

A Few Photoshop Elements 3.0 Tips

By Stan Ashbrook

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Image Size

Viewing Image on the monitor

In the View Menu, picking View Actual Pixels will size the image to 100% and one image pixel equals one monitor pixel.

Always view at 100% when evaluating an image such as when Sharpening the Image using the Sharpen Filters.

Zoom in by pressing Ctrl + the + key and Zoom out by pressing the Ctrl plus the – key.

Shift + Control + the O key will fit the image to the screen.

Image Size and Resolution

When resizing images in the Image Size dialog for printing, the Document Size section of the Image Size dialog box is where you make changes. Make sure Constrain Proportions is checked in order to not distort the image. To downsize, check Resample and Choose Bicubic Sharper from the Bicubic drop-down menu. For ink jet prints, choose 240 pixels for inch as the minimum resolution. Choose 300 – 360 ppi if you are sending your image to a press or magazine.

For upscaling your images, check Resample and Choose Bicubic Smoother from the Bicubic drop-down menu. Try not to upsize more than 50% for a quality image.

When resizing images for the Web or Internet, the Pixel Dimensions section is where you make changes. Size your images to a max of 500 pixels for sending as an image attachment on an email. Resolution has no meaning for images viewed on the monitor so no changes need be made here. Resolution is only relevant to printing an image and determines how many pixels are placed on paper per inch.

Duplicate Image, Change Image Size and Canvas Size

If you right click on the image window title bar you will get a drop down menu where you can select Duplicate Image, Image Size or Canvas Size.

Layers

Resizing a layer

You can resize a layer in a few different ways.

1. With the Layer active, in the Image > Resize > Image Size menu pick Scale. This option will only be available if you have an active layer.
2. With the Layer active select menu item > Image > Transform > Free Transform. Drag the handles and hold the Shift key to maintain proportions. Accept transform by pressing the enter key, double click inside the selection or selecting Commit.
3. With the Layer active, select the Move tool (V is the shortcut) and make sure Show Bounding Box is Checked and then resize as in the 2nd option, using the Free Transform tool

Load Opaque areas of a Layer as a Selection

Control Click a layer in the Layer's palette to load the non-transparent areas of the layer as a selection.

To Copy a selection to a new Layer

With Selection active press Control + J copy the selection to a new Layer. To cut a selection to a new layer, press the Control+Shift + J key.

Copy all visible layers into a new layer

Click on the visibility icons on the layers you want to copy to make sure they are visible. Add a new blank layer to the top of the stack by clicking on the Add New Layer Icon at the top of the Layers palette and dragging it to the top of the stack. With this layer press Alt+Control+Shift+ the E key.

Add a New layer beneath the Active Layer

Press the Control key when you click the New Layer Icon to add a new transparent layer beneath the current active layer.

Convert the Background Layer to a Layer

Double click on the Background Layer to convert it to a Layer.

File Browser

Open the File Browser

A shortcut for opening the File Browser is Shift+Control+O.

Close File Browser when Opening an Image

To open an image and at the same time close the File Browser, press the Alt key when you double click a thumbnail or preview or when you also press the Enter Key.

Selections

Add to or Subtract from a Selection

With a Selection active, holding the Shift key when you drag will add to the existing selection or the Alt key to subtract from the selection.

To copy a selection and move it to a different area of the image

With a selection tool, press the Control + Alt key and drag to copy an area.

Fill a Selection with Foreground/Background colors

Pressing the Alt key + the Backspace key will fill a selection with the Foreground color. Pressing the Control + the Backspace key will fill a selection with the Background color.

Other

Brush Tool

With the Brush Tool active, the [key decreases the brush size and the] key increases the size. Shift + [decreases the brush hardness in 25% increments. Shift +] key increases the brush hardness in 25% increments. [and] are the left and right bracket keys.

Undo

Control + Z will undo the last operation. Alt + Ctrl + Z will step back and undo each operation in turn.