

Best Laptops for Photo Editing in 2019



Photo by Andras Vas on Unsplash

Finding a quality laptop is one of the many challenges photographers have when starting or learning to maintain a photography business.

They change so rapidly, and it can be difficult to keep up with information on the brand-new best laptop for photo editing, considering there's a brand-new best laptop for photo editing every few months!

Plus, even just mentioning laptops for photo editing in the wrong circle can send anxiety through the whole group. Professional laptops are expensive and beginner photographers are usually just above their bottom line in their business.



So, from the best budget laptop for Photoshop to the best professional-grade, professionally-priced photo editing laptop, here is our comprehensive list of laptops you need to know about in 2019.

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Best Laptops for Photo Editing: Must-Have Features

While I don't agree with all of Ben G Kaiser's recommendations for best laptops for photo editing, I do completely agree with his criteria for picking the best laptop for photo editing.

In your search for a photo editing laptop, keep these must-have features in mind:

- Intel i5 or i7 Processor
- A minimum of 256GB of storage
- Full HD resolution display
- At least 2GB of dedicated graphics



8GB of RAM or more

Both the Intel i5 and i7 processors are powerful enough to run Photoshop without any problems. And the more money you spend up front on a good CPU, the less money you will need to spend down the line with upgrades. Read more about the best photoshop alternatives on our website PhotographyTalk.com.

All of my recommendations for 2019's best laptop for photo editing also have at least 256GB of storage. You're going to need somewhere for all of your beautifully edited photos to go and since your average DSLR produces individual pictures with 15MB of data, your average laptop will fill up pretty quickly.

I also recommend a full HD resolution display because you want your color accuracy to be as close as possible to how you took your photos and how you'll print your photos (P.S., full HD resolution is 1920 x 1080).

Finally, remember the old days when you needed a dedicated graphics card? Well, this is 2019 and 2019's best laptop for photo editing already has integrated graphics that can handle your high-res photos without any problems. It's great, but this new technology doesn't do you any good if you don't go shopping with this specific requirement in mind.

Best Budget Laptop for PhotoShop: Acer Aspire EUX331UA-AS51 Ultrabook





I love me a laptop that is under \$600, which this Acer Aspire is.

I also love me a laptop that is under budget and over battery-life expectations. This Acer has a 15-hour battery life, which is perfect for a beginning photographer who may or may not be editing photos on and off between other jobs or classes for extended periods of time away from home.

For me, in order for a laptop to be the best laptop for photo editing, it needs to have the battery life (which this one does) and the graphics (which this one does).

It has Nvidia GeForce MX150 graphics with 2GB of DDR5 memory. Plus, it looks like a much more expensive laptop despite the fact it is really made out of polycarbonate plastic.



