

ADOBE PHOTOSHOP ESSENTIALS

OVERVIEW

Adobe Photoshop is a professional image editing software containing a vast set of tools used by graphic artists, designers, and photographers for print and web.

ELEMENTS OF PHOTOSHOP

- ★ **Layers** are a means of organizing and manipulating specific parts of an image. Layers allow for a specific part of an image to be altered without affecting or destroying other layers.
- ★ **Adjustments** are a set of operations that enable the user to alter an image. Basic adjustments can manipulate an image's hue and saturation, contrast, curves, and color balance. Levels allow you to stretch and squeeze the black and white values of a photo to maximize certain attributes, such as saturation and brightness.
- ★ **Selection** in Photoshop allows you to create a space in a project that travels between layers and can be used to mark, edit or create a specified layer. Selections are distinguished by a crawling dashed line.
- ★ **Brushes** are used for many tools (including the quick select tool, clone stamps, eraser). Brushes have 3 components: size, hardness, and a preset shape.
- ★ **RGB v. CMYK:** RGB is for digital media and CMYK is for print. Set this before you get started by locating Image > Mode.
- ★ **Type Tool** is used to insert text into an image using a text box.
- ★ **Color Picker Tool** is used to select color.
- ★ **Toolbar** contains the various tools available in Photoshop.

SOFTWARE OPTIONS

<p>Adobe Photoshop is a professional photo editing software featuring a full range of advanced editing tools with support for layers. (<i>\$20/month</i>)</p>
<p>Photoshop Elements is a consumer grade version of Adobe Photoshop with most of the same editing tasks with support for layers. (<i>\$100 or less</i>)</p>
<p>Photos is Apple's photo editing software featuring basic editing tools. (<i>free</i>)</p>
<p>Photo Editor is Microsoft's photo editing software featuring basic editing tools. (<i>free</i>)</p>

Paint.NET features an intuitive and innovative user interface with support for layers, unlimited undo, special effects, and a wide variety of useful and powerful tools. (*free*)

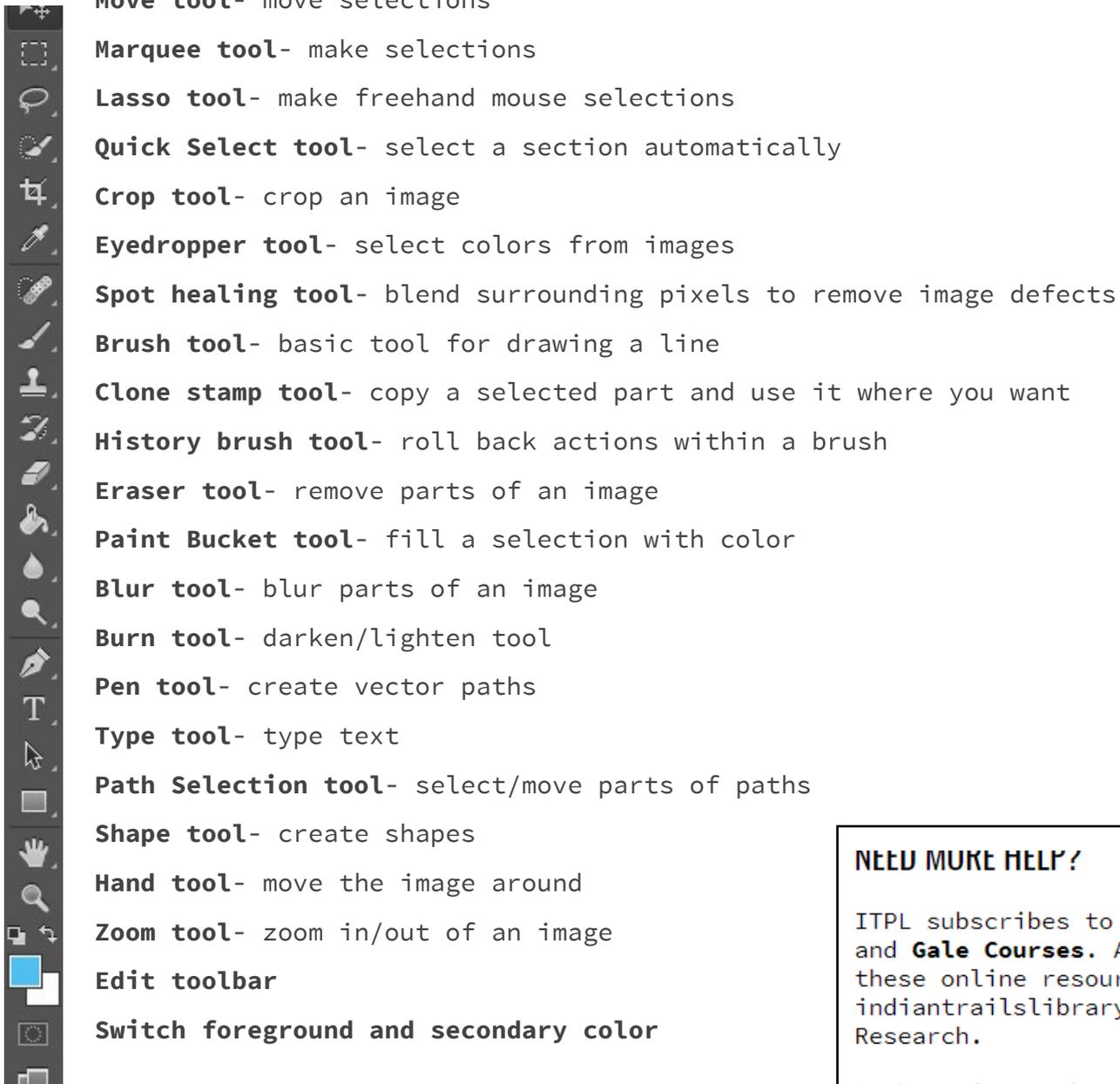
Gimp can be used as a simple paint program, an expert-quality photo-retouching program, an online batch-processing system, or an image-format converter. (*free*)

Canva contains a set of tools and templates that you can use to create collages and graphics. (*free*)

FILE FORMATS

.PSD is the default file format in Adobe Photoshop and will preserve layers for future editing. **.PNG** is useful for saving your finalized digital image without layers.

ADOBE PHOTOSHOP TOOLBAR



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Book series such as the **Teach Yourself Visually** and **Simple Steps** can help get you started.

