

**Quick Notes**  
**Laura Bracken's 30-Day Workshop for Jewelry Photography**

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**Section 1: The Camera**

- Get your camera's manual
- Shoot in macro mode (generally)
- Have the camera at the correct focal length away from the item
- Turn off flash
- Don't use zoom (generally)
- Use a tripod
- Use a self-timer
- Set your ISO to the lowest number possible
- Set your white balance
- Set your metering to "spot"
- Set your camera to high resolution or high quality images
- Set your aperture (I use F-22)

**Section 2: The Photography Set-Up**

- Decide where to shoot
- Use diffused lighting
- Use only one type of light (color and bulb type)
- Decide on a background
- Dust the area free of lint
- Add a white object for color-correcting if needed
- Wipe jewelry free of fingerprints and/or oxidation
- Shoot a variety of "poses" (eg: close-up, whole piece, back-side, size reference, model, etc)
- Bounce the light using foam board, white cards, or bounce lights, etc

### Section 3a: Photo-Editing in Photoshop CS for Windows

1. Open file
2. Fit on screen (Ctrl+0) or actual size (Ctrl+1) (these are numbers, btw)  
*If color correcting on something outside of the crop area skip to #7, then return to #3*
3. Select area to keep (selection box/marquee tool )
  - a. Shift+mouse to retain proportion
  - b. Right click on tool to find ellipse option
4. Crop (menu tab = Image -> Crop)
5. Resize (Ctrl+Alt+i)
6. Fit on screen (Ctrl+0) or actual size (Ctrl+1)
7. Color correct or adjust contrast if necessary
  - a. Correct on white with eye-dropper (Ctrl+L)
    - i. Adjust contrast if necessary (Ctrl+L)
  - b. Adjust hue and/or saturation if necessary (Ctrl+U)
    - i. Can do overall color adjusting or select a color range to adjust
    - ii. Don't forget you can also color correct on only a selection from an image if desired by making your selection prior to opening the adjusting tools
8. Remove fuzz (Toolbox = Spot Healing Brush tool )
  - a. Use menu bar to select size of tool
9. Minor cut-and-paste fixes (Toolbox = Clone Stamp tool )
  - a. Alt+mouse to copy area... mouse to paste
  - b. Use menu bar to select size of tool
  - c. In theory you can also drag the mouse to continue the clone paste to a larger area but it doesn't always work the way you want, so experiment with that
10. Additional selection tools
  - a. Toolbox = Lasso 
  - b. Toolbox= Quick Selection Tool (brush) 
    - i. Use menu bar to select size of tool
  - c. Menu tab = Select → Color Range
11. Sharpen and blur are in Menu tab = Filter
12. Adding text use Toolbox = Text 
  - a. Use menu bar to select font, size, color, etc
13. Adding logo from png file
  - a. Open logo file, CTRL+A (select all), CTRL+C (copy)
  - b. Go back to image file and CTRL+V (paste)
  - c. CTRL+T (free transform) to relocate/move the logo then Shift+mouse on corner to resize
    - i. End "free transform" by clicking "enter"
14. Adding a border use a selection tool, then menu = Edit -> Stroke
15. Adding shadows, create another layer of just the item, use FX to add "drop shadow"
16. Adding artificial reflection to hanging objects
  - a. Ctrl+A (select all), Ctrl+C (copy), Ctrl+V (paste)... you should now have two identical layers
  - b. While "in" the second layer, on menu go to Edit → Transform → Flip Vertical
  - c. Change the opacity so you can see through that second layer
  - d. Drag that second layer down using the moving tool from the toolbox 

- e. "Select" the background of the second layer then hit delete (erase if necessary)
  - f. Refine the transparency
17. Save (menu = FILE -> Save as... or Save for Web)

### Section 3b: Photo-Editing in GIMP 2.8 for Windows

(the GIMP user's manual is invaluable: <https://docs.gimp.org/en/>)

1. Open file
2. Adjust view
  - a. Fit on screen (keyboard shortcut **Shift+Ctrl+J**)
  - b. Or actual size (keyboard shortcut **1**)
  - c. Or menu tab = View → Zoom

*If color correcting on something outside of the crop area skip to #7, then return to #3*

