

Photoshop Tools


Adobe Photoshop is a very powerful imaging editor that can not only spruce up a poor-looking photograph with a couple clicks but also make complicated digital media and very real-looking pictures. Photoshop is a pixel based program which means that everything is defined and edited by the pixel. There are vector-based programs such as Adobe Illustrator that creates "objects" and lets you design a layout where you can import creations from Photoshop. Basic Photoshop is pretty simple if you know the regular tools that are available.



The ToolBar

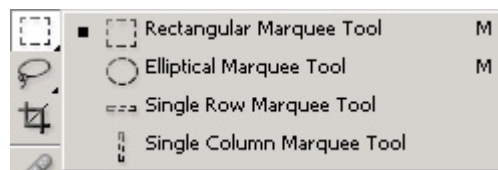
This is the toolbar. It has basically all the things you will ever need to do simple editing on photos and images.

Move tool

The move tool  moves a "selection" on the image. Click on the move tool to select the tool. Click on the image and drag it to where you want to move the selection. Holding ALT and moving it will create a copy of your selection.

Selection tools

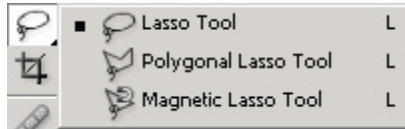
There are many ways to select pixels on the image. There are pre-created shapes to select from the rectangular dotted box. If you click and hold, you can open the side menu that looks like this:




There are couple key commands that work well with these tools. The shift key keeps the proportions of width and height equal (rectangles become squares, ellipses become circles etc). The alt key produces the shape from the middle, as opposed to a corner. The space key allows you to move the selection before you are still making it.

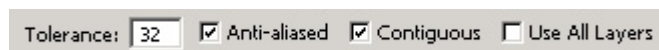
Selection Tools (cont'd)

Some other selection tools include the lasso tool, magnetic lasso tool, and polygonal lasso tool which is under the rectangular/preformatted shape selection tool:



The lasso tool creates a selection around where you move your mouse (click and drag). The polygonal lasso tool creates a polygon, making straight lines between clicks of the mouse (double click to finish polygon).

And lastly, there's a "magic wand"  which can select everything that has a similar color to the color that is selected. There is a tolerance box, which specifies how much "error" there can be between the colors which can be found at the top of the screen which looks like this:




Another way to modify your selections is to use the selection toolbar in the top menu portion:



You can choose new/add/subtract/intersection selections. Thus, your selection from the selection tool will act appropriately to how you selected it. There are keyboard shortcuts for this as well. The shift key makes it an "addition" selection. The alt key makes it a "subtraction" selection.

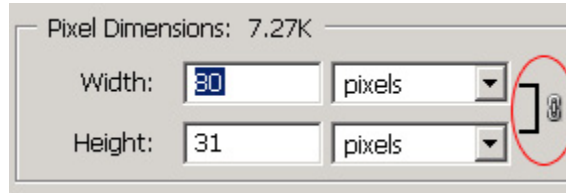
Cropping images

There are many ways to crop an image (get only a portion of a picture). One way is to select a part of the image then cut it out of the picture and then make a new image (which will be exactly the size of your cut) and paste it. Another way is to use the cropping tool  to make a selection and crop it from there. And lastly, you could use the selection tools to make a selection and goto image->crop image in the menu bar.

Basic Image editing

Resizing

To resize an image, goto image -> image size. It is usually good to constrain proportions so that the images don't get distorted from changing image sizes.



The chain link icon means that it is proportionally constrained.

Adjusting brightness/contrast

A quick fix to a poor quality picture is to adjust the brightness and contrast of it. Goto image -> adjustments -> brightness/contrast. You can move the sliders around to see a preview.



<-- Before

After -->

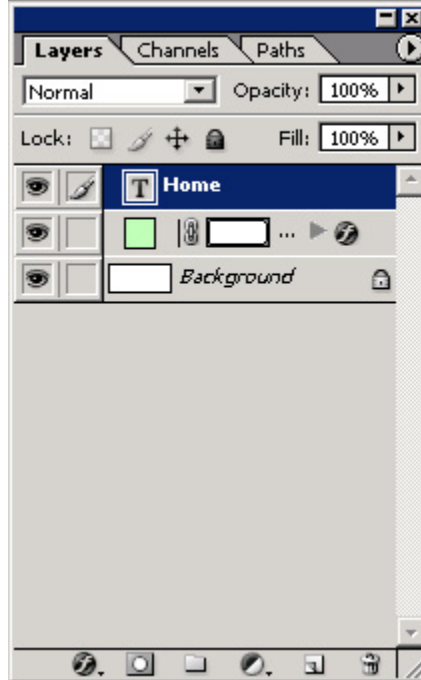


Image editing

To create an image combined with another image (move a face onto another face), you just select what parts you want on one image and drag it onto the other image.

