

## Customizing Photoshop for Your Projects

Photoshop is an incredibly powerful program. Not only can you perform many different tasks with Photoshop, but you can also choose from a number of ways to accomplish each project. By setting Photoshop to work for you, you can develop your own techniques and find ways to adapt the standard tools to those techniques.

Learning to customize the application for your own personal projects and your own personal style makes your image editing more effective and efficient. When you work on an image, you may prefer to see some palettes and not others. You may also prefer certain tool settings to others. Setting up Photoshop to work your way makes you more productive, the program more useful, and everything you do with Photoshop much more fun. With Photoshop CS3, Adobe has taken customization to a new level. You can now modify your settings and preferences in more ways than ever before by adjusting the workspace, the palettes, and the tools to fit the requirements of specific projects or just for your own preferences. These may seem like boring steps, yet setting up Photoshop's preferences and the workspace, knowing how to make your own gradients, customizing some shortcuts and tools, and designing templates and brushes can save you time as you work on images and free you to become more creative. By customizing Photoshop and setting the application your way, you gain familiarity with the program and become more comfortable as you try different projects.



## SELECT THE COLOR SETTINGS for your projects

Using Adobe Photoshop CS3 is an image-altering experience! You can work on images for print or for the Web. You can improve photographs, repurpose them, or create original designs. Because printed images and Web images have different limits on the range of colors that they can represent, you need to set the working color space for your project.

Photoshop's default color space is set to sRGB, a very limited color space intended to be viewable on even the lowest-quality monitor. sRGB is a good color space for preparing Web images; however, it is a much smaller color space than what better monitors can show and what printers can actually produce. Photographers and designers generally prefer the larger color space called Adobe RGB (1998), a good color space for working with photographs and projects that you plan to print.

In Photoshop CS3, you can easily choose your color space and save it as your own setting. Using the North America Prepress 2 settings and Adobe RGB (1998) will make your printed colors look much better.





#### **Customize It!**

You can save your own Color Settings preset. The name of the preset changes to Custom when you deselect any check box or make any other changes. Click Save after customizing your settings. Type a name in the Save dialog box and click Save. Your customized preset appears in the Settings drop-down list, ready for you to choose.

#### Try This!

You can synchronize the color settings in other Creative Suite applications to match your saved custom Photoshop color settings. In Photoshop, click File and select Browse to launch the Bridge. Click Bridge and select Preferences (Mac) or Edit and select Preferences (PC). Click Advanced and click Enable Color Management In Bridge. Then from the Bridge, click Edit and select Creative Suite Color Settings. Click your saved custom color settings and click Apply.

## SET THE PREFERENCES for the way you work

In addition to Color Settings, Photoshop includes ten different panes in the Preferences dialog box. Although you can work with the default settings, changing some of these can make your computer run more efficiently, and changing others can make it easier to work with your projects. For example, by default, Photoshop is set to use more than half of the available RAM. You can lower this default setting depending on how much RAM you have installed in the computer and how many other applications you keep open at the same time. You can change the default colors for the guides and grid when they are too similar to those in your image. Setting an additional plug-ins folder keeps third-party items separate from included Photoshop plug-ins, and setting a separate scratch disk can speed up your work on large files. Other personalized options, such as asking Photoshop to automatically launch the Bridge, can help you use Photoshop the way you want.

Read through each Preferences pane to familiarize yourself with the choices. Select the settings to fit your workflow and make Photoshop work for you.







#### Try This!

You can use keyboard shortcuts to set the Preferences. Press #+K (Ctrl+K). Set your options for the General Preferences. Press #+2 (Ctrl+2), and so on, for each of the ten Preferences panes. You can change the default Preferences so that just pressing the appropriate letter toggles each tool. In the General Preferences pane, deselect the Use Shift Key for Tool Switch check box.

#### Did You Know?

You can restore the Preferences any time by holding the  $\Re$ +Option+ Shift (Ctrl+Alt+Shift) keys as you launch the application. Click Yes in the dialog box that appears, and the Preferences are reset to the defaults.

## Customize your PERSONAL WORKSPACE

The *workspace* in Photoshop refers to the layout of the different palettes and tools on your monitor screen. Photoshop CS3 enables you to design your own workspace so that you can easily access palettes or find the tools you need depending on the type of project. You can then save your custom workspace to reuse it with other images.

You can open the palettes that you use most and collapse others into buttons. You can move and resize individual palettes and docks. You can move the single-column toolbox, dock it, or change it to a two-column toolbox. When you select the new Maximized Screen mode, your image automatically resizes as you adjust the tools and palettes. You can customize keyboard shortcuts and menus and save the current palette locations with your keyboard shortcuts and menu changes.

