

PHOTOSHOP 2: TEXT

Step 1: Download an image from the Web (some are available at <http://sorapure.net/images.html>) and open it in Photoshop. Arrange your workspace so that you have the Character, Layers, and History palettes open, along with the Toolbox. Close all other palettes.

Character

Selecting the Type tool (“T”) in the toolbox enables you to type. The Character palette lets you modify text by choosing its font, leading (space between lines), tracking (space between characters), color, and other features. To modify text, the text itself must be selected (highlighted).

When you select the Type tool (or any tool), notice that additional options for that tool appear across the top of the canvas, just under the Menu Bar. For the Type tool, you can change the text orientation (vertical or horizontal); the font family, style, and size; the anti-aliasing method (which determines how the edges of the text blend into the background color); the text alignment and color; and text-warping (with which you can cause the text to arc or bulge or twist in different ways). Some of these options for modifying text are also available in the Character palette.

Step 2: Select the Type tool and type some text. Use the Type tool options and/or the Character palette to adjust the font, tracking, color, and other features of the text. You need to have the text selected (i.e., highlighted) in order for these transformations to apply to the text, just as in MS Word.

Notice that when you click on canvas with the Type tool selected, a new layer automatically appears in the Layers Palette; this new layer should have a “T” to designate it as a Type layer.

Layer Style

You can apply special effects, such as shadowing and beveling, to the text by using the **Layer Style** button at the bottom of the Layers palette (shaped like an “f” in a circle). Selecting a style from the menu will pop up a dialog box in which you can choose certain features of the style. For instance, the dialog box for “Drop Shadow” allows you to choose the color of the shadow, the distance of the shadow from the text, the contour of the shadow, and other features. The “Bevel and Emboss” style allows you to choose from different styles, contours, and other features of beveling.

Notice that when you apply a style to a layer of text, a sub-layer with that style appears in the Layers palette under the category of Effects. If you want to modify the style that you’ve already applied, double-click on the style sub-layer to re-open the dialog box for that style.

Step 3: With the text selected, use the Layer Style menu to apply some effects to this text. After you’ve applied the style, double-click on the style sub-layer to alter the style.

Transform

You can adjust the size of text or other elements on a layer by using the Free Transform command (Edit > Free Transform, or Control-T (PC) or Command-T (Mac). When you choose Edit > Free Transform, a box with handles appears around the layer or selection you’re working on. Drag on one of the handles of this box to make the layer or selection smaller or larger; **holding down the Shift key when you drag will constrain the proportions of the layer or selection**. You can also rotate the layer or selection by moving the

cursor slightly away from one of the edges of the box, until a curved line with arrows appears. Click and drag to rotate.

When you're finished transforming the element, you have to hit the Return key for the transformations to apply. If you don't like what you've just done, undo it by going to Edit > Undo, or Control-Z (PC) or Command-Z (Mac), or by using the History palette.

Step 4: Transform the text *proportionally* in size and rotation by using the Edit > Free Transform command.

Rasterizing Text

As mentioned above, Type layers are designated with a "T" and are different from other layers in Photoshop. In Photoshop, type is vector data, which means that it can be scaled and edited without a loss in quality; all other images in Photoshop are pixel data. For some processes (filter effects, for example), you need to convert the vector data to pixels by "rasterizing" it.

Once you rasterize type, you can no longer go back and change it except on the pixel level. For instance, if there is a spelling error that you want to fix or if you want to change the font style, you cannot do this after the text has been rasterized. You rasterize type by selecting in the Layers palette the layer with the type on it and then going to Layer > Rasterize > Type. You may have to deselect the Type tool before doing this; it's always a good idea to select the Move tool (the arrow) as your default tool. The shortcut for the Move tool is to type the letter "V".

Step 5: Rasterize the text that you just typed.

Brush Tool

The Brush tool is located under the Pencil tool in the Toolbox. When you select the Brush tool you have a variety of options to choose from, including the type and size of brush, the color you're painting with, and the "blending mode." Your choice of blending mode can create significantly different colors when you're laying one color on top of another.

You can append different types of brushes to your brush selection by clicking on the small arrow in the brush selection palette. Select a group of brushes and choose "Append" to add these brushes to your collection.

Step 6: Create a new layer and give it a name; turn off the visibility of the other layers. Experiment with the Brush tool using different brushes, colors, textures, and sizes. If you don't like the results, use the History palette to erase your actions.

You can expand your brush options by downloading some of the excellent (and free) brush sets that are available on the Web; see the resources page of our class website for links to free brushes.

First, find a brush that you want to use, and download it to your computer. On the lab computers, you can't permanently add the file; you can download it to the desktop and use it. For your own computer, you can permanently add the file by putting it in `/Users/{username}/Library/Application Support/Adobe/Adobe Photoshop CS2/Presets/` (on Mac OS X) or `C:\Program Files\Adobe\Photoshop\Presets\` (on Windows) .

Next, in Photoshop,

1. go to Edit > Preset Manager
2. choose the Preset Type, and click on Load
3. select the file: brushes are .abr; patterns are .pat; shapes are .csh

To access the brushes:

1. select the Brush tool (keyboard shortcut B)
2. in the Control menu across the top, click on the Brush Preset picker arrow
3. in the Brush Preset picker, scroll to the bottom to find the brushes that you loaded.

You can also append patterns and shapes that available on the Internet; see the resources page of our class website for links.

For patterns:

1. select Patterns by going to Edit > Fill > Pattern > Custom Pattern
2. scroll to the bottom to find the patterns that you loaded.

For shapes:

1. select the Shape tool (keyboard shortcut U)
2. either “under” this tool in the Toolbar or in the top Control menu, select the Custom Shape tool (looks like a blob)
3. in the top Control menu, select the Shape picker
4. scroll to the bottom to find the shapes that you loaded.

Creating Masked Text

You can use a basic mask in Photoshop to place an image inside text. We'll do this in a separate file.

1. Download and open the image that you want to put inside the text (File > Open)
2. Unlock the background layer and give it a name.
3. Select the Type tool (keyboard shortcut T), and type your text. Be sure to choose a font that's large and thick, so that the image will have space to fill.
Note: You can resize and reposition the text after you've typed it by selecting the Arrow tool (keyboard shortcut V) to move it, and by using Edit > Free Transform (Control T) to change the size of the text.
4. In the Layers palette, drag the text layer below the top layer; in other words, it should be second in the stack, below the image.
5. Select the top layer, and go to Layer > Create Clipping Mask (or right-click and choose “Create Clipping Mask”). The text should fill with the image.
6. Create a drop shadow or other text effects by selecting the text layer and clicking on the Layer Styles icon at the bottom of the Layers palette.
7. Background options:
 - a. If you want to save the text with a transparent background, go to File > Save As, and save in PNG format.
 - b. If you want to add a background image, open that image and drag it into your mask file; place the image layer at the bottom of the stacking order in the Layers palette, and make

sure the image isn't part of the clipping mask (if it is, it will be indented in the Layers palette, so just move the layer to the left to un-indent it).

- c. If you want to add a solid colored background, insert a blank layer in the Layers palette, drag it to the bottom of the stack, and fill it with a color (Edit > Fill).

Finishing Up

Remember that if you want to work on this project later, you need to save the Photoshop file (.psd extension) so that you can preserve your layers.