The Photoshop Elements Organizer has always included a variety of ways for you to search for your photos. These include searching by Categories, Sub-Categories, and Tags, by date, by filename, and a variety of other criteria. In more recent versions, PSE has expanded its capabilities to include visual searches. Exploring these capabilities is the subject of this Tutorial.

**Visual Similarity**

For this command to work effectively, the Visual Index of the catalog really needs to be generated. For large catalogs this can take a very long time.

1. From the menu bar, click on Find > By Visual Searches > Search for Visually Similar Photos and Videos as shown in the figure below.

2. Select a photo or Video for which you want to find similar photos.
3. The message box below appears after a few seconds. To get the best results, click on the OK, Start Indexing button. However, for a Catalog of any significant size this could take a significant amount of time.
4. After the indexing/searching are complete, the photos are redisplayed with the percentage of similarity shown for each picture’s thumbnail in the lower left corner as shown in the figure below.

5. After the results are displayed, you can refine and repeat the search by emphasizing either color or shape.

6. You can refine your search by clicking on the + button, selecting additional pictures. Up to four pictures can be used for finding visual similarities. To remove a picture from those being used, double click on it.

7. You can also save the search criteria by first clicking on the Options > Save Search Criteria.

8. Return to the All Media display.

**Objects Within Photos**

1. Click on Find > By Visual Searches > Objects Appearing in Photos.
2. Select the desired photo. Then size and move the marquee that is superimposed on the thumbnail to size/position it over the desired object as shown below.
3. Then click on the Search Object button. You may get a the visual indexing message box as was displayed in Step 3 of the Visual Similarity section above, requiring similar actions. If you elect to index the data, you can cancel the indexing at any time, and PSE 15 will do its best to find images with similar objects anyway.

4. The results are displayed as before, including the Color/Shape slider.

5. Additional photos can be added to the search criteria to improve the results in the same way they in Step 6 of the Visual Similarity section above.
Find Duplicates

This search function works a little differently than you might expect. It attempts to find duplicate or near duplicate images in an Album or some other collection you have selected, such as photos with the same Tag. These are not true duplicates in the traditional sense. The Organizer searches for photos based on their similarity and the time they were taken. It is most useful for finding those images taken with the burst mode on your camera.

1. Select the Album or other collection of photos that you want search for duplicate images.
2. On the Menu, click on Find > By Visual Searches > Duplicate Photos.
3. You may get the indexing message gotten in previous searches. This time, definitely let the indexing take place, because only the selected Album is being indexed, not the entire Catalog. It goes much faster.

4. When the search is complete, you can choose to Stack like/duplicate photos, or delete them by selecting them and then clicking on the Delete From Catalog button in the lower left corner of the screen.
5. There are a variety of other options you can do from this screen:
   a. Drag photo from one stack to another to reclassify them.
   b. Stack related photos after selecting them.
   c. Unstack previously stack photos.
   d. Expand a stack by right clicking on it, and selecting Expand Photos in Stack.
   e. Collapse a stack.
   f. Remove photos from a stack by right clicking on the photo and then select Remove Photo From Stack.