Layers

To be able to move things efficiently, we will want to use layers so that we can edit certain parts of an image at a time. This way, the pixels won't be meshed together and we can easily change or remove what we want.



You can drag layers up or down to show which layer should be on top of other layers.

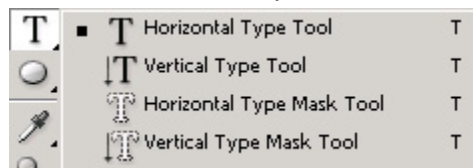
When a new item is dragged onto the image, it will appear in a new layer. Because of layering, you can only edit contents that are on the selected layer, so make sure you have the correct layer selected when you try to edit things.

Adding your own stuff to images

You can create things on an image such as text, a circle with filled color, or a circle or some mouse drawings.

Text

The text tool creates a text-box equivalent and allows you to type in it.



Text (cont'd)

You can change the font and color from the character box or the top of the screen.

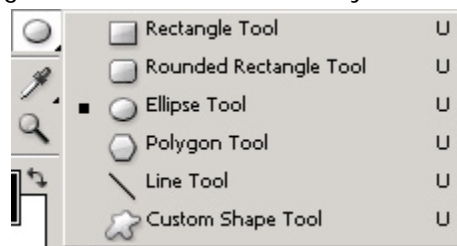


As you can see, you can change the font, the size, the style, the spacing between words, the height of the words, and still more. In the top bar, you can make text on an arc or in other shapes by clicking on "text warp"



Creating Shapes or polygons

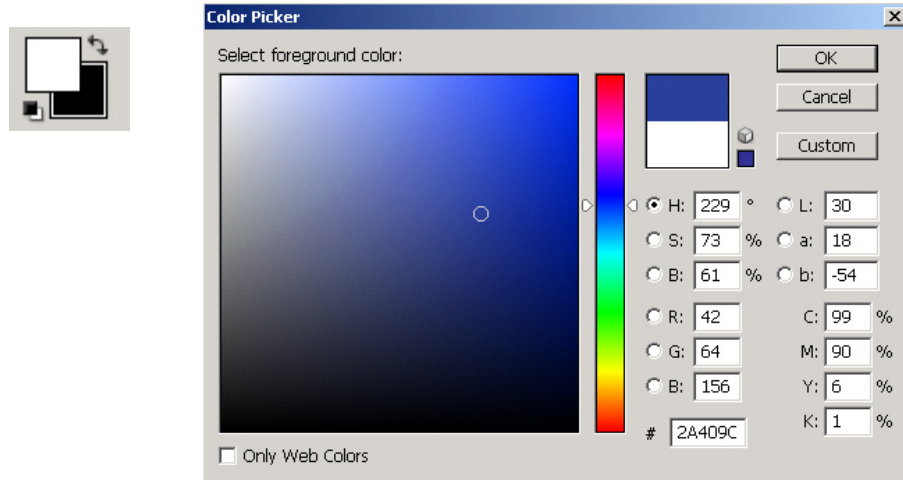
There is a "polygon" tool as I call it. Pretty self explanatory.



Like text, it creates a polygon layer "object" that you can control. That becomes its own "layer" that you can work with. This works very similarly to the selection tools.

Colors


To change colors click on the color palette. It will bring up the Color Picker, which will allow you to choose your colors that will be automatically used when you create text or objects. The front one (white in picture) is the foreground color used and the back one the background color (black in picture). You can switch colors by clicking the double-sided arrows.




Navigating your image

To do Photoshop work well, you need to zoom in a lot to make sure you only have the pixels you want selected. It is handy to be able to move around the image while zoomed and also zooming out easily to see how the changes look from a viewer's perspective.

Zoom

The magnifying glass  allows you to zoom. To zoom in, you can just click on the place you want to zoom in. To zoom out, hold ALT and click.

Hand

The hand tool  allows you to drag the document. Thus, it will scroll to the right by moving it left, etc. It's just like moving the document with your own hand.

Navigator window

There is a special window just for navigating called the navigator window. The red box is what is shown in your window, and the other area is your entire image.

