

Lesson no. 5: Working with Tools

9. Clone Stamp tool (S)

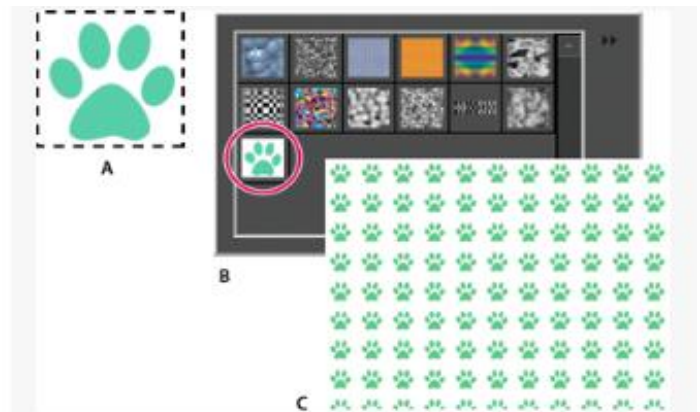
Paints with an image sample, which you can use to duplicate objects, remove image imperfections, or paint over objects in your photo. You can also clone part of an image to another image.



Pattern Stamp tool (S)

You can paint a pattern with the Pattern stamp tool or fill a selection or layer with a pattern that you choose from the pattern libraries. Photoshop Elements has several patterns you can choose from.

To customize your images, or to make one-of-a-kind scrapbook pages, you can create your own patterns. You can save patterns that you create in a library, and then load libraries of patterns using the Present Manager or the Pattern pop-up panel, which appears in the Tool Options bar of the Pattern Stamp tool and the Paint Bucket tool. Saving patterns allows you to easily use a pattern in multiple images.



10. Eraser tool (E)

The Eraser tool changes pixels in the image as you drag through them. If you're working in the Background layer or in a layer with locked transparency, erased pixels change to the background color; otherwise, erased pixels become transparent. Transparent pixels are indicated by the transparency grid.

1. From the Draw section in the toolbox, select the Eraser tool. (If you don't see it in the toolbox, select either the Background Eraser tool or the Magic Eraser tool, and then click the Eraser tool icon in the Tool Options bar.)
2. Set options in the Tool Options bar as desired, and then drag through the area you want to erase. You can specify any of the following Eraser tool options:

Brush

Sets the brush tip. Click the arrow next to the brush sample, choose a brush category from the Brush drop-down, and then select a brush thumbnail.

Size

Sets the size of the brush in pixels. Drag the Size slider or enter a size in the text box.

Opacity

Defines the strength of the erasure. An opacity of 100% erases pixels to complete transparency on a layer and to the background color on the Background layer. A lower opacity erases pixels to partial transparency on a layer and paints partially with the background color on the Background layer. (If Block mode is selected in the Tool Options bar, the Opacity option isn't available.)

Type

Brush mode erases by using characteristics of the brush tool, so you can make soft-edged erasures. Pencil mode makes hard-edge erasures like a pencil. Block mode uses a hard-edged 16-pixel square as an eraser.

Use the Magic Eraser tool

The Magic Eraser tool changes all similar pixels when you drag within a photo. If you're working in a layer with locked transparency, the pixels change to the background color; otherwise, the pixels are erased to transparency. You can choose to erase contiguous pixels only, or all similar pixels on the current layer.



Original image (left), and after erasing the clouds (right)

1. In the Layers panel, select the layer containing the areas you want to erase.
2. From the Draw section in the toolbox, select the Magic Eraser tool in the toolbox. (If you don't see it in the toolbox, select either the Eraser tool or the Background Eraser tool, and then click the Magic Eraser tool icon in the Tool Options bar.)
3. Set options in the Tool Options bar, as desired, and then click the area of the layer you want to erase.

Background Eraser tool

The Background Eraser tool turns color pixels to transparent pixels so that you can easily remove an object from its background. With careful use, you can maintain the edges of the foreground object while eliminating background fringe pixels.

The tool pointer is a circle with a cross hair indicating the tool's hotspot. As you drag the pointer, pixels within the circle and of a similar color value as the pixel under the hotspot are erased. If the circle overlaps your foreground object, and it doesn't contain pixels similar to the hotspot pixel, the foreground object won't be erased.

Erasing the distracting background. You can replace the background with another background by using the Clone Stamp tool or by adding another layer.



1. In the Layers panel, select the layer containing the areas you want to erase.
2. From the Draw section in the toolbox, select the Background Eraser tool . (If you don't see it in the toolbox, select either the Eraser tool or the Magic Eraser tool , and then click the Background Eraser tool icon in the Tool Options bar.)
3. Set options in the Tool Options bar as desired, and then drag through the area you want to erase. Keep the tool's hotspot off of areas that you don't want to erase.

Magic Eraser tool (E)

The Magic Eraser tool changes all similar pixels when you drag within a photo. If you're working in a layer with locked transparency, the pixels change to the background color; otherwise, the pixels are erased to transparency. You can choose erase contiguous pixels only, or all similar pixels on the current layer.



to