Dan Giordan

HOW to USE

Adobe® Photoshop® 5.5

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Visually in Full Color

Adobe® Photoshop® 5.5

SAMS

A Division of Macmillan USA
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Daniel Giordan

Visually in **Full Color**

How To Use Adobe Photoshop 5.5

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Where do I start here? So many thanks, so little time....

Let me start by thanking everyone at Adobe for building the software application most responsible for the ongoing evolution and refinement in computer graphics. Photoshop is the world's most popular design program, and it is supporting ongoing advancements into digital photography, Web design, and many other creative developments. Nothing else even comes close.

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Fax: 317-581-4770

Email: `graphics_sams@mcp.com`

Mail: Mark Taber
Associate Publisher
Sams Publishing
201 West 103rd Street
Indianapolis, IN 46290 USA

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How to Use This Book

The Complete Visual Reference

Each part of this book consists of a series of short instructional tasks designed to help you understand all the information you need to get the most out of Photoshop.

Click: Click the left mouse button once.

Double-click: Click the left mouse button twice in rapid succession.

Right-click: Click the right mouse button once.

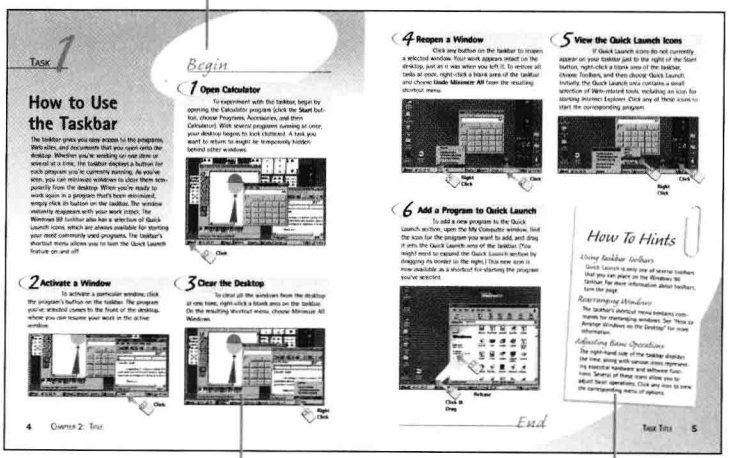
Selection: Highlights the area onscreen discussed in the step or task.

Keyboard: Type information or data into the indicated location.

Drag & drop: Position the mouse pointer over the object, click and hold the left mouse button, drag the object to its new location, and release the mouse button.

Key icons: Clearly indicate which key combinations to use.

Each task includes a series of easy-to-understand steps designed to guide you through the procedure.



Each step is fully illustrated to show you how it looks onscreen.

Extra hints that tell you how to accomplish a goal are provided in most tasks.

Screen elements (such as menus, icons, windows, and so on), as well as things you enter or select, appear in **boldface** type.

Continues

If you see this symbol, it means the task you're in continues on the next page.

About the Author

Daniel Giordan (Dgiordan@hotmail.com) is an artist and designer who works as the director of Creative Services for the eCommerce Corporation. In addition to this book, he has authored three other books on Photoshop, including *Using Photoshop* and *Dynamic Photoshop*. He has written other books that address subjects such as Dreamweaver, Kai's PowerTools, and general design subjects. Dan writes a monthly column, "Giordan on Photoshop," for *Digital Camera* magazine and is the creator of "Giordan on Graphics," a biweekly Internet column on graphic design that is part of the WebReference.com Web site (`www.webreference.com`).

With a master's degree in fine arts, Dan also paints and works with photography while indulging an excessive interest in capturing every waking moment of his son's life on film.

Dedication

This book is for Barb and Josh.

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Introduction

The history of image-editing applications should be divided into two categories: BP and AP (Before Photoshop and After Photoshop). Before Photoshop, there were various bitmap applications available, some of which were very good. There was Pixel Paint Pro, Studio 8, Digital Darkroom, and, of course, MacPaint. Like dinosaurs facing extinction, all these applications faded away after the comet called Photoshop fell to earth in the late 1980s.

I am told that Photoshop got its start as a file-conversion program at Industrial Light and Magic, the special-effects studio started by George Lucas. This was the mid-'80s, when graphics file formats were all over the map and PostScript was non-existent. Photoshop began as an application that converted one format to another. One look at the extensive list of Photoshop's **Save As** file options, and this begins to make some sense.

One could argue that Photoshop is the most influential facilitator for the growth of digital graphics since the Macintosh. And although the Mac got us started in the mid-'80s, Adobe has kept things moving forward with interface standards and cross-platform compatibility that make graphics accessible to just about every computer in the world. This universality has made Photoshop the core application driving new advances in the computer graphics world. Photoshop combines with After Effects for professional video editing, with Quark and InDesign for industry-standard page layout, and with Illustrator and FreeHand for desktop illustration. In all these instances, Photoshop sits right in the middle. Photoshop also drives the advancement of digital photography and professional Web design.

