

Fundamentals of Photoshop

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Layers:

This is the Layers Palette. You can keep most of the various aspects of your project on its own layer.

1. It is good practice to copy the “Background” (the image) before starting a project and do manipulations on the copy therefore leaving the original unaltered.

2 (Green) New Layer Button - creates new layer to add elements to. (Double click on the words “Layer X“ to assign it a name as to keep track of project elements

3 (Red) New Layer Adjustments - make global changes to the image by applying adjustments via Levels, Curves, Hue and Saturation, etc... These layers can be re-adjusted at any time

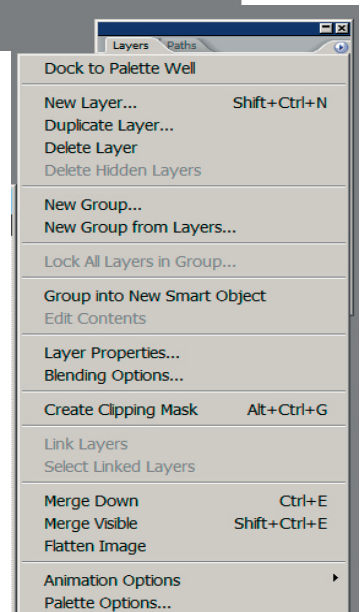
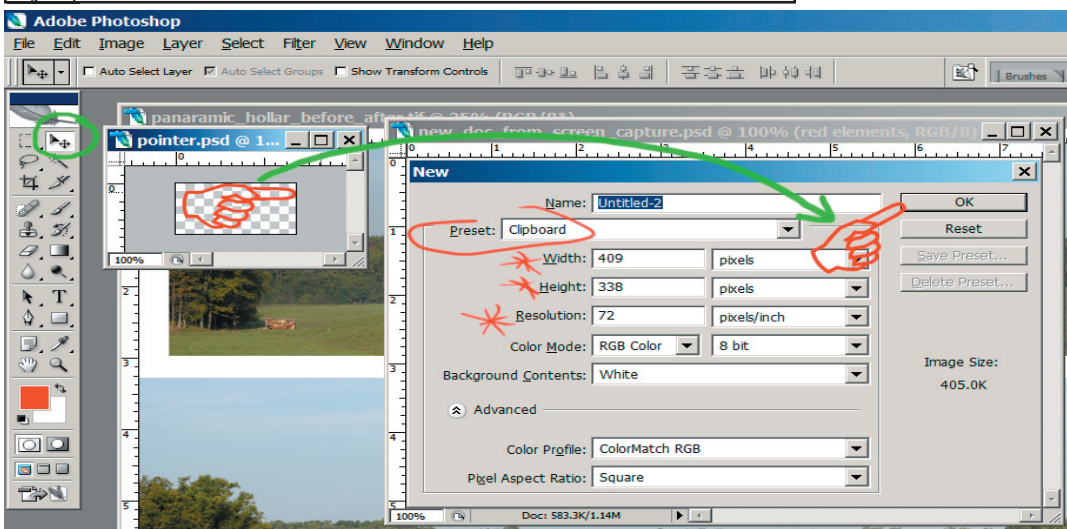
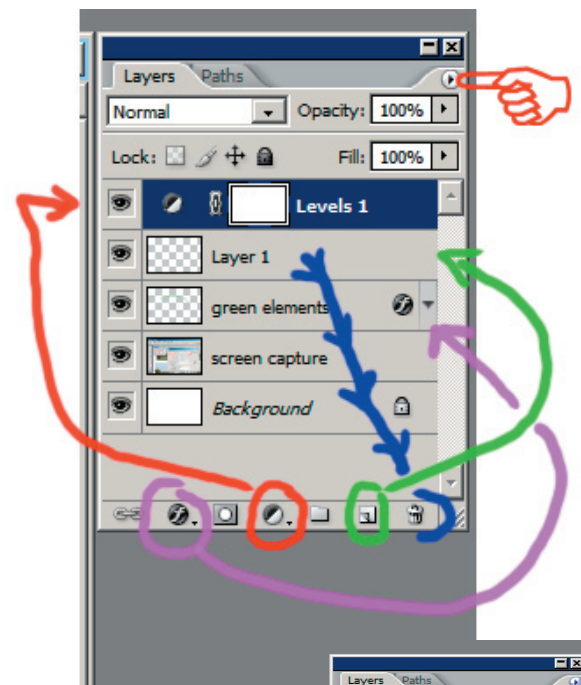
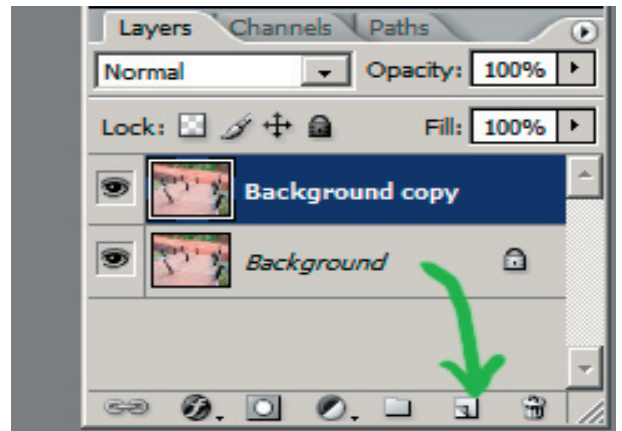
4 (Purple) New Layer Style - apply special visual effects to image elements (Experiment)