Photoshop CS3 also includes some preconfigured workspaces, and you can set up different workspaces to accommodate different tasks, such as one for color-correcting photographs and one for working with type.





#### Did You Know?

You can return to the original workspace any time by clicking Window  $\rightarrow$ Workspace  $\rightarrow$  Default Workspace. You can also delete unused workspaces by clicking Window  $\rightarrow$ Workspace  $\rightarrow$  Delete Workspace and selecting the one that you want to delete.

#### **More Options!**

Photoshop CS3 includes a number of predesigned workspaces for particular projects, such as Color and Tonal Correction and Painting and Retouching. Click Window → Workspace and select a workspace from the lower section of the submenu.

#### **More Options!**

You can color-code the menu items that you use most often. Click Edit  $\rightarrow$  Menus. In the dialog box that appears, click the expand triangle next to a menu name. Click None and select a color from the submenu.

## PERSONALIZE YOUR VIEW of the Bridge

The Bridge that ships with Photoshop CS3 acts as a power browser and central hub for all the Creative Suite 3 applications and shows all types of files and folders that are available. You can even see thumbnails of documents and files from other applications, such as Word or Acrobat files. When you double-click a thumbnail from the Bridge, the other application launches. You can open the Bridge from within Photoshop or as a separate application.

The Bridge offers different ways to search, categorize, and view your files, options for adding

information, and automation for various repetitive tasks.

By customizing and saving your own Bridge workspace, you can review and compare images more efficiently and have more fun doing so.

To launch the Bridge from within Photoshop, click File  $\rightarrow$  Browse, click the Go to Bridge icon in the Options bar, or press the keyboard shortcut #+opt+O (Ctrl+Alt+O).



**1** Launch the Bridge.

*Note:* You can make any changes you prefer for your custom workspace.

- 2 Click the Folders tab to navigate to a folder of images.
- 3 Click and drag the Metadata and Keywords tabs to the left panel between the Folders and the Filter tab.
- 4 Click and drag the Preview tab to the center pane.
- 6 Click and drag the Content tab to the right pane.

The Content images align vertically on the right.

- 6 Click an image to see it in the Preview tab.
- **7** Click here and drag to the right.

The Preview tab enlarges.

- You can also click the separator bar on the left to enlarge the Preview tab more.
- 8 Click and hold the first workspace button.





- **9** Click Save Workspace.
  - The Save Workspace dialog box appears.



- **10** Type a name for the workspace.
- Make sure that both check boxes are checked.
- Optionally, you can click here and select any key not already assigned by the Bridge to a keyboard shortcut.
- 12 Click Save.

Your custom workspace is saved as the default for the first button.

**Note:** You can change the default settings for the other two workspace buttons by following the preceding steps with different settings.

# Havai Surset parcama.tr

#### More Options!

Save

You can sort by different parameters using the Filter panel. For example, you can view only the portrait-orientation images or all the images created on a specific date.

#### **More Options!**

006\_12\_Ha aiTML\_JPG

006\_12\_Has

006.12.Hz

006\_12\_H

12

Press Option (Alt) and click multiple images in the Content palette to compare them in the Preview panel. You can also stack the group to keep them together by clicking Stacks  $\rightarrow$  Group as Stack or pressing  $\Re+G$ .

#### **Enlarge It!**

You can expand your preview to fill your screen by pressing Tab. The Preview window fills the screen and the other palettes slide away on the sides. Press Tab again to return to your custom Bridge workspace.



## ADD YOUR OWN KEYBOARD SHORTCUT for a favorite filter

Photoshop includes keyboard shortcuts for a variety of tasks. You can work more efficiently if you use shortcuts for the tools that you use most often. Many of the tools in the toolbox already have keyboard shortcuts assigned. Still, you may find yourself going to the menu to select an item, such as the Gaussian Blur filter, so often that a personalized keyboard shortcut is very useful and a huge timesaver.

You can easily create your own custom keyboard shortcuts to fit your workflow. You can even change the ones that Photoshop has already assigned to something that you can remember better. If the keyboard shortcut that you choose is already assigned by Photoshop for another function, a warning appears. You should also avoid keyboard shortcuts that are used by your operating system. You can change Photoshop's default shortcuts, or you can try a different set of keystrokes that are not already assigned.

Learning and using custom keyboard shortcuts can streamline your workflow, leaving you more time for designing and photo editing.





