

# Photoshop Tools Review

**Pen tool and Vector masks:** A vector mask is a resolution independent path that clips out the contents of the layer. Vector masks are usually more accurate than those created with pixel-based tools. You create vector masks with the pen or shapes tools. *To add a vector mask that shows the contents of a shape.; In the Layers panel, select the layer to which you want to add a vector mask.; Select a path, or use one of the shape or Pen tools to draw a work path.; Click the Vector Mask button in the Masks panel, or choose Layer > Vector Mask > Current Path.*

**Clone stamp tool:** The Clone Stamp tool paints one part of an image over another part of the same image or over another part of any open document that has the same color mode. You can also paint part of one layer over another layer. The Clone Stamp tool is useful for duplicating objects or removing a defect in an image.

**Opacity/Fill Opacity:** The Fill slider affects only the layers content. The Opacity slider affects the entire layer, including any effects, such as drop shadow, inner glow, etc. The difference is in when it comes to layer styles.

**Black & White Adjustment:** Allows you to easily make a color image appear grayscale and then apply other effects from there without harming the original pixels.

**Custom Gradient:** <http://etutorials.org/Adobe/How+to+use+Photoshop+7/Part+8.+Drawing+Painting+and+Filling+with+Color/Task+11+How+to+Create+Custom+Gradients/>  
The Gradient tool creates a gradual blend between multiple colors. You can choose from preset gradient fills or create your own.

**Bevel & Emboss, Outer glow, or Color Overlay:** Layer Styles <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z2eG54xZcoU>

**Levels Adjustment:** TUTORIALS: PHOTOSHOP LEVELS. Levels is a tool in Photoshop and other image editing programs which can move and stretch the brightness levels of an image histogram. It has the power to adjust brightness, contrast, and tonal range by specifying the location of complete black, complete white, and midtones in a histogram.

**Hue/Saturation Adjustment:** An adjustment layer to change all or some colors  
<http://www.designpanoply.com/blog/how-to-adjust-specific-colors-with-hue-saturation-adjustment-layers-in-photoshop>

**Content-Aware Move tool:** <https://design.tutsplus.com/tutorials/how-to-use-the-content-aware-move-tool-in-photoshop-cs6--psd-16445>  
Content Aware Move will allow you to select pixels and move or extend them to another area of your image without the use of layers and masks.

**Blending Mode:** Blend modes (or Mixing modes) in digital image editing and computer graphics are used to determine how two layers are blended into each other. The default blend mode in most applications is simply to hide the lower layer with whatever is present in the top layer.

**Smart Filters:** Any filter applied to a Smart Object is a Smart Filter. Smart Filters appear in the Layers panel below the Smart Object layer to which they are applied. Because you can adjust, remove, or hide Smart Filters, they are nondestructive.

**Drop Shadow or Stroke:** A Layer Style Effect <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dui6byNnsOg>

**Vector Shape tools:** <https://helpx.adobe.com/photoshop/how-to/photoshop-vector-shape-tools.html>  
Nonresolution dependent shapes created in Photoshop.

**Art history Brush tool:** The Art History Brush tool paints with stylized strokes, using the source data from a specified history state or snapshot. By experimenting with different paint style, size, and tolerance options, you can simulate the texture of painting with different colors and artistic styles.  
<https://helpx.adobe.com/photoshop/using/painting-stylized-strokes-art-history.html>

**Photo Filter:** You can use filters to clean up or retouch your photos, apply special art effects that give your image the appearance of a sketch or impressionistic painting, or create unique transformations using distortions and lighting effects. The filters provided by Adobe appear in the Filter menu.

**Spot Healing Brush tool:** The Spot Healing Brush tool quickly removes blemishes and other imperfections in your photos. The Spot Healing Brush works similarly to the Healing Brush: it paints with sampled pixels from an image or pattern and matches the texture, lighting, transparency, and shading of the sampled pixels to the pixels being healed. Unlike the Healing Brush, the Spot Healing Brush doesn't require you to specify a sample spot. The Spot Healing Brush automatically samples from around the retouched area.

**Sponge tool:** The sponge tool is an amazing but not a well known tool that is incredibly useful. It allows you to chose a brush to desaturate or saturate a certain area on a picture. For those of you who do not know, desaturate is to take color away and to saturate is to add more color or brighten a picture.

**Mixer Brush tool:** The Mixer Brush simulates realistic painting techniques such as mixing colors on the canvas, combining colors on a brush, and varying paint wetness across a stroke.  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gUakdrSAwWY>

**Crop and Straighten:** Cropping is the process of removing portions of a photo to create focus or strengthen the composition. Use the Crop tool to crop and straighten photos in Photoshop. The Crop tool is non-destructive, and you can choose to retain the cropped pixels to optimize the crop boundaries later. The Crop tool also provides intuitive methods to straighten a photo while cropping.

**Patch tool:** The Patch tool is used to remove unwanted image elements. The Content-Aware option in the Patch tool synthesizes nearby content for seamless blending with the surrounding content.  
<https://helpx.adobe.com/photoshop/using/content-aware-patch-move.html>

**Vertical Type tool:** Creates and edits vector-based text in a separate layer.

**Custom Brushes:** The Brush Settings panel lets you modify existing brushes and design new custom brushes. The Brush Settings panel contains the brush tip options that determine how paint is applied to an image. The brush stroke preview at the bottom of the panel shows how paint strokes look with the current brush options. <https://helpx.adobe.com/photoshop/using/creating-modifying-brushes.html>

**Healing Brush tool:** The Healing Brush tool lets you correct imperfections, causing them to disappear into the surrounding image. Like the cloning tools, you use the Healing Brush tool to paint with sampled pixels from an image or pattern. However, the Healing Brush tool also matches the texture, lighting, transparency, and shading of the sampled pixels to the pixels being healed. As a result, the repaired pixels blend seamlessly into the rest of the image. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q2aRd3VFs68>

**Dodge tool:** The Dodge tool lightens areas of the image. This tool is based on a traditional darkroom

technique for regulating exposure on specific areas of a print. Photographers hold back light to lighten an area on the print (dodging). The more you paint over an area with the Dodge tool, the lighter it becomes. You could use this to lighten teeth or eyes.

**Transform:** Transforming scales, rotates, skews, stretches, or warps an image. You can apply transformations to a selection, an entire layer, multiple layers, or a layer mask. You can also apply transformations to a path, a vector shape, a vector mask, a selection border, or an alpha channel. Transforming affects image quality when you manipulate the pixels. To apply non-destructive transformations to raster images, use Smart Objects.