## PHOTOSHOP: THE BASICS

## Types of Images - Bitmap

- Made up of small color squares called pixels
- The number of pixels in an image can range from a few hundred to millions
- The image will become distorted if you zoom in (like the image to the right)



## Types of Images - Animated Bitmap

- A set of bitmap images that play in sequence.
- Usually loops
- Impractical for long animations
- Used to made banner ads



## Types of Images - Vector

- A visual representation of numerical lines and curves - sometimes filled in with color
- Does not distort when zoomed in
- Very useful for representing text



## Image Modes - Colors: Grayscale

- Each pixel can only represent black, white or a shade of gray
- Creates much smaller image files
- Not all pictures that appear black and white are done in grayscale



## Image Modes - Colors: Indexed Color

- These images contain a listing (index) of all the colors used
- File size is reduced, but with a loss of precision
- More useful for small images
- The gif file format uses indexed color



## Image Modes - Colors: RGB

- RGB (or Red, Green, Blue) is the color system modern monitors use to display
- Most images intended for use on a computer are RGB images
- Red, Green, and Blue are the three primary colors in light (not Red, Yellow, and Blue)
- RGB is an additive color model because colors are added to a black base



## Image Modes - Colors: CMYK

- CMYK (Cyan, Magenta, Yellow, and Black) is most commonly used for printing
- It is a subtractive color model, because the colors are darkening the white background
- Photoshop can convert an image from RGB to CMYK and back easily, but with a possible loss of
 information


## Image Modes - Channels

- In Photoshop, color information about an image is separated into channels; RGB images have three channels, CMYK images have four
- Outside of Photoshop, color modes are often referred to by the total number of bits per pixel for example 8-bit color is capable of displaying 256 different colors



## Image Modes - Channels: 8 bits / channel

- The range of colors available depends on how long the binary numbers used to represent each pixel are
- 8 bits per channel (a.k.a. 24-bit color) is adequate for candid
 digital photos or desktop backgrounds


## Image Modes - Channels: 16 bits / channel

- 16 bits per channel allows for a much greater range of color
- These images take up much more space on a hard drive
- Many file formats do not support 16bit color including jpg, gif, and pct Converting from 16 to 8-bit color is a lossy transformation - information is permanently discarded


## Image Modes - Channels: 32 bits / channel

- 32-bit color is a misnomer, it is actually 24-bit color with the remaining 8 bits used to store alpha information
- Alpha information can define parts of an image as transparent, and unlike transparent gifs, there can be partial transparency


## Photoshop Notes

- Photoshop is made by Adobe and is currently in version 10 (a.k.a. CS3) - it has been around a long time and has improved a lot since its inception
- It is the industry standard for bitmap picture editing, nothing else comes close
- Photoshop can be very resource intensive depending on how large the images you're working with are - lots of RAM (> 1 GB ) is very helpful
- Almost any action in Photoshop can be undone. In fact you can step backwards many times. Try using the History Palette (Window -> History)

The Photoshop File Format (.psd)

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- Photoshop has its own type of image files, the PhotoShop Document or PSD
- PSDs are very flexible, can use any color mode, and can have 8,16 , or 32 -bit color
- They can also get quite large, up to hundreds of megabytes
- PSDs are the only file format that can save layers
- Typically, a Photoshop user will save their project as a PSD, then export into other file formats

The Photoshop Interface


## Toolbar Finding hidden tools

- Many of the tools in the toolbar share a location with other related tools
- Left-click and hold the mouse button down to bring up all the related tools
- If using a shortcut key, hold down shift and hit the key repeatedly to cycle through the tools



## Toolbar Shortcut keys

- In many cases, it is faster and easier to type shortcut keys than to go through a menu
- When using the menus, Photoshop displays shortcuts to the right of the item which they are assigned to
- Navigation is one of the most important uses of the keyboard:
- Spacebar + click and drag to pan around the image.
- Ctrl + Spacebar + left click to zoom in
- Ctrl + Alt + Spacebar + left click to zoom out


## Toolbar <br> Brush Tool (B)

- The Brush tool paints a consistent solid color over the image
- This is not usually desirable when working with photographs
- With experience, useful techniques can be discovered



## Toolbar Brush Presets

- On the menu bar at the top of the screen there is a thumbnail of your current brush with the size (in pixels) below it
- Clicking on the thumbnail will open the brush presets and sliders that allow you to control the size and Hardness of the brush

File Edit Image Layer Select Filter Analysis View Window Hel


## Toolbar <br> Color Picker

- There are many ways to choose a color in Photoshop
- Near the bottom of the tools palate are two overlapping squares - the foreground and background colors.
- Click on the square on the top left to bring up a color picker



## Toolbar Gradient Tool (G)

- The Gradient Tool creates an even fade from one color into transparency or another color
- The menu bar has options for colors as well as shapes
- By default the foreground and background colors are used



## Palette <br> Navigator

- The Navigator palette shows the whole image, even when you are zoomed in
- Dragging the red square around the palette will pan your view of the image
- The slider at the bottom controls your zoom level



## Palette <br> Layers: New

- Layers are parts of images that are stacked on top of each other and affect the images below them
- Complex images can have many layers interacting in different ways
- To create a new layer, click the icon at the bottom of the layers palette, as shown here



## Palette <br> Layers: Delete

- To delete a layer, highlight it on the layers palette, then click on the trash can icon at the bottom
- Note that there must always be at least one layer present.



