

Choosing Colors

You can choose a color by clicking once on the foreground color swatch in the tool palette and clicking on a color from the colors available. If necessary, you can move the triangle along the band of color to change the spectrum range. You can choose colors from the Swatches window or the Color window as well.

Be sure that you are on the layer you want and then paint on it. Hitting option-delete will instantly fill a selection with the foreground color.

Photoshop Tools in General

Experiment with painting tools such as the airbrush and paintbrush. The pencil tool will give a jagged edge.

You can adjust the specifications for any tool by double-clicking on it in the toolbox or resetting options in the top ribbon.

If you need to go back more than one step, choose show history and drag the procedure you want to remove to the trash in that window.

Making Selections

Use the magic wand, lasso, and marquee tools to make an accurate selection. *Do not use the eraser tool at all.* Zoom in and out and use the hand tool to scrutinize your selections.

Remember that shift adds to a selection and option subtracts from a selection.

A convenient and sophisticated alternate way to make selections in Photoshop is by using Quick Mask mode. See the help guide in Photoshop to review this function.

Scanning, File Formats

For multimedia and video, use RGB color, 72 pixels/inch resolution.
If you are making still images for use in video, choose 720 x 480 pixels @ 72 pixels/inch for image size.
For high quality print, use CMYK color, 150 min, 300 max resolution.

Always scale images down in size from your original, not up in size.

Save all original images in their own folder and archive them. Then save a copy or go to Image>Duplicate and work on a copy of the original so you don't overwrite your original scans. Backup and save often.

Alpha Channels

Alpha channels enable files to keep transparency information available. The most obvious value to this is in multimedia projects such as Macromedia Flash or Director which will recognize the alpha and not draw an ugly white box around the image.

To create an alpha channel, command-click on a layer and then go to window>channels. Click on the second icon in, which should have a pop-up message when you hold over the area "save selection as channel". Then save the file in Photoshop format with the alpha channels option checked.

Saving Files

Remember to organize all files for multimedia effectively in folders within the same location before delving deeply into a multimedia project in After Effects or iMovie.