#### Did You Know?

The Keyboard Shortcuts and Menus dialog box is found under both the Edit menu and the Window → Workspace menu. You can also access the Keyboard Shortcuts and Menus dialog box by using a keyboard shortcut — ૠ+Shift+ Option+K (Ctrl+Shift+Alt+K).

#### **Try This!**

You can save a list of the default Photoshop keyboard shortcuts or your customized shortcuts. Click Summarize in the Keyboard Shortcuts and Menus dialog box and save the file as Photoshop Defaults.htm. Open the file and print the list for reference.

#### **More Options!**

Click the Shortcuts For arrow to select Palette Menus or Tools. Then click the expand arrow next to the palette name or tool and type your shortcut. You can even save a keyboard shortcut set with a custom workspace!

## CREATE A CUSTOM ACTION to increase your efficiency

Performing repeated steps is boring and time-consuming. That is why Adobe created actions and the Actions palette. An *action* is a series of commands that you can apply to an image with one click of the mouse. Unlike a keyboard shortcut, which can only invoke a command, an action can open a command, apply changes to an image, step through another command, apply it, and even save a file in a particular way. You can create your own actions for steps that you do over and over, save the actions, and add them to the Actions palette. To create an action, you first record a sequence of steps. You then name and save your new action in the Actions palette. The next time that you need to apply the same steps to an image, you play the action, and Photoshop automatically applies the series of operations to the open file or even to an entire folder of files.

Actions are easy to create, and they can help you automate your work for repetitive tasks, leaving you more time to work on creative projects.





Press H = N (Ctrl+N) to open a new file.

The New file dialog box appears.

- Type your specific dimensions in the Width and Height fields.
- Type **300**, or your desired resolution, in the Resolution field.
- Click OK.



A new untitled document appears.

- After you perform the last step of your action, click the Stop Recording button.
- Your custom action is now recorded and is listed in the Actions palette.

You can test your action by clicking the keyboard shortcut that you assigned.

#### More Options!

You can apply an action to a folder of files by clicking File  $\rightarrow$  Automate  $\rightarrow$  Batch and selecting the action and a source folder. Or you can apply an action to a group of images from the Bridge by clicking Tools  $\rightarrow$  Photoshop  $\rightarrow$ Batch.

#### **Try This!**

You can make the actions easier to find by selecting Button Mode in the Actions palette's drop-down menu. Your actions change to color-coded buttons.

#### **Did You Know?**

You can load other prerecorded actions such as Frames or Image Effects included with Photoshop CS3 by clicking the Actions palette's drop-down menu and clicking a set in the bottom section of the menu.

## DESIGN A CUSTOMIZED BRUSH with your settings

Whether you retouch photographs, design brochures, or paint from scratch, you will use the Brush tools many times and in many ways. Selecting the Brush tool from the toolbox opens a variety of brushes in the drop-down menu on the Options bar.

You can modify the size, roundness, or other attributes of any of the existing brushes to suit your drawing style or your image. You can then save the modified brush as your own custom brush so that it is ready to use for your next design. A number of other tools also have modifiable brush options, including the Pencil tool, the Eraser tool, the Clone Stamp tool, the Pattern Stamp tool, the History Brush, the Art History Brush, the Blur tool, the Sharpen tool, the Smudge tool, the Dodge tool, the Burn tool, and the Sponge tool.

Customizing Brush tools for your projects is a timesaving technique, and it is fun. You may find yourself experimenting with all types of brushes.





#### Caution!

Save your custom brushes to avoid losing them if you reset Photoshop's Preferences. Click the drop-down menu on the Brushes palette and select Save Brushes. Name the file with the suffix .abr and click Save.

#### **Did You Know?**

Photoshop CS3 includes many different brush files listed at the bottom of the submenus on the Brushes palette or Brush options menu in the Options bar. You can load any set by clicking its name.

#### **More Options!**

You can view the brushes listed by name rather than the stroke thumbnail. Click the drop-down menu on the Brushes palette and click Text Only or select a different-sized thumbnail or list view.

## MAKE A SPECIAL GRADIENT to suit your design

The Gradient tool helps you blend multiple colors as you fill an area in an image. You can use the Gradient tool in many ways, such as by itself to fill text with soft gradations of color, to fill backgrounds with a gradient, or in combination with layers and masks. Gradients are often used when making composite images. Photoshop includes default gradient color sets and has other gradient sets listed in the drop-down menu in the Options bar. You can also create your own gradient by sampling colors from areas in your image or choosing different colors altogether. You can add intermediate colors and design a blend among multiple colors in any order that you want. You can even design gradients that fade from any color to transparent.