## Palette Layers: Folders

- If the number of layers becomes unwieldy, layers can be put into folders
- Click the folders button to create a new folder
- Double click folder and layer names to rename them



## Palette <br> Layers: Transparency

- Any layer except the background can be made transparent
- Select the layer you wish to alter on the layers palette, then adjust the opacity $0 \%$ is invisible, $100 \%$ is fully opaque



## Toolbar <br> Eraser (E)

- The Eraser Tool does exactly what it sounds like - however, it will not work on the Background layer
- The grid of gray and white squares indicates that there is no color information on that part of the image
- Lower layers will show through erased areas



## Palette <br> Layers: Styles

- There are many ways for overlapping layers to interact
- A partially transparent upper layer can be altered by bring up the styles menu (Layer -> Layer Style)
- The General Blending Options allows you to "soften" or "harden" upper layers
- The only way to learn what an option does is to try it!



## Palette <br> Layers: Filters

- Filters are powerful algorithms that alter the image in a variety of ways
- The Filter Gallery (Filter menu) allows you to preview how a filter would look applied to the current layer
- Filters are often overused by beginners, try to use them to achieve a goal, not just for their own sake



## Toolbar <br> Type Tool

- Compositing text and images is a very common use for Photoshop
- Click on an image with the Type Tool and begin typing to add text
- Clicking and dragging restricts the text to a rectangular area



## Toolbar Type Tool

- When you are done typing, you must click the check box (or Ctrl + Enter) to commit the changes
- Clicking the 'no' symbol (or hitting the Escape key) will exit the tool without any changes being made
- Basic formatting tools are on the menu bar



## Selections: Marquee Tool (M)

- The Marquee Tool is used to select an area evenly
- The tool has rectangular and elliptical modes
- While a rectangle is selected choosing crop (Image -> Crop) will cut out the unselected part of the image



## Selections: Magic Wand Tool (W)

- The Magic Wand Tool allows to select colors that are similar to a chosen color
- Clicking anywhere on the image will select pixels that are "similar" to the chosen pixel, as defined by the tolerance value
- Shift clicking will add new selections to the current selection



## Selections:

 Other Tools- To invert the selection on an image go to Select -> Inverse
- To select the area covered by a particular layer, hold down Ctrl and click on the thumbnail portion of the layer on the Layers Palette
- Selection tools can complement each other - with any selection tool active holding down Shift will add to the selection, holding down Alt will subtract from the selection


## Image Adjustments: Color Balance

- This palette (Image -> Adjustments -> Color Balance or $\mathrm{Ctrl}+\mathrm{B}$ ) is very useful for adjusting the overall colors in an image or selection
- The controls are divided into Shadows, Midtones, and Highlights, so adjustments will effect dark and light areas differently



## Image Adjustments:

Brightness/Contrast

- A simple but useful tool (Image ->
Adjustments -> Brightness/Contrast)
- Increasing the contrast can make an image "pop"
- Decreasing the contrast will made an image look faded



## Image Adjustments: <br> Curves

- An incredibly powerful tool (Ctrl + M)
- The diagonal line represents the transition from dark (bottom left) to light (upper right)
- Dragging a point in the line will effect pixels at that level of brightness more
- For example, clicking near the top of the line and dragging down would make the lightest pixels darker
- Clicking on the line (without dragging) allows you to place more points



## Image Adjustments: Levels

- One of the most useful and powerful tools in Photoshop (Ctrl + L)
- Like the Curves tool, left to right here represents the actual distribution of pixels (by brightness) in the current image
- The three control points below the graph can be dragged to adjust the brightness of each area
- Clicking on the Auto button makes Photoshop guess how to adjust the image



## Image Adjustments: Hue/Saturation

- Another useful tool (Ctrl + U)
- Hue is the exact color (Red-Orange vs. Orange)
- Saturation is the amount of color for that hue (e.g. the difference between red and pink)
- Lightness is the relative brightness of the color
- These are very important and commonly used digital color terms



## Toolbar <br> Dodge \& Burn (O)

- Dodge and Burn simulate traditional tools used in photography
- They can be used to create highlights and shadows while maintaining the appearance of an unedited photograph
- Good brush selection is key



## Toolbar Blur (R)

- The Blur tool removes detail
- It can be used to "soften" an image, smooth human skin, and blur sharp edges
- It's best to zoom out frequently when using this tool to see the effect on the whole image



## Toolbar <br> Rubber Stamp (S)

- The Rubber Stamp Tool copies information from one part of an image to another via a brush
- Hold down Alt and click to set the source area then click elsewhere on the image to paint
- Skillful use of this tool can make unwanted parts of images disappear
- Try using the tool with less than $100 \%$ opacity (set on the menu bar)



## Image Adjustments: Image Size

- Image size (Image -> Image Size) is a critical aspect of all digital images, and can be adjusted via this tool
- Pixel Dimensions are the more important part, Document Size is for printing
- Constrain Proportions should be checked in most cases



## Image Adjustments: Canvas Size

- If an the area around an image needs to be bigger, it can be adjusted with Canvas Size (Image -> Canvas Size)
- The nine-square box with arrows allows you to choose which direction the image will expand to



## Transformations: Free Transform

- With part of the image or a non-background layer selected, hit Ctrl-T to free transform
- The transformed area can then be moved, rotated, squashed, stretched, and distorted
- Hold down Shift while dragging a corner to size proportionally
- Hitting Enter will commit the changes, Esc will cancel the operation


