

Noiseware Professional Bundle

\$69.95–79.95; www.imagenomic.com/nwpg.aspx

This bundle includes a Photoshop plug-in and a Windows-only standalone app. Since I'm currently doing all my work on a Mac, I can't take advantage of the standalone app, but the Photoshop plug-in suits my needs just fine.

What impresses me most about Noiseware Professional is the huge amount of control it gives me over how noise reduction is applied. I thought Neat Image was good that way (my review for that program is now online), but Noiseware trumps it. It offers many more controls for controlling noise reduction, but what's best of all is a feature called *parameter bracketing*. It lets you select any one of the controls and automatically generate five preview windows with a range of settings for that parameter.

This really speeds up optimizing the settings by eliminating most of my trial-and-error fiddling. Comparing the bracketed previews allows me to quickly decide on the best setting for that parameter. Once I settle the current bracketed setting, I can pick another parameter to bracket around and generate a new set of previews that incorporates the control settings I've established so far. In addition, there seemed to be an unlimited number of undo versions, so if I start fiddling with settings manually, I can backtrack from there to an established working state.

Of all the noise reduction tools I've played with, I feel this one gives me the most direct and flexible influence over the results.