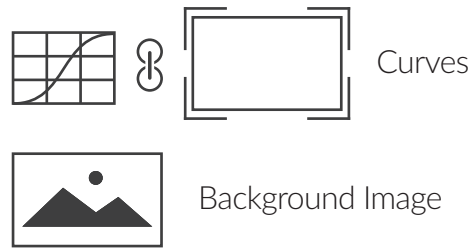


PHOTOSHOP GREATEST HITS

with Aaron Nace

ADJUSTMENT LAYERS

Adjustment Layers are the best tools for making quick, nondestructive edits to an image. You can brighten or darken a photo, adjust colors, add contrast, and more. They work just like normal Layers meaning you can move them up or down the Layers panel, delete them, and make changes to the effects at any time. They even work with Layer Masks, allowing you to control exactly where you want the effect to be visible in an image.



The Curves Adjustment Layer allows you to control the highlight and shadow levels of the Layers underneath it in the Layers panel.

COMPOSITING

Compositing is the process of combining elements from multiple photographs to create the illusion that everything was captured in a single image. For example, cutting a person out of a photo and placing them onto a new background from another photo is a very common form of compositing. Compositing can be used to create scenes that would otherwise be impossible, like alien worlds or levitating objects, or it can be used to solve practical problems, like swapping someone's face in a group portrait or removing unwanted objects from a scene.

CONTENT-AWARE

Content-Aware is a technology that powers many of the automated tools in Photoshop. The tool will analyze an image and then use that information to help you cover up distractions or fill in large areas so that they blend in with the rest of the photo. You can find Content-Aware options in the Crop Tool, Fill Tool, Spot Healing Brush Tool, and the Move Tool. While the automation works well, it's best to use it on areas that are relatively simple like solid-colored walls, the sky, or backgrounds that are out of focus.

CROPTOOL

The Crop Tool allows you to add or remove portions of a photo to change its overall size and composition. And, with automated features like Content-Aware, you can use it to extend simple backgrounds to create more negative space for text and graphic elements. This is especially useful when creating images that will be used as web banners or advertisements.

Create a New Layer

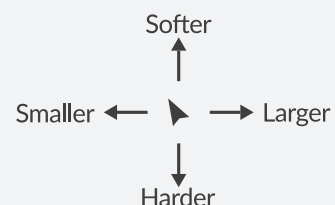
CTRL or CMD + SHIFT + N

Sample

ALT or OPTN + CLICK

Change Brush Size & Hardness

ALT or OPTN + RIGHT-CLICK & DRAG



PHOTOSHOP GREATEST HITS

with Aaron Nace

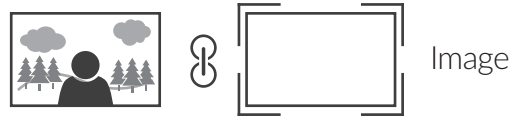
LAYER MASKS

A Layer Mask allows you to control where its associated Layer is visible or not visible. You can use black, white, and/or gray to define the visibility of the connected Layer.

White = Visible

Black = Invisible

Gray = Partially visible (similar to Opacity)



To begin with, a Layer Mask is typically filled with white meaning that the image its connected to is completely visible.



After selecting the subject and making only that area of the Layer Mask white, the background around the subject is no longer be visible.

LIQUIFY TOOL FILTER ▶ LIQUIFY

The Liquify Tool allows you to adjust the shape of something in an image by 'pushing' and 'pulling' pixels. This tool is especially useful for removing wrinkles and uneven edges in and around a person's clothing. Just be sure to work slowly and carefully as it's easy to accidentally warp a subject's body or warp any straight lines or edges of objects in the background.

SELECT SUBJECT SELECT ▶ SUBJECT

If you need to cut a person out (and if they're on a relatively simple background), make Select Subject your go-to tool. With a single click, Photoshop will automatically identify and make a selection around the subject in the image. You can then click the Layer Mask icon to convert the selection to a Mask, and you're done!

SMART OBJECTS RIGHT-CLICK ▶ CONVERT TO SMART OBJECT

Converting an image into a Smart Object lets you use Smart Filters on that Layer. Smart Filters are basically the same as regular Filters (like Liquify or Gaussian Blur) with the added ability to hide, adjust, or delete them at any time to get back to the original, unedited image.

SPOT HEALING BRUSH TOOL

The Spot Healing Brush is the easiest tool to use to remove minor objects and distractions from an image. Simply paint over the thing that you want to remove, and Photoshop will use image information from nearby to cover it up. For best results, make sure to:

- 1 Select the Content-Aware option.
- 2 Check the box labeled Sample All Layers.
- 3 Create and work on a new Layer.