what to aim for.

I believe this is the problem with digital photography - previously we could make images with film only and we could not alter the image very much. Now we can create almost any kind of image, but we have lost track of what is realistic and only achievable with film and real photos. To create a realistic frame, one that looks like it was made 20 years ago, this software program does it really well. Especially the Polaroid borders are very realistic after a little fine-tuning.

If you're looking for a program that will cater for your requirements relating to edges and related work, this program offers the lot. It is not just about frames, it is a concept that takes your image beyond the square. You will find as you dive deeper into this program offers combinations of templates that you did not think of. Everything that you add to your image, it can be altered, it can be changed, you can change the light that falls on it, age your image, you can change the texture, the surface, whatever you think off, there is nothing you cannot change to your own personal settings. I do not think that you will be pushed to upgrade this program for a while as there is nothing to wish for after this. Cloning, masking, invert selections etc. your creativity will be hard pushed! And if you have a particular favorite edge, you can add it to your favorite collection. And if you don't like what you have done, you can delete it to your previous stage.

Full installation of all the templates or your hard drive is recommended by me, that way you have easy and quick access to all possibilities. It takes a little bit of space, but you will more quickly access all your frames.

I have been a long time buyer of this software developer, I started off with photographic edges number three, even then it was already mind-boggling, but with computer standards as they are now, this program takes the cake. As a 10 year celebration of reselling Auto Fx software I recommend visiting their website and check out all their software , like their Mystical Tone and Tint version 2....

Check it out and let me know your experiences!

Kind regards Robert A F van de Voort 2009