

FIX PHOTOS FAST



with
ACTIONS



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Actions: Fix Photos Fast! Pre-Class Videos

Brush Tool Basics

Whether you use the Brush tool to paint on a layer or to paint on a layer mask, it helps to understand the basics of how to use the Brush tool.

- The keyboard shortcut for the Brush tool is the letter B.
- In Tool Options (which may be at the top of your desktop or at the bottom, depending on your program and version), you'll find the Brush Preset Picker where you can choose the kind of brush you want to use. There are soft, hard, and specialty brushes.
- Use the sliders to adjust the Size and the Opacity.
- The Mode should be Normal.
- The Brush tool is what you use to paint on a layer mask or on a layer.
- If you plan to paint on a layer, always create a new layer first. To do that, in the Layers panel, click on the Create a New Layer icon. Painting on a separate layer gives you the ability to make adjustments.

Brush Shortcuts

- Press the right Bracket key to make your brush larger.
- Press the left Bracket key to make your brush smaller.
- Press Shift with the right Bracket key to make the brush harder. There are five levels of hardness for brushes. Each time you press Shift and click on the right Bracket key, your brush gets one level harder until you reach the maximum hardness.
- Press Shift with the left Bracket key to make the brush softer. There are five levels of softness for brushes. Each time you press Shift and press the left Bracket key, your brush gets one level softer until you reach maximum softness.

Brush Lines

- To create a perfectly vertical or horizontal line with the Brush tool, click and hold, press Shift, and drag in the direction you want to go.
- To create a diagonal line, click and let go of the mouse, press Shift, and click again.

Opacity Shortcuts

- Press any number to make your brush partially transparent. For example, pressing 5 will reduce your brush opacity to 50%. Pressing 8 reduces the opacity to 80%.
- Pressing two numbers in rapid succession gives you that percentage, e.g. 5 and 5 gives you 55%, 4 and 8 gives you 48%, and 05 gives you 5%.
- Pressing 0 gives you 100%

Note: These opacity shortcuts work with any tool that has a brush with an Opacity slider, such as the Eraser, the Clone Stamp tool, the Pencil tool, etc. If the active tool does not have an Opacity slider, these shortcuts will affect the opacity of the active layer in the Layers panel.

It's really worth learning the shortcuts for the Brush tool because so many tools have a brush, and these shortcuts make working with a brush so much easier!