5 (Blue) Click and hold any layer and pull it down to the Trash to delete it from the project.

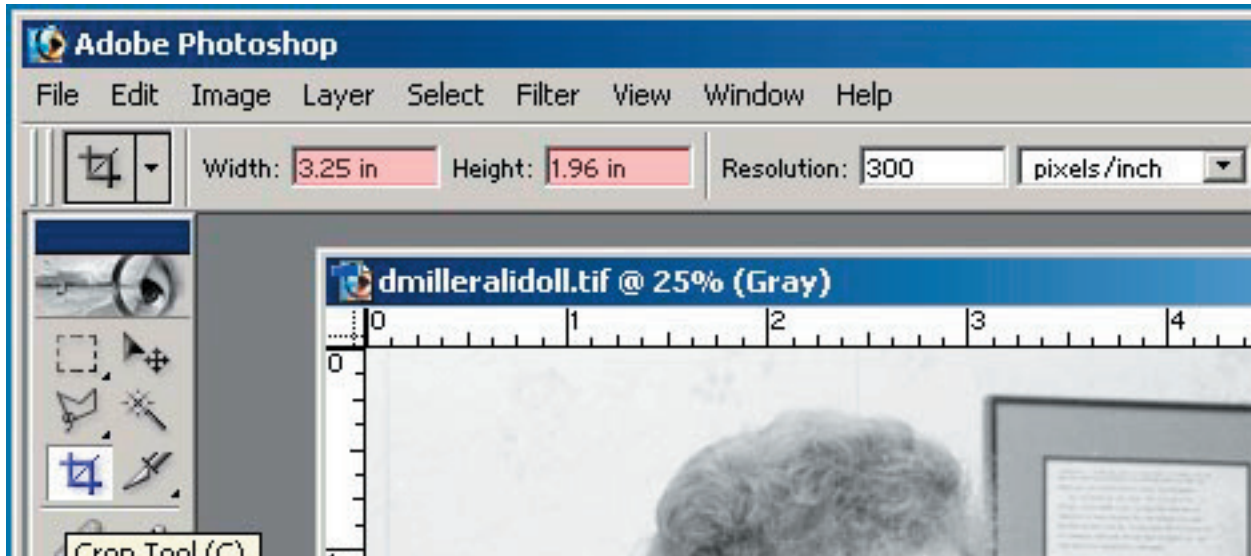
6 (Hand) Show you where the Layers Options are found. (image in right bottom corner)

*Layers can be dragged with the “Move Tool” to other image windows to “copy” that elements into another project!

