

Adobe Photoshop

Essential Shortcut Keys in Photoshop with Julieanne Kost

Software needed Adobe Photoshop 5.0 or later



- 1 Command (Mac)/Control (Win) + zooms in
Command (Mac)/Control (Win) – zooms out (even while in dialog boxes)
- 2 Double clicking the hand tool fits the image in the window
- 3 Double clicking the magnifying glass zooms the image to 100%
- 4 The spacebar gives you the hand tool
- 5 Tab key hides palettes and tool box
Shift tab hides the palettes only
- 6 “F” key cycles through the screen modes (standard, full screen with menu bar, and full screen)
- 7 Control (Mac) tab will cycle through open files
- 8 Control key (Mac) or right mouse (Win) accesses context sensitive menus
- 9 Command (Mac)/Control (Win) key accesses the move tool
- 10 Move tool plus Command(Mac)/Control (Win) auto selects layers
- 11 Option (Mac)/Alt (Win) click to access the actual pixel dimensions from the image info area
- 12 “D” gives you the default colors in the tool palette
- 13 “X” exchanges colors (especially useful when painting in masks)
- 14 “B” for Brush , “S” is for stamp, learn the keyboard shortcuts for the tools you use most often
- 15 “[” selects previous brush on palette
“]” selects next brush
- 16 Command (Mac) Control (Win) “R” shows rulers
- 17 Command (Mac) Control (Win) ; shows guides
Command (Mac) Control (Win) ‘ shows grids
- 18 Option delete (Mac)/Alt backspace (Win) fills with the foreground color
Command Delete (Mac) Control Backspace (Win) fills with the background color
Shift Delete/Backspace brings up the fill dialog box
Command Option Delete (Mac) Control Alt backspace (Win) fills with the current history state
- 19 The measure tool automatically puts in the last measurement in the rotate arbitrary palette
Option (Mac)/Alt (Win) click the end point of the measurement line to use it as a protractor
- 20 Command (Mac) Control (Win) click on the new layer icon on the Layers palette to create a new adjustment layer
Shift Command “N” creates a new layer
- 21 Dragging linked layers from one document window to another moves all linked layers
Linking layers allows pasting of layer effects to linked and transforming them together
- 22 To set the opacity of a layer, with the move tool or selection tool, select the layer and type the number
If you have a painting tool highlighted it will change the opacity of the tool
Type quickly to use precise opacities like 65
- 23 Shift adds to a selection and or constrains a selection
Option (Mac)/Alt (Win) subtracts from a selection
Option (Mac)/Alt (Win) Shift intersects a selection
- 24 Use the Command (Mac) Control (Win) key on the layer to load a layer as a selection
Load two layers as one selection using Shift to add, Command (Mac) Control (Win) to subtract, Shift Command (Mac) Control (Win) to intersect
- 25 With the move or selection tools selected, Shift + and - cycles through blend modes
- 26 Select All >Edit Crop to eliminate big data on the pasteboard

Performance Issues

- 1 Remove the tilde (~) from in front of the plug in for the enable async I/O PIM and speed up reading the file from the disk (read the read me for more information on older systems)
- 2 In the saving preferences, don’t include composite image with layered files unless necessary
- 3 Close unnecessary files when possible

