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KEYBOARD SHORTCUTS:

Layers

Duplicate Layer Ctl-j
New Layer (no message box) Ctl-Alt-Shift-n (Transparent. Changes below show.)
Merge Copy of Visible Layers Ctl-Alt-Shift-e (Changes below do not show)
Open Black Layer Mask Alt-click mask

Copy selection to layer Ctl-j
Cut selection to layer Ctl-Shift-j

Blend Mode Overlay Alt-Shift-o
Blend Mode Soft Light Alt-Shift-f
Blend Mode Difference Alt-Shift-e
Blend Mode Luminosity Alt-Shift-y

General

Numbers set opacity 0=100 2=20 25=25

Temporary hand navigation Spacebar
Display 100% Ctrl-l
Pan multiple images Shift-drag
Zoom to location Click on location, then Ctl-drag

Clone/Pattern Stamp s Shift-s to switch among clone tools
(Sample all layers for new transparent layer)

Healing tools j etc.
Hand h
Move Tool v (or Ctl-click for temporary move)
Straighten (rotate) image i (Ruler option under eyedropper tool)

Arrange-Tile Ctl-/ * (custom)
Shadows and Highlights Ctl-F9 * (* for custom Action that includes new
High Pass Filter Action Ctl-F8 * merged layer and smart object.
Smart Sharpen Ctl-F7 * Ctl so works after Curves.)
Neat Image Noise Reduction Ctl-F5 *
Compare Difference 2 Images Ctl-F4 *
Save as JPEG Ctl-F10*
Panasonic FZ200 Curves F9 * (curves presets for images from Camera Raw)

Invert Color Ctl-i

Free Transform Tool Ctl-t
Options Right click
Commit transform Enter
Cancel transform Esc

Save Ctl-s
Save As Ctl-Alt-s

Brush

Default Black/White color d
Toggle brush color x
smaller brush [
larger brush]
smaller/larger brush Alt-right click-drag horizontally
softer/harder brush Alt-right click-drag vertically

Select

Magnetic Lasso/Lasso l (Shift-l to switch)
Deselect Ctl-d
Last Selection Ctl-Shift-d
Invert Selectin Ctl-Shift-i
Quick Mask q

METHODS:

Copy adjustment layer to different image. Duplicate selected layer(s) (right click)

to different destination.

Content Aware Fill (to remove objects). Roughly select outside object and then hit backspace.

White frame for insert photo. Make selection, then Edit> Stroke.

Set to about 11 pixels inside. This will be copied with selection.

Selections: Usually feather about 2 pixels (1-3).

Quick Selection (w) Selects edge beyond cursor and expands as cursor moves.

Alt-click with cursor outside selection to move selection line back to reduce selected area.

Magnetic Lasso (l) Makes selections on edges. For reasonably precise work, hit Caps Lock to show circle, set contrast to 10% and frequency to 100.

Can use [and] to decrease or increase pixels for edge selection.

Hold down space bar to temporarily get Hand and navigate.

To delete individual anchor points, hit Delete or Backspace.

Hold Alt to shift to regular Lasso that selects where you click.

Modify Selection. Any change made outside current selection must be made with Add to

Selection options. Any change inside current selection must be made with Subtract from

Selection. Can use Shift (add) or Alt (subtract) with Selection Tools or use buttons.

Select closed loop and anything outside current selection is added. Anything inside current

is removed. May or may not be contiguous with edge of current selection.

Move Selection (not content). Have any selection tool active, click inside selection and drag to move.

Move Selection with content. Usual Move (v) or Clt-drag.

Move Selection with content to new layer, Ctl-j.

Move Selection with content to another document. Usual Ctl-c and Ctl-v.

Or drag layer from the first document into the image of the other document.

Transform Selection. Ctl-t. For Scale, Shift while dragging CORNER maintains aspect ratio. Skew moves one side only.

Refine Selection. Set view to black and white, turn on smart radius, and then slide radius

slider to right until you see the expected changes appear. Can also use Overlay view.

For problem areas, click on Redefine Radius tool and paint over problem area. Can undo

with Erase tool (e to toggle). For edge modifications, better to use Quickmask options

since they can be viewed and reversed more easily. Good output is New Layer with Mask.

Quickmask (q) specifically for adjusting selections. Equivalent actions (CS3)

Feather Filter> Blur > Gaussian Blur (pixel setting mean same for all)

Smooth Filter> Noise> Median

Expand Filter> Other> Maximum

Contract Filter> Other> Minimum

Can also refine edges with Gaussian Blur and Curves (lighter or darker)

Save Selections as Alpha Channel under Selections drop down.

To copy mask to new layer, Alt-drag from old to new layer mask icon.

To invert mask, click on mask icon and then Ctrl-i.

Clipping Mask from layer makes mask black where transparent and rest white.

SETTINGS:

Curves>Options Enhance Per Channel Contrast; Snap Midtones; Clip .01%

PROBLEM CASE

Sometimes Photoshop stops handling copy and paste from clipboard from another program such as Word. In this case, copy the image and close Word--say yes when it asks if you want to keep the file in the clipboard. Photoshop should be able to see the clipboard then.