Adobe Photoshop CS6 Tutorial

GETTING STARTED

Adobe Photoshop CS6 is a popular image editing software that provides a work environment consistent with Adobe Illustrator, Adobe InDesign, Adobe Photoshop and other products in the Adobe Creative Suite. This tutorial is an introduction to using Adobe Photoshop. Here you will learn how to get started, how to use the interface, and how to modify images with basic editing skills.

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1. GETTING STARTED

1. Begin by opening Adobe Photoshop CS6.
On a PC, click Start > Programs > Adobe > Photoshop CS6, or click on the shortcut on the desktop.

On a Mac, click Go > Applications > Adobe Photoshop CS6 > Photoshop CS6 shown in Figure 1, or click the icon in the Dock.

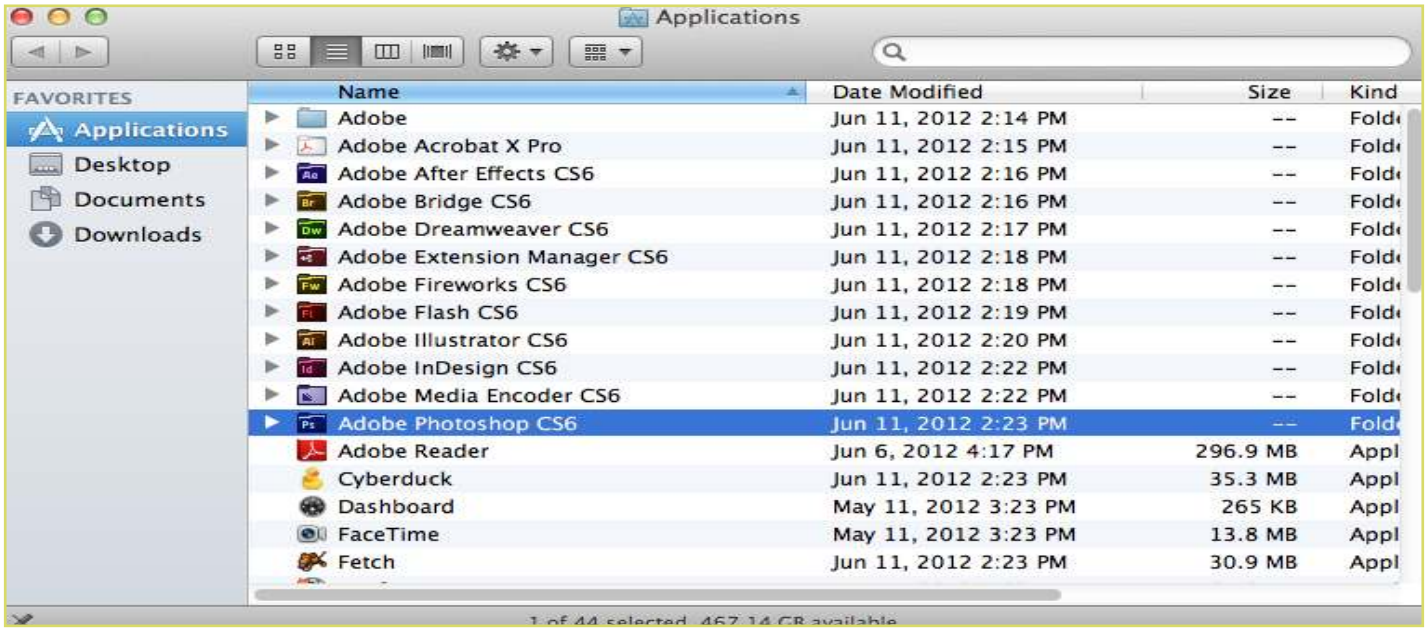

Figure 1. Navigation to Photoshop CS6 on a Mac

Setting up the document

Setting up your document correctly from the start will make your job much easier as you work through your project. This will require some advanced planning. For example, if your final output will be a brochure, you may need to set up your document to be horizontal and double-sided.

To create a new document, click File > New. This will open the Document Setup dialog box (Figure 2).

Figure 2. Document Setup dialog box

Here you will be able to name your file, set up the correct page size and orientation for your document. Options include, but are not limited to:

Page Size and Orientation
Change the page size by typing in new values for width and height. Page size represents the final size you want after bleeds or trimming other marks outside the page. In the Preset dropdown menu you can find such common sizes as letter, legal, tabloid, etc. Typing in exact values for Height and Width gives you more control over the size and orientation of your page.

Resolution
Resolution is the number of pixels on a printed area of an image. The higher the resolution, the more pixels there are on the page, the better the quality of the image. However, high resolution increases the size of the file. The standard recommended resolution for printed images is 150-300, for Web images it is 72.

Color Mode
Choose a color mode that will best fit your project. For example, when making a graphic for a web site, choose RGB. When making an image for print choose CMYK.

Background Contents
Choose the background: white, color or transparent. When you have entered all of your document settings, click Ok.

