



Quick Start Guide - Adobe Photoshop 2024

Program, Panels, Preferences & Tool Options

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Get a quick start with Adobe Photoshop 2024 and get in sync with your instructor in five easy steps.

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Quick Reference (Follow the Step-by-Step Instructions below.)

- Step One: Set the Workspace Background to Default.
- Step Two: Close all panels except the Layers panel. Widen the Layers panel. Create a new workspace called Digital Scrapper.
- Step Three: In the Panel Options of the Layers panel, choose Medium, Layer Bounds, and uncheck all options except Preview on Canvas.
- Step Four: In the Tool Options of the Move tool, uncheck Auto-Select, but check Show Transform Controls.
- Step Five: In Preferences, in General, uncheck both Auto Show the Home Screen and Always Create Smart Objects When Placing. In Tools, uncheck Show Rich Tooltips, Enable Gestures, Overscroll, and Enable Flick Panning. In File Handling, check Enable Legacy “Save As.” In the warning dialog box, click OK. Click on the dropdown menu next to Maximize PSD File Compatibility and choose Always. In Units & Rulers, click on the dropdown menu next to Rulers and choose Inches.

Step-by-Step Instructions

Go to the Application

- Open Adobe Photoshop 2024.
- From the Home Screen, click on the PS icon in the top-left corner to open the application.

NOTE: I'll be showing you how to bypass the Home Screen in the next step.

How To Reset Preferences (Recommended, but Optional)

- Press Ctrl K (Mac: Cmd K) to open Preferences.
- In the General tab, click on Reset All Warning Dialogs.
- Click OK to close the warning dialog.
- Click on Reset Preferences On Quit.
- Click OK to close the warning dialog.

NOTE: Resetting Preferences will not remove previously installed styles or actions.

- Click OK to close Preferences.
- Close Adobe Photoshop 2024 (Ctrl/Cmd Q).
- Open Adobe Photoshop 2024.
- From the Home Screen, click on the PS icon to open the application.

Quick Start Step One: Set Up the Background

- In the Menu Bar, choose File > New.
- In the dialog box, click Create. The size of the file is irrelevant.
- Right click (Mac: Ctrl click) on the gray area around the document to get a menu and choose Default. If you don't see any gray area, press Ctrl/Cmd - to zoom out.

Quick Start Step Two: Create a Custom Workspace

NOTE: To open new panels, in the Menu Bar, choose Window and choose a panel to open.

- Right click (Mac: Ctrl click) on the tab of the Color panel and choose Close Tab Group.
- Right click (Mac: Ctrl click) on the tab of the Properties panel and choose Close Tab Group.
- Right click (Mac: Ctrl click) on the tab of the Channels panel and choose Close.
- Right click (Mac: Ctrl click) on the tab of the Paths panel and choose Close.
- Right click (Mac: Ctrl click) on the tab of the History panel and choose Close.
- Right click (Mac: Ctrl click) on the tab of the Comments panel and choose Close.
- Hover your cursor over the left edge of the Layers panel until you see a horizontal, double-headed arrow, then click and drag to the left to widen the panel.
- In the Menu Bar, choose Window > Workspace > New Workspace.
- In the dialog box, set the Name to Digital Scrapper. Under Capture, place a checkmark next to Keyboard Shortcuts, Menus, and Toolbar. Click Save.

Quick Start Step Three: Adjust the Behavior of the Layers Panel

- In the Layers panel, click on the flyout menu and choose Panel Options.
- In the dialog box, set the Thumbnail Size to Medium and the Thumbnail Contents to Layer Bounds. Uncheck Use Default Masks on Fill Layers, Expand New Effects, and Add "Copy" to Copied Layers and Groups. Keep Preview on Canvas checked. Click OK.

Quick Start Step Four: Adjust the Behavior of the Move Tool

- Get the Move tool.
- In the Tool Options, uncheck Auto-Select Layer, but check Show Transform Controls.

Quick Start Step Five: Adjust the Preferences

- Press Ctrl K (Mac: Cmd K) to open Preferences.
 - In General, uncheck both Auto Show the Home Screen and Always Create Smart Objects When Placing.
 - In Tools, uncheck Show Rich Tooltips, Enable Gestures, Overscroll, and Enable Flick Panning.
- NOTE: Your instructor will have Show Tooltips disabled to reduce distraction, but I recommend keeping it turned on while you are learning the program.
- In File Handling, check Enable Legacy “Save As.” If you get a warning dialog box, click OK. Click on the dropdown menu next to Maximize PSD File Compatibility and choose Always.
 - In Units & Rulers, click on the dropdown menu next to Rulers and choose Inches.
 - Click OK to close Preferences.

Close the working document (File > Close) without saving.