

# weekender CONSUMER

## Giving you the tools to edit photographs to perfection

STEPHEN SINFIELD



stephen.sinfield@burtonmail.co.uk

**FaceFilter3 Pro**  
Priced £69.99  
www.reallusion.com

I'M sure that we've all done it. We've taken a photograph, had a quick look on the tiny LCD screen at the back of the camera and then walked away assuming all is well.

A few hours later you download your images to the laptop only to find that the pictures you thought were great, are not quite as impressive on a bigger screen.

If you are nodding in agreement then maybe this software from Reallusion can help.

Its primary focus is dealing with portraits — hence the name, FaceFilter.

What FaceFilter enables you to do is change colours, skin tones, lighting, depth of field and even alter facial characteristics.

FaceFilter is to the portrait photographer what the scalpel is to the plastic surgeon.

If it can be done in an operating theatre, it can be done on screen allowing you to completely change and fine tune any facial feature.

This isn't a software package which you can jump into at the deep end as a beginner. I'm experienced at using many photo editing software packages and FaceFilter for me falls in the category of being exceptionally good at what it does, but it's not always simple as a beginner to get yourself to that end result.

But after a few weeks of messing around with various photographs and following the helpful example tutorials, I am now confident in manipulating faces.

The key features of this software can be summarised as:

- **All-in-one beauty centre** — A versatile toolkit stocked with every makeup tool needed to create exceptional and unique looks for every photo.

Each unique tool is based upon real-life professional makeup theory.

The included templates allow for one-click application of a variety of beautiful and complete looks, which are categorized into skin refinement, facial makeup and eye makeup.

- **Skin care function** — New and innovative skin-smoothing system that easily and quickly evens out skin by clearing away blemishes, wrinkles, and discoloration.

Specific templates are easily applied to address the



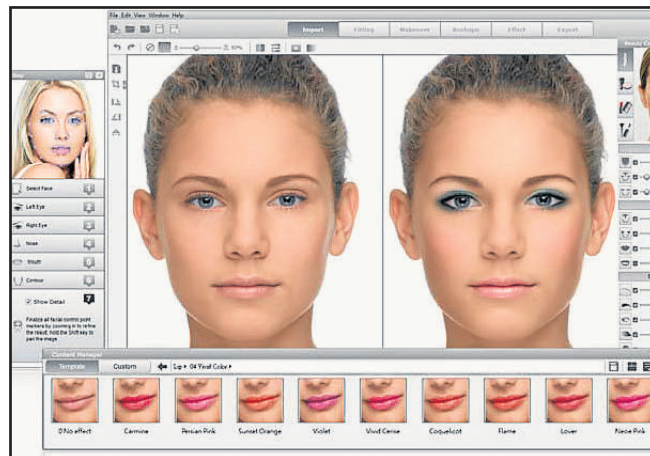
initial problem, and further editing and tweaking can be performed with more specific tools.

- **Detailed skin and hair textures** — Ultra-realistic looking eyebrows and eyelashes contain visual detail down to each follicle, allowing them to blend in naturally with the rest of the face, while a diverse selection of skin textures can be modified in a variety of ways to suit the particular skin texture of your model and prevent the 'washed out' look that is prevalent in other photo retouching software.

- **Highlights and contours** — Flexible highlight/contour layers along with masking tools allow users to add definition to facial features in addition to bringing in further custom layers for a more pronounced effect.

- **Adjust facial shape** — Facial image fitting allows for a whole new level of freedom for facial adjustment, with the ability to adjust every facial detail from overall facial proportion to the shape, position, and size of individual facial features.

- **Facial expression enhancement** — Muscle-



based facial adjustment facilitates the ability to totally remodel any facial expression, or simply perform subtle adjustments and tweaks to the current expression.

- **Photo DSLR and lens filter effects** — Adjust image values or add a polished touch to your image by applying a variety of DSLR and other photo filters and effects for a more professional and unique result.

