

Bry Cox's "Need-to-know" Photoshop Shortcuts

Part of working with Adobe® Photoshop® is knowing your shortcuts so that you can keep your tools and windows hidden (**TAB** key) and work quickly with one hand on the keyboard and one hand on your mouse (or Wacom tablet). There are more shortcuts than these, but these are my most used ones.

Color Palette Shortcuts

- D – Default palette colors back to proper Black & White
- X – Switch palette colors (foreground to background)

Tools Shortcuts

(Holding **Shift** as you hit any of these letters, or click the tool, will select the tool variation or the tool “underneath” on the tool pallet.)

- V – Move Tool (your home base)
- C - Crop
- B – Brush Tool
- J – Heal Tool
- S – Stamp (Clone) Tool
- Y – Desaturate, Dodge, Burn Tools
- M – Marquee Tool
- L – Lasso Tool
- W – Magic Wand Tool
- O – Desaturate, Burn, Dodge
- Y – History Brush, Art History Brush
- T – Text (use the Keypad's Enter key to exit)
- Z – Zoom Key
- I – Eye Dropper
- Q – Quickmask
- U – Shape Tool

Working Shortcuts

- F – Full screen view
- TAB – Hide All Windows
- Spacebar – Move
- [] – Change Brush Sizes

Mouse Scroll Wheel: Zoom in and out in steps

Scroll Wheel (while holding ALT): Zoom in and out FAST

Command Shortcuts

(For PC use CTRL instead of Command, and Alt instead of Option)

File commands

Command-O	Open file
(For PC or Mac with Application Frame turned on, double-click the gray background)	
Command-N	New file
Command-S	Save
Command-Shift-S	Save AS
Command-Shift-Option-S	Save for WEB (optimized)
Command-W	Close current image (Window)
Command-Option-W	Close all open images
Command-Q	Quit Photoshop and Close

Adjustment Commands

Command-L	Levels
Command-Option-L	Repeat previous levels
Command-M	Curves
Command-Option-M	Repeat previous curves
Command-U	Hue/Saturation
Command-Option-U	Repeat previous Hue/Sat

Layer Commands

Command-Shift-Option-N	New Layer
Command-E	Merge down or merge group
Command-Shift-E	Merge visible layers
Command-J	Copy or 'Jump' layer to new layer
Command-Shift-J	Cut and Jump to new layer
Shift + or -	Cycle through blending modes (if Move tool is selected)
Command-DEL	Fill with Background Color (Control-Backspace for PC)
Option-DEL	Fill with Foreground Color (Alt-Backspace for PC)

Selection Commands

Command-A	Select All
Command-D	Deselect
Command-Option-~	Select Highlights (luminosity)
Command-Shift-I	Reverse Selection

(To select shadows, first select highlights, and then reverse selection.)

Other Commands

Command-Z	Undo
Option-Command-Z	Multiple Undo
Command-Tab	Switch Programs in Mac (or Alt-Tab for PC)
Command-Tab	Switch Open Files
Command + or Command -	Zooming In and Out