

My Digital Photography for Seniors



que

AARP
Real Possibilities

Jason R. Rich

FREE SAMPLE CHAPTER



SHARE WITH OTHERS

My Digital Photography *for* Seniors

Jason R. Rich

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800 East 96th Street,
Indianapolis, Indiana 46240 USA

AARP[®]

Real Possibilities

My Digital Photography for Seniors

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Bonus Material! Two additional chapters, a Glossary, and two articles are available to you at www.quepublishing.com/title/9780789755605. Click the Downloads tab to access the links to download the PDF files.

Chapter 15 Creating and Sharing Animated Digital Slide Shows **Online**

Chapter 16 Backing Up and Archiving Your Digital Photo Library **Online**

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Using Optional Photo Editing and Enhancement Apps

Optional Photo Editing Software Options for PCs and Macs

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**Bonus Articles Using Optional Photo Editing and Enhancement Apps
Optional Photo Editing Software Options for PCs and Macs**

About the Author

Jason R. Rich (www.jasonrich.com) is an accomplished author, journalist, and photographer, as well as an avid traveler. Some of his recently published digital photography-related books include *iPad and iPhone Digital Photography Tips and Tricks* (Que), *How to Do Everything Digital Photography* (McGraw-Hill), *My GoPro Camera* (Que), and now *My Digital Photography for Seniors* (Que).

For publication in late 2015, Jason R. Rich is writing *iPhone and Apple Watch Fitness Tips and Tricks* (Que). He recently created and produced the *Managing Your Information Using Evernote* and *Using Your GoPro Hero3+: Learn To Shoot Better Photos and Videos* video courses, and has written numerous other books about the iPhone, iPad, interactive entertainment, and the Internet.

Jason's photography work continues to appear with his articles published in major daily newspapers, national magazines, and online, as well as in his various books. He also works with professional actors, models, and recording artists developing their portfolios and taking their headshots, and continues to pursue travel and animal photography.

Through his work as an enrichment lecturer, he often offers digital photography workshops and classes aboard cruise ships operated by Royal Caribbean, Princess Cruises Lines, and Celebrity Cruise Lines, as well as through Adult Education programs in the New England area. Please follow Jason R. Rich on Twitter (@JasonRich7) and Instagram (@JasonRich7).

About AARP and AARP TEK

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The AARP TEK (Technology Education & Knowledge) program aims to accelerate AARP's mission of turning dreams into *real possibilities*[™] by providing step-by-step lessons in a variety of formats to accommodate different learning styles, levels of

experience, and interests. Expertly guided hands-on workshops delivered in communities nationwide help instill confidence and enrich lives of the 50+ by equipping them with skills for staying connected to the people and passions in their lives. Lessons are taught on touchscreen tablets and smartphones—common tools for connection, education, entertainment, and productivity. For self-paced lessons, videos, articles, and other resources, visit aarptek.org.

Dedication

This book is dedicated to my family and friends, including my niece, Natalie, and my Yorkshire Terrier, named Rusty, who is always by my side as I'm writing.

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There are many ways to quickly edit and enhance a photo directly from your smartphone or tablet.



In this chapter, you'll learn how to use some of the common photo editing and enhancement tools found in most photo editing mobile applications. You also learn about the apps for this purpose that come preinstalled on your smartphone or tablet, as well as some that are available to be downloaded and installed. Topics include

- Differentiating between image enhancement and editing tools
- Discovering how to use common photo editing and enhancement tools
- Learning quick strategies for editing or enhancing your photo

5

Viewing, Editing, and Enhancing Photos On Your Mobile Device

One of the great things about taking photos using a smartphone or tablet is that in addition to serving as a camera, that same mobile device can be used to view, edit, enhance, store, print, and/or share your digital images—all without using a computer. Thus, you can take photos while you're out and about, quickly edit or alter their appearance, and using the Internet connection offered by your smartphone or tablet, share those images online via social media. The capability to quickly edit and/or enhance your photos after they are shot is not something point-and-shoot or digital SLR cameras offer.

This chapter focuses on ways to edit and enhance your photos after they're stored in your smartphone or tablet.

Enhancing and Editing Photos

Often, when you simply snap a photo using a digital camera, even if you set up everything correctly, the image might not look perfect. However, using the image editing and enhancement tools available to you from a mobile device, or using specialized software on your computer, a wide range of powerful and easy-to-use tools are at your disposal. These tools enable you to quickly edit, enhance, or dramatically alter the appearance of a digital image before you share it via the Internet, create prints, or showcase it in other ways.

There is a slight distinction between enhancing and editing a photo. Most photo editing mobile apps and software packages for computers offer a one-tap or one-click enhancement tool, as well as a variety of special effect image filters. In addition, they offer individual image editing tools that allow the photographer to alter one aspect of an image (or a portion of an image).

>>> *Go Further*

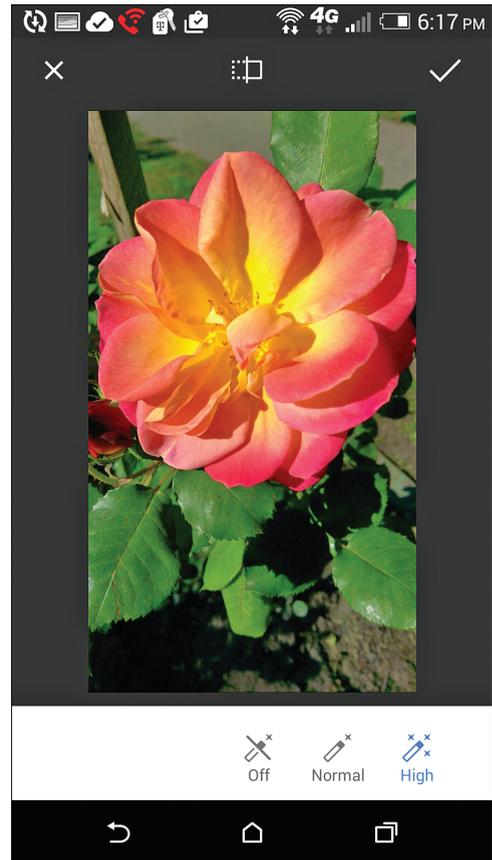
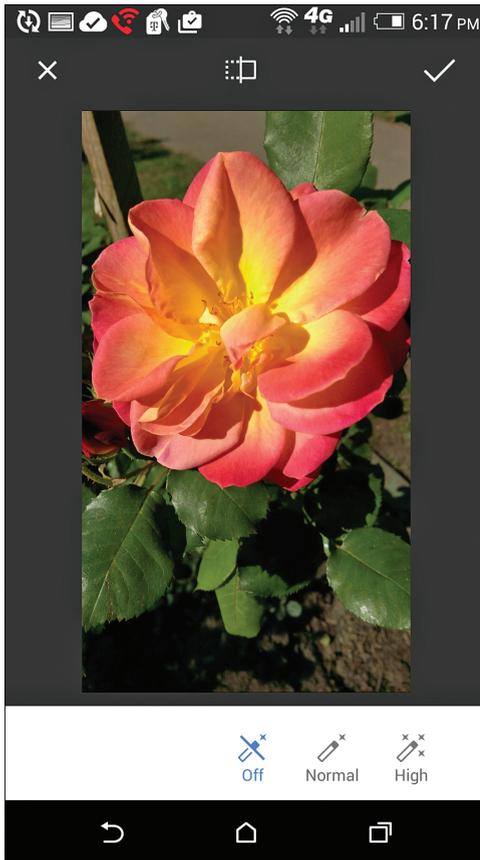
WHAT THE ENHANCEMENT TOOL DOES

With a single tap or click, an image enhancement tool analyzes your image and then automatically adjusts the color, contrast, saturation, brightness, white balance, and other aspects of a photo, based on what it determines is appropriate.

The Enhancement tool won't fix a blurry photo, but it will make a dark image brighter, make an overexposed image darker, or enhance colors within an image to make it look more vibrant.

The icon for the Enhancement tool typically looks like a magic wand or paintbrush.

Shown on the following page is a "before" and "after" photo demonstrating the Enhancement tool taken using an Android-based HTC One smartphone. The "before" photo (left) shows the original image in the Photos app, just after it was shot with no changes made to it. The "after" photo (right) shows the altered image after the one-tap Enhancement tool was used. Notice the green leaves are brighter, as are the colors of the flower petals. In some cases, the edits made with the Enhancement tool will be subtle (look closely at the green leaves in these images), while in other situations, they'll be much more noticeable.



When you use the Enhancement tool or an image filter, it improves or changes an entire image, but you often can't adjust the intensity of the effect. In most cases you can only turn it on or off.

