

How to Retouch a Photo

If your photo requires more touch-up than you can achieve by using the Editor's Quick Fix tab, you're ready to use the photo retouching tools. These include tools for removing small and large imperfections, cloning parts of an image, blurring and sharpening parts of an image, adjusting color and contrast, and a lot more. This guide will focus on five of the photo retouching tools, including Spot Healing, Healing, Clone Stamp, Blur, and Sharpen (**Figure 1**).

Note: The Crop, Cookie Cutter, Straighten, and Red Eye Removal tools are covered in separate guides.

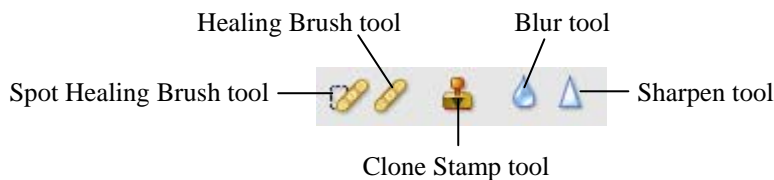


Figure 1 A partial collection of the photo retouching tools

Spot Healing Brush: Removes blemishes and other imperfections in your photos. You can click once or drag to smooth away small imperfections.

Healing Brush: Fixes large areas of imperfection when you drag over them.

Clone Stamp: Paints with a sample of an image, which you can use to duplicate objects, remove imperfections, or paint over objects in your photo.

Blur: Softens hard edges or areas in an image to reduce detail. Blurring a busy background can bring your subjects more into focus.

Sharpen: Enhances the definition of edges in an image. Most images can benefit from some sharpening, but sharpening cannot restore a severely blurry image.

To remove spots or small imperfections:

1. Open the image in the Editor and select the Full Edit tab.
2. Select the Zoom tool and click on the image to zoom in to the spot or imperfection you want to remove (**Figure 2**).
3. Select the Spot Healing Brush in the Tools palette. Or press J and select the Spot Healing Brush on the Options bar.
4. On the Options bar, select a brush and specify a size for the brush (**Figure 3**).
5. On the Options bar, select options for the brush (**Figure 4**).

Proximity Match: Uses pixels around the edge of the selection to find an image area to use as a patch. Try this option first. If it doesn't work, undo the change and retry with Create Texture selected.

Create Texture: Uses all the pixels in the selection to create a texture in which to fix the area. If this doesn't work, try dragging through the area a few times.

Sample All Layers: Select this option only if you want the brush to sample pixels from all layers, not just the layer that contains the image.

6. Position the Spot Healing Brush pointer over the area to fix, and then click (**Figure 5**).

The spot or imperfection is gone (**Figure 6**).

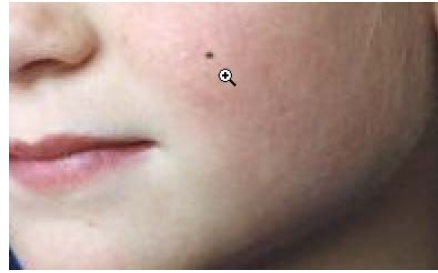


Figure 2 Zoom in for retouching photos

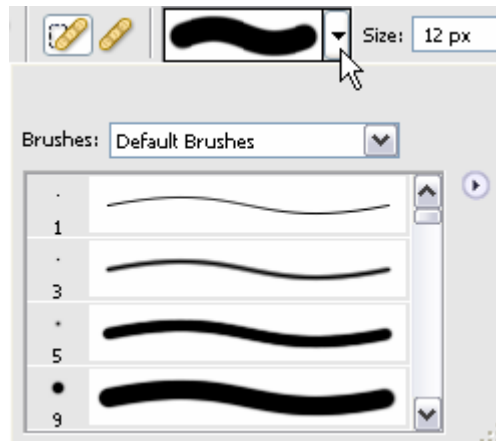


Figure 3 Select a brush style and size

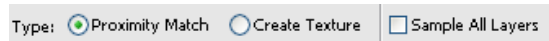


Figure 4 Spot Healing Brush options

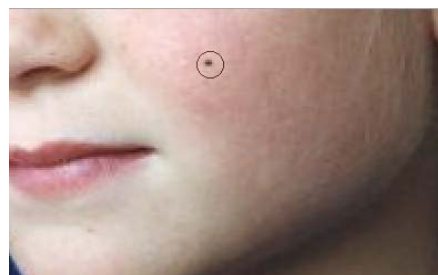


Figure 5 Click the spot to remove it



Figure 6 The spot is gone

To remove larger imperfections:

1. Open the image in the Editor and select the Full Edit tab.
2. Select the Zoom tool and click on the image to zoom in to the area you want to repair (**Figure 7**).

Note: In this example, a flower vase includes the reflection of several small lights, which appear as small white dots on the vase.

3. Select the Healing Brush in the Tools palette. Or press J and select the Healing Brush on the Options bar.
4. On the Options bar, open the Brush picker options and select settings for the brush (**Figure 8**).

Diameter: Controls the width of the brush.

Hardness: Controls whether the brush edge is sharp or fuzzy.

Spacing: Controls how far apart the brush marks are put down.

Angle and Roundness: Similar to a real paintbrush, you can adjust the roundness of the brush and the angle used to hold the brush as you paint.

If you are not sure which settings to use, try the default settings.

5. Select a mode and other options for the brush.

Mode: Determines how the source (wherever you Alt+click) blends with the existing pixels. Normal mode lays new pixels over the existing ones. Try this setting first.

Sampled/Patterned: Uses pixels from the current image. Patterned uses pixels from the pattern you select.

