



## Photos Matter: PaintShop Pro at Work

### PaintShop Pro plays an important role in Classical Guitar Maker's manufacturing process

A Luthier is a maker of stringed instruments. As a Luthier, Bart Hovis is a craftsman who designs and builds classical guitars for a living. Every guitar is different, so it is crucial that he documents each step in the detailed manufacturing process using photography, to refer to for future builds, as well as to keep customers informed.

Bart told Corel just how important PaintShop Pro is in his photo documentation workflow.

### Interview with Bart Hovis Classical Guitars: PaintShop Pro's role in photo documentation

**Q:** What does a usual day at work look like for you?

**A:** Any usual day you can find me working on guitars at various stages of completion, sourcing the materials needed to build them, maintaining tools, and contacting customers with progress reports. You'll likely catch me snapping photos of guitars throughout the build process, or editing them to show a buyer.



### Bart Hovis Classical Guitars

**NAME:**

Bart Hovis

**ORGANIZATION:**

Bart Hovis Classical Guitars

**TITLE:**

Luthier (Guitar Maker)

**LOCATION:**

St. Louis, USA

**INDUSTRY:**

Manufacturing & Design

**PRODUCT:**

Corel® PaintShop® Pro X9

**PROJECT SUMMARY:**

Guitar Maker Bart Hovis uses PaintShop Pro to edit photos he takes of his guitars as he builds them, to document the materials used and the steps in construction.



**Q:** What do you use PaintShop Pro for at work?

**A:** I use PaintShop Pro to prepare professional-looking images for communication with customers, from photos collected at all stages of the manufacturing process. I also keep the edited photos in a file to refer to when building other guitars.

**Q:** Can you tell us more about your documentation workflow?

**A:** Documenting the build of a guitar means photographing every little detail during the construction. I typically create a digital folder for a guitar when I begin construction, which contains a text document describing the material used, construction features and dimensions, as well as many photos that illustrate what is described in the text document. Next I open up PaintShop Pro to edit the photos I've taken. When I'm done editing I save the images back into the guitar's folder and, in many cases, email them to the customer.

**“ I find PaintShop Pro more straight-forward, easier to load, manage, work with, and save photos, when compared to the Adobe photo products.”**



**Q: What PaintShop Pro features do you use most often to edit photos for documentation and client contact purposes?**

**A:** Many of my guitar photos are taken in less than ideal lighting, so they require some post-production work to reveal the details I need to show.

My Paint ShopPro photo-editing workflow consists of cropping, adjusting shadows and highlights, contrast and color, detail and sharpening, and removing noise as needed. Depending on the photo, I may also add text to describe what's being shown.

**Q: Do you use any other photo editors as part of your workflow?**

**A:** In addition to PaintShop Pro, I have Adobe Photoshop and Lightroom but I use them more for my photography hobby than I do for my work.

For guitar making documentation, I find PaintShop Pro more straight-forward, easier to load, manage, work with, and save photos, when compared to the Adobe photo products. While I work with photos on a daily basis, I don't consider myself a 'power' user, so ease of workflow, not number of features, is what's most important to me.



**Q: How did you learn to use PaintShop Pro?**

**A:** I used Photoshop in the early 1990's in my previous career as a software engineer working on real-time computer graphics for simulation systems. So I have been familiar with the fundamentals of image editing even before photography went digital. Years later when I purchased my first digital camera, I tried using the basic image editing software that came with it but without support for layers, it's toolset was too limited for my use. I looked into buying Photoshop, but the cost was prohibitive to put it mildly. Soon, I purchased a new computer that had PaintShop Pro pre-loaded on it, as a 6-month free trial. I liked it a lot, so I purchased it. After having previously used Photoshop, PaintShop Pro was familiar and easy to use. I have continued to use PaintShop Pro ever since.

While I have become proficient in a subset of it's capabilities, I'm always interested in learning more and more about PaintShop Pro's features to improve the detail in my photos and to produce more flattering imagery to share with my customers.

**Q: How do you feel about PaintShop Pro's value for money?**

**A:** PaintShop Pro is excellent value. Having used it a number of years now, I'm confident that Corel is committed to it's future, keeping it up-to-date and well supported. Plus, I don't have to worry about paying costly subscription fees.

**Q: Is there anything else you would like to add about PaintShop Pro?**

**A:** PaintShop Pro is capable, affordable, and comes highly recommended by me. It is a streamlined, productive photo-editor that suits all my business's needs.

### **Put your photos and creativity to work for your business**

PaintShop Pro is affordable, subscription-free and easy to deploy across your business, whether you are running an SMB or a large corporation. Comprehensive photo-editing, graphic design, screen capture and annotation tools makes PaintShop Pro the perfect fit for any organization.

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