

Web Design & Publishing

Using Adobe Photoshop

There are many features to learn in Photoshop, most come from practice and trial and error. While this class does not focus on the creation of images, it is important to have some basic skills in image creation and manipulation to make your Web pages more colorful and effective.

» Resolution

When a file comes from a digital camera, in most cases the resolution shown will be 72 dpi. That is because most computer monitors display at 72 dots per inch. When you scan, you can select the resolution that you want to scan it. For Web-based images, you should set the resolution to 72dpi, because that is all the computer screen will project. Anything more is simply a waste of space. If you are planning to print the image, you will need to save at 120dpi or above, but that is a function of the original image and the media to which you are printing.

Resolution can be held constant in a function with height and width. If an image has 2.1M pixels in it, and it is displaying at 10x14 on your screen, you can turn off the resampling features in Photoshop's **Image > Image Size** feature. This will retain the original quality of the image while you adjust resolution, height and width. Turn on resample when scaling down the image.

» Scanning a Photo

1. Choose **File > Import** and select your scanner
2. Use the **Preview** button to do a preliminary scan of the photo. Here you can use the tools in the box to crop and size the photo before actually scanning.
3. When you are ready to scan, hit the **Scan** button. It will take Photoshop a minute or so to do the scan depending on the size of the picture and the resolution.
4. Once you have scanned the photo, you can make some adjustments to the way it looks.

» Making Adjustments

1. To change the size of the image, go to **Image > Image Size**. Here you can change the size of the image and the resolution. Make sure you are looking at the picture at 100% (see top of image) to make sure you are viewing at the actual size, and that you select **Constrain Proportions** to that the image doesn't stretch.
2. One simple thing to do is to go under **Image** and use the **Auto Tone, Color and Contrast** options. Check how these look before and after using them. If you don't like the results, simply click **Edit > Undo**.
3. If you need to make manual adjustments, you can use the other tools under **Image > Adjustments** to change the **Brightness, Hue/Saturation**, etc. You will need to work with these to get the desired results.
4. The tools to the left give you several options for **selecting, cropping and coloring**. The marquee

tool has several shapes for selecting sections.

5. The **crop** tool allows you to trim the edges of the image. Just click on the crop tool and draw around image. It will create a box in which you can move the sides. Press Enter when you are ready. There are also options for setting the height, width and resolution of a crop.



6. To make a specific selection on a picture, use either the **freehand lasso**, **magnetic lasso**, or the **magic wand**. You can play around with the options on the options panel to make it more or less sensitive to contrast. Sometimes the tools select just the opposite of what you are trying to get, like the background instead of the foreground. In that case, use the **Select > Inverse** command.
7. The **Rubber Stamp** and **Healing Brush** tools let you select pieces of the image to use to mark out other parts of the image. Choose the tool. To pick up a pattern, use the Alt (PC) or Option (Mac) key and click on an area. Then let go of the key, and move to the place you want to write over and start painting. This is good for filling in patterns or textures.

» Adding Text

To add text to a photo, simply click on the **Text** tool (has an "T" on it). You can start typing right on the image. Select the text to highlight and use the tools on the top toolbar to change the color, size, and font. Photoshop automatically puts text in a separate layer. You can use the **Move** tool (top right tool with cross on it) to move the entire layer around.

» Making Graphics

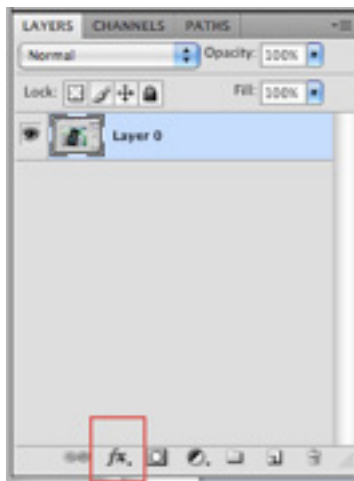
You can use Photoshop to make headings, logos, buttons and graphics for your site.

1. Open a new file, **File > New**. Select desired size (you can change this later) and background option (color or transparent)

2. Make a new layer for your first image. Go to **Layer** menu and click on the **New Layer** tool. Make sure you are in the layer by seeing if it is highlighted. You can easily move within layers, click them off (with the eyeball button) or change the order in this menu.
3. Draw something in the layer. You can use the **Selection** tool to draw an area, like a circle or a box and then use the **Fill** (paint bucket) tool to fill it with color. Or you can use paint brushes to draw on your own. By having its own layer, it can be moved and modified independently of the background or other layers. Draw other images in new layers if necessary.
4. When drawing with the **Shape** tool, be sure to adjust the option to **Fill Pixels**, unless you specifically want to manipulate shapes or paths.
5. Now put some text. Click on **Text** tool. Remember: Photoshop automatically creates a new layer for text.

» Adding Effects to a Layer

1. Now that you have some text, you want to make it stand out, maybe make it appear three dimensional. You can do this by applying layer effects. Make sure you are not in the text layer. Select the **Effects** button at the bottom of the Layer menu and select an effect. Photoshop will apply the effect and give you a dialogue box in which to try different effects. You can select or deselect by clicking the **Apply** boxes. You can see the changes and decide whether to keep them or not. Click **OK** when you are satisfied.



2. You can also apply a **Filter** to a layer. Select the background layer and choose **Filter**. There are several filters that offer different results. Play around with these options.
3. You can also transform the size of a selection. Select something on a layer. Choose **Edit > Free Transform**. You can then use the handles to size and rotate the image.

» Saving a File

1. When you are happy with your image, you can save it by using the **Save As** feature. If you have more than one layer in your image, you should always save a **.psd** version of the file. You will not use this on the Web, but you can refer to it later if you need to make modifications to the file.
2. To save for Web, choose **Save For Web and Devices**. This brings up a box that allows you to select file type (JPG, PNG, or GIF) and play around with size and resolution. Make adjustments and click **OK**. Then you can name the file and save it. It is ready to be inserted on the Web.