

CAPTURE ONE 5 PRO

We trial the latest version of this powerful RAW editor

A long-standing favourite among pro medium-format shooters, the previous release of Capture introduced compatibility with a select list of DSLRs too. In a bid to further widen the appeal of this superb professional program, Phase One has added support for an increasing number of camera models to the latest incarnation of its software: Capture One 5 PRO. With a selection of exciting new tools, including Focus Mask, Creative Vignetting and Skin Tone Enhancer, among others, Capture One looks set to be better than ever. Available for both Windows and Mac users, Capture One 5 PRO is available for download as a 30-day free trial, or you can purchase the full program for €229 (upgrade from Capture One 4 PRO for €69, or buy the DB version for €99). Visit www.phaseone.com/4 for more details.

NEW TOOLS

With ten new features and many more enhancements, we can only cover a few of the most innovative new tools here. These include the new Focus Mask, which will be of particular benefit to wedding and portrait photographers: the mask automatically covers the areas of your images (including the thumbnails) which are in sharp focus, so you can rapidly scroll through

your session folder and quickly ascertain which are the best in terms of sharpness.

The Skin Tone Enhancer is another time-saving tool that lets you easily smooth your subject's skin tones for the most flattering effect, without affecting other parts in your image, so the clothes and hair for example stay sharp.

The new Local Copy and Apply facility lets you take individual adjustments you've made to one image and apply them to the rest of the set – a feature that will no doubt be very well received by photographers with heavy workloads – as will the one-click Dust Removal tool, which does exactly what the name suggests. LCC-based Light Falloff enables you to even out colours and light intensity, compensating for lens falloff, and – for photographers who want to get a bit more creative – you can easily add a vignette to cropped images, or use the RGB Levels and Curves tool to tweak each colour channel separately.

HANDLING

Everything's easily accessible, clearly labelled and simple to use, with the facility to enter values manually, as well as working with sliders and colour charts for those who prefer a more visual approach to image editing.

The ability to move the various panes on the interface around to suit your individual needs has also been retained, an excellent feature that was

fully appreciated in the previous release. There's also a set of different default workspaces to choose from as a starting point.

Capture 5 PRO also includes support for a greater variety of DSLRs than its predecessor – over 150 – including popular models from Canon, Epson, Fujifilm, Konica Minolta, Leica, Nikon, Olympus, Pentax and Sony, as well as Phase One and selected Leaf and Mamiya digital backs, for added versatility. Enhanced Workflow Accelerators streamline the program's efficiency, making it possible to handle multiple large files with ease: a matter of huge importance with the recent escalation of DSLR file sizes. We tested the program with the huge 75MB RAW files from the new Leica S2 and it ran seamlessly, taking on multiple image adjustments simultaneously with ease.



DESIGN

In keeping with previous versions, Capture One 5 PRO features an unobtrusive, charcoal interface that can be customised to ensure the layout fits with your personal way of working. By default, the left-hand side of the screen houses a set of icons that encompass your entire workflow, with tasks in chronological order (from tethered shooting/image import on the left, through to editing options, then output on the right). Further icons along the top of the screen accommodate the Crop, Straighten and Zoom tools, among others.

As before, each time you have a new set of images to edit, you create a New Session, which you import your images into. The program will automatically create an additional Output folder, where your edited images will be saved to, ensuring you always retain your untouched originals. These session files can also be easily packaged up and exported for easy distribution among clients and editors, with all of your settings and changes intact.

Capture One 5 PRO

PRICE: €229 (full version)

WEB: www.phaseone.com/4



System requirements

Capture One 5 may run on other/older equipment than what's listed below, but to ensure the best possible results we recommend that your computer conforms to the following minimum specifications:

| Mac | Windows |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Intel-based Mac | Pentium 4 or better |
| 2GB of RAM | 2GB of RAM |
| 10GB of free hard disk space | 10GB of free hard disk space |
| Mac OS X 10.6, 10.5.8 or later | Windows XP SP3, Windows Vista® SP2, Windows 7 |

Verdict

Features

Capture One 5 PRO doesn't offer the same scope for in-depth image manipulation as – say – Photoshop, but it doesn't set out to. What it does offer is an easy-to-use, comprehensive image editor that provides all of the tools you could possibly need to perfect your images. If you're more interested in producing superior-quality photos from 'straight' images rather than heavy manipulation, then you need look no further.

Performance

You're not limited to just editing RAW files: you can work on JPEGs and TIFFs too, and all in a non-destructive fashion. There is something about an image that's been produced using Capture One that's different to those by other image editors. The depth and richness of the colours, the level of contrast and detail are all heightened. You have the tools to make the best of what your camera can provide.

Value for money

Capture One 5 PRO is beautifully designed, with an intuitively laid out interface and some very powerful yet easy-to-use tools. This software makes pro results achievable by anyone, with sophisticated skin-enhancing, focus and colour-editing tools – to name a few – that you don't need any training to master. Then there's the results this software produces: compare the results from Capture One 5 PRO to those from any other image editor, and you'll never fail to notice the difference.

Total

A highly potent image editor that we highly recommend to any photographer for whom getting the very best out of their images is a top priority

10/10