

Photoshop Fundamentals

Have you ever dreamt of curating anything at the touch of your fingertips? Photoshop is the perfect application for you. It makes anything achievable, allowing users to let their imagination run wild. The possibilities are limitless, with photo editing, digital painting, graphic and web design, and even video editing features. Contrary to popular belief, Photoshop is a skill that can be mastered by anyone, not just a creative genius or graphic designer. As John Barrow once said, “If you never try, you’ll never know what you are capable of.” Although it may seem daunting, the best way to learn is by simply familiarizing yourself with Photoshop and getting started. Adobe offers several online tutorials that enable users with a hands-on learning experience. For beginners, they emphasize the importance of experimenting with the array of different tools such as:

- Selection tools
- Crop and Slice tools
- Measuring tools
- Retouching tools
- Painting tools
- Drawing and type tools
- Navigation tools

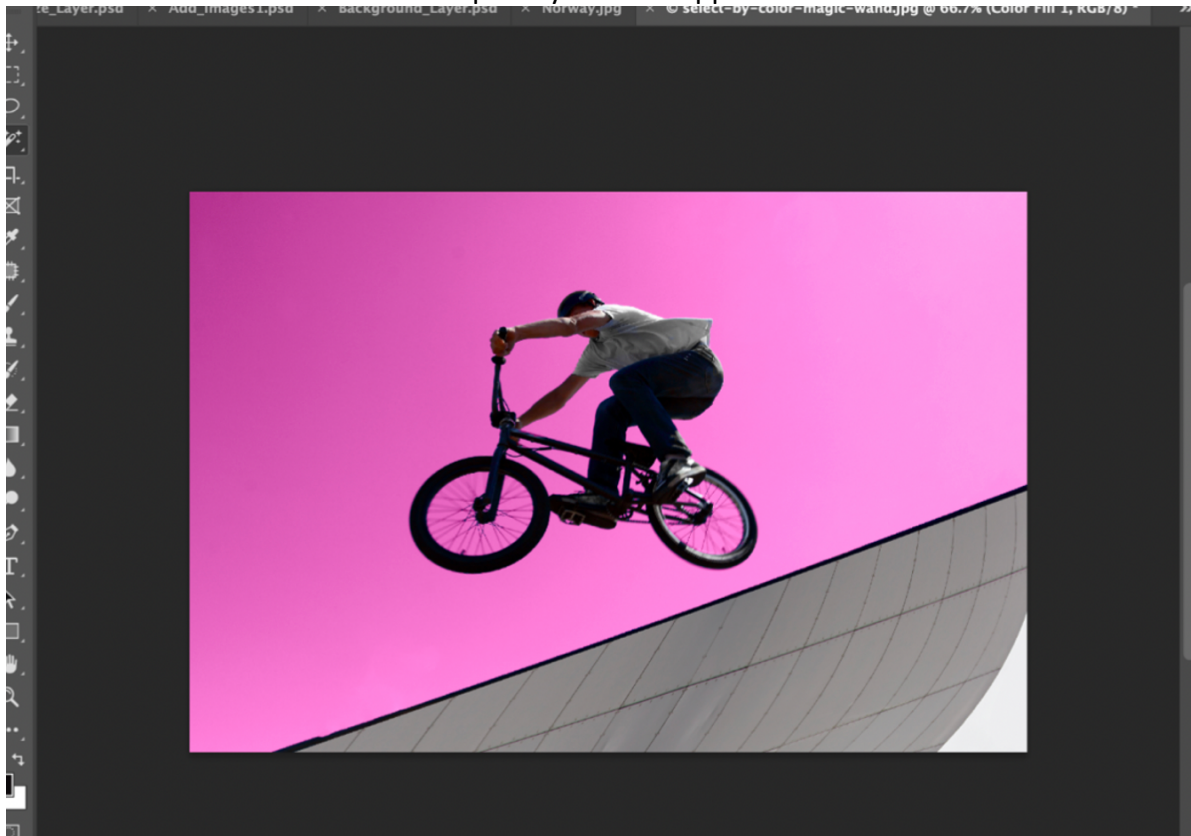
The tutorials provided by Adobe allow users to learn the inner workings of each tool in a seamless manner. The “Get Started” module on Adobe’s website breaks down the learning process into several different short videos ranging from five to 20 minutes long. These include:

- Get to know the app
- Get to know selections
- Get to know layers
- Get to know layer masks
- Get to know adjustment layers
- Add text and shapes
- Apply filters
- Use color
- Combine images
- Change the image size
- Adjust the image quality
- Retouch Images
- And many more that can be found at

<https://creativecloud.adobe.com/cc/learn?topic=get-started>

In my PRCM 4020 – Style & Design class, Professor Meisner encouraged students to go through and watch the Adobe tutorials while simultaneously practicing on the application to amplify the learning experience. This was completed as an assignment labeled “Adobe Help Tutorials,” where students turned in several screenshots of the work completed while learning how to use the various Adobe applications. As a hands-on learner, I found it the most helpful to simply “play around” with the tools in Photoshop to help further familiarize myself with each one. This

is where I discovered that Photoshop is my favorite application in the cloud.



Screenshot from "Adobe Help Tutorials" Assignment: "Magic Wand Tool"

I have always been fascinated with surrealist art, especially in graphic design. Therefore, learning how to create my own, was an enriching learning experience. Photoshop allows users to twist reality and completely transform the world around them. Collage artists have become increasingly popular in the age of Photoshop. They take images from the web and transform them in unique ways that create new meaning in the modern world. Julia Geiser's artwork displays the benefits and infinite possibilities Photoshop provides to aspiring artists. According to Nadja Sayej from Print Magazine, "She has mastered the art of bringing together digital vintage imagery with a new kind of strange symbolism that speaks to a young audience" (<https://www.printmag.com/design-culture/7-designers-keeping-surrealism-alive/>). The intricate Photoshop tools allow both artists and newbies to curate stylized artwork that defies the ordinary.



Artwork by Julia Geiser, featured in Print Magazine

Whether you want to expand your creative knowledge for your career or unleash your inner artist, there are many benefits to learning how to use Photoshop. The time is now to explore its endless possibilities!