Poke out the “Eye” and watch the Layer go invisible. Click the empty box to get the “Eye” back (and the visibility of the layer)



Cropping and Resizing:



The Crop Tool allows you to set crops to specific dimensions (by placing values in the fields in the Tools Options bar) or free cropping by leaving the value fields blank. Click hold and pull a cropping box then you will notice the areas of the image outside the box will darken (to help you see what the cropped image will look like) then double click inside the crop box to set the crop. “Save As” and designate the new image as a new version.

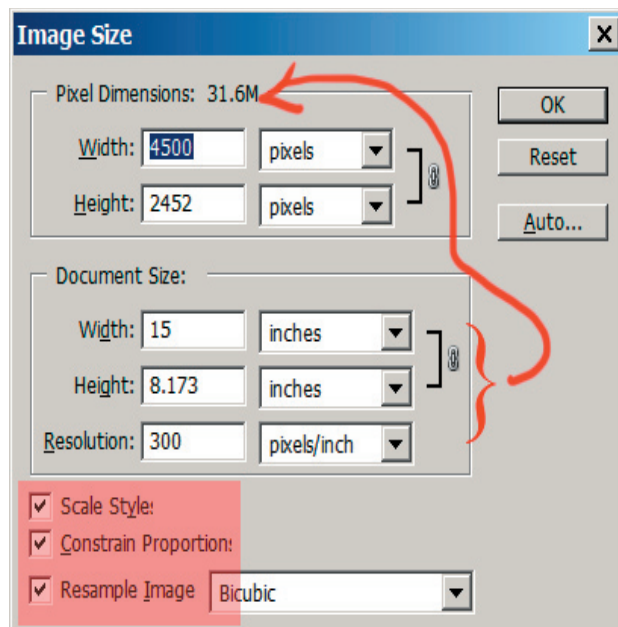
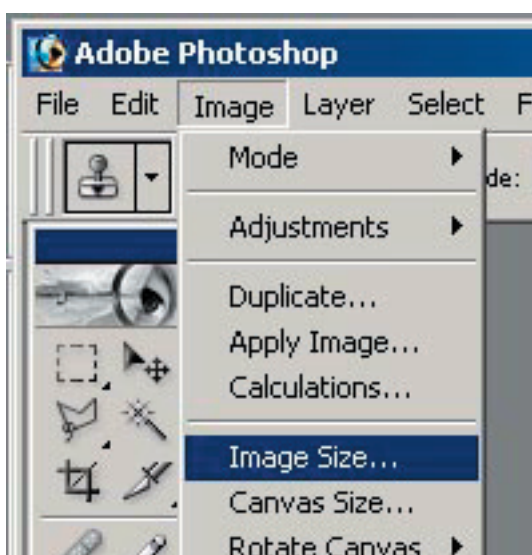
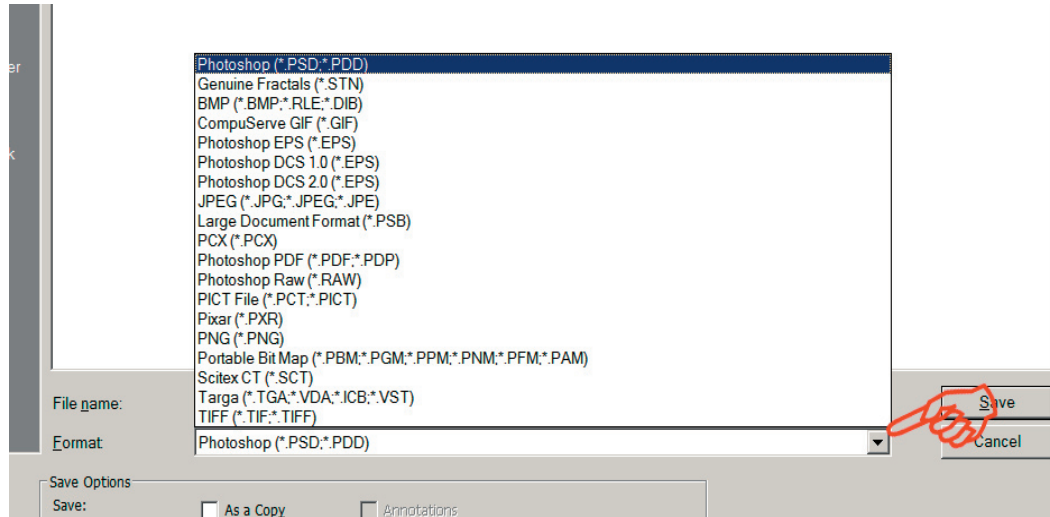


