

The South Bay Mug

MACINTOSH

A Monthly Cupful For South Bay Apple Mac User Group Members, Jan. 2008

MACHinations

A personal view from Bob

Adobe Photoshop CS3 Standard and Extended



Adobe Photoshop is the undisputed king of image editors and one you'll want if you're a serious photographer or graphic artist. Photoshop CS3, the most popular application in Adobe's Creative Suite (CS3), is compatible with Leopard and optimized to run much faster on Intel Macs. It's designed to let you work more effectively. I've used Photoshop 7 for a long time and CS3 is a major upgrade with many new features and enhancements. I can only touch here on a few that I'm particularly excited about. I was immediately struck by the streamlined interface and lack of toolbar and palette clutter. The toolbar can be a single column and the palettes collapsed to just icons (or icons with names), as shown right, to maximize working space. Palettes reside in docks that you can quickly show or hide. Click any palette to expand or collapse it.



Bridge: Photoshop comes with Adobe Bridge, successor to the file browser in earlier versions. It provides a bridge between your images and CS3 applications. It's where you'll be working much of the time. Although reminiscent of iPhoto, it's much more powerful. It organizes and manages digital assets, (including Illustrator, InDesign, Camera Raw and video files) and lets you edit hidden metadata in the files. Bridge can import from your camera, letting you rename and relabel the photos. It also opens JPEG and TIFF images as Camera Raw for nondestructive editing, with some limitations.



Camera Raw: High-end digital cameras export RAW images (digital negatives) that are minimally processed

(or compromised) by the camera, allowing precise adjustments in Photoshop before being converted to an RGB file such as TIFF or JPEG. You have complete control. Photoshop CS3 comes with the Camera Raw plug-in that lets you edit images nondestructively.

Nondestructive Smart Filters: This command lets you modify and save any image without changing the underlying pixels. You can return later to revert to the original or re-edit.

Quick Select: Selecting parts of an image for editing or masking has always been a challenging task and Photoshop has a number of tools to facilitate it. The Quick Selection tool is new. Drag to select a part of the image based on a range of colors and educate the brush to reject colors you don't want selected.

Refine Edge is a new filter that lets you fine-tune a selection. You can see the effects of feathering and other edge effects.

Curves dialog has changed and now displays a histogram, like the levels dialog.

Photomerge: Stitching together a set of panoramic photos is greatly improved to compensate for lens distortion and lighting changes between photos.

With it's enormous power, learning to use Photoshop can be daunting. Fortunately there are many helpful training aids and on-line video tutorials, but plan on spending time to learn it.

Photoshop CS3 now comes in Standard (\$649) and Extended (\$999) versions (discounts, academic and upgrades are available). The extended version adds 3D and motion support along with image analysis and supports MATLAB and DICOM (medical images).



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