Adobe Photoshop Basics
Photoshop 6.0

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Toolbox

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What is Adobe Photoshop 7.0?

With Photoshop you can manipulate images and retouch photos. You can use Photoshop to create original art from scratch, or based on existing photographs. Photoshop files can be delivered using multiple file formats. The direct Photoshop Document file format is .psd.

The Interface

Creating a Document From Scratch

Select File > New. The following screen will appear.

Name: The file can be named, and this is what Photoshop will save the file as unless it is changed later. Naming the file is not initially required.

Image Size: Select the preferred size of the document. A preset size can be chosen from the pull-down menu, or a customized size can be specified. Note that you can specify size based on different measurements, by pulling down the menu next to width and height.

Resolution: Leave this number at 72 pixels/inch if the image being created is only going to be viewed on a screen, such as a graphic for a webpage. A screen cannot see anymore than 72/pixels per inch. If the graphic is for a print publication, adjust the resolution accordingly.

Contents: The default is a white background on the document. However, if a transparent GIF needs to be created, select 'transparent,' or if you would like a background color for the entire graphic, select 'background color.'

Opening an Existing File

Click File > Open, and browse your hard drive for the file. The file browser is another way that a file can be opened. It is located in the upper right corner of the screen. Click the file browser tab, and browse the hard drive for the file. The files will be displayed in the right box, and once the desired file is located, double click it.
**Toolbox**

The Toolbox provides icons linked for one click to access the various Photoshop tools. Because this is a basics workshop, all of the tools will not be discussed, but the most widely used tools will be discussed throughout the handout.

Take note of the tools with an arrow in the bottom right corner of icon. This means that there are hidden tools, meaning other tools will be listed if the icon is clicked, and held down, or if they are right-clicked on.

![Toolbox Diagram](image)

**Additional Options Toolbar**

This toolbar is located at the upper portion of the screen. It changes its preferences depending on what type of tool is selected. For example, if the paintbrush is selected, options will be available for the type of brush and brush size. Select the arrows for a menu to select an option that is different from the default.
Palettes

Navigator Palette

The Navigator palette is a tool used for zooming and scrolling needs when working with large images. If the navigator palette is not on the screen, choose **Window > Show Navigator**.

**View Box** – (red outline) Dragging the view box inside the image thumbnail will reveal hidden portions of the picture. Photoshop will track your adjustments in the image window.

**Magnification Box** – Enter a new zoom ratio and press the Enter key to increase or decrease your magnification. This is one way of zooming in and out.

**Zoom Out** – Select the zoom out button beside the magnification box, to reduce the view size in the same increments as the zoom tool. This does not alter the size of the image window.

**Zoom Slider** – Dragging the zoom slider to the left will zoom out, dragging to the right will zoom in.

**Size Box** – Dragging the size box will enlarge the palette and the thumbnail to a larger size if you have a larger monitor and wish to have a larger view.

**Box Color** – The View Box outline color can be changed by choosing Palette Options command from the Navigator palette menu (triangle in circle at top right-hand corner).

Color Palette

The Color Palette is a very useful and easy tool to use for selecting colors. There are multiple elements and options contained in the palette to select from. If the color palette is not on the screen, choose **Window > Show Color**.

**Foreground Color/Background Color** – Select either the foreground or background color icons to specify which color to edit. If selecting either icon when surrounded by a double-frame, the Color Picker dialog box will open.

**Sliders** – Dragging the triangles under the Slider Bar allows you to edit the highlighted color. By default, red, green and blue are the colors represented when a color image is open.

**Option Boxes** – The Option boxes (fields) are located at the end of each slider bar. Insert numerical values between 0 and 255 in the boxes to adjust color. Numbers above the CMYK color’s will produce an error by showing an alert box below the foreground and background color options. Enter a number up to 255.

**Color Bar** – The Color Bar resides at the bottom of the Color Palette. This displays all of the colors contained in the CMYK spectrum. Click or drag inside the color bar to select a color and make it the current foreground or background color. The sliders will update as you drag.
Swatches Palette

The Swatches Palette is a holding tank for favorite colors. The foreground and background colors can also be set with this palette.

If the color palette is already open and click on the ‘swatches’ tab to open the swatches palette.

Click a color swatch to change the foreground color.