3. Select a square or rectangle area to keep
  - a. From the menu bar Tools → Selection Tools → Rectangle Select
  - b. Or click on the tool icon  in the ToolBox
  - c. Or use the keyboard shortcut **R**
    - i. If at some point during your editing you want to select an ellipse or circle shape
      1. From the menu bar Tools → Selection Tools → Ellipse Select
      2. Or click on the toolbox icon 
      3. Or use the keyboard shortcut **E**
  - d. To constrain proportions (make a perfect square or circle) use your mouse to start dragging your selection then click on and hold the **shift** key (do not click on the shift key before you have started your mouse drag... that's how you make more than one selection area)
  - e. Once you've relaxed (let go of) the mouse, you can regrab the selection area to move it into place with your mouse.
4. Crop menu tab = Image → Crop to Selection
5. Resize is menu tab = Image → Scale Image
  - a. In the pop-up box I use 800 pixels and 300 PPI
6. Adjust view
  - a. Fit on screen (keyboard shortcut **Shift+Ctrl+J**)
  - b. Or actual size (keyboard shortcut **1**)
  - c. Or menu tab = View → Zoom
7. Color correct or fix contrast if necessary
  - a. Correct on white with eye-dropper [menu tab = Colors → Levels]
    - i. Adjust contrast if necessary [menu tab = Colors → Levels]
  - b. Adjust hue and/or saturation if necessary [menu tab = Colors → Hue/Saturation]
8. Removing fuzz (healing in GIMP is more like the clone tool in Photoshop)
  - a. From the menu tab = Tools → Paint tools → Heal
  - b. Or click the toolbox icon 
  - c. Or use the keyboard shortcut **H**
    - i. To use the healing tool
      1. Select your tool size (in menu below toolbox)
      2. Ctrl+click on area similar to your desired effect
      3. Click on area to heal
        - a. Repeated clicks do more healing
9. Small cut-and-paste fixes (aka "clone")
  - a. From the menu bar Tools → Paint Tools → Clone
  - b. Or click on the toolbox icon 
  - c. Or use the keyboard shortcut **C**

- d. Ctrl+mouse where you want to copy from, then mouse to paste
  - i. You can click or mouse drag (to cover more area)
- 10. Additional selection tools
  - a. Lasso
    - i. From the menu bar Tools → Selection Tools → Free Select
    - ii. Or click in the Toolbox icon 
    - iii. Or use the keyboard shortcut **F**
  - b. Quick Selection Tool (aka “the magic wand”) *I find this tool more difficult to use in GIMP than in Photoshop.*
    - i. From the menu bar select Tools → Selection Tools → Fuzzy Select
    - ii. Or click on the toolbox icon 
    - iii. Or use the keyboard shortcut **U**
      - 1. Make sure to click on the second box in “mode” so you can select more than one area/item at a time  (the third option is de-select)
      - 2. Raise or lower the threshold as necessary 
  - c. Select by color
    - i. From the menu bar Tools → Selection Tools → By Color Select
    - ii. Or click on the toolbox icon 
    - iii. Or use the keyboard shortcut **Shift +O**
- 11. To de-select at any time keyboard shortcut **Shift+Ctrl+A**
- 12. Invert your selection area from menu bar Select → Invert
- 13. Sharpen is in the menu bar Filters → Enhance → Sharpen
- 14. Blur is in the menu bar Filters → Blur → Gaussian
- 15. If you want to see your layers, from the menu bar click Windows → Dockable Dialogs → Layers
  - a. CTRL+L supposedly brings the layers palette to the forefront
- 16. Add text using Toolbox icon 
  - a. Use “tool options” menu to select font, size, color, etc
- 17. Add logo from png file
  - a. Open logo file, CTRL+A (select all), CTRL+C (copy)
  - b. Go back to image file and CTRL+V (paste)
  - c. Scale image (changing size) using toolbox icon 
    - i. Retaining proportion by holding **CTRL** while dragging mouse
    - ii. Click “scale” (not “enter”) to apply change
  - d. Move image using toolbox icon 
    - i. Make sure “Move the active layer” is selected in the Tool Options
  - e. Change transparency using eraser tool with opacity selection 
- 18. Flatten layers from the menu bar by clicking Image → Flatten Image
- 19. Adding a border in GIMP is a lot more complex
  - a. Make your selection shape
  - b. Click from menu: Select → To Path
  - c. Remove the selection **Shift+Ctrl+A**
  - d. Click from menu: Edit → Stroke Path
    - i. Select your color (foreground color) and line width
    - ii. Click “stroke” in pop up box

