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Photoshop Elements provides you a toolbox in Quick and Expert modes to help you work on your photos. You can use the tools in the toolbox to select, enhance, draw, and view images.

## Toolbox in the Quick mode

The toolbox in the Quick mode contains a small set of easy-to-use tools. The tools available in this mode are Zoom, Hand, Quick Selection, Eye, Whiten Teeth, Straighten, Type, Spot Healing Brush, Crop, and Move.



*Quick mode toolbox*

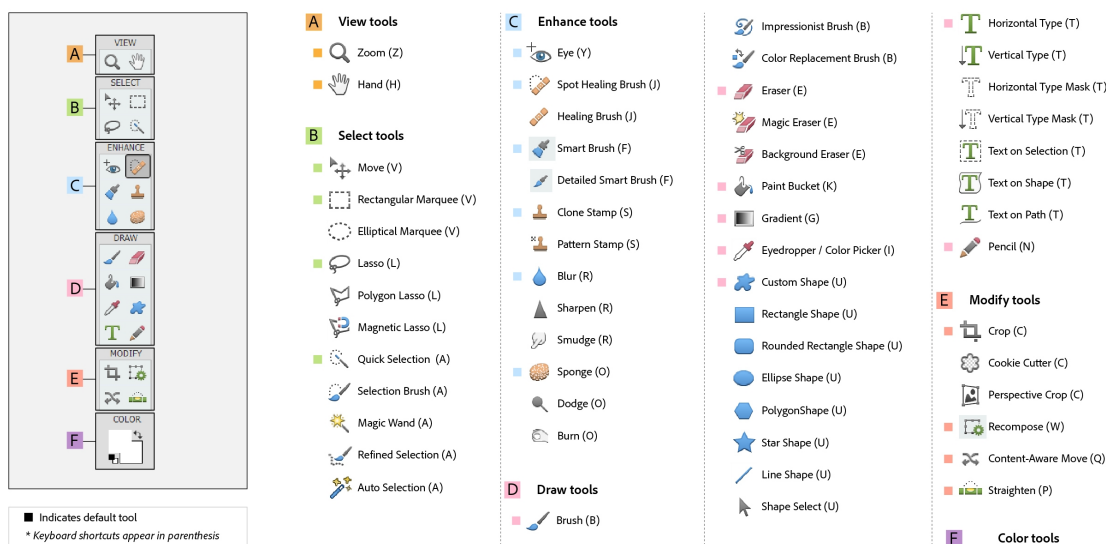
**A.** Zoom tool **B.** Hand tool **C.** Quick Selection tool **D.** Eye tool **E.** Whiten Teeth tool **F.** Straighten tool **G.** Type tool **H.** Spot Healing Brush tool **I.** Crop tool **J.** Move tool

# Tools

In the Expert mode, the toolbox is richer than the toolbox in the Quick mode. The tools are organized in the following logical groups:

- View
- Select
- Enhance
- Draw
- Modify

## Toolbox overview



## Expert mode toolbox

**A.** View tools **B.** Select tools **C.** Enhance tools **D.** Draw tools **E.** Modify tools **F.** Color

## Tools in the View group of the Expert mode toolbox

**Zoom tool (Z)** Zooms in or zooms out your image. The related tools shown in the Tool Options bar are Zoom In and Zoom Out. For more information about the Zoom tool, see [Zoom in or out](#).

**Hand tool (H)** Moves your photo in the Photoshop Elements workspace. You can drag your image using this tool. For more information, see [Viewing images in Expert or Quick modes](#).

## Tools in the Select group of the Expert mode toolbox

Moves selections or layers. For more information, see [Move a selection](#).

# Tools

- Rectangular Marquee tool (M)** Selects an area in your image in a rectangular box. Hold the Shift key to make the selection a square.
- Elliptical Marquee tool (M)** Selects an area in your image in an elliptical shape. Hold the Shift key to make the selection a circle.
- Lasso tool (L)** Selects an area in your image in a free-form shape.
- Magnetic Lasso tool (L)** Selects part of an image by selecting the high-contrast edges around a shape.
- Polygonal Lasso tool (L)** Draws straight-edged segments of a selection border.
- Quick Selection tool (A)** Makes a selection based on color and texture similarity when you click or click-drag the area you want to select.
- Selection Brush tool (A)** Selects the area where you paint with the brush.
- Magic Wand tool (A)** Selects the pixels with similar colors in a single click.
- Refine Selection Brush tool (A)** Adds or removes areas to and from a selection by automatically detecting the edges. For more information on this tool, see [Edit and refine selections](#).
- Auto Selection tool (A)** Automatically makes a selection when you draw a shape around the object you want to select.

For more information on selection, see [Use tools to make selections](#).

## Tools in the Enhance group of the Expert mode toolbox

- Eye tool (Y)** Removes the red eye effect, pet eye effect, and corrects closed eyes in your photos. For more information about the tool, see [Precisely remove red eye](#), [Remove the Pet Eye effect](#), and [Correct closed eyes](#).
- Spot Healing Brush tool (J)** Removes spots from your photos. For more information about this tool, see [Remove spots and unwanted objects](#).
- Healing Brush tool (J)** Removes spots from your photo by selecting a part of your photo as the reference point.