Image Size enables you to alter the overall size (Dimensions and or Resolution) of an image. Keep the three boxes (in the red area) checked and you can change the Resolution of this image to 72ppi (for the web/e-mail) and NOT alter the dimensions. Do a Save As to a .jpg with a medium compression (5-7) and the resulting file size would be only a few hundred K. Un checking any of these boxes might result in a distorted image or one whose end file size is NO different than the original.

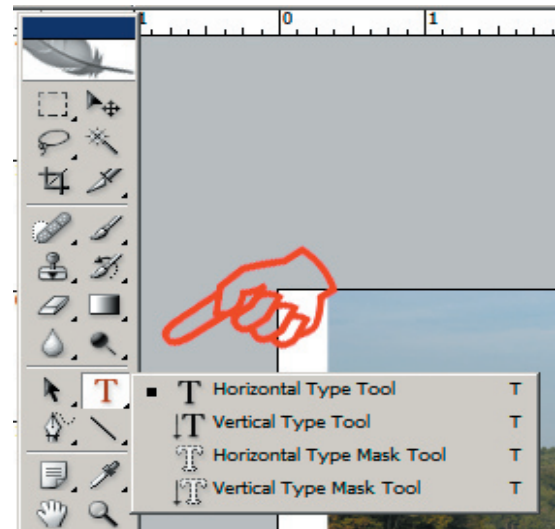
File Formats:

To change the native file format of an image requires a “Save As” this will offer you a window where you can change the location, name of FORMAT of an image. Click on the format field triangle and you will see this list of types (if you don’t check the type of file you have under IMAGE - Mode - and see what color mode is checked. Some image modes (Index color) do not support every format)