20. Adding shadows in GIMP is another one that takes practice and patience

- a. Select the item(s) you want shadows on
- b. Copy them to another layer
- c. Click from menu: Filters → Light and Shadow → Drop Shadow
- d. Then it's a matter of playing around with the options (and a lot of CTRL+Z) until you get what you want.
- e. Afterwards, probably best to flatter your layers.

21. Save

- a. Starting with GIMP 2.8 (I think), you can't save or save as in any format other than xcf
- b. To save as jpg, png, tif, etc click from menu bar: File → Export As
  - i. Use pull down to select your image format preference, title the file, and choose location for saving

### Section 3c: Photo-Editing in Photoshop Elements 13 for Windows

1. I use "Expert" tab at top
  - a. You can experiment with other tabs to see which you prefer
2. Open file
  - a. If using multiple files and you don't see the tabs/file names, click Windows->Images->Consolidate all to tabs
3. Fit on screen (Ctrl+0) or actual size (Ctrl+1) (these are numbers, btw)  
*If color correcting on something outside of the crop area skip to #7, then return to #3*
4. Select area to keep (selection box/marquee tool )
  - a. Shift+mouse to retain proportion
5. To use the ellipse (aka "circle") selection tool, click on the selection tool as above and then find the circle looking option (mine was in the lower left of my screen).
6. Crop (menu tab = Image -> Crop)
7. Resize (Ctrl+Alt+i)
  - a. Confirm that "resample image" and "constrain proportions" boxes are checked
  - b. Enter desired pixel height or width and hit "enter"
8. Fit on screen (Ctrl+0) or actual size (Ctrl+1)
9. Color correct or adjust contrast if necessary from menu
  - a. Dark/Light and Color Correct
    - i. Enhance → Adjust Lighting → Levels (or keyboard command Ctrl+L)
      1. Correct on white with eye-dropper
      2. Adjust contrast if necessary
  - b. Color Adjustments
    - i. Enhance → Adjust Lighting → Hue/Saturation (or keyboard command Ctrl+U)
      1. Can do overall color adjusting or select a color range to adjust
      2. Don't forget you can also color correct on only a selection from an image if desired by making your selection prior to opening the adjusting tools
10. Remove fuzz (Toolbox = Spot Healing Brush tool )
  - a. Use menu bar to select size of tool
11. Minor cut-and-paste fixes (Toolbox = Clone Stamp tool )
  - a. Alt+mouse to copy area... mouse to paste
  - b. Use menu bar to select size of tool
  - c. In theory you can also drag the mouse to continue the clone paste to a larger area but it doesn't always work the way you want, so experiment with that
12. Additional selection tools
  - a. Toolbox = Lasso 
  - b. Toolbox= Quick Selection Tool (brush) 
    - i. Use menu bar to select size of tool
  - c. No option for selecting on Color Range in Elements
13. Blur is in Menu tab = Filter → Gaussian Blur
14. But Sharpen is Menu tab = Enhance → Adjust Sharpness
15. Adding text use Toolbox = Text 
  - a. Use options to select font, size, color, etc
16. Adding logo from png file

- a. Open logo file, CTRL+A (select all), CTRL+C (copy)
  - b. Go back to image file and CTRL+V (paste)
  - c. CTRL+T (free transform) to relocate/move the logo
    - i. Mouse on corner to resize
      - 1. To retain proportions use no function keys
    - ii. Mouse to grab and move logo to new location
    - iii. End “free transform” by clicking green check mark
  - d. Change logo opacity in “opacity” option of layers menu
17. Adding a border use a selection tool, then menu = Edit → Stroke
18. Adding shadows
- a. Create another layer of just the item
  - b. Menu = Layer → Layer Style → Style Settings → Drop Shadow
19. Save (menu = FILE -> Save as... or Save for Web)

Updated 03-15-18

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