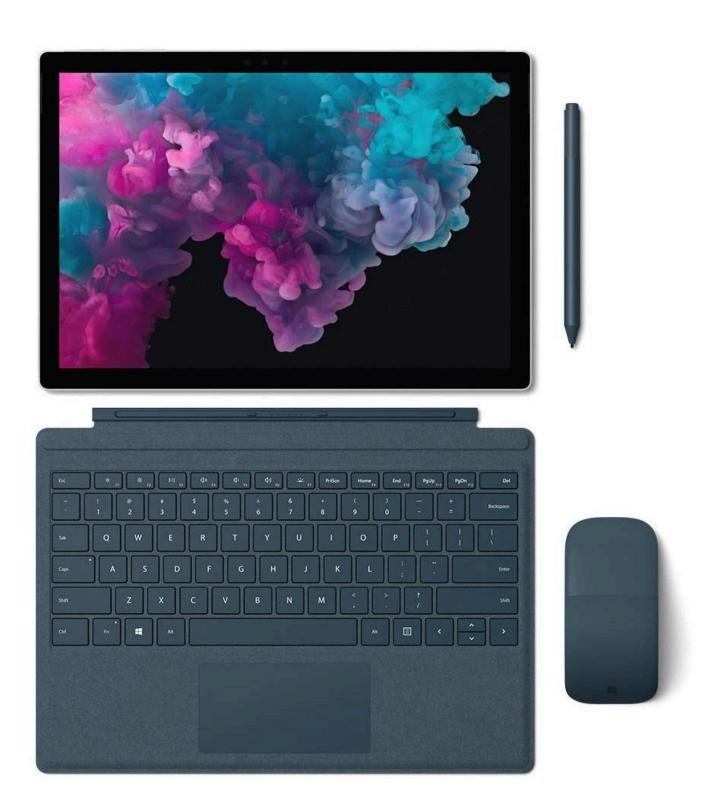


Acer Aspire EUX331UA-AS51 Ultrabook Specs:

- 5.27 lbs
- 15-hour battery life
- Windows 10 Home 64-bit
- 15.6-inch full HD ComfyView LED Display
- 256GB SSD storage
- 8GB RAM
- Intel Core i5-8250OU Quad Core 1.6GHz Processor



Most Versatile Laptop for Photo Editing: Microsoft Surface Pro 6





I have stuck by the Microsoft Surface Pros since practically the first edition, and I think it's because I saw what Microsoft was trying to do: create the most versatile version of their product as possible. With this laptop, they've done it.

I own a Microsoft Surface Pro 6 and I bought it specifically because I travel quite frequently for work. I want something I can throw in my backpack and whip around on a plane, train or automobile.

It's screen is small, though, so I don't recommend it as your only photo editing laptop.

Otherwise, I think I may well have named this laptop my overall best laptop for photo editing.

This laptop runs Windows 10 out of the box and it lasts 13 hours on a single charge. It also has all the good features, like 8GB of RAM and 256GB of storage.

Plus, if you really need it, you can buy an upgraded version which runs on an i7 processor as opposed to my i5, and comes with 16GB of RAM and 1TB of storage.





- 1.7 lbs
- 13-hour battery life
- Windows 10 Home 64-bit
- 12.3-inch PixelSense 10 Point Multi-Touch display
- 256GB SSD storage
- 8GB RAM
- Intel Core i5-8250U processor

Best Mid-Range Laptop for Photo Editing: Asus ZenBook UX331UA-AS51 Ultrabook





If you went to school for photography or graphic design, then you know about ASUS's ZenBook series. I dropped my ASUS so many times I stopped counting and the thing just did not break.

But, other than it's awesome build, these laptops also perform with the big boys, despite being under \$1,000.

It's ultra-slim and lightweight, which I appreciate because I'm always on the go. But, it doesn't lose out on any important qualities. It's got 178 degree viewing angles and a 13.3-inch full HD display.

Plus, it has a fingerprint sensor and audio by Harman Kardon, which means this would be a phenomenal laptop for videographers or anyone who is online frequently.

This is definitely my pick for 2019's best laptop for photo editing under \$1,000.





Acer Aspire EUX331UA-AS51 Ultrabook Specs:

- 2.5 lbs
- 12-hour battery life
- Windows 10 64-bit operating system
- 13.3-Inch Full HD Display



- 256GB SSD storage
- 8GB Ram
- 8th Gen Intel Core i5-8250U 1.6GHz Quad-Core Processor

Best Laptop for Photo Editing Under \$1,000: Dell G5



Okay, okay I know I technically already named a "best laptop for photo editing under \$1,000," but Dell's G5 is a serious contender with the Asus ZenBook.

But, Dell's G5 works in the absolute opposite way. While the Asus ZenBook can really only handle light to medium photo editing, the Dell G5 can handle intense photo editing, it just can't do it as beautifully.



The display on this Dell isn't incredibly bright or colorful, but don't judge a book by its cover.

This laptop is our best laptop for photo editing under \$1,000 because of its incredibly powerful hardware.

It's got the newest Intel Core i5 processor. It's got serious, serious storage capabilities and it features Nvidia GeForce GTX 1060 Max-Q GPU with 6GB of DDR5 graphics memory.

