

pse ADOBE PHOTOSHOP ELEMENTS

Retouching with the Healing Brush

The Healing Brush tool is similar to the Clone Stamp tool in that you clone pixels from one area onto another area. But the Healing Brush is superior in that it takes into account the tonality (highlights, midtones, and shadows) of the flawed area. The Healing Brush clones by using the texture from the sampled area (the source) and then using the colors around the brush stroke as you paint over the flawed area (the destination). The highlights, midtones, and shadow areas remain intact, making the repair more realistic and natural and not as blotchy or miscolored as with the Clone Stamp tool.

Here are the steps to heal a photo:

- 1) Open an image in need of a makeover and select the Healing Brush tool from the Tools panel in Full Edit mode.

You can also heal between two images, but be sure that they have the same color mode; for example, both RGB (red, green, blue). We chose a guy who looks like he might like to lose a few years, as shown in Figure 9-13.



Figure 9-13: Wipe out ten years in two minutes with the Healing Brush tool.

- 2) Specify a diameter and hardness for your brush tip from the Brush Picker drop-down panel on the Options bar.

You can also adjust the spacing, angle, and roundness. For details on these options, see Chapter 12. Don't be shy. Be sure to adjust the size of your brush as needed. Using the appropriate brush size for the flaw you're retouching is critical to creating a realistic effect.

- 3) Choose your desired blend mode.

For most retouching jobs, you probably should leave the mode as Normal. Replace mode preserves textures, such as noise or film grain, around the edges of your strokes.

- 4) Choose one of these Source options:

Sampled: Uses the pixels from the image. This is your choice for the majority of your repairs.

Pattern: Uses pixels from a pattern chosen from the Pattern Picker drop-down panel.

- 5) Select or deselect the Aligned option on the Options bar.

For most retouching tasks, you probably should leave it on Aligned.

Select Aligned: When you click or drag with the Healing Brush, Elements displays a crosshair along with the Healing Brush cursor. The crosshair represents the sampling point, also known as the source. When you move the Healing Brush tool, the crosshair also moves, providing a constant reference to the area you're sampling.

Deselect Aligned: Elements applies the source pixels from your initial sampling point, no matter how many times you stop and start dragging.

- 6) Select the All Layers option to heal an image using all visible layers.

If this option is deselected, you heal from only the active layer.

To ensure maximum editing flexibility later, select the Sample All Layers option and add a new, blank layer above the image you want to heal. When you heal the image, the pixels appear on the new layer and not on the image itself. This enables you to adjust opacity and blend modes and to make other adjustment to the healed layer.

- 7) Establish the sampling point by Alt-clicking. Make sure to click the area of your image that you want to clone from.

In our example, we clicked a smooth area of the forehead.

- 8) Release the Alt key and click or drag over a flawed area of your image.

Keep an eye on the crosshair because that's the area you're healing from. We brushed over the wrinkles under and around the eyes and on the forehead (refer to Figure 9-13). This guy never looked so good, and he experienced absolutely no recovery time.

Excerpted from "Adobe Photoshop Elements 6 for Dummies" by Barbara Obermeier and Ted Padova.
Copyright 2008. All rights reserved. Wiley Publishing, Inc. www.wiley.com