Alt + click a color swatch to change the background color.

Click an empty swatch place to add the new foreground color to the palette. The cursor will change to a paint bucket, and you’ll be asked to name the swatch.

Shift + click a color swatch will allow you to replace one color with another.

Right-click to insert a new swatch anywhere in the palette. A drop-down menu appears, select Add New Color, and name the color. The other colors will move to make room.

Ctrl + click on a color to delete that color from the panel. The cursor will change to scissors.

Select the New icon on the bottom bar of the palette, beside the trashcan. This allows you to add a new swatch in the current foreground color.

Click and drag a swatch to the trashcan icon to delete it from the palette.

Styles Palette

With the Styles Palette you can save layer effects and blending options by creating layer styles.

If the color or swatches palette is already open, click on the ‘Styles’ tab.

There are three ways to create a style:

Click on the New Style button – Only when working in the Layer Style dialog box, select the New Style icon to display the New Style dialog box. Name the style, select your desired settings and click OK.

Click in the Styles Palette – Open the Styles palette, and moving your cursor into the palette, it will change into a paint bucket. Click on the palette with the paint bucket, and the New Style dialog box will open. Name your style, save your settings, and click OK.

Drag and Drop a Layer – Have both Layers and Styles palettes open. Drag any layer (does not need to be active) from the Layers palette, and drop into the Styles palette. This will open the New Style dialog box. Name your style, save your settings, and click OK.

Styles can be applied by dragging the desired style onto the image. It will apply the style to the selected layer.
Character Palette

The **Character Palette** provides options for formatting text.

**Font** – This drop-down menu allows you to select the font.

**Style** – This drop-down menu is very similar to all other applications in the choices. Some fonts have different selections (bold, italic, etc.).

**Faux Bold and Faux Italic** – Allows you to apply bold and italic effects to letters when the font does not have them as a type style. Only use these if the pop-up menu doesn’t offer bold or italic setting.

**All Caps and Small Caps** – Allows you to convert the case of the type. Capital letters cannot be converted to small Caps if created by using the Shift or Caps Lock keys.

**Superscript and Subscript** – Allows you to shrink selected characters and move them above or below the text baseline. Useful for mathematical equations. If they don’t position as you want, use the BaseLine option mentioned below.

**Underline Left and Underline Right** – This applies to vertical type only, and allows you to add a line to the left or right of the selected characters. When working with horizontal type, the option changes to Underline and only does that.

**Strikethrough** – Allows you to draw a line through the middle of letters.

**Size** – This drop-down menu allows you to select the size of your type characters. You can also manually enter any size, and Photoshop will adjust the sizing. The measurements can be points, pixels or millimeters, which you can adjust in the Units and Rulers panel in the Preferences dialog box.

**Leading** – This is a line-spacing function, as it allows you to adjust the vertical distance between the baseline of one line of type and the baseline of the next line of type.

**Kerning** – Kerning allows you to set the spacing between characters of type. This is especially useful as you can manually adjust spacing between particular characters that in certain fonts fit too closely together, or look further apart.

**Tracking** – This pop-up menu allows you to affect character spacing, measured in spaces. Tracking can be applied to multiple characters at a time. A Tracking value can also be applied on top of either automatic or manual kerning.

**Horizontal and Vertical Scaling** – These value fields allow you to alter the vertical or horizontal size of text in correlation with the baseline. If creating vertical type, the Vertical field will affect the width of the column of letters, and the Horizontal field will change the height of each character.
**Baseline** – This value field will raise or lower selected text in respect to the baseline. Raising type will result in a superscript, and lowering type will result in a subscript.

**Color** – Clicking on the color field will open the **Color Picker** dialog box. You can apply color on a per-character basis. The color selected will affect the next character typed and any selected text.

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**Paragraph Palette**

From the main menu, choose **Window > Show Paragraph**.

**Alignment** - Allows you to control how lines of type will align with each other. Choose from **left**, **center** or **right**. These change depending if you’re formatting vertical or horizontal type.