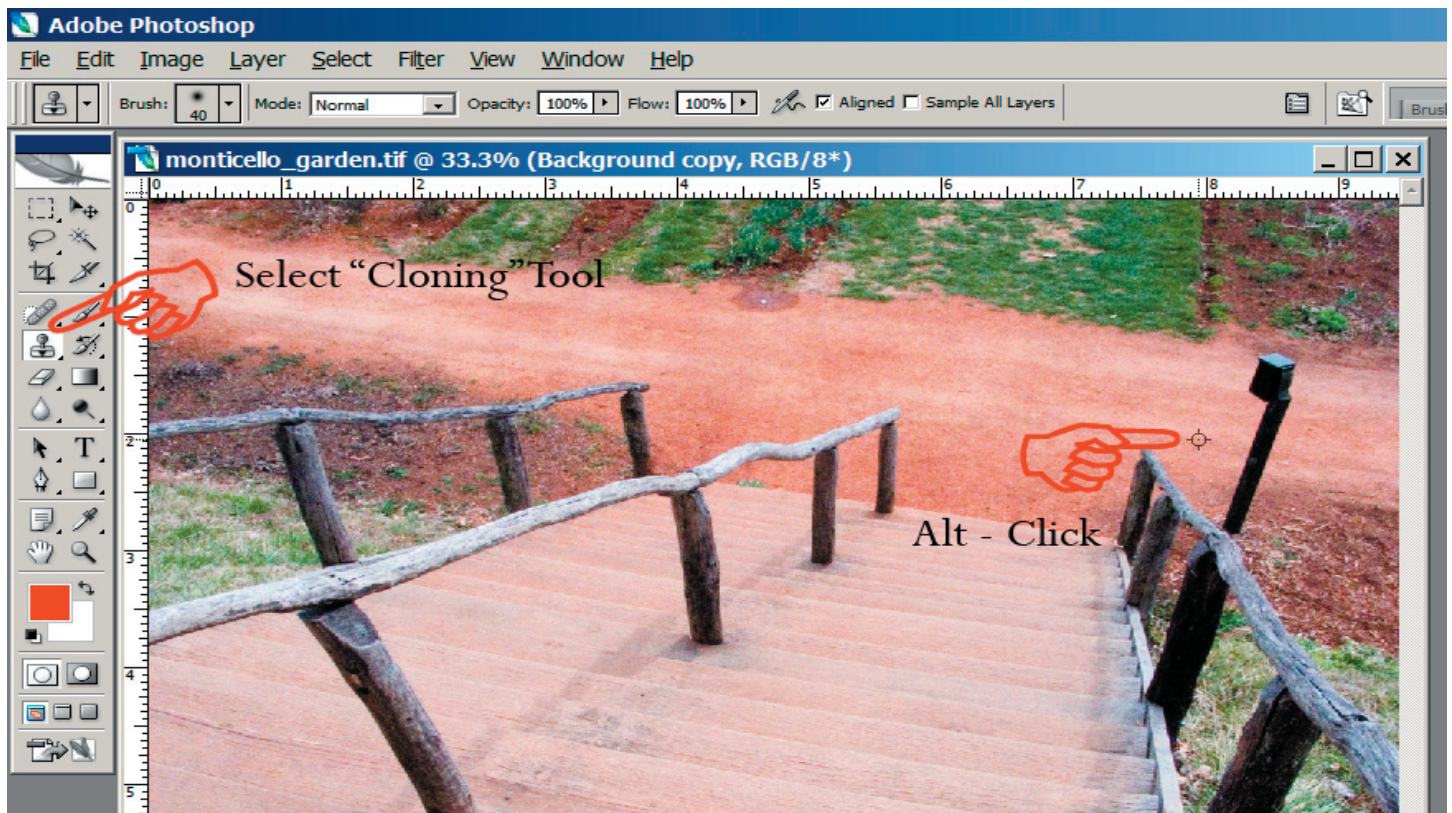
The .PSD is the native Photoshop format. The .TIF is a universal file format best for transferring of HiRes images. The .JPG is the popular web/e-mail format that is compressed for easier use in electronic transfer.

The **Text Tool** is for placing editable text within a project image. Select the “T” from the tool bar and click in the image area. A new Layer with a “T” will appear. Begin typing and letters using the “Foreground Color” will show on the image (make sure your “Foreground color” will show in the area where the text is going). You can create text that goes horizontal or vertical or text “like” selection areas.



Cloning:

Cloning with the Stamp Tool is “Painting with Image” you are moving image pixels from one area and placing them in another in order to cover some unwanted element. Decide the area you want to use as “paint” and hold the Alt - key and click the next time you click the mouse you will be painting with the pixels from the designated area. Making nice blends of pixels takes a lot of practice!!!



Screen Grabs:

To capture the image on your computer screen for use in a presentation as an image just press the **PrtSc** button on the right from your Thinkpad Power button. Open Photoshop and go File - New. The screen grab is in the computer's "clipboard" and PS will offer you a new canvas the exact size of the file in memory. Say OK. Then go to EDIT- PASTE and your image will come in as a new layer.

To capture just a small dialog box hold down the **ALT** key when you press **PrtSc**. Save your new image for later use and further manipulation

