

Braukmann's Photoshop MiniGuide


Image processing. Photoshop allows many techniques such as combining, touching-up, changing contrast, softening or brightening images. The eyedropper and the rubber stamp tools, for instance, allow you to sample the colors from areas of the image and use them to fill or repair other areas. The magic wand will select an area based on the range of colors found in the area, and surround the area with a marquee so the area can be modified without affecting the surrounding image, a type of masking. Photoshop is also useful for adjusting the colors of an image. For instance, if a digital photograph has a peculiar cast, perhaps because the wrong type of light was used when the picture was taken, Photoshop can remove the cast. Finally, Photoshop will output many types of files that are optimized for use in other programs such as PNG, JPEG, or GIF for the web.

Adjusting the Brightness and Color of an Image.

- Use **Image > Adjustments > Brightness-Contrast** to make an image easier to see. Usually a little more bright along with a little more contrast.
- Alternately, for a background graphic behind text, select **Legacy**, and set the contrast to low, and the brightness to either high so typical dark text will have good readability, or to low so that white text will have good readability.
- Use **Image > Adjustments > Hue/Saturation** to increase the color impact of an image.

Cropping Images

Cropping is a very good thing to do! Web pages are cramped enough, and we need to avoid large images. On the other hand, we want to see the content of an image. So don't be afraid to crop in tightly. Trim off anything that is not needed for what the image is supposed to communicate.

To select a part of an image and discard the rest, click the cropping tool  in the toolbox. Select the part of the image you want to use by pressing the mouse button when the tool is at one corner of the area. While holding the mouse button down, drag the mouse to an opposite diagonal corner of the image area to save. Move the pointer inside the selected area and click the mouse button. You can use the cropping tool options that appear in the strip above the image to determine the size and height to width ratio of the area you are selecting. This would be important if you needed an image of exactly 2" x 3" to fit a location in a web page column. Also you can double click on the cropping tool icon to set the size.

Cropping Images – Situation #2

You can trim an image very accurately using **Image > Canvas Size**. Choose an **Anchor** point. This is like choosing the part of the image you *want to keep*. If you specify a height or width that is smaller than the original image, it will be trimmed *toward* the anchor point.

Resizing Images. To resize an image, choose **Image > Image Size**. The Image Size dialog box appears. Notice there is an upper box with the size in pixels, and a lower area that shows the "Document Size." That document size is only true if the image is printed, OR, in the case of a web page, if the **Resolution** is set to 72 pixels/inch. If it is not set to 72 pixels/inch, it will not be the document size shown if placed in a web page!

Use the pop-up menu to set the units of measurement you want. Web graphics use 72 pixels per inch. Use the **proportion constraint**, so you will avoid skewing or stretching the image more in one direction than the other. Enter the size of image you want. But wait...!

At the bottom of the dialog box, notice the drop-down menu for choosing the algorithm used for changing image size. Note one option is best for reduction. Use it! Click OK.