All of these hardware pluses aside, it's probably my favorite laptop for photo editing because of the way its keyboard is arranged. All of the keys are spread out and you get a huge trackpack which allows you to easily edit from anywhere (even a packed subway car).



Dell G5 Specs:

- 6.2 lbs
- 6-hour battery life
- Windows 10 Home 64-bit operating system



- 15.6-inch full HD IPS Anti-Glare LED Display
- 1TB RPM hard drive and 128GB SSD storage
- 8GB RAM
- Intel Core i5-8300H 2.3GHz Quad-Core Processor

Best Value Laptop for Photo Editing: ASUS VivoBook Pro 4K Laptop



If I'm ever Googling "best laptop for photo editing," you can bet I've added the words "best value" or "budget" into that search.

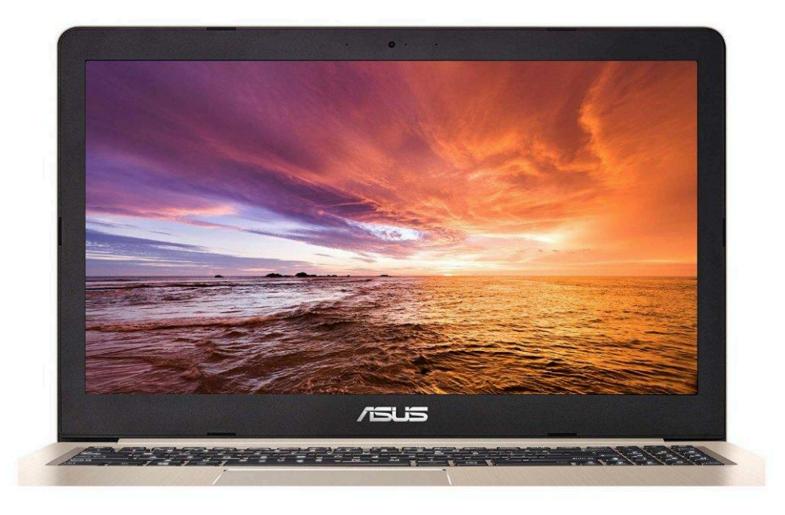
I find people oftentimes spend more money than they need to on their photo editing laptops because they don't put the proper research into their shopping process.

This ASUS VivoBook is getting my much-coveted "best value" laptop for photo editing award because of a few things, but mainly its 4K display and its price tag.



4K displays are hard to come by at under \$1,000.

This laptop also features a beautiful touchscreen display. I've been in multiple debates about whether a touchscreen display is worth the added price, but with this laptop you're already getting a 4K display so I don't feel like I'm being charged anything extra for the touchscreen display.



ASUS VivoBook Pro 4K Specs:

- 5.1 lbs
- 6-hour battery life
- Windows 10 Home 64-bit
- 15.6-Inch 4K IPS Touchscreen display
- 1TB HDD and 256 SSD storage
- 16GB RAM



Intel Core i7-7700HQ Quad-Core 2.8 GHz processor

Best Windows Laptop for Photo Editing: HP Spectre x360



If you thought I wasn't going to specify a Windows laptop to win a best laptop for photo editing award, you were dead wrong.

This laptop is also pretty great because it's a heck of a lot cheaper than my Apple-specific award, but performs in essentially the same way as long as you weren't indoctrinated into Apple too early on in your career.

This laptop was just released this year and is already marked down nearly \$200 from its original price, as well.



It's got 256GB of SSD for storage and 8GB of RAM, but what truly sets this laptop apart from the rest of the "best laptops for photo editing," is it's brand new six-core Intel i7 processor with turbo clock frequency at up to 4.1 GHz and its incredibly gorgeous 4K IPS display.

It also covers 157% of the sRGB color gamut. No other laptop on this list has this type of photo editing capabilities.