**Justification** – Allows you to adjust text so that it stretches evenly depending on which edge of the bounding box to choose to justify to:

- **Left Justify** will align the text to the left of the box:

- **Right Justify** will align the text to the right edge of the box:

- **Center Justify** will place the line equally between the left and right edges:

- **Force Justify** has Photoshop adjusting the spacing of the last line of text so that it fills the entire width of the bounding box, not matter what the length of the line is. This is not aesthetically pleasing, especially with short lines, as it will cause the huge spacing between words:
Layers Palette

The Layers Palette allows you to make changes to an image without altering your original image data.

Color Modes

The Bitmap mode only uses two color values, black and white, whereas the Grayscale mode uses 256 shades of gray, which range from white to black. A Bitmapped image has very jagged edges, and no smooth quality. Shading details are lost.

A Grayscale image has a very smooth transition between values, smoothing edges and showing more definition. When working on a black and white image, it makes more sense to work on it in the Grayscale mode.

RGB is the best color mode to use when working on pictures to be viewed only on a computer screen. This is for any pictures that will be inserted into a desktop presentation, a video or a Web page.

Indexed Color is a palette, or collection of 256 palettes. In this mode, you get exactly the color that you want, and can create your own if Photoshop does not contain a color you need. This is also the perfect color mode for any pictures to be used on the Web, as the Indexed Color mode includes a specific Web palette.

When changing between image modes, if there are several layers on the image, Photoshop will request that the image be flattened. This will merge all of the layers into one background layer. Photoshop will prompt you when the mode is changed--select flatten.
Working with Photos

Cropping

The Crop tool allows you to enclose a portion of the image to be retained in a rectangular boundary. The area outside the boundary is tinted so you can see which areas will be cropped off. The handles on the boundary allow you to drag to resize the area. Select the crop tool, and drag it over the region that is to be retained. Press the Enter (Return) key to apply the cropping.

Adjusting the Brightness/Contrast

To adjust the brightness or contrast of the image, select image > adjustments > Brightness and Contrast.

A window will appear on the screen. Drag the pointers to the right to increase the Brightness/Contrast and to the left to decrease it. If the preview box is checked off, the changes will immediately be reflected on the image.

Using the Navigator to Zoom in and Out on the Image

Take note of the example image used in class on the right. It appears to be at its full size. It is very important to look at the zoom level at the top of the picture window or in the navigator shown below. Click the up arrow till it reaches 100%, or you may type in 100% in the box that specifies the size. The image is now at its full-size, and can therefore be resized. Notice that when the image is at its full size, the entire image cannot fit in the box, so therefore a red box in the navigator window will highlight the part of the image that is being shown on the screen.
Resizing the Image

To resize the image, select Image > Image size.

The Image Size area allows you to set the width and height of the image. The unit value can be set in the drop-down menus beside their respective fields.

**Width and Height:** Width and the height can be adjusted. To adjust the image size using pixels, specify the amount of pixels desired in the 'Pixel Dimensions' Window. It is also possible to resize the image as a percent of the original size. Change the drop down menu that says 'pixels' to 'percent.' If the image is going to be printed, look the section labeled 'Document Size' and specify how many inches wide or how tall needed. If the 'Constrain Proportions' checkbox is checked, if you change the width or the height, the other will adjust on its own, so that the image remains proportional. If the box is not checked, it will only adjust the width or the height, or both but the image will look stretched, or pushed too close together. Once the new dimensions have been inputed, click on 'ok,' and the image will be resized.

Canvas Size

The Canvas Size dialog box allows you to scale the canvas that the image rests on, separately from the image itself. This can be used in photographs for adding effects such as blurring the edges of the image, which is used a lot on the web. To resize the canvas, select Image > Canvas Size.

The canvas that appears the image is enlarged is going to be the color of the background color that is selected on the toolbar. The default setting is to have the canvas spread out around the entire image, but this can be changed using the anchor arrows. If canvas is desired to only be added to the right of the image, then click on the anchor arrow pointing to the left, and Photoshop will show you that it is adding canvas to the right.
Creating the Blur Effect on an Image

This effect is used primarily on photos and graphics used on webpages.

**Step 1:** Adjust the canvas size so that it is slightly larger than the original photograph. For example, if the measurements of the photo are 3.75 inches X 3.75 Inches, change it to 4 X 4 inches. Excess canvas will be cropped off before the image is saved.

**Step 2:** Select the blur tool from the toolbox.

**Step 3:** Zoom in on the image using the navigator palette, so that the edges can be seen closely. Start out with 200%, or another percentage, depending on the size of the image.

