- # Perfect Photo Suite 9.5

Perfect Browse 9.5   Perfect Layers 9.5

Two years ago and I would probably have followed everyone into Photoshop. You can't deny it, Photoshop is the market leader for our kind of photography. It has been under development for a little over 25 years and has a huge following. However, just when I might have purchased a copy, Adobe upset the apple cart and changed from a 'purchase outright' sales model to a 'rent' model. I realise that this is a personal view, and that others won't share it. But, I would much rather buy my software and own it, than rent it.

So I started looking for alternatives. I was already a Lightroom user so initially I was drawn to On1 as an effects package.   And, when I downloaded a copy of Perfect Suite 8.0, it was actually marketed as an effects package.   I downloaded a thirty day trial package, and was impressed enough to purchase a licence.   When they upgraded to 8.5, they offered a free upgrade to all 8.0 users. Last summer 9.0 was announced, and I paid three months in advance, so got the early bird price of £ 56. This spring, they upgraded to 9.5, which again was a free upgrade.   So I am expecting version 10.0 to be announced sometime this summer. Tine to dig into the wallet again.

Of course, One1 is a business, so it has to find ways to extract money from you. One of the ways in which it does this is to send you a steady stream of offers.   I have purchased several technique type E-Books which are small but well written, as well as a few pre-sets and some interesting textures.   I have also signed up for two video courses, both of which were worth every penny.   One concentrates on the basics, of '*what does every button and control do*', and the other concentrates on '*hey Dude, try this, it's cool!*'   So how much does Perfect Suite cost you? Well at the end of the day, that is up to you.
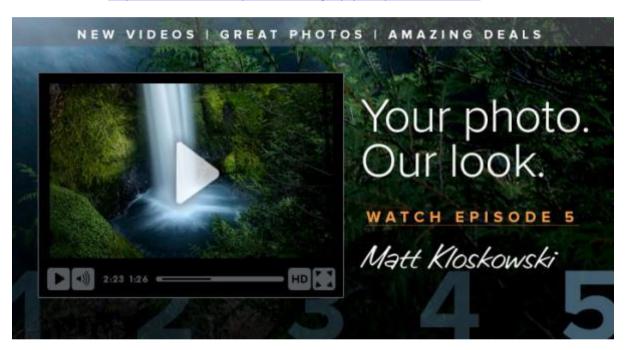
Adobe is the big photo editing Gorilla and could squash On1 flat if it wanted to. So the people at On1, many of whom are Ex-Adobe people, have sensibly decided to play nice. Reading the various letters and replies, it is quite clear that there are many features that will never be added to Perfect Suite. Because, they already exist in Lightroom, and On1 has to be a partner and can't afford to be seen as a rival to Adobe. As an example Perfect Suite has a raw editor which is every bit as capable as Camera Raw, but the control system is under developed and rather simplistic. So, you simply can't get the same level of fine and fluid control as in Lightroom.   However, think of Perfect Suite as adding the ability to edit layers and to adjust effects to Lightroom, and it all makes sense.

On1 make a big thing about how closely Perfect Suite integrates with both Lightroom and Photoshop. And if you buy the Premium version, which I did, and install it correctly, then it all works seamlessly provided that you have a powerful PC.   Unfortunately both my PCs are a little long in the tooth, and running three demanding programs, i.e. Lightroom, Perfect Suite and antivirus, all at the same time… can be a bit much and often provokes lock ups.   So I prefer to use the suite as a standalone package, simply because things work better that way.   But, if you have a newer more powerful PC, you will probably prefer to integrate Perfect Suite and Lightroom.

Take a look at the following link,   http://www.on1.com/

And also have a look at some of the training videos, especially   Your Photo Our Look,

http://www.on1.com/photos//category/your-photo-our-look/

There is free training on the site too,   http://www.on1.com/training/

However, the paid for courses are better, not surprisingly. And I anticipate new paid for courses when the inevitable Perfect Suite 10.0 launches.

The On1 blog gives a good idea of what is being worked upon for the next versions of Perfect Suite,

http://www.on1.com/blog/

Hope this helps, and best wishes,

David Price.