Image Filters Vary

Each photo editing app or computer software package offers its own unique collection of filters. In some cases, additional filters can be downloaded and used with an app. An image filter is typically used to quickly and radically alter an entire image's appearance.

Beyond the quick-and-easy one-tap or one-click Enhancement tool and special effect filters, the photo editing mobile app or computer software you use also offers a selection of separate image editing tools.

An image editing tool can impact an entire image, or in some cases, only a portion or section of an image, and each tool alters the image in a specific way. In addition, as the photographer, you can often manually adjust the impact each particular tool has on your image, plus mix and match various editing tools to fix or alter an image to your liking. Thus, editing tools tend to offer customizable options for fixing or altering your photos.

Regardless of which photo editing app or computer software you use, a handful of common editing tools are available to you, such as Crop, Straighten, Exposure, Brightness, Contrast, Color, and Saturation, each of which has a different impact on your image.

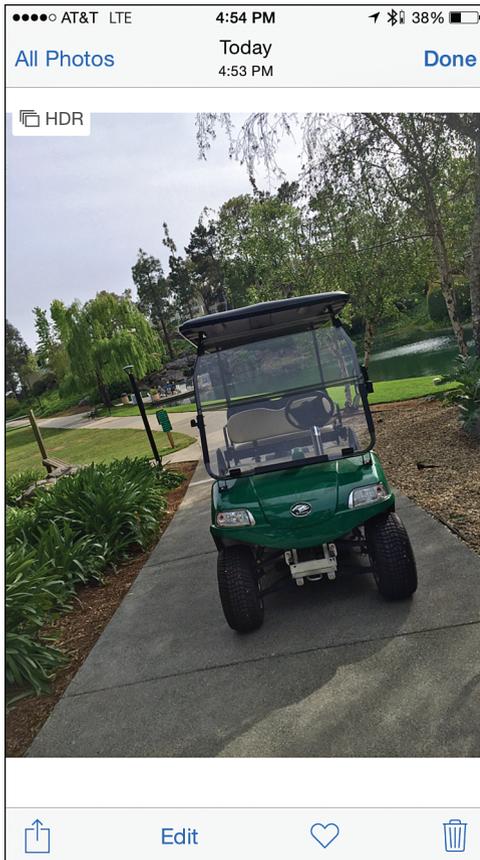
Using Common Photo Editing Tools Built in to Smartphone and Tablet Apps

Every iOS, Android, and Windows Mobile smartphone and tablet comes with an app preinstalled, called Photos. While these apps share the same name and the same overall function, each is totally different in terms of its user interface, layout, and design, and what features and functions are offered. However, the primary purpose of the Photos app offered on each mobile device is to allow you to view, edit, enhance, print, share, and organize your images.

Built in to each of these Photos apps are a handful of common editing tools, which you learn about in this section. Then, in the next section, you discover how to access and use these tools on the particular iOS or Android smartphone or tablet you're using. Windows Mobile is not covered in this chapter, but these devices include the same sorts of features you see demonstrated here.

Straightening Shots

One of the most common mistakes photographers make when taking a photo, especially when they themselves are in motion or have trouble seeing the viewfinder screen when a picture is being taken, is that the camera (your smartphone or tablet) is accidentally held at an angle when the Shutter button is pressed. As you can see in the photo on the left, this causes the photo to look rather odd and crooked.

**Crooked image****Straightened image**

Luckily, most photo editing mobile apps and computer software applications have a Straightening tool to easily fix this problem. To access and use it, you typically select the Crop tool, and then use the Image Straightening feature, which enables you to manually rotate the image until it appears straight in the Crop Frame.

Once the image has been straightened, you can further use the Crop tool, or any of your other image editing or enhancement tools, as you deem necessary.

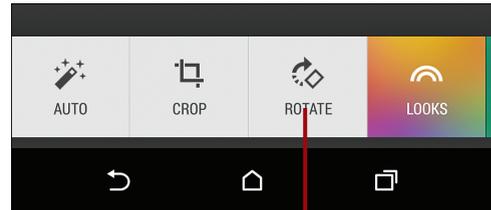
Rotating Images

While the Straightening tool is used for potentially minor straightening adjustments to a photo, the Rotation tool is used to rotate an image 90-degrees at a time, with each tap.

As you can see here, on an iOS, Android, and Windows Mobile-based smartphone, the Rotation tool icon typically looks like a square or rectangle with a curved arrow around it, or is represented by just a curved arrow.



**Photos app
iPhone
Rotation tool**



**Photos app Android
smartphone Rotation tool**

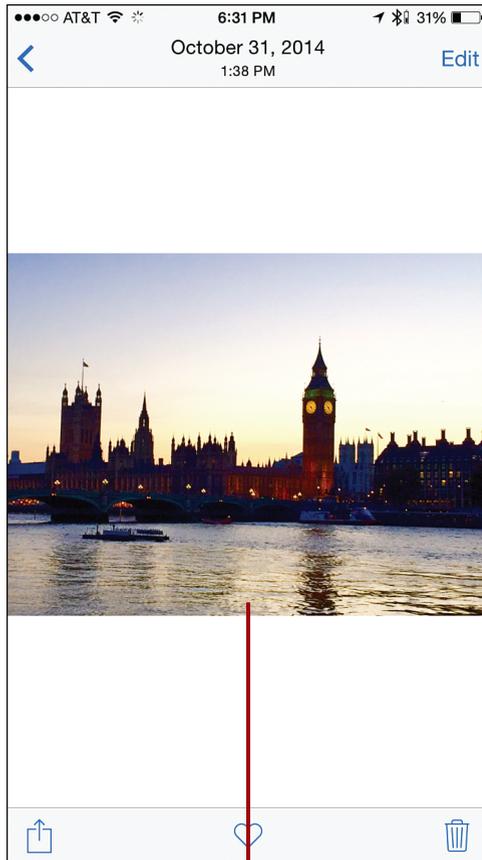


**Photos app Windows Mobile
smartphone Rotation tool**

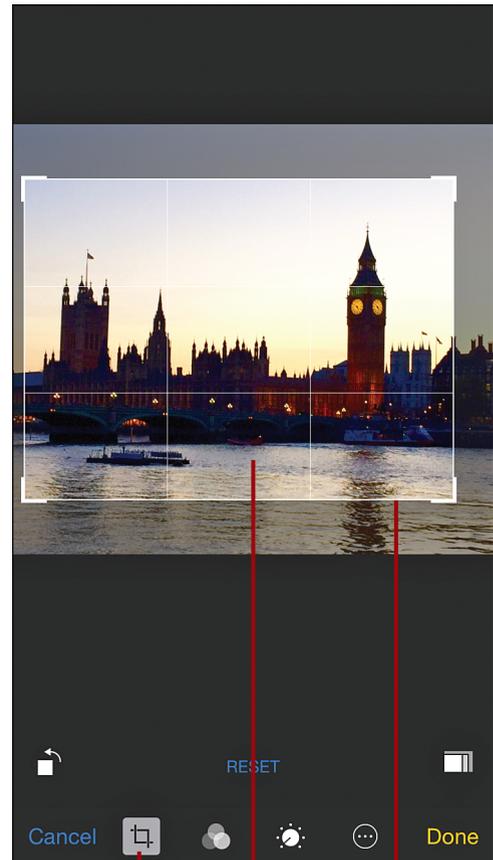
Cropping Images

The Crop tool enables you to remove areas around the outer edges of your photo, create a virtual zoom effect on your intended subject, or reframe your image after it's been shot.

When you're viewing an image, if you select the Crop tool during the editing process, a frame appears around the image. It's then possible to move any of the corners of the frame inward (at a diagonal) to cut away part of the image's outer edges. Shown here is an example of the impact this tool can have when trimming an image's outer edges.



Original image

Crop tool
iconCropped
imageCrop
frame

It's Not All Good

Cropping Reduces an Image's Resolution

When you use the crop tool, this does negatively impact an image's resolution. Thus, depending on the initial resolution of the image, you might discover that when you try to create a print or printed enlargement, the print will be pixelated or blurry as a result of the crop. This tool is best used on higher-resolution images if you're planning to create prints or enlargements.

Additional Editing Tools

Depending on which photo editing mobile app you're using, most group together editing tools based on their overall purpose. Editing tools can typically be manually adjusted separately, as needed, using an onscreen slider.

Most of the available editing tools can be used with one another, enabling you to add creative or unique effects or fixes to your images. Although in some cases, using just one tool improves an image to the point you are proud to show it off, some images may require you to apply two, three, or more editing tools to make them look more professional.

