

LIFESTYLE

Free tools put fun back in

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GANNETT

There are plenty of photography sites online. They provide tips for better pictures. Or they'll help you edit and share photos. But some just help you have fun.

I've selected some great sites for photo fun. Add special effects to your photos. Then share the results with your family and friends.

You'll find links to the sites mentioned at www.komando.com/news. These sites contain a lot of ads;

watch where you click.

Picnik

Picnik is a photo-editing site. You can perform basic tasks like cropping and red-eye removal. Or, use more advanced tools, like exposure control.

Picnik also offers plenty of fun tools. For example, add filters that mimic certain types of film and paper. There are sepia and black-and-white filters. Others are more whimsical.

You can also add borders to your photos. Or insert text bubbles and other silly stickers. You can even add text to your photos. Some

of Picnik's features require a paid membership.

MorphThing

MorphThing does one thing well. It merges two different portraits into a single photo. The composite photos can be quite amusing. Some look real. Others are obvious fakes.

MorphThing has a large database of celebrity photos. You can also upload your own photos.

LoonaPix

Like Fun Photo Box, LoonaPix inserts your photo inside another. Put your face on a television set or a billboard.

You can also put your head on the body of a supermodel or other celebrity. With LoonaPix, you can also put ornate frames around your photos. Or trim your photo to one of various shapes.

Mozaiq

Mozaiq doesn't really add any special effects to your photos. Rather, the site rebuilds your photo. Mozaiq creates your mosaic from thousands of other photos. Zoom in to see the smaller photos that make up the mosaic.

Textorizer

Textorizer is a download-

photography

able program. It re-creates your photos out of text. The text is matched to colors in the photo. You select the text you would like to use.

You can adjust the opacity of the original photograph. Leave it as background, or hide it completely. The resulting photographs can be surprisingly beautiful.

Big Huge Labs

Big Huge Labs offers dozens of tools. You're sure to have fun on this site. Add effects and frames to your images. Make mosaics, movie posters and jigsaw puzzles. Or make your pho-

tos look like they were created by David Hockney or Andy Warhol.

TiltShiftMaker

TiltShiftMaker helps you create tilt-shift photos without expensive lenses. With tilt-shift photos, only a section is in focus. The rest is blurry.

Selective focus creates the illusion that the subject is a miniature. To understand the effect, you must see examples. There are plenty on the site. You'll be amazed.

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