

# Reviews



## Portrait Professional

by L. Davenport

Have you noticed that models or important people in photographs often-times look a lot better in print versus seeing them in person? This is usually attributed to airbrushing touch up done on the pictures before printing them. Now, the average person can do the same thing with his/her photographs using Portrait Professional.

Portrait Professional comes in two flavors, Standard (which this review is based upon) and Studio Edition. The Standard version is a stand-alone application whereas the Studio Edition includes a plug-in (for Photoshop and Lightroom ), reads more file types, including RAW, and it will also Batch Process images.

When you open Portrait Professional and import your picture, you are taken through five step-by-step instructions that identify the face's features. After asking whether you are modifying a male or female, it asks you to point out the outside corners of the eyes, were the tip of the nose is, the corners of the mouth (including whether it is open or shut) and the outer edges of the face (See Figure 1). From those few points, Portrait Professional guesses the outline of your facial features. If its is off by a little bit, you can fine-tune the outlines by moving the points around. Once everything is outlined, Portrait Professional applies the default settings to your portrait. This may be sufficient, but if not, you are given a group of pre-defined Saved Slider Settings along with slider controls so that you can manually tweak your portrait further (right side of figure2).



Figure 1

For ease-of-use, the sliders are divided into different groups:

- The Face Sculpting Controls let you change the shape of the face, e.g. make the face thinner, thus giving a more youthful appearance, change the shape of the jaw, elongate the neck, and change the shape of the eyes, eyebrows, or mouth.
- The Skin Controls let you enhance the skin's appearance by de-emphasizing the wrinkles, fade the dark specks, blemishes and fine wrinkles; smooth the skin, remove pores, adjust the skin texture, and tan the skin.



Figure 2



**Figure 3**

- The Eye Controls let you brighten/darken the eyes, change the iris color, remove reflections, darken or increase the size of the pupils, remove red eye, and sharpen the eyes, eyebrows, eyelashes.
- The Mouth & Nose Controls lets you whiten the teeth, color the lips (figure 3), and sharpen the mouth details.
- The Hair Controls let you increase/decrease the shine of the hair, lighten/darken the hair, alter the hair coloring, fill the hair shadows, and smooth the hair.
- The Skin Lighting Controls let you reduce the dark shadows, correct defective lighting, adjust the contrast, and darken the highlights on the skin. As a side note, Portrait Professional has a full body option that lets you smooth and adjust skin areas other than the face.
- The Picture Controls let you fill in the shadows and adjust the brightness, contrast, vibrance saturation, and temperature of the whole image,

There is a Touch Up brush for fine-tuning which lets you manually cover up/remove blemishes and fine wrinkles. The Restore Brush will undo modifications.

In addition to the sliders, the main window also displays before and after views of your portrait (figure 2). With this you can instantly see what the modifications will look like as you apply them.

My first test of Portrait Professional was on a photo gleaned from the Portrait Professional web site (it was part of their before and after examples - BTW: two additional examples of theirs are shown on this page). I was curious to see if I would be able to get a comparable end result to theirs (figure 2). Yes, I was quite pleased with my results. Portrait Professional was able to take off years from the man's appearance.

Of course it is up to the individual on how much to remove or smooth over on the face. When I experimented with the face in figure 1, I decided that I wanted to leave the beauty mark (mole) on the lower left of the jaw. I think that if you remove too much, the person's face no longer looks real or unique.



**Figure 4**

# *Silicon Summit*

A nice added feature is the ability to modify more than one face in a photo. So once you are finished adjusting the first face, you simply choose: "Enhance Another Face In This Photo" and the process starts all over again for the next face.

The Standard version of Portrait Professional supports JEG and TIFF file formats. The Studio Edition also supports file types from these manufacturers: Canon, Fuji, Kodak, Monolta, Olympus, Pentax, Sony, Sigma, Epson, Mamiya, Panasonic, Phase One, and Imacon.

If you are interested this program, I suggest checking out a [video showing Portrait Professional in action](#). Anthropics Technology's Gallery web page shows [12 before and after examples](#).

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## The Skinny

**Evaluation:** Portrait Professional is very easy to use. I was very impressed. Yes, you can probably accomplish the same results if you have Photoshop and a lot of know-how and patience. But if you don't want to spend the big-bucks for Photoshop and don't want to spend tons of time tweaking your photos, then you should check out Portrait Professional. It is inexpensive and its interface is very simple to use. Gone are the wrinkles, acne, pock-marks (figure 4 ) etc. after only a few minutes of tweaking.

**Requires:** Mac running OS 10.4 or higher, Optional - a graphics tablet and stylus.

**Company:** [Anthropics Technology](#)

**Street Price:** **ON SALE until Sept 1 - includes a free upgrade to version 10!** Standard version: \$49.95 (normally \$99.95). Studio Edition: \$79.95 (normally \$149.95)

[Available Demo](#)