

PSE.NET Tips 'n' Tricks



Even though the lettering system in Photoshop Elements is based on smooth-edged (vector) technology, when type layers are flattened into the background, or the PSD file is saved in the JPEG format, the type is converted to pixels. One of the drawbacks of using a system that is based on pixels is that circles, diagonal lines and curves are made up of a series of pixel steps. When viewed closely, or printed very large, these steps can become obvious and appear as a saw-tooth pattern. This is called 'aliasing'.

Anti-aliasing is a system where the effects of these 'jaggies' are made less noticeable by

partially filling in the edge pixels. This technique produces smoother looking type overall and should be used in all print circumstances and web applications.

The only exceptions to this rule are where file size is critical, as anti-aliased web text creates larger files than the standard text equivalent, and when you are using font sizes less than 10 points for web work.

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