

Masking adjustment layers

Adding an adjustment layer such as Photo Filter and then painting on the layer mask can be of great use to make subtle changes to only portions of a photo. But it can be a challenge to see what you're doing when you're masking, so try this: Put the setting (in this case Density) in the adjustment layer very high until the color change is overly obvious, and then paint on the mask. Finally, double-click on the adjustment layer in the Layers panel to lower the setting to an appropriate amount.

Reset Camera Raw sliders

In Camera Raw you can reset any slider to the default setting by double-clicking on the slider control knob.

One-click actions

A great way to take advantage of actions is to record very simple, one-step operations that you use all the time, such as adding a white stroke layer style, rotating 10%, or scaling 20% smaller. Record each of these as an independent action and then change the Actions panel to Button mode. Now each of your actions can be applied with one click of a button.

Open JPEGs in Camera Raw

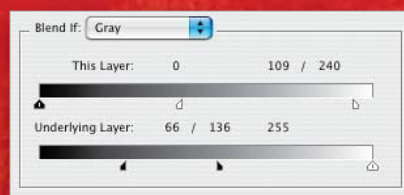
As of Photoshop CS3, you can open and work with JPEGs and TIFFs in Camera Raw. There are a number of ways to do this, but the simplest method is to Control-click (PC: Right-click) on the file in Bridge, and then from the contextual menu, choose Open in Camera Raw. (To make Camera Raw the default for JPEGs that you've already edited in Camera Raw, go to the Camera Raw preferences and check the box that says Always Open JPEG Files with Settings Using Camera Raw.)



DAVE CROSS

Unusual color tint

A variety of interesting effects can be achieved by adding a Black & White adjustment layer and then using the Blend If sliders. (From the Add a Layer Style pop-up menu, choose Blending Options). As you drag the This Layer and the Underlying Layer sliders, you'll see portions of the original color image starting to show through.



Change adjustment layers

If you've added an adjustment layer and painted a mask, you don't need to repaint the mask if you decide to change to a different adjustment layer. Just go to the Layer menu to Change Layer Content and pick the new adjustment layer—the layer mask will be preserved.

Zoomify

One often-overlooked function in Photoshop CS3 is Zoomify. If you want to add

a high-resolution image—or a pano—to your website, Zoomify will create a file that your visitors can zoom and scroll. Just use File>Export>Zoomify, choose your settings, and upload the resulting files to your Web server.

Explore quadtone presets

If you're printing your own black-and-white images, take some time to experiment with the Quadtone presets. First convert your document to grayscale (Image>Mode>Grayscale) and then from the Image>Mode menu choose Duotone. In that dialog, pick Quadtone and then click the Load button (be sure to navigate to the Duotones folder in the Presets folder of your application folder). Load one of the presets from the Quadtones folder to create a dramatic black-and-white look (the presets use multiple colors, so don't send the file to a print shop thinking it's a one-color job, 'cuz it ain't!).



Editing keyboard shortcuts

Although it's easy to change keyboard shortcuts (Edit>Keyboard Shortcuts), the challenge can be to find shortcuts that aren't already in use. One solution is to replace shortcuts you never use. For example, Shift-Command-L (PC: Shift-Ctrl-L) is currently assigned to Auto Levels, a command most people don't use. As you're looking for useable shortcuts, think about the commands you never use and apply these shortcuts to commands that you wish had a shortcut.

Adjusting layer masks

If you've painted with gray on a layer mask and then want to experiment with lighter and darker shades of gray on the mask, use Levels (Command-L [PC: Ctrl-L]). Move the midtone triangle in the center to the left or right to change the shade of the gray paint on the mask.

Pen selections

If you like the accuracy of drawing with the Pen tool (P), but the flexibility of working with a selection, then check this out. When you draw a path with the Pen tool, you can turn it into a selection by pressing Command-Return (PC: Ctrl-Enter). Your path will still be in the Paths panel but you'll also have a selection.