In the next set of sections, to demonstrate the impact common editing tools have on an image (when used on their own), we start with one original image and then adjust the image using one editing tool at a time.

Keep referring back to this original image see how each tool impacts its appearance. Keep in mind that, in addition to these tools, each photo editing mobile app offers a unique selection of other useful tools.



Original image

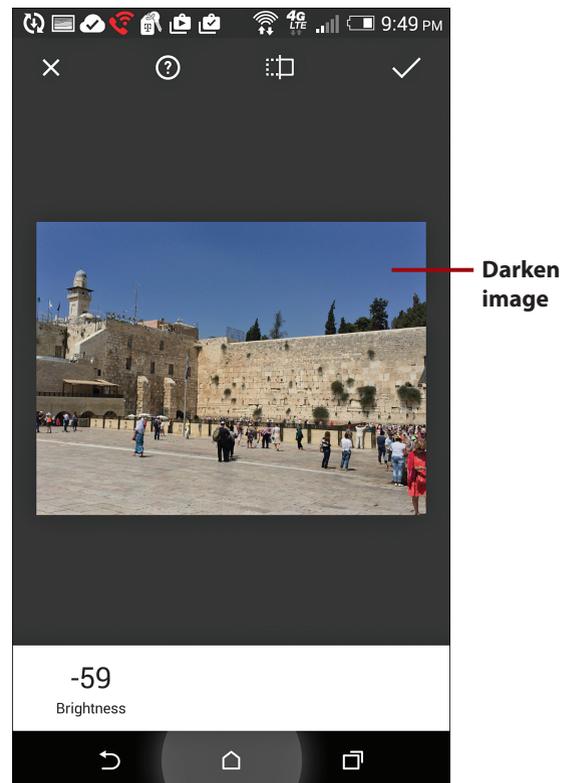
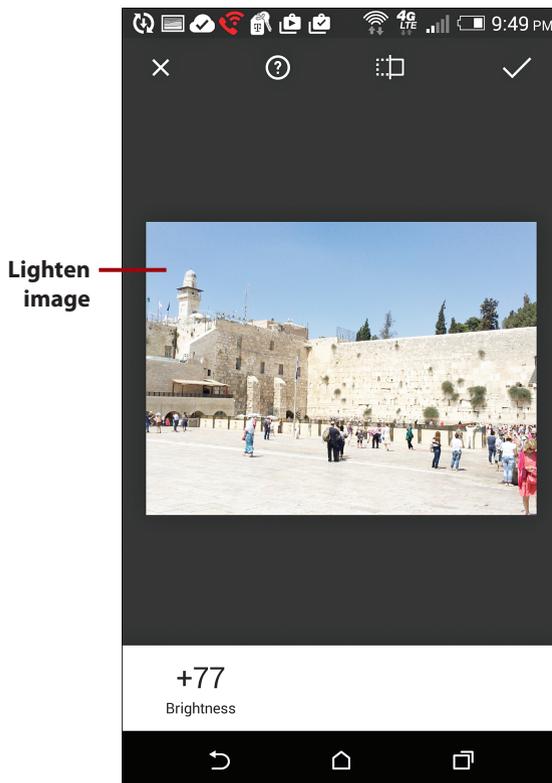
>>>Go Further

DIFFERENT APPS OFFER DIFFERENT TOOLS

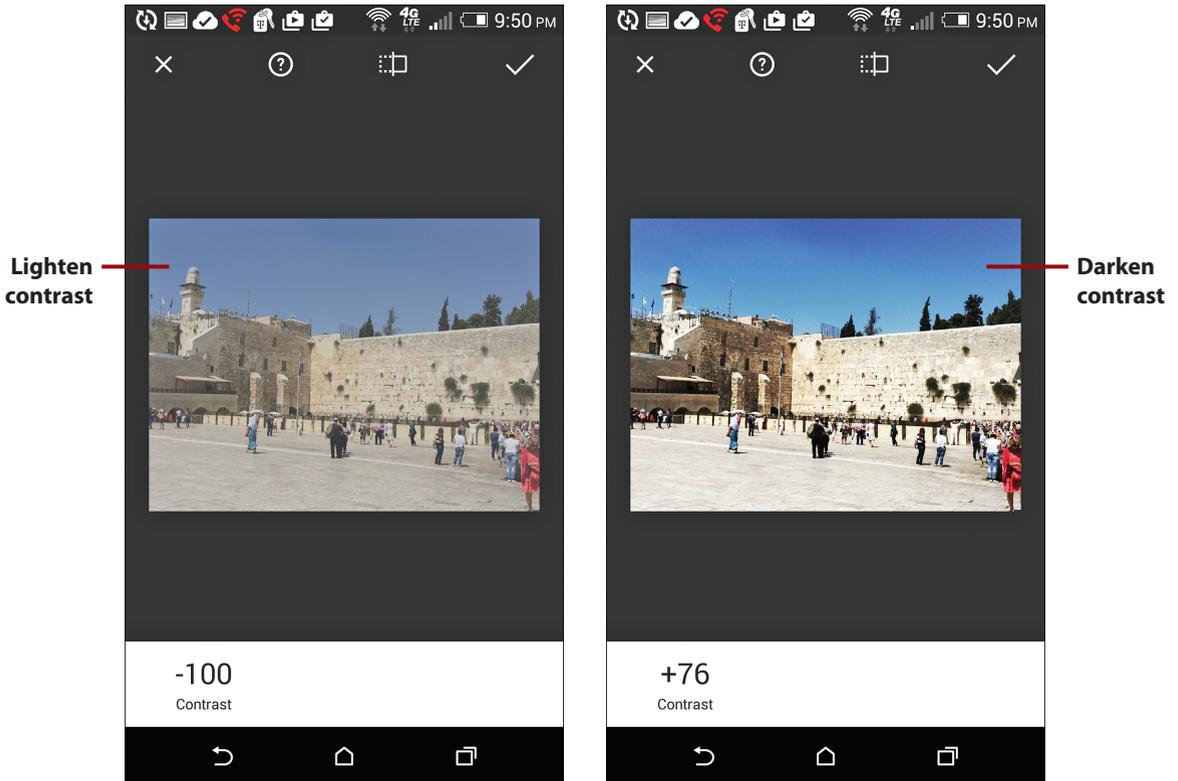
Because each photo editing app offers its own unique collection of editing and enhancement tools, if you become serious about taking and editing pictures from your mobile device, it makes sense to install two or three different photo editing apps on your smartphone or tablet to give you the broadest range of options when editing images that require specific types of adjustments or enhancements.

The following is a brief description of popular editing tools and an example of each being used on a sample image. For most of these examples, the Photos app running on the Android-based HTC One smartphone was used.

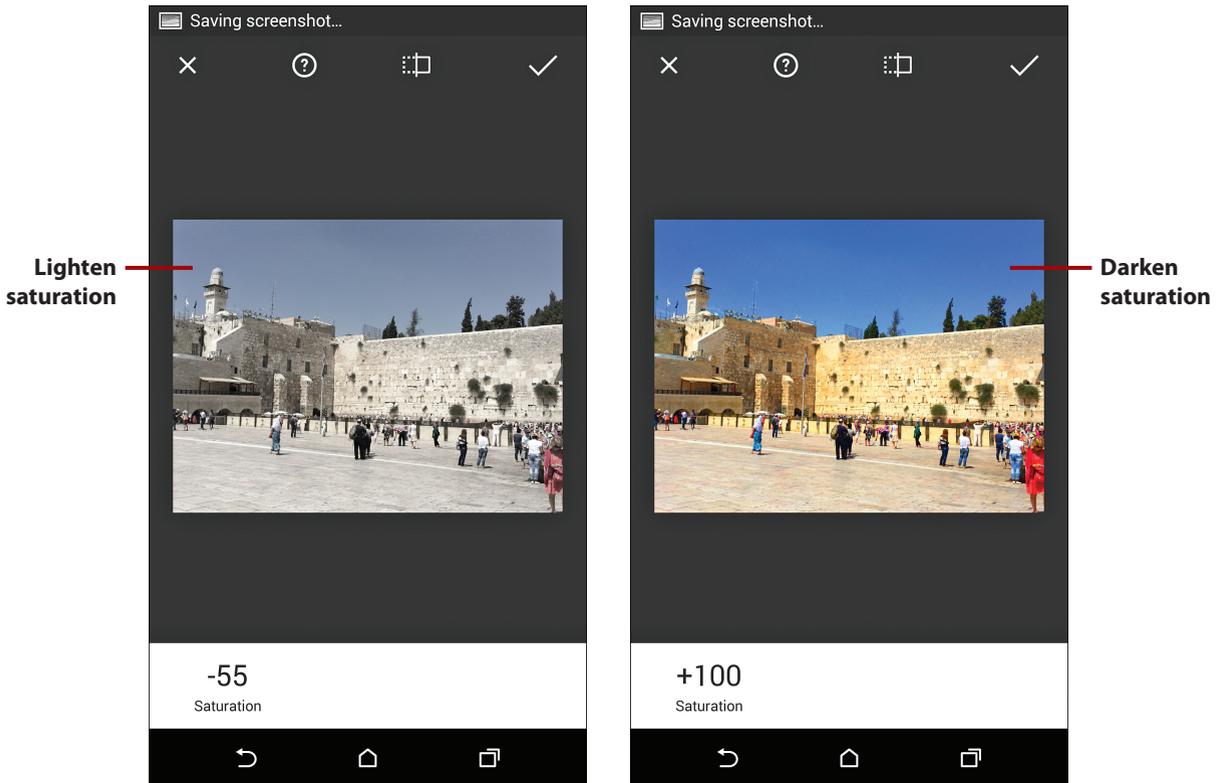
- **Brightness**—Use this tool to make an image lighter or darker. If the image appears too bright (overexposed) after it was shot, use the Brightness tool to darken it. If it appears too dark (underexposed) after it was shot, use the Brightness tool to lighten it.