Aligned: Deselect to use the sample pixels from the initial sampling point each time you stop and resume painting.

Sample All Layers: Select this option only if you want the brush to sample pixels from all layers, not just the layer that contains the image.

6. Position the pointer over an area you want to sample (i.e., use to copy over the flaw), and then Alt+click to sample the data. (**Figure 9**).

7. Drag over the flaw to blend the existing data with the sampled data (**Figure 10**). You must release the mouse button to see the result.

The imperfection is gone (**Figure 11**).



Figure 7 Zoom in for retouching photos

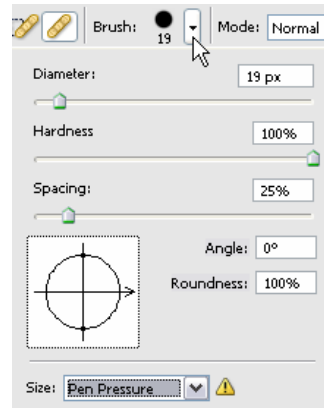


Figure 8 Select brush settings



Figure 9 Alt+click to sample data



Figure 10 Drag over the flaw to remove it



Figure 11 The reflection is gone

To clone a part of an image:

1. Open the image in the Editor and select the Full Edit tab.

Note: In this example, the jar of candy could use another yellow jawbreaker to balance the jar. Use the Clone Stamp tool to sample one of the yellow candies and replace one of the others.
2. Select the Clone Stamp tool in the Tools palette. Or press S and select the Clone Stamp tool on the Options bar.
3. On the Options bar, select a brush and specify a size for the brush (**Figure 12**).
4. On the Options bar, select options for the tool.

Mode: Determines how the source (wherever you Alt+click) blends with the existing pixels. Normal mode lays new pixels over the existing ones. Try this setting first.

Opacity: A low opacity allows the pixels under a paint stroke to show through. To paint solid, use 100 % opacity; 1% would be nearly transparent.

Aligned: Deselect to use the sample pixels from the initial sampling point each time you stop and resume painting.

Sample All Layers: Select this option only if you want the brush to sample pixels from all layers, not just the layer that contains the image.

5. Position the pointer over an area you want to clone (use to copy to another part of the image), and then Alt+click to sample the area (**Figure 13**).
6. Drag to paint the cloned area to a new location on the image (**Figure 14**).

As you drag, a cross hair remains on the image to show the center of the cloned area. The area is replaced by the cloned part of the image.
7. Continue to sample and clone until you get the results you want. (**Figure 15**).

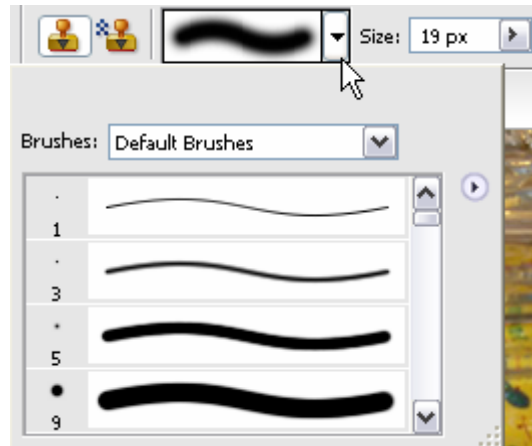


Figure 12 Select brush settings



Figure 13 Alt+click to sample data



Figure 14 Drag over the image to clone



Figure 15 The yellow candy is cloned

To blur and sharpen parts of an image:

1. Open the image in the Editor and select the Full Edit tab.
Note: In this example, the center carousel horse is the focus of the picture and the background is very busy. The Blur tool can be used to blur the background and the immediate foreground, while the Sharpen tool can be used to enhance the center horse (**Figure 16**).
2. Select the Blur tool in the Tools palette. Or press R and select the Blur tool on the Options bar.
3. On the Options bar, select a brush and specify a size for the brush (**Figure 17**).
4. On the Options bar, select options for the brush.

Mode: Determines how the source (wherever you Alt+click) blends with the existing pixels. Normal mode lays new pixels over the existing ones. Try this setting first.

Strength: Determines how much blur effect is applied with each stroke.

Sample All Layers: Select this option only if you want the brush to sample pixels from all layers, not just the layer that contains the image.

5. Drag over the area you want to blur. Continue to blur the image until you achieve the results you want (**Figure 18**).
6. Select the Sharpen tool in the Tools palette. Or press R and select the Sharpen tool on the Options bar.
7. On the Options bar, select a brush and specify a size for the brush.
8. On the Options bar, select options for the tool.
Note: Be careful not to over-sharpen the image. Over use of the Sharpen tool causes the image to degrade. If you accidentally over-sharpen the image, use the Undo command to back up.



Figure 16 Use blurring to focus on the subject

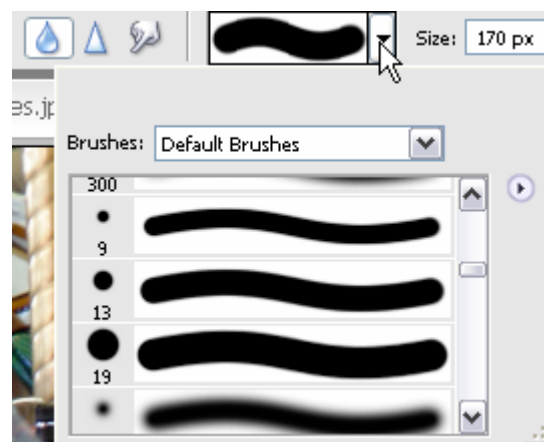


Figure 17 Select brush settings



Figure 18 Drag to blur the background and foreground