HP Spectre x360 Specs:

- 4.8 lbs
- 9-hour battery life
- Windows 10 Home 64-bit operating system
- 15.6-inch 4K touchscreen display
- 256GB SSD storage
- 8GB RAM



Intel Core i7-8750H 2.2GHz processor

Learn More:

- How to edit photos
- Lightroom vs Photoshop

Best Professional Laptop for Photo Editing: Microsoft Surface Book2



This Microsoft Surface Book 2 is my best laptop for photo editing for professionals because of the price tag (\$1,499 for all of the specs list, although you can upgrade to larger storage, larger RAM, and a better processor).



I always appreciate a detachable laptop, which can also function as a tablet, especially when I can almost custom-build it. The basic Microsoft Surface Book 2 comes with a 13.5-inch touchscreen, which you can upgrade, 256GB of storage, which you can upgrade, 8GB of RAM, which you can upgrade, and the newest Gen Intel Core i5 processor, which you can upgrade.

The best part of this laptop for photo editing is the Surface Pen. If you're one of those photo editors who started in art and enjoys the old-fashioned feeling of pen-on-paper, this is a great feature for you.



Microsoft Surface Book 2 Specs:

- 3.38 lbs
- 17-hour battery life
- Windows 10 Pro Creators Update 64-bit operating system



- 13.5-inch PixelSense touchscreen display
- 256GB SSD storage
- 8GB RAM
- Intel Core i5-8350U Quad-Core Processor

Best All-Around Laptop for Photo Editing: Dell XPS 15



I personally believe that Dell never receives its due on best laptops for photo editing lists.

If I had to pick one best laptop for photo editing on my list, this would be it. However, I understand that not everyone can afford the \$1,619 price tag.

This laptop comes with a crazy good amount of storage (512GB) and the newest 8th generation Intel Core i7 processor to run all of your best photo editing software.



The 4K display is gorgeous, bright and crisp and covers 100% of Adobe's sRGB color spectrum. Read more about the best monitor for photo editing on our website PhotographyTalk.com.

It also has 16GB of RAM, so you can do multiple things at once without any shift in speed.

The only disappointing aspect of this laptop is that it only has a 9-hour battery life, but with all of its capabilities, this doesn't shock me.



Dell XPS 15 Specs:

- 4.5 lbs
- 9-hour battery life
- Windows 10 Home 64-bit operating system
- 16.6-inch 4K Ultra HD InfinityEdge touchscreen display
- 512GB storage
- 16GB RAM



Intel Core i7-8750H 8th Generation Hexa-Core processor

Best Big-Screen Laptop for Photo Editing: LG Gram 17



If you're one of those people who almost can't stand editing photos on a laptop, then this is the best laptop for photo editing for you.

It's huge, with a 17-inch screen. It's also the world's lightest 17-inch laptop.

It also features a crazy good amount of storage (512GB SSD) and 16GB of RAM.

The only downside to this laptop is that it isn't for those who are editing videos frequently.





LG Gram 17 Specs:

- 2.9 lbs
- 11-hour battery life
- Windows 10 Home 64-bit operating system
- 17-inch IPS WQXGA display
- 512GB SSD storage
- 16GB RAM
- Intel Core i7-8565U Quad Core 1.8 GHz processor

Best Apple Laptop for Photo Editing: Macbook Pro 15"





If you went to university for photography and didn't own a Macbook you probably felt extremely left out.

Apple has a total monopoly on the graphic design and photography industries, and for good reason. Apple laptops basically manhandle high-end graphics tools.

This, however, is my vote for Apple's best laptop for photo editing. It features a True Tone Retina display with 2880 x 1800 resolution. It's powered by the newest Intel Core i7 processor and features 16GB of RAM (yes, please).

If I set out to create the best laptop for photo editing, the only way I could create a better one than this Macbook is by adding some ports that aren't Thunderbolt USB Type-C. I mean, come on, Apple, you know one of your biggest markets is photographers.





Macbook Pro 15" Specs:

- 4.02 lbs
- 10-hour battery life
- macOS Mojave operating system
- 15.4-inch True Tone Retina display
- 256GB SSD storage



- 16GB RAM
- Intel Core i7 Six Core 2.2GHz Processor

Learn More:

Rule of Thirds

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