- **Contrast**—Use this tool to alter the contrast between the light and dark tones and colors appearing in the image. Thus, some pixels within the image are either lightened or darkened. The Brightness tool, however, simply lightens every pixel within the image.

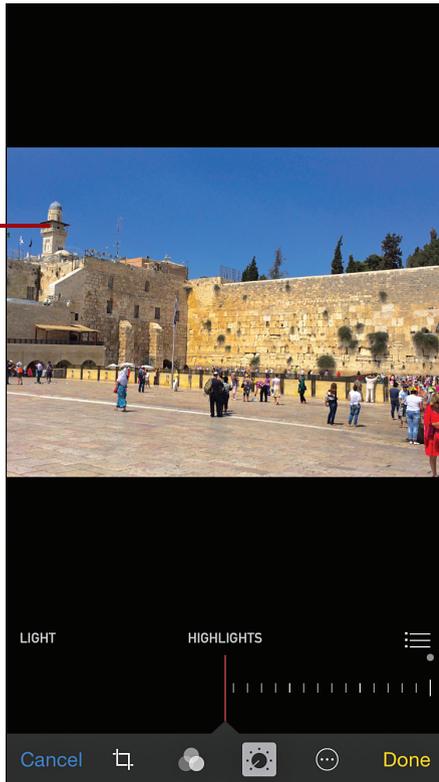


- **Saturation**—Use this tool to intensify or reduce the intensity of the colors appearing in your photo. For example, when you use the Saturation tool on an image taken outdoors, the color of the sky becomes richer, brighter, and more vibrant. Like many editing tools, this one typically uses some type of onscreen slider to manually adjust its intensity.



- **Sharpness/Sharpen**—If an image (or a portion of an image) is slightly blurry, for whatever reason, the Sharpness (which is sometimes called Sharpen) tool can correct this. While this tool can make a slightly blurry image appear more in focus, it can't transform a very blurry image into a clear one. (Not shown.)
- **Highlights and Shadows**—In some cases this is one tool, while other apps use two tools to enable you to alter highlights and shadows separately in a photo. Using a slider, this adjustable tool can be used to reduce unwanted glares, reduce the negative impact of shadows, and/or enhance the detail of an image. (Shown on the next page using the Photos app on an iPhone.)

Highlights
enhanced



Highlights
reduced



- **Blur Background/Center Focus/Vignette**—To help make your intended subject stand out in a photo, this tool, which goes by different names depending on the app, either enables you to tap on your intended subject and then blur what surrounds it, or the tool simply blurs (or darkens) everything around the edges of your image, depending on the app.



Darkened (blurred)
background

>>>Go Further

THE VIGNETTE TOOL VERSUS SELECTIVE FOCUS

When using the Camera app on an Android-based mobile device, one of the shooting modes is called Selective Focus. It enables you to tap on your intended subject within the viewfinder and then have the background blurred out as you're taking the photo. The Center Focus editing tool, however, can create a similar visual effect during the editing process, after the photo has been taken. When using the official Instagram app on your mobile device to edit a photo, this tool is called Vignette.

Using the Photo Editing and Enhancement Apps On Your Device

Now that you know what's possible using some of the more common photo editing and enhancement tools, let's take a brief look at the Photos app that comes preinstalled on iOS and Android smartphones and tablets, so you can see where these and other tools are located, and how to access them. (The information included here can be adapted to Windows Mobile devices.)

Attention Point-and-Shoot and Digital SLR Camera Users

Most point-and-shoot and digital SLR cameras do not enable you to edit photos directly in the camera. Thus, it's necessary to first transfer the images from the camera's memory card to either your mobile device or computer, and then edit them.

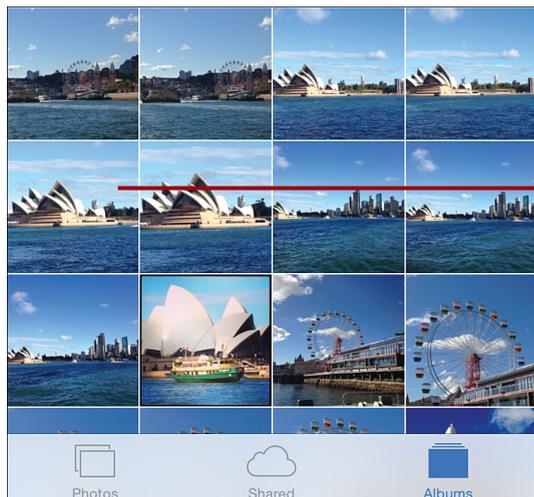
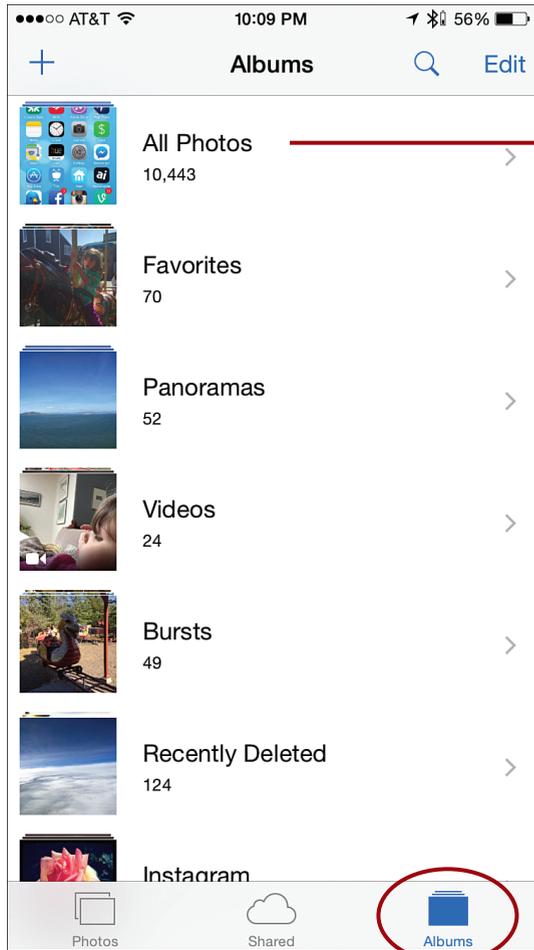
Edit with the iOS Photos App

To begin using the Photos app on an iPhone or iPad (running iOS 8.2) to edit or enhance an image, follow these steps:

- 1 Tap the Photos app from the Home screen.



- 2 Select the album that contains the photo you want to work with.
- 3 Tap on the image you want to work with to view it on the iPhone or iPad's screen.



