

Diploma in
Photoshop 



Summary Notes
Lesson 7

Photoshop Healing Tools

Healing tools are used for a number of reasons but have the power to help with cosmetic retouching, photo-restoration and removing unwanted objects. All of the healing tools share the same shortcut of J, with the exception of the clone stamp tool which has a shortcut of S. The tools consist of Red-Eye Tool, Spot Healing Tool, Healing Tool, Clone Stamp Tool and Patch Tool.



Did You Know? To get the best use of the healing tools and to speed up your workflow, it is recommended to use the Photography Workspace instead of Essentials

Blemishes v Non-Blemishes

When retouching or healing images it is important to know that some images should be edited with caution. re-touching can cause a lot of issues if not done correctly. If working for a client make sure to focus on good guidelines and only remove blemishes unless asked to do a more intense heal.

Blemishes: Pimples or Spots, Stray hairs, Skin tone & Excess Make-up

Not Blemishes: Birth Marks, Scars, Moles & Freckles



Tool Types



Red Eye Tool removes red eye in flash photos of people and also animals (known as 'pet eye'). Simply duplicate your background layer, select the Red Eye Tool and click on the affected eye. The tool will do the rest!



Spot Healing Tool is very useful for removing small objects like acne spots or pieces of dust from your image. It automatically samples from around the retouched area, and replaces one set of pixels with another.

1. Select the spot healing tool from the toolbar. Choose a brush size from the options bar. It is advisable to choose a brush slightly larger than the object you wish to remove.
2. Choose a Type option in the Options bar. We recommend that you select ContentAware. Content-Aware compares nearby image content to seamlessly fill a selection, realistically maintaining key details such as shadows and object edges.
3. Make a new blank layer and select 'Sample All Layers' in the options bar.
4. Click on the area you want to fix, making sure you are on the new blank layer that you just created.



Healing Tool works similarly to the Spot Healing Tool but is rather less sophisticated because it's a lot less automatic.

1. Select the Healing Brush Tool from the toolbar. Choose a brush size from the options bar. It is advisable to choose a brush slightly larger than the object you wish to remove.
2. In the Options bar, set Source as 'Sampled'.
3. Press and hold alt (option key on Mac OSX). This will sample an area. The sampled area can now be used simply by clicking on the objects you want to remove.
4. You may need to make more than one sample for realistic results.



The **Clone Stamp Tool** is one of the most useful retouching tools in all of Photoshop and functions very similarly to the Healing Tool. It works by copying or cloning pixels from a selected target area and placing them over unwanted objects.

1. Select the Clone Stamp Tool from the toolbar. Choose a brush size from the options bar. It is advisable to choose a brush slightly larger than the object you wish to remove.
2. Select 'Align' from the options bar. This will sample pixels continuously without losing the current sampling point, even if you release the mouse button. By doing so it will avoid repeating samples.
3. Set the sampling point by holding alt (windows) / option (Mac OSX) and clicking on the area you wish to sample.
4. Drag over the area of the image you want to correct.
5. You can change the brush size quickly and easily by using the square bracket keys.



The **Patch tool** lets you repair a selected area with pixels from another area. It matches the texture, lighting, and shading of the sampled pixels to the source pixels.

1. Select the Patch Tool from the toolbar.
2. Duplicate your background layer.
3. Draw a tight selection around object you wish to remove using the Patch tool.
4. Make sure to select 'Source' in the options bar.
5. Drag the selected area away to an area you would like Photoshop to sample from.
6. The object will be removed. You may need to repeat process more than once for best results.