# Tools

**Detail Smart Brush tool (F)** Paints the adjustment to specific areas of a photo just like a painting tool.

For more information about Smart brushes, see [Adjust color and tonality using the Smart Brush tools](#) and [Apply the Smart Brush tools](#).

**Clone Stamp tool (S)** Paints with an image sample, which you can use to duplicate objects, remove image imperfections, or paint over objects in your photo. You can also clone part of an image to another image. For more information, see [Clone images or areas in an image](#).

**Pattern Stamp tool (S)** Paints with a pattern defined from your image, another image, or a preset pattern. For more information, see [Use the Pattern Stamp tool](#).

**Blur tool (R)** Softens hard edges or areas in an image by reducing details. For more information, see [Blur or soften edges](#).

**Sharpen tool (R)** Sharpens a photo by focusing soft edges in the photo to increase clarity or focus. For more information on sharpening, see [Sharpen an image](#).

**Smudge tool (R)** Simulates the actions of dragging a finger through wet paint. The tool picks up color where the stroke begins and pushes it in the direction you drag. For more information on the tool, see [Use the Smudge tool](#).

**Sponge tool (O)** Changes the color saturation of an area. For more information on how to use the tool, see [Adjust saturation in isolated areas](#).

**Dodge tool (O)** Lightens areas of an image. You can use the tool to bring out details in shadows. For more information on the Dodge tool, see [Quickly lighten or darken isolated areas](#).

**Burn tool (O)** Darkens areas of the image. You can use the tool to bring out details in highlights. For more information on the Burn tool, see [Quickly lighten or darken isolated areas](#).

## Tools in the Draw group of the Expert mode toolbox

**Brush tool (B)** Creates soft or hard strokes of color. You can use it to simulate airbrush techniques. For more information about the tool, see [Use the Brush tool](#).

# Tools

[Impressionist Brush tool.](#)

**Color Replacement tool (B)** Simplifies replacing specific colors in your image. For more information about the tool, see [Replace color in an image.](#)

**Eraser tool (E)** Erases the pixels in the image as you drag through them. For more information about the tool, see [Use the Eraser Tool.](#)

**Background Eraser tool (E)** Turns color pixels to transparent pixels so that you can easily remove an object from its background. For more information about the tool, see [Use the Background Eraser tool.](#)

**Magic Eraser tool (E)** Changes all similar pixels when you drag within a photo. For more information, see [Use the Magic Eraser tool.](#)

**Paint Bucket tool (K)** Fills an area that is similar in color value to the pixels you click. For more information about the tool, see [Use the Paint Bucket tool.](#)

**Pattern tool (K)** Applies a fill or a pattern to your image, instead of using one of the brush tools. For more information, see [Fill a layer with a color or pattern.](#)

**Gradient tool (G)** Fills in an area of image by a gradient. For more information, see [Apply a gradient.](#)

**Color Picker tool (I)** Copies or samples the color of an area in your photo to set a new foreground or background color. For more information about the tool, see [Choose a color with the Eyedropper tool.](#)

**Custom Shape tool (U)** Provides different shape options for you to draw. When you select the Custom Shape tool, you can access these shapes in the Tool Options bar.

The other shape-related tools available in the Tool Options bar are:

- Rectangle
- Rounded Rectangle
- Ellipse
- Polygon
- Star
- Line
- Selection

# Tools

## (T)

The other type-related tools available in the Tool Options bar are:

- Vertical Type
- Horizontal Type Mask
- Vertical Type Mask
- Text on Selection
- Text on Shape
- Text on Custom Path

For more information about adding and editing text on your image, see [Add text](#).

**Pencil tool** (N) Creates hard-edged freehand lines. For more information, see [Use the Pencil tool](#).

## Tools in the Modify group of the Expert mode toolbox

**Crop tool** (C) Trims the part of an image according to the selection. For more information about the tool, see [Crop an image](#).

**Cookie Cutter tool** (C) Crops a photo into a shape that you choose. For more information about the tool, see [Use the Cookie Cutter tool](#).

**Perspective Crop tool** (C) Transforms the perspective of a picture while cropping it. For more information about the tool, see [Perspective Crop tool](#).

**Recompose tool** (W) Intelligently resizes photos without changing important visual content, such as people, building, animals, and more. For more information, see [Recompose a photo in Expert mode](#). For a step-by-step, guided method to recompose, see [Recompose a photo in Guided mode](#).

**Content-Aware Move tool** (Q) Selects an object in your photo and moves the selection to a different location, or extends it. For more information about the tool, see [Move and reposition objects](#).

**Straighten tool** (P) Realigns an image vertically or horizontally. For more information about the tool, see [Straighten an image](#).

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## Use a tool

# Tools

Use the various options in the Tool Options bar to accomplish your task.

## Select a tool

Do one of the following:

- Click a tool in the toolbox.
- Press the keyboard shortcut for the tool. For example, press B to select the Brush tool. The keyboard shortcut for a tool is displayed in the tool tip. You can also find a list of helpful keyboard shortcuts in [Keys for selecting tools](#).