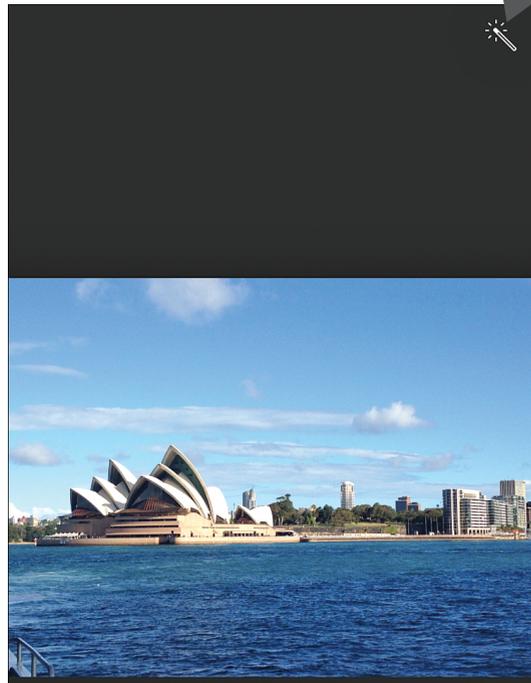
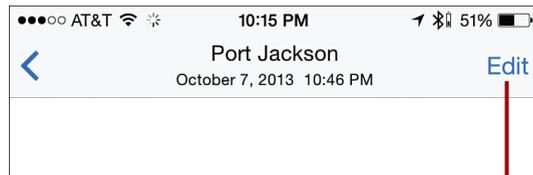
- 4 Tap on the Edit option displayed in the top-right corner of the screen to access the app's photo editing and image enhancement tools.
- 5 Tap on the Enhancement tool to enable it and see its effect. (When the feature is turned on, the Enhancement tool icon turns blue.)

Turn Off the Enhancement Tool

As soon as you tap on the magic wand-shaped icon, the app automatically enhances the image. If you don't like the results, simply tap on the Enhancement tool icon again to turn off the feature.

Additional Editing/Enhancement Tool Icons

On the iPhone, displayed along the bottom of the screen from left to right are the Cancel, Crop, Filters, Editing Tools, More, and Done/Revert icons and options. These same icons are displayed along the right margin of the screen. Using any of these tools is optional, based on how you're trying to fix or alter an image.

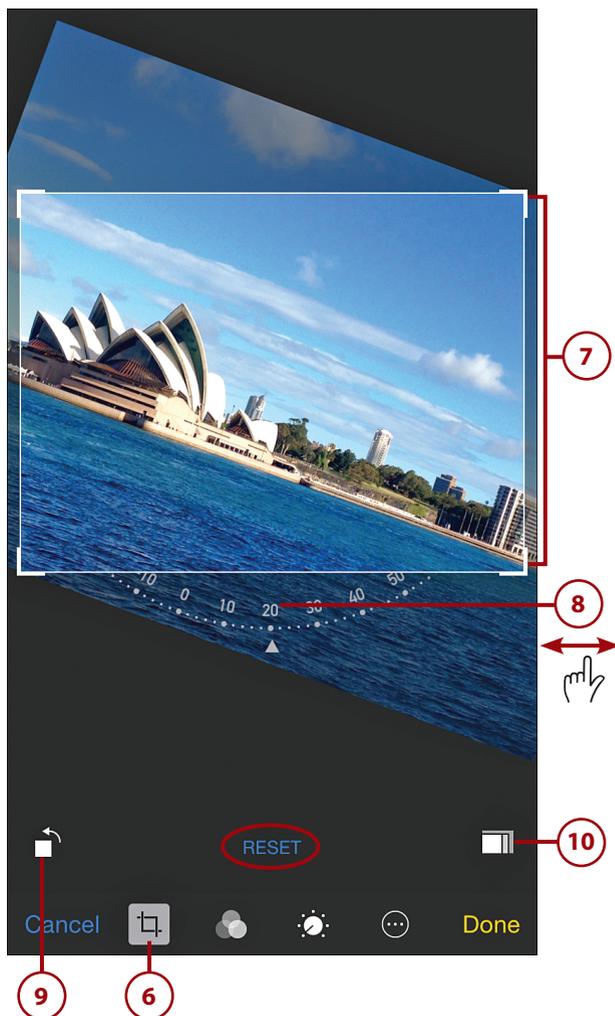


- 6 Tap on the Crop tool icon to access the Crop tool, Image Straightening tool, Rotation tool, and Aspect Ratio menu. Notice that a white frame appears around the image.
- 7 To use the Crop tool use your finger to adjust the corners or sides of the frame.
- 8 To use the Straightening tool, place your finger on the Straightening dial below the Crop Frame and slide it sideways, left or right. For demonstration purposes, this image has been adjusted by 20 degrees.
- 9 To rotate the image 90 degrees at a time, tap on the Rotation icon.

Crop, Straightening, and Rotation Tool Tip

If you alter an image by cropping, straightening, or rotating it but don't like the results, tap on the Reset option to return these settings to their original positions. All your other edits remain intact.

- 10 To adjust the Aspect Ratio of an image, tap on the Aspect Ratio icon, and then select an option from the pop-up menu displayed (not shown).

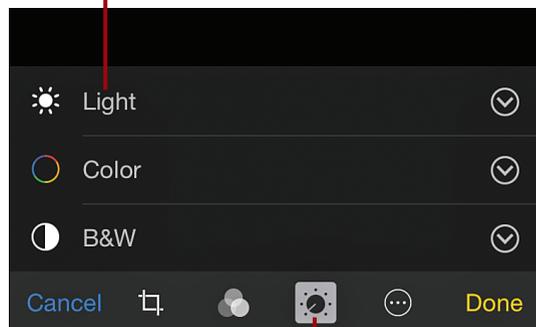
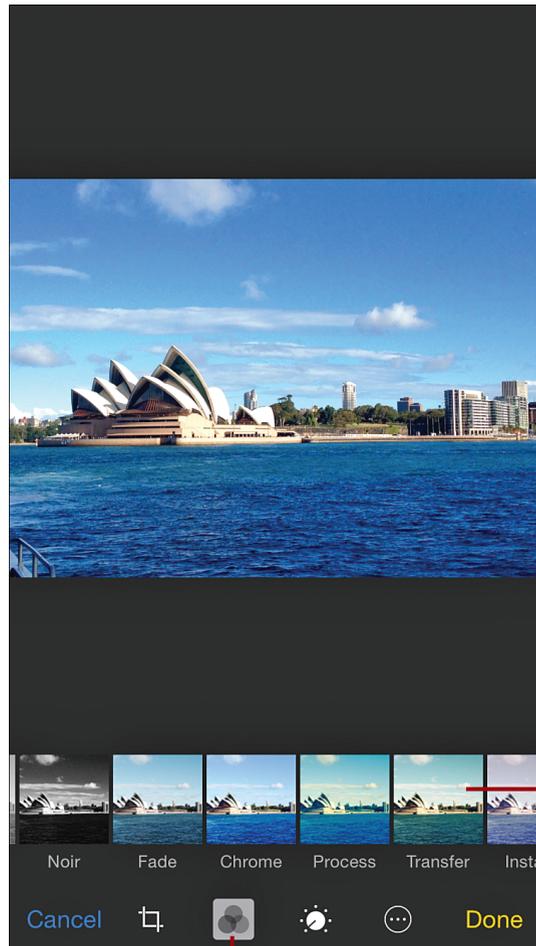


- 11** Tap on the Filters icon to add an optional special effect filter to your image. The nine filters built in to the Camera app are also available in the Photos app, and one can be added to each image, but the intensity of the filter effect is not adjustable using the Photos app.
- 12** Tap on the icon that represents the filter you want to apply to your image, or select the None filter option.

Additional Third-Party Filters Are Available

From the App Store, it's possible to download and install additional third-party filters that can be used with the Photos app. However, other photo editing apps, including a few described in the "Using Optional Photo Editing and Enhancement Apps" section later in this chapter, offer a much better selection of built-in filters.

- 13** Tap on the Editing Tools icon to access any of the Photos app's other editing tools.
- 14** Tap on the Light menu option.



- 15** Use your finger to move the slider to increase (right) or decrease (left) the intensity of the colors in your image.