**Step 4:** Begin applying the blur tool to the edges of the image. Continue to click and drag around the edges of the image and you will see the effect being created. You can experiment with the different type of blur brushes, and the amount of strength using the toolbar located at the top of the screen.

Sharpening Images

The **Sharpen** and **Sharpen More** filters allow you focus blurry images by increasing the contrast of adjacent pixels. Basically, both commands focus on an image and improve the clarity of the image. The **Sharpen More** filter applies a stronger sharpening effect than the **Sharpen**.

From the main menu, choose **Filter > Sharpen > Sharpen** to apply the Sharpen filter.
Creating Customized Graphics

Working With Layers

The **Layers Palette** allows you to make changes to an image without altering your original image data. By default, a new image in Photoshop has a single layer. This is called a **Background** layer.

From the main menu, choose **Window > Show Layers**.

Reordering Layers

The **order of layers** can be changed. This can be used if you want one layer to appear on top of another, but they weren’t created in that order.

Click to the right of the thumbnail of the active layer and hold. The active layer will change color:

While still holding down the mouse button, drag the layer up to the top of the stack.

**Note:** To move a layer up or down one level, select the layer and press **Ctrl + ↑** to raise the layer up one level, or press **Ctrl + [** to lower the layer down one level.

**Hiding and showing various layers** allows you to concentrate on one part of an image at a time. To the left of the thumbnail picture in the Layers palette are small icons resembling eyes.

When you can see the eye icon, the layer is visible. If the **eye is clicked** on, the eye icon will disappear and the layer is hidden. The paintbrush next to the eye indicates which layer is selected.

The easy way to **remove a layer** is to select layer to make it active, then click the trashcan icon at the bottom left-hand corner of the Layers palette.
Creating Layer Sets

Layer Sets aid you in organizing and managing groups of layers. Once a set of layers is defined, they can be collapsed or revealed when needed, without having to flatten the image. Layer sets must be contiguous, meaning that you cannot make a set out of layers 1, 4 and 5 without moving layers 2 and 3 somewhere else first.

From the Layers Palette menu, select New Layer Set... option:

Note: Assigning a color to a layer set can make it easier to locate. All of the thumbnails in the Layers palette show the assigned color as a background.

Flattening Layers

Flattening will compress all visible layers down to one layer. Any layers that were invisible at the time of flattening will be lost.

From the main menu, choose Layer > Flatten Image, or select Flatten Image from the Layers Palette menu. Do not perform this step unless you are completely finished editing the image. Transparency will be lost and all layers will be merged into the single, background layer.

Applying Layer Effects

Layer Effects are automated effects that can be applied to layers. The different layer effects are shadows, glows, beveling and Embossing, overlay’s, and stroke. To apply a layer effect, select the layer that the effect is going to be applied to, and click the 'Add Layer Style Icon,' on the bottom left of the layer palette, and select the appropriate effect. After an effect is selected, a screen will be brought up with options regarding that effect, and asking if you want to add other effects to the layer.
**Adding Text**

Typically when adding text, each block of added text will become a separate layer. That is, each time that the text tool is selected and a new area of text is added to the image, a new layer will appear, and the text will appear on the new layer.

To insert text, select the text tool in the toolbox, and click in the image where you would like to begin typing.

Options such as changing the font, font size, color, justification, and warped text are located on the options toolbar on the top of the screen.

For more options regarding text, open the character palette by selecting **Window > Character**.

**Creating Warped Text**

Warping text will cause the line of type to flare out on one end or from the top or bottom.

Click on the Warp Text icon in the Tool Options bar to open the Warp Text dialog box.
Using the Shape

There are five options within the Shape Tool. Right-click the **Shape Tool** to view the pop-up options and select another shape tool.

**Line Tool**

The **Line** tool allows you to create a line. To create a straight line, hold down the shift key while dragging the mouse to create the line. The line thickness can be set at the Options bar, and arrows can also be selected for the ends of the line. Select the **Line** tool. Click and drag to create a straight line. **Arrowheads Options** can be selected on the **Options** bar, when the **Line** tool is selected. Place arrows on one or both ends of the line, as well as set the arrowhead dimensions:

**Rectangle Tool**

The **Rectangle** tool allows you to draw rectangles filled with the foreground color. Select the **Rectangle** tool. Drag to create a rectangle OR Click **Shift + Drag** to create a square.

