

Essential Photoshop Keyboard Shortcuts; PS7 (Windows)

There are dozens of keyboard shortcuts in Photoshop. It only makes sense to learn most of them if you are a professional digital artist. For the casual user, I recommend learning the following shortcuts to make your digital editing time more efficient and enjoyable.

15 Essential Shortcuts

- 1) **Ctrl Z** – toggles between undo and redo – this has to be the first one you learn!
 - 2) **Ctrl H** – toggles selection outline on/off (also guides) – for an unencumbered view of your image
- Viewing your image:**
- 3) **Spacebar + Click & Drag** – scrolls image -- can be used while almost any tool is selected for easy navigation around a large or magnified image
 - 4) **Double-click hand tool** – fits image in window
 - 5) **Double-click zoom tool** – zooms image to 100% magnification – remember 100% does refer to print size; it means a 1:1 ratio between screen pixels and image pixels!
 - 6) **Tab** – Toggles palettes & toolbar on & off
 - 7) **Shift + any selection tool** – Adds to an existing selection
 - 8) **Alt + any selection tool** – subtracts from existing selection
 - 9) **Shift + drag** – constrains selection to square or circle

Painting and Editing:

- 10) **Any painting tool* + alt** – temporarily accesses eyedropper tool for a quick change in color
- 11) **[or] (Left & right bracket keys)** – Quickly decreases or increases brush size
- 12) **Shift + left & right bracket keys** – Quickly decreases or increases brush softness
- 13) **Caps Lock** – to access cross hair cursor for precise work
- 14) **X** – Switch between foreground & background colors – useful when editing layer masks or quick masks
- 15) **D** – Default black & white color scheme

Nice-to-know Shortcuts

- Alt + Ctrl Z** – steps back through history
- F** – Cycles through screen modes – useful to view your image without clutter
- F5** – Toggles brush palette on/off
- F6** – Toggles color palette on/off
- F7** – Toggles layers palette on/off
- F8** – Toggles info palette on/off

Use the following 6 shortcuts with your image set at large magnification in order to check for small flaws (dust & scratches) before you print:

- Home key** – moves view to upper left corner of image
- Page Down key** – scrolls down 1 screen
- Ctrl - Page Down key** – scrolls right 1 screen
- Page Up key** – scrolls up 1 screen
- Ctrl - Page Up** – scrolls left 1 screen
- End key** – moves view to lower left corner

Ctrl + click on layer thumbnail -- loads layer transparency as selection

Q – Toggles between standard and quick mask modes

Shift key while painting* – constrains to straight line in multiples of 45°

B – Paintbrush tool
S – Clone stamp tool
E – Eraser tool
V – Move tool
M – Rectangular marquee (selection) tool
C – Crop tool; **Enter** to apply crop; **Esc** to abort

*Painting tools include the paintbrush, stamp tool, blur, sharpen & smudge tools, dodge, burn & sponge tools, history brush, & healing brush