It was the boom in Web design books in the early '90s that prompted Adobe to launch a complementary application to Photoshop called ImageReady. Although Photoshop was the creative powerhouse, ImageReady excelled in prepping images for the Web; compressing file sizes; converting colors; and building clean, concise animations. ImageReady also featured a bare-bones set of image-editing tools for basic image editing.

From the day it was first released, many people asked why ImageReady wasn't built in to Photoshop as a plug-in. So many of the editing features were redundant, and its main attractions were conversion tools, compression, and GIF animation. With the release of Photoshop 5.5 in July 1999, it appears that Adobe finally got the message. The company announced that it is bundling ImageReady as a free application included with Photoshop 5.5. To make things even easier, Adobe built in a **Jump To** button that jumps back and forth between the two applications effortlessly, preserving history states, layers, and every other file component.

Because this book covers Photoshop 5.5, it also addresses how ImageReady supports graphic design workflow and integration with Photoshop, especially where Web design is concerned. Therefore, you will see ImageReady written into some of the task instructions—and even featured in a few standalone tasks. Because of the redundant feature set created when they were separate programs, many of the tasks described for Photoshop can be executed in virtually the same way in ImageReady.

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And another thing—because Adobe does such an excellent job of building cross-platform applications, you should not be concerned that all the screen shots in the book are Mac-based. Everything works the same in Windows (except for the keystrokes, which I've identified for both systems).

Whether you're working with ImageReady or Photoshop, this book is designed to get you up and running quickly, with straightforward solutions to your questions. The challenge comes from the fact that Photoshop's complexity cannot be clearly addressed in seven steps or less. I've tried to address the details as much as I can, expounding in the How-To Hints sections and task and part openers. Although the format of this book resists long narratives and detailed explanations, a ton of solid information is still packed into the tasks that follow. I was very pleased that we were able to drill a bit deeper into some of the advanced features in this book, and I hope it helps you push things further and get the most out of Photoshop.

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PART 1

Getting Started with Photoshop

Most people look at Photoshop as a program with many levels of complexity. They say things like "I probably don't use 10 percent of the program," or "I just use it to open my digital camera images." Although it's true that Photoshop has a deep level of complexity, it's also true that the program is easy for the beginner to use. This is one of the features that has made Photoshop so popular: It's easy to jump in and get started, and as your needs grow, the program grows right along with you.

The first step in getting started is to set up Photoshop to work the way you want it to work. How do you set the preferences? What about customizing the desktop or setting ruler increments? You should consider a few customizable features, as well as specific tools built into the program that can come in handy with just about any file you might be working on.

Because Adobe is shipping ImageReady 2.0 along with Photoshop 5.5, you also should consider how to optimize ImageReady for the way you work, as well as how ImageReady integrates with Photoshop. ●

TASK 1

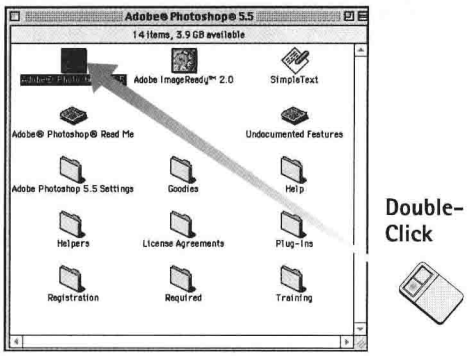
Welcome to Photoshop and ImageReady

This task is a basic introduction to Photoshop and ImageReady. In this task, you launch each program and evaluate the general workspace.

Begin

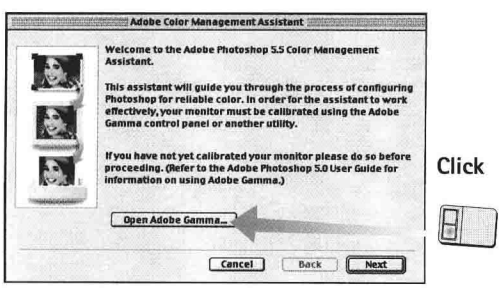
1 Launch Photoshop

To launch Photoshop in Windows, click the **Start** button and choose **Programs, Adobe, Photoshop 5.5, Adobe Photoshop 5.5.** To launch Photoshop on a Mac, open the folder labeled **Adobe Photoshop 5.5** and double-click the **Adobe Photoshop 5.5** icon.