You can also choose a style for the gradient, such as linear, radial, angled, reflected, or diamond. You customize the gradients from the Gradient Editor. Start with an existing gradient and modify the colors, the color stops, and other variations in the dialog box. The possibilities are almost endless!





#### **Caution!**

You must save your custom gradients in a presets library to avoid losing them when you reset Photoshop's Preferences. Click Save in the Gradient Editor dialog box or choose Save Gradients from the drop-down menu in the Gradient Picker. Type a name for your gradient library with the suffix .grd. Click Save, and your gradients are saved in Photoshop's presets.

#### **More Options!**

You can duplicate any of the color stops to vary your custom gradient. Press Option (Alt) and drag the first color stop to another location. Pressing Option (Alt), you can even drag a new color stop over other color stops and drop it in a different position. To remove a color stop, click the stop and drag straight down.

## CALIBRATE AND PROFILE your monitor for better editing

You adjust colors in Photoshop based on what you see on the screen. Because each monitor displays color differently and because those characteristics change over time, you should calibrate and profile your monitor regularly to make sure that you are viewing the colors that are actually in your files.

*Calibration* is the process of setting your monitor to an established color standard. *Profiling* is the process of creating an International Color Consortium (ICC) profile, a description of how your monitor reproduces color. Although the Macintosh System Preferences includes a display-calibration tool and Photoshop CS3 installs the Adobe Gamma utility on Windows, these software-only methods are very subjective. Using a hardware-calibration device is an easier and more accurate method of adjusting your monitor. Both X-Rite and ColorVision make affordable devices. A *colorimeter* corrects the color on your screen. A *spectrophotometer* measures and adjusts color for both your monitor and printer.

You can easily make your monitor display accurate color using the X-Rite i1 Display LT colorimeter or the X-Rite i1 Photo LT spectrophotometer.







The Place Your Eye-One screen appears.

- Place the unit on the monitor as the image shows.
- **(0** Click the Forward button.

The screen goes black, and then a box appears under the colorimeter on the screen.

The box fills with white, then black, and then colors as the device automatically measures the color presentation capabilities of your monitor.

- A new screen appears, showing the name of the monitor profile created by the device.
- Click here to select a reminder for the next calibration.
- 12 Click the Forward button.

A dialog box appears, telling you where the profile was saved on your computer's hard drive.

- 🚯 Click OK.
- Quit the i1 Match software application and disconnect the i1 Colorimeter or Spectrophotometer.

#### Did You Know?

As monitors age, they lose their color accuracy more quickly. Calibrate and profile regularly – monthly if your monitor is new or weekly if your monitor is over two years old.

#### Important!

Clean the monitor screen with a soft cloth before you start, but never spray any cleaning liquids on your monitor. CRT monitors need to warm up for 30 minutes before you calibrate and create a profile.

#### **More Options!**

X-Rite's i1 Match software keeps a Help file open in a column along the right side of the screen. You can increase your understanding of color calibration by reading an explanation of each step as you proceed.



# Turn on the full power of Photoshop with a **PEN TABLET**

Using a mouse as an input device may work for placing insertion points in text or dragging a rectangular selection in Photoshop, but using a Brush tool or selecting specific areas with a mouse is similar to writing your name with a bar of soap clunky and inaccurate. Using a pressure-sensitive tablet and pen, such as the Wacom Intuos, instead of a mouse enables you to edit images with greater comfort and control. Instead of scooting the mouse around, you place the cursor exactly where you want to be with the pen, so you become more productive. Using a tablet and pen, you have access to many Photoshop tools that are only available when a tablet is connected to the computer. You can easily make precise selections, create blended composite images, and even paint digitally as you would with a traditional paintbrush on paper.

The key to using a tablet and pen and turning on the full power of Photoshop is to start by setting the Tablet Preferences located in the System Preferences or Control Panel.





### PS Try This!

You can select specific settings for each individual application. Click the + to the right of the Application section and select Photoshop CS3 or another application. Set the options for the keys you use most in Photoshop.

#### **Did You Know?**

The Wacom Intuos is considered the most responsive pen tablet on the market. The Wacom pen feels like any pen or pencil, and the ExpressKeys and Touch Strip can help you become more productive.

#### Did You Know?

Over 20 Photoshop tools are specifically designed for use with a pressure-sensitive tablet and pen. Without a tablet attached to your computer, a warning sign appears for many of the settings in the Brushes palette.