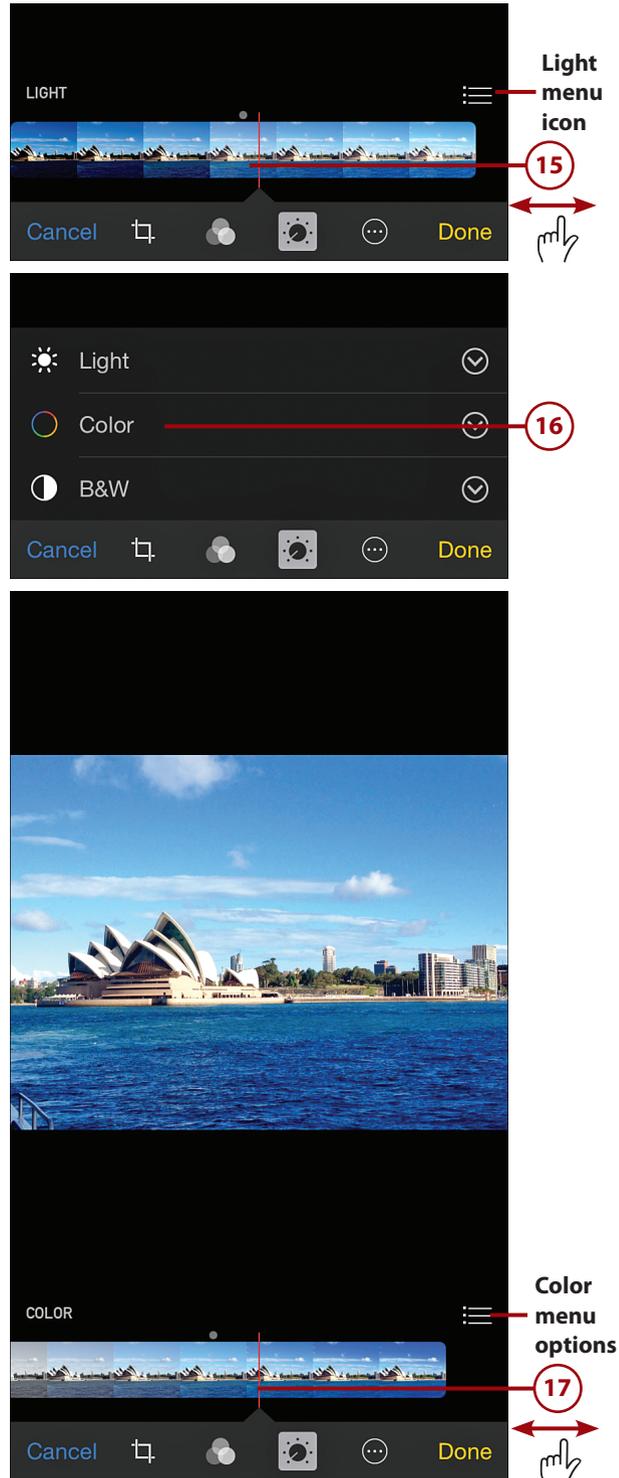
More Lighting Options

Tap on the Light Menu icon to access additional sliders for Exposure, Highlights, Shadows, Brightness, Contrast, and Black Point.

- 16** Tap the Color menu option.
- 17** Use the slider to adjust the color usage in the photo.

More Color Options

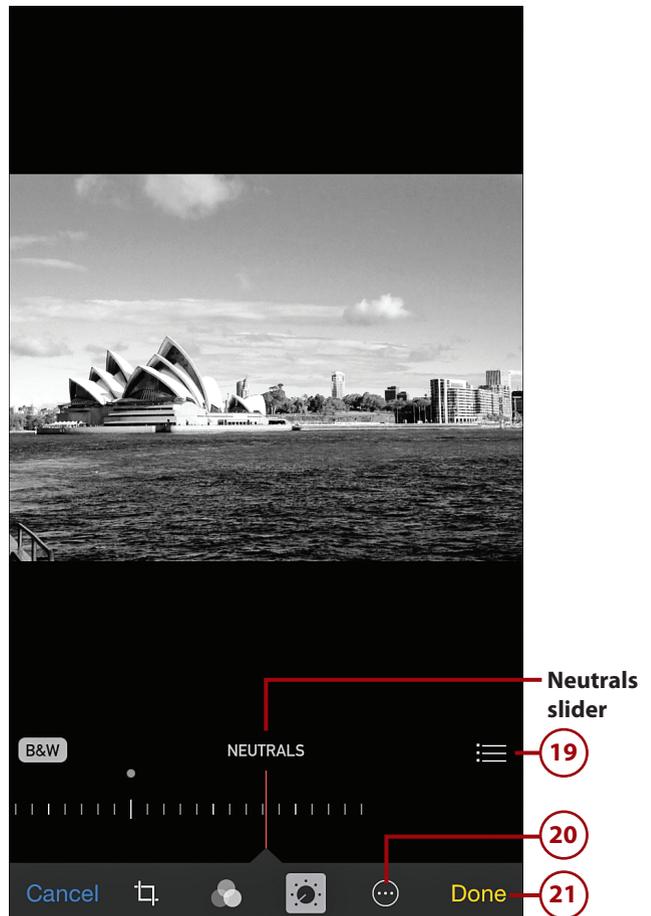
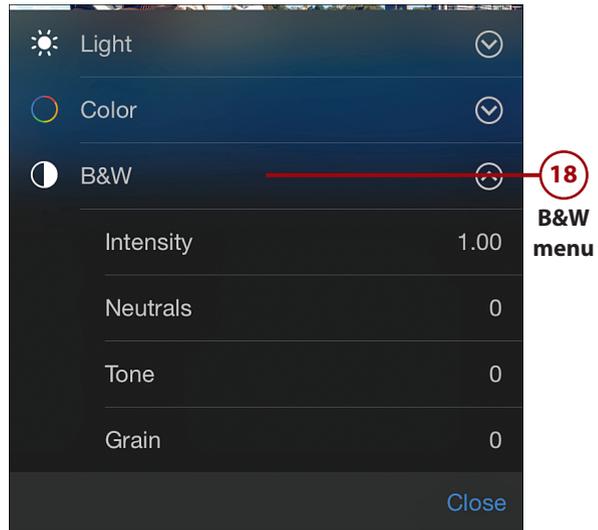
Tap on the Color Menu icon to separately adjust the Saturation, Contrast, and Cast options related to the image you're working with.



- 18 Tap on the B&W option to remove the color and create a black-and-white image instead of keeping the image you're working with in full color.
- 19 Tap on the B&W Menu icon to manually adjust the Intensity, Neutrals (shown), Tone, and Grain tools, one at a time. Each has a slider associated with it.
- 20 Tap on the More icon to access any third-party filters or apps you might have installed that work with the Photos app.
- 21 Tap Done when you're finished editing or enhancing the image to save your changes. The image, with all your edits or enhancements, is saved in whatever album the image came from and, by default, replaces the original version of your image.

Discarding Changes

If you want to get rid of the edits you made, instead of clicking Done, click the Cancel button.



>>>Go Further

EDITED PHOTOS ARE SYNCED

If you have the Photos app set up to sync with iCloud Photo Library, for example, as soon as you save an edited image, the new version of the photo will sync with your iCloud account and become accessible to all your other computers and mobile devices linked to that iCloud account. The new version of the image, by default, replaces the old one.

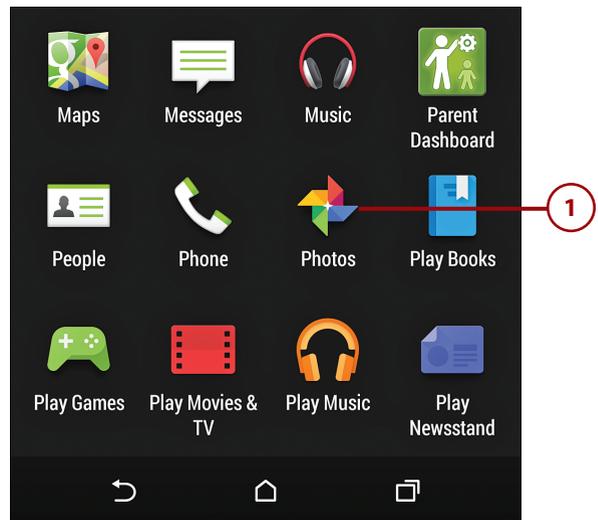
At any time, you can reload the edited photo into the Photos app on your iPhone, iPad, or Mac, and then add additional edits, revert the image to its original form, or remove specific enhancements. However, if you transfer the edited image to a different photo editing app and then resave it, this will no longer be possible.

Once you've fully utilized the photo editing or image enhancement tools built in to the Photos app, you always have the option of loading the same image into a different app for further editing or enhancement. This enables you to take advantage of filters or editing tools not offered by the Photos app.

Using the Photos App on an Android Smartphone or Tablet

Android's Photos app has an array of different tools you can use. This section explores some of the most useful tools. To begin using the Photos app on an Android-based smartphone or tablet to edit or enhance an image, follow these steps:

- 1 From the Apps screen, tap on the Photos app icon to launch the app.



Android Variations

Depending on which version of the Android operating system your smartphone or tablet uses, the options available, the appearance of screens, and the location and appearance of command options and icons can vary. The steps shown in this section are demonstrated on an HTC One Android-based smartphone (running Android version 4.4.4).

