



# Keyboard Shortcuts for People Who Hate (or Can't Remember) Keyboard Shortcuts!

## Some are Too Useful to ignore!

Of the literally hundreds of keyboard shortcuts in the various versions of *Photoshop* and *Photoshop Elements*, here are the ones that I use consistently and find to be real time-savers.

**Bring up the Levels dialog box:** CTRL - L [⌘: CMD - L]

### Tool Selections

- V = Move Tool
- B = Brush Tool
- C = Crop Tool
- T = Type Tool
- E = Eraser Tool

**Transform Image (scaling, rotating, etc.):** CTRL - T [⌘: CMD - T]

**Undo/Redo:** CTRL - Z / CTRL - Y [⌘: CMD - Z / CMD - Y]

**Changing magnification - Zoom In/Zoom Out:** CTRL+ / CTRL- [⌘: CMD+ / CMD-]

**Fit the image to your screen:** CTRL - 0 (zero) [⌘: CMD - 0]

**To move your "real-time" view to a different part of your image:** Press and hold the SPACEBAR while dragging around your image. The cursor turns into a small hand (the Move Tool). This is useful, too >> while you are using any other tool, just hold down the spacebar to momentarily move your image around.

**To Temporarily switch to the Move Tool:** At any time, press the CONTROL key [⌘: Command]

**Toggle all palettes, tool bars, and menus ON/OFF and just view the image:** Press TAB.

**To move various objects (such as selections) in small increments:** Use the Keyboard arrow keys for single-pixel adjustments. SHIFT-Arrow Keys will move the object in 10 pixel increments.

**Quickly change tool size (eg; brush, eraser, etc.):** ] to increase size, [ to decrease size (Bracket keys).

**Quickly change the hardness of your brush, eraser, clone stamp, etc:** SHIFT - ] to increase hardness, SHIFT - [ to decrease hardness

**Set the Foreground/Background colors to default Black/White:**  
Press D

**Switch between the Foreground/Background colors:** Press X

**Select All:** CTRL - A [⌘: CMD - A]

**Deselect (remove selection):** CTRL - D [⌘: CMD - D]

**Cut/Copy/Paste:** CTRL - X, C, V [⌘: CMD - X, C, V]

**Save:** CTRL - S [⌘: CMD - S]

**STAMP VISIBLE:** CTRL-ALT-SHIFT - E [⌘: CMD-OPT-SHIFT - E]

I always called this one the "Special" keyboard shortcut because I could never remember it, and because it is mostly undocumented but enormously useful. It takes ALL the visible layers and puts them together on a new layer - but does not change the layers beneath. Generally before using this shortcut you want to have your topmost layer active. I use this frequently make some global change to my image without affecting the layers beneath.

**Finally, remember that as in other programs, contextual menus are always very handy shortcuts - they are all over the Photoshop interface. Just point to the object and right-click with the mouse to see a menu of options that pertain to the object or control you are clicking on.**

### ⌘ Mac Users - Read This!

- When you read procedures for Windows users (and not just for Photoshop), every time you see a keyboard shortcut calling for a CONTROL key, you use the COMMAND key. For the ALT key, you use the OPTION key.
- If you use the older one-button mouse, you can bring up contextual menus by clicking with the CONTROL key pressed.