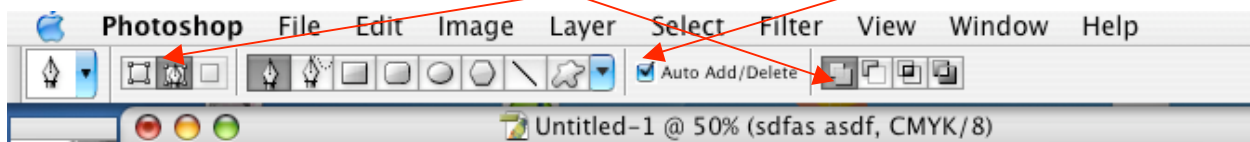


Using Paths in Photoshop

Paths are used to help you draw complex objects. Using the Paths Palette, you can modify paths, save and name them, paint and fill them, and convert to selections. Paths do not print in your files. They are simply guides to assist you with drawing.

Choose the Pen tool on the toolbar. Make sure the options are set to Paths and that Auto Add/Delete is selected as well as Add to Path Area.



Drawing Straight Paths – simply click on the page, then click again in another place. A path will be drawn between the two points. You can continue clicking to add anchor points to the path.

Look in the Paths Palette. You will see a Work Path. If you deselect the Work Path, you will lose the path. If you want to keep the path, double-click on the Work Path to name it. You can also choose New Path (see bottom of palette), and start creating a saved path in a new path.

Modify the Path – choose the Direct Selection tool (under the black arrow). You can use this tool to move your anchor points on the path.

Drawing Closed Paths – click and draw a path that closes on the opening anchor point. You can continue to use the direct selection tool to modify the path.

Stroke and Fill Path – Use the buttons on the bottom of the palette to either Stroke or Fill the path. Make sure you select your colors and brushes before stroking or filling.

Curved Paths – curved paths can be drawn by clicking and dragging. You will get curved anchor points that allow you to shift the curvature of the lines. Curved paths can be named, saved, stroked, and filled, just like straight paths.

Convert Path to a Selection – sometimes you want to select the area that is drawn by a path. You can do this by selecting *Load Path as a Selection* on the bottom of the palette.

Convert Selection to Path – sometimes you want to create a path from a selection. You can do this by selecting *Make Work Path from Selection*.

Clipping Path – a clipping path allows you to select a segment of an image and block out the rest. This is helpful when importing to a layout program like InDesign and having text

run around the image or when you want to place the image on a colored background. Simply create a path around the area of the image you want to clip. Make sure you save the path by double-clicking on it, then choose Clipping Path in the Option menu (arrow in top right of palette). When you save as a tif, it will only import the part that is clipped.

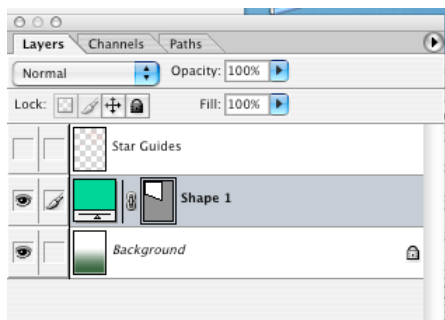
Text on Path – create a path, choose text tool, move cursor near path and look for Text on Path indicator, type will appear on the path.

Text in Path – With the pen tool selection, choose a shape to draw instead of a line. Then choose the text tool, move the cursor near the interior of the shape and look for the Text in Shape indicator, type will appear in the shape.

Vectors

Vector graphics are made up of lines and curves defined by mathematical objects. This allows these images to be scaled to different sizes and still retain quality. Vectors work differently than bitmap or raster images that rely on a grid of colors known as pixels.

Photoshop creates shape layers that consist of two components: a fill and a shape. The shape is actually a mask that masks out everything on the layer except the shape. The fill colors the entire layer. That is why you get two linked items in a shape layer.



The shape is actually a path that can be controlled by the features mentioned above.

Text

Text can be created by choosing the text tool and typing on the page. The text tool automatically creates a new layer for the text. This way, you can isolate the text to freely move it or to apply effects.

There are several text adjustments with which you will become familiar over the semester.

Font size – in points

Color

Kerning – space between two characters

Leading – space between lines

Tracking – space among selected characters

Vertical and Horizontal Scale – scales vertical and horizontal proportions by %

Baseline Shift – shifts text up or down depending on numbers (+ or -)

Anti-aliasing – adjusts the way that the edges of text are handled.