



Photoshop Basics

An Overview of Photoshop CS

Photoshop is, hands down, the most comprehensive image-editing program available. It offers tools to satisfy the graphic needs of a wide range of professionals and hobbyists—from photographers and artists to print designers and Web developers.

The breadth and depth of Photoshop's features are unmatched. You can use it for lots of different tasks. Here's a list of the kinds of things that you can do with Photoshop. You get a chance to try these as you work through this book, but don't stop with these ideas. Your imagination and creativity are the only real limits on how you use this expansive program.

- » Paint with pixel-based tools, including a variety of brushes, selections, fills, and layer masks.
- » Draw with vector-based tools, including shape tools, pen tools, and vector masks.
- » Retouch and manipulate photographs with toning, focus, and painting tools and with image adjustments.
- » Collage images using layers, masks, and blending modes.
- » Add special effects with filters and layer styles.

> Photoshop Basics

- » Create editable, vector-based type, and arrange the text on a path.
- » Use 16-bit images for high definition output.
- » Work with an image's camera data using the Camera Raw feature.
- » Create special types of output such as panoramic images, contact sheets, and slideshows.
- » Make still, animated, and interactive graphics for the Web in Photoshop's companion program, ImageReady.

Photoshop CS for Macintosh OS X and Windows XP

One big change in this version of Photoshop is that it requires a minimum of Macintosh OS X 10.2.4 to install and operate.

On the Windows side, Photoshop CS is fully compatible with Windows XP operating system and also runs under Windows 2000 with Service Pack 3 installed. The program works the same way across platforms and operating systems. I let you know about any small cross-platform differences you may encounter as you work through the tutorials.

From a stylistic viewpoint, Photoshop CS is like a chameleon that wears different skins depending on the operating system in which it's running. In Mac OS X, Photoshop CS reflects that operating system's aqua interface, three dimensional buttons, and drop shadows. It's a bright, clean look that I think creates an optimal environment for graphics work. In OS X, you see a Photoshop menu at the top of the screen, to which the Preferences, Color Settings, and Quit commands have been moved. In Windows XP, the program takes on the crisp new look of that operating system, but the interface generally is the same as in other Windows environments.

New features in Photoshop CS

There's lots of anticipation among Photoshop users every time Adobe announces a new version of the program. Photoshop CS, like previous versions, didn't disappoint its fans. It has some major new features and lots of small changes that make it easier to use than ever. This section provides an overview of the most important new features in Photoshop CS.

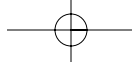
- » **Expanded File Browser features.** The File Browser was a major addition to Photoshop 7. It's an image viewer with extra features for managing and organizing files, and viewing thumbnails and detailed information about images. In Photoshop CS, the File Browser has more capability to search and edit metadata (information about the image files) and keywords, and also includes batch functions and other processes.
- » **Draw text on a path.** Photoshop CS lets you apply text to a drawn path or shape. You can continue to edit and configure the text after it is applied to a path.
- » **Create layer comps.** You can save combinations of layers in the same image file as Layer Comps to create design variations.

- » **Create PDF presentations.** Combine several files into a single, multipage Adobe PDF document or create a PDF slideshow that has page transitions and security options.
- » **Macromedia Flash file export.** Now you can export Macromedia Flash animations from images created in ImageReady CS. You can export each layer in an image to its own SWF file, which lets you open each layer as a separate symbol on its own layer in Flash.
- » **Histogram palette.** Photoshop CS includes a new palette, the Histogram palette, that monitors changes as you make adjustments to your images.
- » **Work with camera raw files.** Using the Camera Raw plug-in incorporated into Photoshop CS, you can work with pristine, raw image data from your camera's sensor, bypassing in-camera processing adjustments.
- » **Use 16-bit images.** In Photoshop CS, you can work with 16-bit images for precise retouching or editing. Most functions in the program also apply to 16-bit images, such as layers and brushes.
- » **Customizable keyboard shortcuts.** You can customize and save your own personalized set of keyboard shortcuts designed for how you like to work.
- » **Easily access and use multiple filters.** The new Filter Gallery allows you to preview and apply multiple art filters from a single, easy-to-use dialog box.

Miscellaneous features

There are other changes in the existing tools and palettes. Some changes are of interest to those working with video, others for those working with Web pages or graphics design, and some are useful regardless of your area of interest.

- » Track your editing history and save it in a file for future use and as a record of your activities.
- » Use the Match Color command to match the color scheme of one image to that of another.
- » Change the color of an area on an image without altering the original texture and shading using the new Color Replacement tool.
- » Use the Shadow/Highlight correction command to modify over- or underexposed areas of an image without changing the rest of the image.
- » Produce the effect of highlights taking on the shape of a camera lens aperture with the new Lens Blur filter.
- » Simulate photographic lens filter effects using Photo Filter adjustment layers.
- » Crop and straighten a group of scanned images automatically with the Crop and Straighten Photos command.
- » Combine several images into a panorama.
- » Customize a picture package using the Picture Package command.



> **Photoshop Basics**

- » Work with huge images—up to 300,000 x 300,000 pixels, and up to 56 channels per file.
- » Create non-square pixel documents for use on video monitors using document presets, and preview non-square documents without distortion.
- » Export layers in an image to separate files for use in other editing and compositing programs.
- » Work with new Web Photo Gallery templates, including templates that display file information and allow for viewer feedback.
- » Use the new Web Content palette in ImageReady CS to create interactive elements.
- » Fine-tune your control over remote rollover slices in ImageReady CS with the new point-and-shoot targeting system.
- » Select, group, move, and manipulate objects on multiple layers in ImageReady CS using new object-oriented layout features.

You get a chance to work with these new features in the sessions that follow.

