

Forum:[Hack Forums](#)

Thread: [Photoshop Tools Explanation - Basics](#)

masterftp - May 31, 2011, 9:19 am

Hey guys,

The below content is for those who are new to photoshop. I have explained all the basic tools. If you have any doubts or if I made any mistake feel free to contact me. :)

Move tool -- shortcut (V)

As the name suggests, it is used to move objects (or) images.

Rectangular Marquee tool -- Shortcut (M)

Used to make selections in rectangular shapes. It changes the selected portion of the image that is affected by other tools (or) actions within the selected portion.

Holding [SHIFT] while dragging the selection creates a perfect square.

Holding [ALT] while dragging sets the center of the rectangular to where the cursor started.

Elliptical Marquee Tool -- Shortcut (M)

Used to select portions in Elliptical shape.

Holding [SHIFT] while dragging the selection creates a perfect circle.

Holding [ALT] while dragging sets the center of the circle to where the cursor started.

Polygonal Lasso Tool -- Shortcut (L)

This tool is used to draw selections in any shape you wish. It is done by clicking points through the image and completing it at the starting point.

Magic Wand Tool -- Shortcut (W)

This tool is used to select a color range. It will select the portion of colors based on where the click is made. The tolerance can be adjusted in the options menu to make it more /less precise.

Crop Tool -- Shortcut (C)

The Crop tool works similar to rectangular marquee tool. The selection is also similar. But the main difference is that it crops out the image (i.e) The selected portion remains, others are discarded.

Slice Tool -- Shortcut (K)

The Slice Tool is mainly used in web designing. It splices or cuts the image based on the sections made. This tool is a little advanced, a detailed tutorial on this tool will be posted soon.

Healing Brush Tool -- Shortcut (J)

This tool is used to repair patches and specs on images. A very handy tool. Using the cursor and then holding down the [ALT] key, you can select the clean area of the image, and paint over the bad portion of the image (let off the [ALT] when painting).

Brush Tool -- Shortcut (B)

A very Basic tool in photoshop. It paints on the image in whatever color is selected in the color palette. The size of the brush can be adjusted using the [RIGHT CLICK]. Custom brushes can also be used. To use custom brushes, select the brush tool, [RIGHT CLICK] and click on the small arrow, and select [REPLACE BRUSHES...], now select the custom brush that you downloaded.

Clone Stamp Tool -- Shortcut (S)

This tool operates similar to the healing brush tool, except that it creates an exact replica of the selected portion.

History Brush Tool -- Shortcut (H)

The History Brush tool paints it with the original state of the image. The windows palette can be accessed from Windows-->history.

Eraser Tool -- Shortcut (E)

This tool works opposite to the brush tool. It erases the portions. Custom brushes can also be used in the eraser tool.

Gradient Tool -- Shortcut (G)

This tool is used to make a gradient of colors (or) simply multiple colors.

Paint Bucket Tool -- Shortcut (G)

This tool is used to pour colors into the selected area or the layer. The color is selected from the foreground color palette.

Blur Tool -- Shortcut (R)

It just blurs out the portions. Select the tool and click and drag to make the portions blurred, the more the click and drag is applied, the more blurred it becomes.

Dodge Tool -- Shortcut (O)

This tool lightens whatever area it is used on. Absolute black won't lighten.

Path Selection Tool -- Selection (A)

This tool is for working in paths. A kind-of advanced tool. A detailed tutorial will be posted later.

Horizontal Type Tool -- Shortcut (T)

As the name suggests it is used to type text in horizontal way. Click and drag can be used to make a bounding box for the type area, or a single click can be made and the text can be typed as long as you want!

Pen Tool -- Shortcut (P)

Pen tool is used to create paths. The path selection tool is also used to modify the paths. A detailed tutorial to be posted soon.

Rectangle Tool -- Shortcut (U)

As the name goes, it is used to shape layers in rectangular form. It then fills the rectangle with whatever color is selected in the foreground.

Notes Tool -- Shortcut (N)

It's kind-of a digital post-it notes. Used to give additional information to others. The notes get saved with the PSD file.

Eyedropper Tool -- Shortcut (I)

This tool changes the foreground color to whatever color you click on. Holding [ALT] key when clicking will change the background color.

Zoom tool -- shortcut (Z)

This tool lets you to zoom in/out the image. It doesn't affect the size of the canvas. Holding down [ALT] and scrolling forward will zoom in, scrolling backward will zoom out.

Thanks for reading guys!

This tutorial was written for GFXLEGENDS.COM.

I would be very happy if you could register and help improve my forum.

Hope you learned something and at the same time enjoyed the tutorial.

~Jaichandran Rathnem Aka masterftp.

kyoutu - June 1, 2011, 9:27 am

Each description could use a little more explanation to more novice users?

But it seems to describe the basics pretty well.

^^ a good little topic to help familiar the novice user with the basic tools of photoshop.

Cyber-Security - June 1, 2011, 4:57 pm

I knew how to use all these tools but I never knew the shortcuts. Thanks! I am bookmarking this for reference! :D

masterftp - June 1, 2011, 10:51 pm

(Jun 1, 2011 09:27 AM)kyoutu Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Each description could use a little more explanation to more novice users?

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thanks for your comments buddy.

appreciated!

(Jun 1, 2011 04:57 PM)Cyber-Security Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) I knew how to use all these tools but I never knew the shortcuts. Thanks! I am bookmarking this for reference! :D
Hope it was helpful to u .

thanks for reading..?