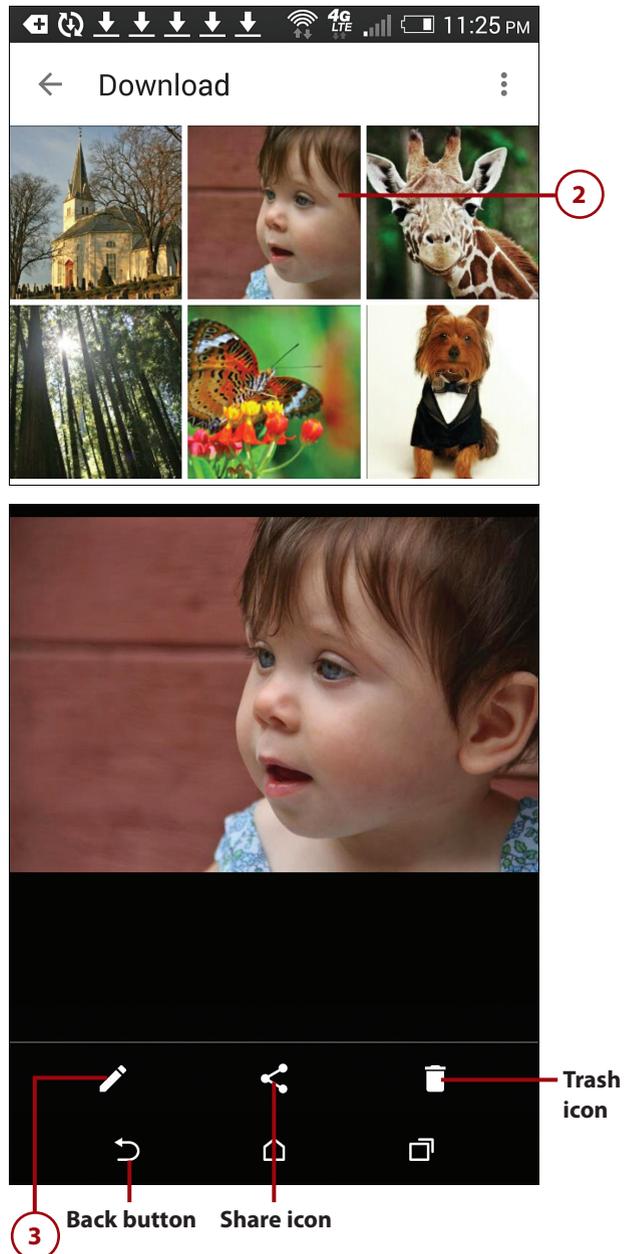
Automatic Backup and Enhancement

The first time you use this app, you can turn on the Automatic Backup and Auto Enhancement tool, which applies to all images in the future. Tap on Sign In to activate these features with your existing online-based Google Drive account.

- From within the albums stored on your mobile device, find and select the image you want to edit or enhance. The single image you select is displayed on the screen.
- To edit the image, tap on the pencil-shaped Edit icon.

Tap the Back Button to Take a Step Backward

Anytime you select an option and then change your mind about using it, tap on the Back button at the bottom of the smartphone's screen to return to the previous screen without saving your latest changes.

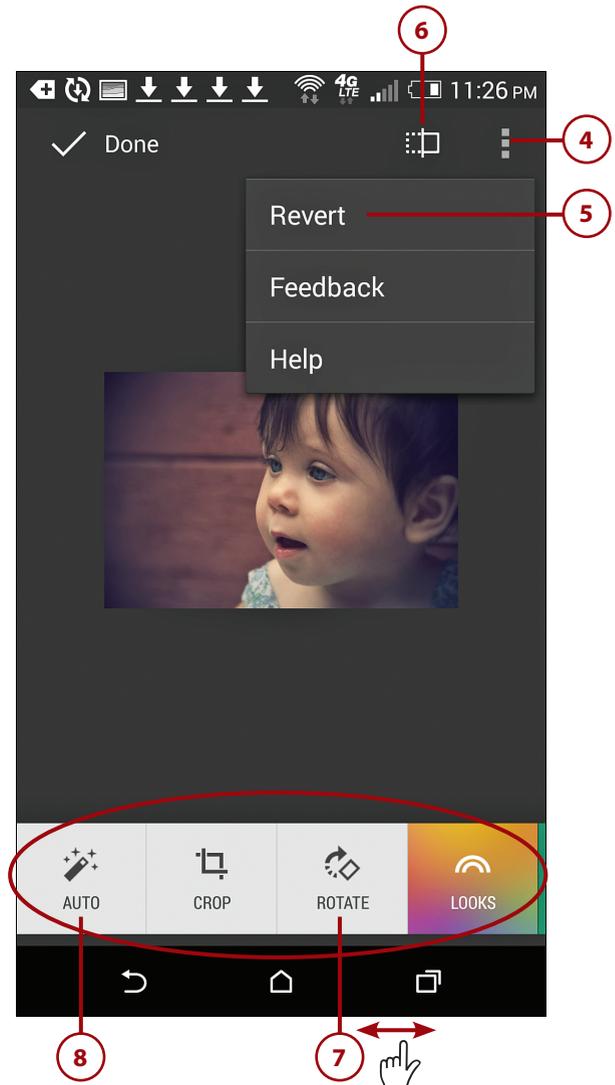


- 4 Tap the More icon to see its menu options.
- 5 From this menu, tap the Revert command at any time to remove all the edits you've added to an image and return to its original appearance.

Tap the Check Mark to Save a Change

Anytime you use an editing or enhancement tool to make a change that you want to keep, tap on the check mark icon displayed near the top-right corner of the screen to save that latest edit or change. You then are returned to the main image editing screen.

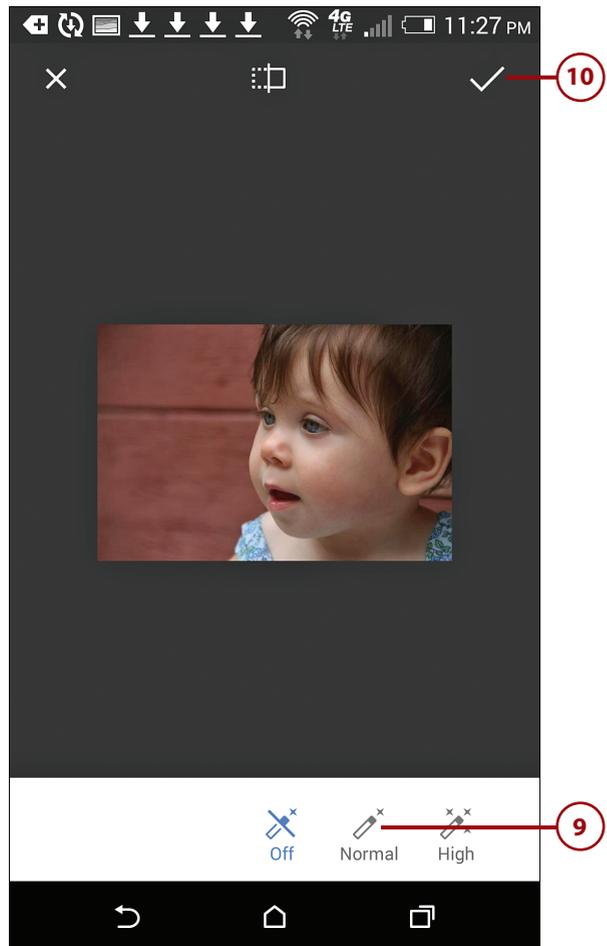
- 6 Tap the Before/After icon after applying a new edit or enhancement to an image to compare the altered image to the original version.
- 7 Scroll horizontally with your finger along the bottom of the screen to view all the editing tools available to you: Auto, Crop, Rotate, Looks, Tune Image, Selective, Details, Vintage, Drama, Black & White, HDR Scape, Retrolux, Center Focus, Tilt Shift, and Frames.
- 8 Tap on the Auto Enhancement tool.



Some Editing and Enhancement Tools Come in Sets

Depending on which editing tool icon you tap on, multiple editing or enhancement tools may become available to you, also in the form of icons. Instead of using a traditional horizontal slider, the Photos app on Android devices requires you to place your finger on the actual image, and then drag it up or down to reveal and select submenu options, or drag your finger horizontally to increase or decrease a selected tool's intensity.

- 9 Tap Off, Normal, or High to select a level of enhancement. The High setting uses stronger adjustments than the Normal setting, while none shows the photo without any enhancement.
- 10 Tap the check mark icon to save your changes and return to the previous screen.
- 11 Tap on the Crop tool.