The rest of the shapes work the same as the rectangle. You can also create rectangles with rounded edges, polygons, ellipses, or custom shapes. Custom shapes are selected from the options bar.

Using the Paint Bucket

The **Paint Bucket** tool allows you to fill a contiguous area of similarly colored pixels in the picture with the foreground color. This is useful if you have a solid colored item or entire graphic that needs to have its color changed. Select the appropriate foreground color, and click on the part of the graphic that needs to have its color changed. Keep in mind that if working with layers, the correct layer needs to be selecting before using the paint bucket.

Using the Paintbrush

The **Paintbrush** tool allows you to paint color in soft lines. Select the paint brush tool, and select the option located on the options toolbar. Begin painting on the image by clicking and dragging the paintbrush over the image. Keep in mind that the paint will be located on the selected layer.
Using the Zoom Tool

The **Zoom** tool allows you to magnify an image to see the individual pixels more clearly. You can also zoom out to move back from the image for a broader view. This is useful for painting with the paintbrush or when erasing—such as smoothing out the edges of a graphic.

Select the **Zoom** tool. Click an area of the image to “zoom in” or magnify a portion of the image. Drag with the **Zoom** tool to enclose a specific portion of the image that you wish to magnify. Double-click the **Zoom** tool icon to restore the image to 100 percent view size.

Zooming in this manner is identical to zooming with the Navigator Palette.

Colors

**Foreground Colors**

The **Foreground Color chip** (shown as the larger blue box) allows you to change the foreground color of your image and/or image window. Click once on the **Foreground Color** chip to view the **Color Picker** dialog box. Select a color and press the **Enter** key to change the foreground color. This is used by the **Pencil, Paintbrush, Airbrush, Gradient** and **Shape** tools.

**Background Color**

The **Background Color** chip (shown as the larger white box) allows you to change the background color of your image and/or image window. Click once on the **Background Color** chip to view the **Color Picker** dialog box. Select a color and press the **Enter** key to change the background color. This is used by the **Eraser** and **Gradient** tools. When the canvas size is enlarged, the background color that will appear on the new part of the canvas will be whatever the background color is set at.

**Notes:** The foreground and background colors can be toggled by clicking the two arrows in the upper right corner of the colors area on the toolbar. Clicking the smaller foreground and background icons in the lower left-hand corner, will cause your colors to return to the default foreground and background colors, black and white.
Selecting colors with the Eyedropper Tool

The eyedropper tool is used to select a color that is already being used in an image. This is useful if you know the exact color of an image is unknown, but you would like to match it exactly in another image, or even if in the same image that is having the color picked from it.

Using the Eraser Tool

The **Eraser** tool allows you to paint in the background color or erase areas in a layer to reveal layers below. Remember that in order to erase, the correct layer needs to be selected in the layers palette.

Saving Files

While working on an image, you should save the file in `.psd` format (Photoshop Document). This file type retains the image layers and effects without flattening them so that you can go back and modify your image at any time. Once you are finished with your work, you can **Save as** or **Save for web** the Photoshop file in a different format, depending on the purpose of the final image.

**When utilizing images for the web use these file formats:**

- `.gif` – If the picture is line art, has large areas of solid color and uses a limited color palette.
- `.jpeg` – If the picture is a photograph or contains lots of different colors.

**When printing a document use these file formats:**

- `.eps` – For print using a Postscript compatible printer.
- `.tif` – For print using most printers and page layout programs.

**Note:** If you want to Import a picture into another graphic program choose `.bmp` or `.pict`, as they are the two most compatible graphic formats.

**To Save as PSD:** Select **File > Save**. Select the proper location and type in a name for the file. Make sure the file format menu says `Photoshop(*.PSD,*PDD)`. ’
To Save File for Web (as GIF or JPEG): To save the image as a GIF or JPEG, select File > Save for Web. Select the tab that says ‘4-up.’ This will present 4 images of differing qualities. It will display the file size and the time that it takes to load on the web. The file settings are to the right of the pictures. Recall that if saving an image with few colors, GIF files can be used. If saving a file with lots of colors, such as a photograph, save the file as a JPEG.