### Note:

You cannot deselect a tool—once you select a tool, it remains selected until you select a different tool. For example, if you've selected the Lasso tool, and you want to click your image without selecting anything, select the Hand tool.

## Select options from the Tool Options bar

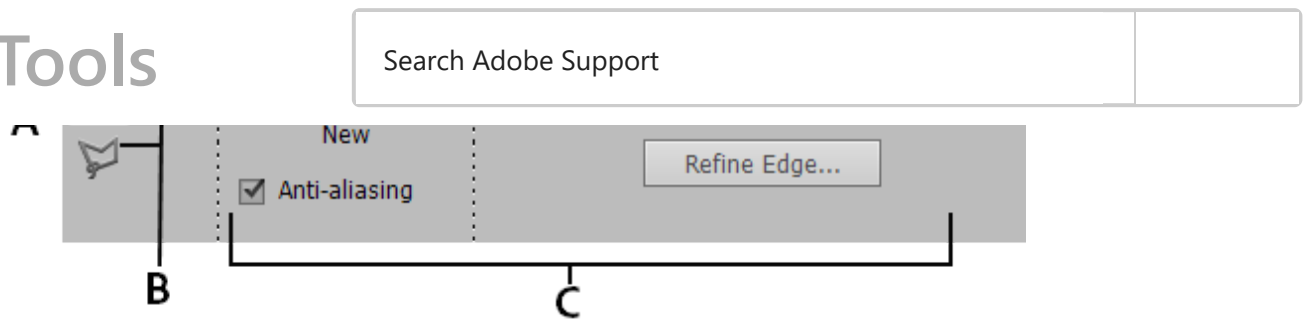
The Tool Options bar appears at the bottom in the Photoshop Elements window. It displays the options for a selected tool. For example, if you select the Crop tool from the toolbox, you find related tools (Cookie Cutter tool and Perspective Crop tool), and other options in the Tool Options bar.

[Click here](#) to watch a video on how to use the Crop tool. The video explains the options available in the Tool Options bar for the Crop tool.

### Note:

If the Tool Options bar is not visible, click the tool icon in the toolbox or click **Tool Options** in the Taskbar.

# Tools



*Tool Options bar for the Lasso tool*

**A.** Active tool icon **B.** Related tools **C.** Additional options

## Edit tool preferences

You can modify the default preferences for tools. For example, you can hide the tool tips or change the appearance of a tool pointer.

### Edit General preferences

Do one of the following:

- In Windows, choose **Edit > Preferences > General**.
- In Mac, choose **Photoshop Elements > Preferences > General**.

Set one or more of the following options:

- Select **Show Tool Tips** to show tool tips.
- Select **Use Shift Key for Tool Switch** to cycle through a set of hidden tools by holding down the **Shift** key. When this option is deselected, you can cycle through a set of tool options by pressing the keyboard shortcut (without holding down **Shift**). For example, pressing **B** on your keyboard repeatedly cycles through all the Brush tool options (Brush, Impressionist Brush, and Color Replacement tools).
- Select **Select Move tool After Committing Text** to select the Move tool after you use the Type tool to add text to your photo.

Click **OK**.

### Set the appearance of a pointer



# Tools

- In Mac, choose **Photoshop Elements > Preferences > Display & Cursors**.

Select a setting for the painting cursors:

- **Standard** Displays pointers as tool icons
- **Precise** Displays pointers as cross-hairs
- **Normal Brush Tip** Displays pointers as circles at 50% of the size you specify for the brush
- **Full Size Brush Tip** Displays pointers as circles at the full size you specify for the brush
- **Show Crosshair In Brush Tip** Displays cross-hairs in the circles when you choose either **Normal Brush Tip** or **Full Size Brush Tip**

Select a setting for **other cursors**:

- **Standard** Displays pointers as tool icons
- **Precise** Displays pointers as cross-hairs

Click **OK**.

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## Resize or change the hardness of painting cursors by dragging (Windows only)

You can resize or change the hardness of a painting cursor by dragging in the image. As you drag, you preview both the size and hardness of the painting tool.


- To resize a cursor, right-click + press Alt, and drag to the left or right.
- To change the hardness of a cursor, right-click + press Alt, and drag up or down.

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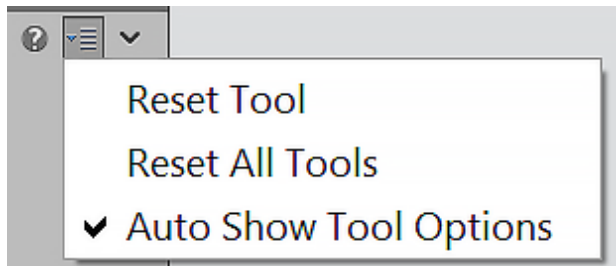
## Reset tool settings to default

You can restore the default settings of a selected tool or all tools.

# Tools

Click  to open the pop-up menu in the Tool Options bar and do one of the following:

- To reset the selected tool, click **Reset Tool**.
- To reset all the tools, click **Rest All Tools**.



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