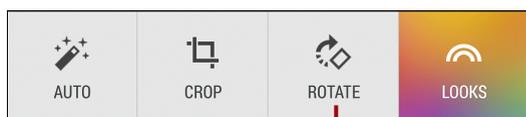
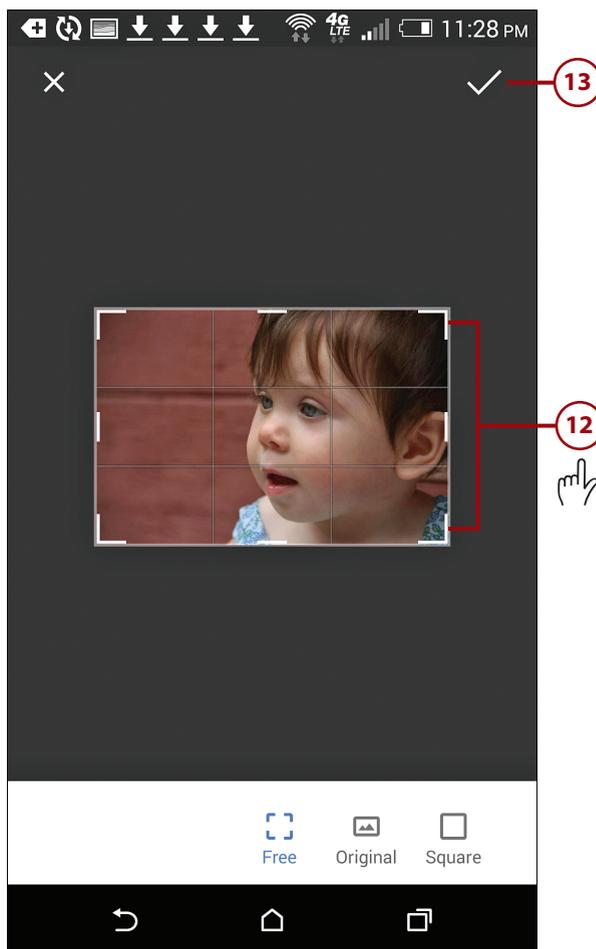


- 12 Tap and drag on the corners of the frame that appears around the photo to adjust the amount of cropping.
- 13 Tap the check mark icon to save your changes.

Crop Styles

Below the Crop Frame are three command tools: Free, Original, and Square. Free enables you to adjust the Crop Frame to any dimensions and shape. Original keeps the image's original aspect ratio. Square crops your image into a square (instead of a rectangular) shape.

- 14 If you want, tap the Rotation tool to rotate your image 90 degrees.



- 15** Tap the clockwise or counter-clockwise rotate icons to rotate the photo 90 degrees in that direction.

Rotate Images

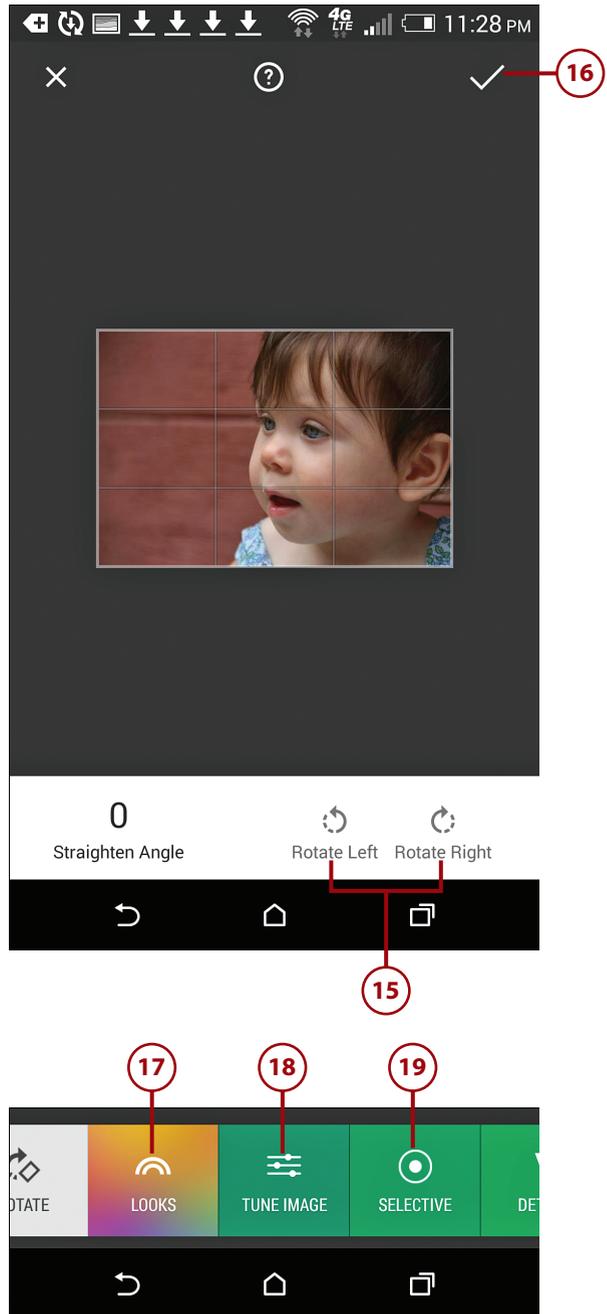
To rotate the image less than 90 degrees, place your finger near the bottom or top of the image and drag it slowly left or right.

- 16** Tap the check mark icon to save your changes.
- 17** Tap on the Looks tool to apply one of 15 image filters built in to the app. You can only add one Filter to an image.
- 18** Tap on the Tune Image tool to change the photo's Brightness, Contrast, Saturation, Shadows, or Warmth. (To adjust these settings place your finger near the center of the image and drag it downward.)

Using the Tuning Tools

When the tool you want is highlighted in blue, lift your finger and then place it back on the image and drag it left or right to decrease or increase the intensity of that tool.

- 19** To apply edits or enhancements to one particular part of an image, tap on the Selective icon. Next, tap on the plus-sign icon, and tap on the area of the image you want to work with (such as the focal point of your image.)



>>> *Go Further*

SELECTIVE EDITING TOOLS

A huge variety of editing tools is available to you in the Selective category—too many to cover in detail here. Among the tools you can use to enhance your photos are controls for adjusting contrast and saturation, sharpening, a variety of specialized filters, focus adjustment, and much more. The best way to get to know these tools is to experiment with them one by one and observe how they affect the photo to which you're applying them.

When you're finished using the editing and image enhancement tools, be sure to tap on the Done option to save your changes. If you have the Auto-Sync feature turned on, the image automatically uploads to your Google Drive account and replaces the original (unedited) image.

As long as you don't load the edited image into a different photo editing app, you can later reload the edited image back into Photos and remove or add edits or revert the image back to its original appearance.

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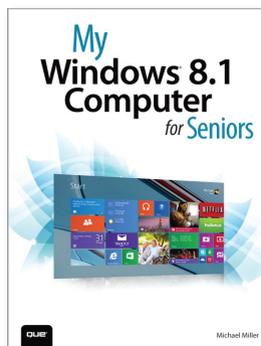
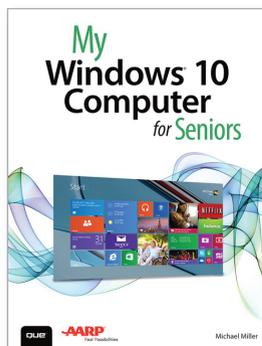
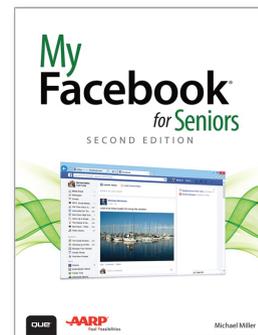
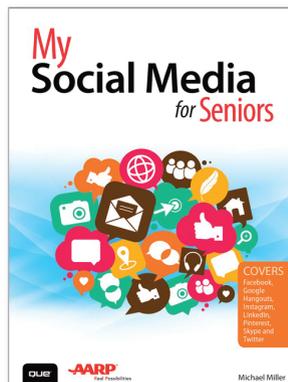
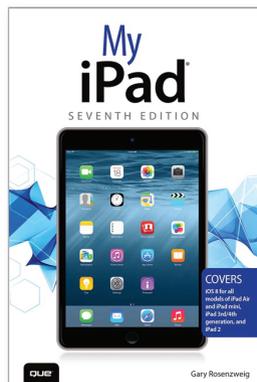
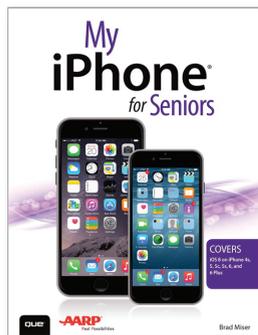
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