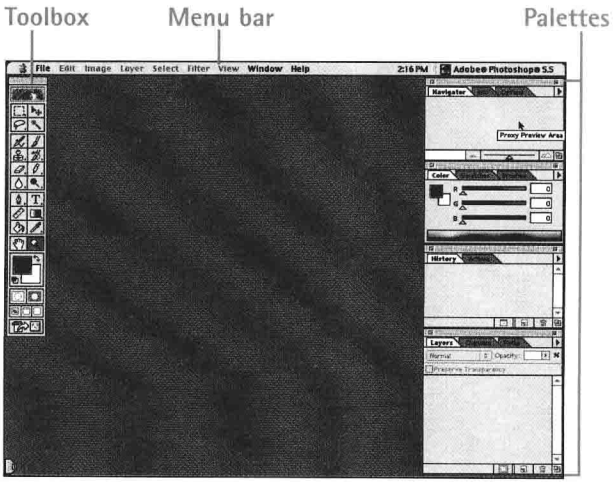
2 Close the Wizards

The first time you launch Photoshop, you see the **Adobe Color Management Assistant**. This short assistant helps you calibrate your monitor and set the RGB color-handling options for Photoshop. If you have time, go through the steps: Click the **Open Adobe Gamma Wizard** button at the bottom of the first screen. The Gamma Wizard helps you calibrate your monitor and then walks you through the setup of RGB features. If you don't want to run the wizard at this time, click the **Cancel** button. You can run the wizard from Photoshop at any time by choosing **Help, Color Management.**



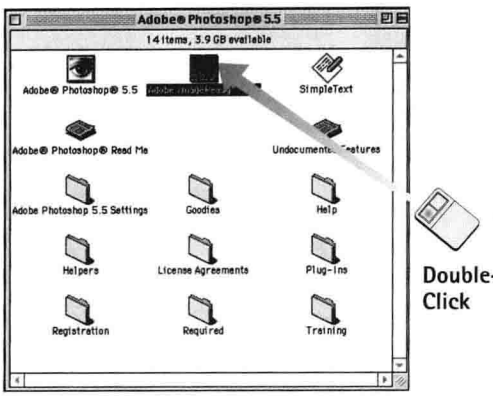
3 The Basic Photoshop Screen Areas

After closing the wizard, you'll see the full range of Photoshop controls arranged on your screen. The **toolbox** is in the upper-left corner and contains all the Photoshop tool options. All the Photoshop **palettes** appear on the right side, and the **menu bar** appears across the top of the screen.



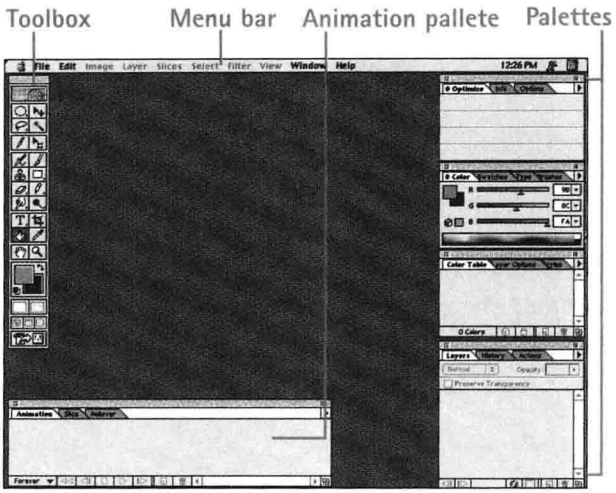
4 Launch ImageReady

To launch ImageReady in Windows, click the **Start** button and choose **Programs, Adobe, Photoshop 5.5, Adobe ImageReady 2.0**. To launch ImageReady on a Mac, open the folder labeled **Adobe Photoshop 5.5** and double-click the **Adobe ImageReady 2.0** icon.



5 The Basic ImageReady Screen Areas

You will find that the ImageReady desktop looks very similar to the Photoshop desktop. Closer examination reveals that some of the tool icons and palettes are different and that an **Animation** palette appears in the lower-left corner of the screen.



End

How-To Hints

Photoshop or ImageReady?

Because the desktops for Photoshop and ImageReady look so similar, you sometimes may wonder which application you're in. A quick way to verify your location is to look at the top of the toolbox. In Photoshop, the toolbox has a cropped eye; in ImageReady, the toolbox has a multicolored compass.

Jump from Photoshop to ImageReady

Switching from Photoshop to ImageReady is as easy as clicking the **Jump To** button at the bottom of the toolbox. (This button is sometimes called the **Launch** button.)If you are in Photoshop when you click this button, ImageReady opens (if you haven't already launched ImageReady, clicking the **Jump To** button does that for you). If you're in ImageReady when you click **Jump To**, Photoshop opens (and launches, if necessary).

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