Opening an image from a disk
If the image you have is saved on a disk or to the computer, select File > Open, and then navigate to the disk drive/file where your image is saved. Choose the image file and click Open. At this point, you may want to save your image under a different name so that you can always have the original to fall back on in case of a mistake. To save your file, select File > Save As and type in the new name of the file in the dialogue box.

2. Interface Layout

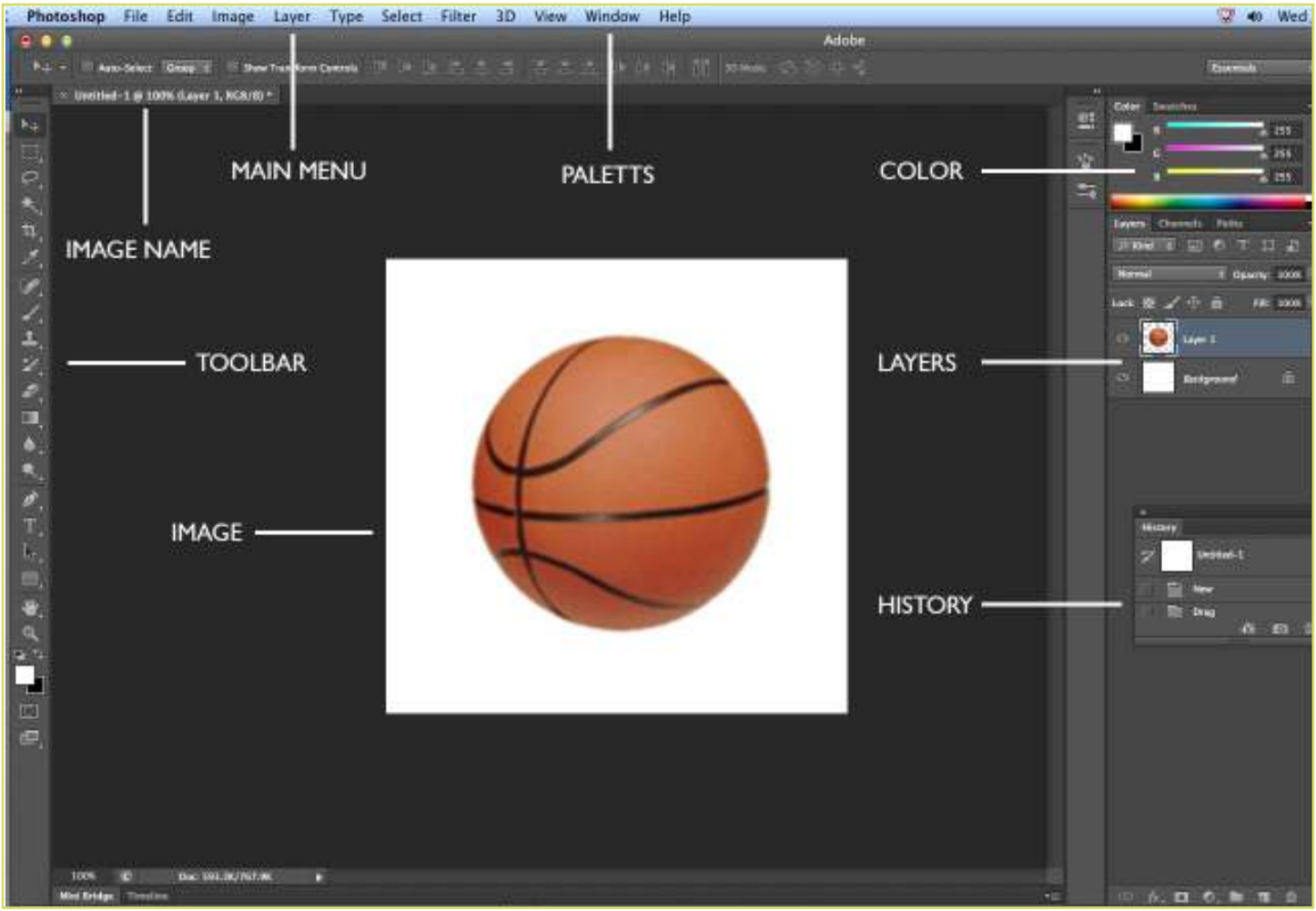

Figure 3. This is the layout of Adobe Photoshop interface.

Menu Bar
If you look at the top of the screen you will see the Menu bar (Figure 3), which contains all the main functions of Photoshop, such as File, Edit, Image, Layer, Select, Filter, Analysis, 3D, View, Window, and Help.

Toolbar
Most of the major tools are located in the Toolbar for easy access.

The Image
The image will appear in its own window once you open a file.

Image Name
The name of any image that you open will be at the top of the image window as shown above.

Palettes
Palettes contain functions that help you monitor and modify images. By default, palettes are stacked together in groups. These are the palettes that are usually visible: Color, Adjustments and Layers. If none of the palettes are visible, go to Window in the Menu bar and choose the palettes you need.

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