Mergin' copies

Let's say you have a graphic you want to copy-and-paste into another document but your graphic is made up of several layers. No sweat. Just make a selection around the graphic and choose Edit>Copy Merged. Photoshop will copy everything inside of the selection regardless of which layer is selected. Then just paste it into the new document.

Goin' global

Layer styles are awesome. Just don't forget that, by default, the Use Global Light setting is turned on. So if you adjust the lighting in one layer style, all layer styles on all layers will change. If that's not what you want, then turn off the Use Global Light setting for the layer styles that you don't want to change.



Quick text control

When you're working with text in Photoshop, remember that many of the major settings have keyboard shortcuts. For example:

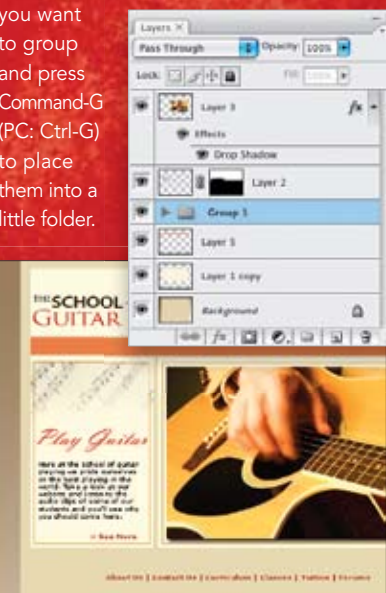
- To increase/decrease the size of your text, press Shift-Command (PC: Shift-Ctrl) and the >/< key. Throw in the Option (PC: Alt) key to increase/decrease by a larger amount each time.
- To increase/decrease the spacing between each letter in the text (a.k.a. kerning), press Option-Right/Left Arrow (PC: Alt-Right/Left Arrow). Throw in the

Command (PC: Ctrl) key to do it by a larger amount.

- When editing text, you can jump the cursor to the beginning or end of a line by pressing Command-Up/Down Arrow (PC: Ctrl-Up/Down Arrow), respectively.

Form a group

If you haven't tried out layer groups yet, then you have to for two reasons: (1) Groups help make sense out of your Layers panel, and (2) they help you move similar layers around without having to always select all the layers. Just select the layers you want to group and press Command-G (PC: Ctrl-G) to place them into a little folder.



Quick switch

Every time I teach Photoshop, someone asks what the keyboard shortcut is for quickly switching between open applications. On the Mac, hold the Command key (PC: Alt key) and press Tab. You'll see a pop-up window showing all open applications. Just keep pressing Tab until the application you want is highlighted.

Reselection time

Ever make a selection, deselect, and realize later that you needed the selection back but didn't save it? You could undo and hope there are enough undo states to get back to your selection, but try this first: Go under the Select menu and choose Reselect. It will

bring back the last selection. Depending on what you've done in Photoshop since you originally made the selection, Reselect may not be an option, but it's worth a try.

Shape constraints

Don't wrestle around with your text trying to get it to appear as if it's constrained by a particular shape. Instead, you can use any of the Shape tools to create a shape layer, then grab your Type tool, click inside the shape, and start typing. Photoshop will fit your type in the boundaries of the shape regardless of line breaks, font style, or size.

Capture color

If you've ever been working on a design and then came across a color, say on a webpage, that you thought would be perfect for what you're working on, then this tip is for you. First, position your Photoshop canvas and whatever window has the color in it so you can see both of them onscreen. Then select the Eyedropper tool, click-and-hold on your canvas, drag the tool over the color regardless of where it is onscreen, and release your mouse button.

Finding Pantone

Want a quick way to find the approximate Pantone color for a color in your image? First, use the Eyedropper tool (I) to select the color. Then, click the Foreground color swatch at the bottom of the Toolbox to open the Color Picker. Click on the Color Libraries button on the right and you'll see the approximate color swatch for whichever Pantone library is selected in the top pop-up menu. To get back to the Color Picker just click the Picker button.