### Cutting Edge

## Stylish knives make the cut

**Prepolo 3-piece knife set**  
Priced £14.75 from QVC  
www.qvcuk.com

Review by Stephen Sinfield



If you want to add a dash of colour to your kitchen while maintaining high quality, then this knife set by Prepolo ticks the box.

The three-piece paring knife set is made from high carbon Japanese steel with comfortable plastic handles and safety sheaths.

Two of the knives are straight bladed while the third (the light blue knife) features a serrated edge.

The handles are designed so that they can be used by right or left handed chefs and the edges on the straight blades can also be sharpened if necessary.

Prepolo is a brand we have covered before in the consumer pages and once again, their kitchen utensils are proving that you can have colour and quality without compromise.

## New launch from a firm favourite

GET some 'friendly' help with your specialist cleaning tasks this spring from the new Bar Keepers Friend Power Cream and Bar Keepers Friend Power Spray.

First launched in 1882, the BKF range is being enhanced and extended, and aims to fully capitalise on its claim of 'once tried always used'.

The original and incredibly popular Bar Keepers Friend stain remover powder (250g, £2.79) will be complimented by two exciting, new products from the US:

The new Bar Keepers Friend power cream — formulated for cookware, kitchens and bathrooms (350ml, £2.99).

And also, the new Bar Keepers Friend power spray.

This easy-to-use format delivers BKF cleaning power for use in everyday cleaning situations, from kitchen and bathroom to stainless steel and glass (500ml, £2.99).

Bar Keepers Friend is a premium, specialist cleaner with a non-bleach formula that can be used in the kitchen, bathroom, garage and shed!

It removes stubborn stains and cuts through mineral deposits, oil and grease, rust stains and everyday grime.

BKF benefits from the unique cleaning power of Oxalic Acid (found in rhubarb, parsley and chives) and when combined with its unique mineral base and surfactant blend, delivers a unique cleaning performance.

The success of the product owes its existence to rhubarb.

Back in 1882 a chemist from Indianapolis noticed how clean and shiny his tarnished pot was after cooking rhubarb. Using an active ingredient that's found in the plant he made a talcum smooth cleaner and sold it to the city's taverns.

It worked so well that it was called 'Bar Keepers Friend'.

## weekender World Book Day — costume ideas

**Wonderland Wigs**  
Priced between £14 and £29  
www.wonderlandwigs.com

Review by Stephen Sinfield

BEFORE the letter is sent out from school, can I remind you that it's World Book Day on March 7.

It's that time of year again when hundreds of Harry Potter look-alikes make their way through the school gates as they have been told to dress like their favourite character.

World Book Day is just one example whereby you need a wardrobe full of costumes, props and wigs.

To give you a helping hand for when you next need to send your loved one off as a Cher look-alike, the Honey Monster or any other well-known face from page, screen or theatre, we have taken a look at wigs.

There are vast differences in quality with wigs between those which look the part and will last for years compared to the cheap and cheerful versions more accustomed to a New Year's Eve party.

The wigs we looked at were very affordable, yet very high quality.

Supplied by Wonderland Wigs, the sample hairpieces we got to don were extremely impressive.

Mimicking the style of pop superstar Katy Perry with a bright blue wig and then transforming looks with rich red straight wig named 'Rita', both were truly authentic.

Taking a look behind the scenes at the Wonderland Wigs website fills you with confidence — they're proud to note that their wigs have been worn by loads of famous faces in the past.

Manufactured in the United Kingdom from synthetic fibre, the wigs are remarkably easy to wear.

I wouldn't look too fetching in a Katy Perry blue wig and so I gave my wife the joy of putting these hairpieces to the test.

Another sign of quality is the comprehensive list of care instructions. They tell you how to wear it, how to style it and even how to wash it.

If you're stuck for ideas come World Book Day or any other fancy dress event, this review proves to me that you can get quality at an affordable price — both of our wigs retail at £24.99

