A Beginner's Guide to Digital Image Repair in Photoshop: Volume 2

Color Adjustments, Filters, and Animation

Jennifer Harder

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A Beginner's Guide to Digital Image Repair in Photoshop: Volume 2: Color Adjustments, Filters, and Animation

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About the Author

Jennifer Harder has worked in the graphic design industry for over 15 years. She has a degree in graphic communications and is currently teaching Acrobat and Adobe Creative Cloud courses at Langara College. She is also author of several Apress books and related videos.

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Introduction

Welcome to the book *A Beginner's Guide to Digital Image Repair in Photoshop: Volume 2*.

In today's digital world, with smartphones and cameras, we can easily transfer our photos from phone to computer. Then, with Photoshop, we do a few basic corrections using various healing tools in conjunction with adjustment layers and filters and then print out the picture with our inkjet printer or post it on our social media page. However, occasionally we are left with the old or damaged photos and slides from a loved one who lived before the age of digital cameras. Now we need to decide what to do with these old family treasures, whether they be a family portrait or a trip to a historical location, that we have been keeping in a shoe box for many years. Some are in good condition and others are very damaged. What can we do to restore them? Let's continue that discussion from where we left off in the first volume. Refer to Figure 1.

Figure 1. *Collection of photos, film slides, and negatives in a shoe box*

Make sure to review Volume 1 before starting this next volume as we will explore how you can work with your old historical photos in Photoshop and digitally restore them so that you can print them out for family, as well as use them online as still photos or to animate select images. As we progress through the chapters, you will look at some of the many tools and filters that Photoshop has to offer, both old and new, that can assist you in your restoration project.

In Volume 1 we reviewed the following:

- Focused on preparation for working with old historical photos and reviewed scanner basics for your photo print, new information on how to work with film slides and negatives, some guidelines on what type of scanners and dialog box settings to use for them, and initial file formats that are created after the scan.
- Reviewed how to set up your Photoshop workspace, some of the tools and panels, and the basic file formats to save the files you are working on in.
- Looked at the basic Photoshop "healing tools" that are useful for very basic photo restoration as well as a few other additional tools that you incorporated for small touch-ups, color corrections, or cropping your artwork while working with the Layers panel on a personal project.
- Explored some more advanced features such as working with masks, selections, and other related commands and workspaces (old and new) that Photoshop has to offer. You saw that when there are gaps and details are not present in a photo, you can be creative and fill in the missing details.

Now Volume 2 will continue to explore the following:

- Chapters 1 and 2: Explore various masks and how we can use them to color correct the entire scene or selected areas using the Adjustments panel, its new features, and related brushes. You will also review what the smart object layer is and how to apply smart filter adjustments to it that are nondestructive. Blending modes and other advanced color adjustment options will be looked at as well.
- Chapter 3: Review some of the main basic filters that are mostly used for blurring, sharpening, or removing noise from an image. These filters will be applied to various layers, but we will also look at situations where they could be applied to or in combination with a layer mask, smart object filter mask, or channels.
- Chapters 4 and 5: Explore some advanced filters as well as some new filters that you may not be aware of that can help you with your photo restoration project. We will also take a brief look at how you can go about acquiring additional filters from the Adobe Creative Cloud console if you have a subscription.
- Chapter 6: Focus on two possible ways that you can bring your images to life in Photoshop using the Timeline panel. One way is to create a basic slideshow GIF animation, and the second is to create a parallax video animation from components of a single or several images. The latter has in recent years become popular when no historical video footage is available. I will discuss and look at what kinds of photos do and do not lend themselves to a parallax and then how to render the video animation using Photoshop and Adobe Media Encoder.

- Chapter 7: Conclude our discussion on Photoshop and digital image repair with some final color touch-ups you can do should you plan to print your images or save them for online use. I will also mention a few additional Adobe Creative Cloud and Microsoft apps that you may want to consider should you want to continue to work with your images for other multimedia projects.

At this point, I will just mention that though most photos we will be working with in this book will be historical or vintage, if you have modern digital photos, you can use them as well.

Note that in this book some of the images where people are present have had their faces altered (with blurs or mannequin faces) to protect their original identities, so that you can use them for practice. However, if you have similar photos of friends or family, then feel free to use the same techniques mentioned in this book and practice on them instead of mine.

Installation of Photoshop and Other Adobe Apps Review

This book assumes that you are using the Adobe Creative Cloud subscription. Currently, I am using an individual license, but you may have business/teams or a student license:

`www.adobe.com/creativecloud.html`

Make sure to install a copy of the Creative Cloud Desktop console on your computer.

Since the focus of this book is on Adobe Photoshop, if you have not already done so, make sure to download a copy of Photoshop from your Creative Cloud Desktop.

Go to Apps ➤ All apps and choose the Desktop option from the list. Under Essential in your plan, locate Photoshop and click Install. Refer to Figure 2.

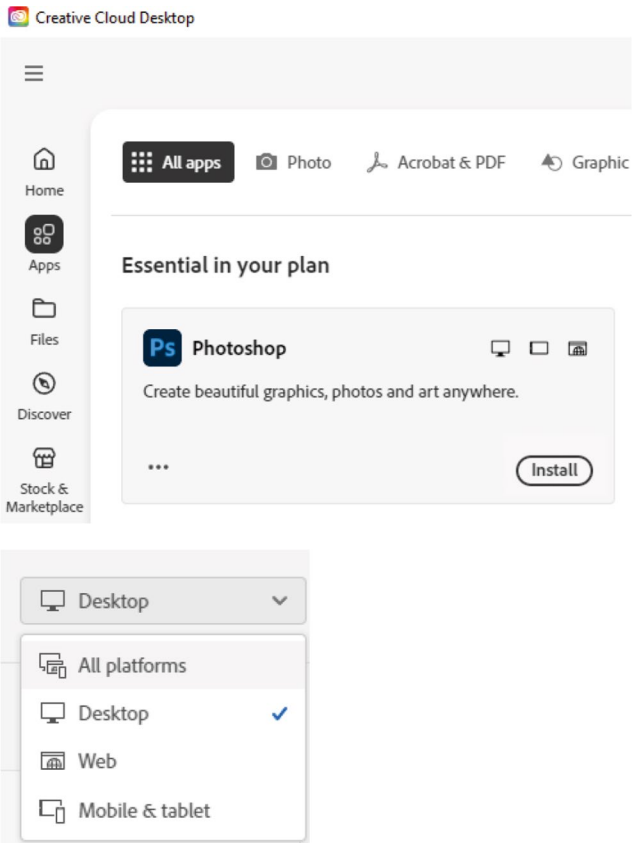

Figure 2. *Creative Cloud Desktop settings for installing Photoshop*

If you are not sure of your system requirements, you can check them here:

https://helpx.adobe.com/creative-cloud/system-requirements.html

https://helpx.adobe.com/photoshop/system-requirements.html

I am currently using version 2024 (25.12).

It may take several minutes for the download to complete, and you may be prompted to restart your computer. Once complete you would find the application in your Installed apps section with other applications, if you installed them earlier. Adobe will occasionally send you updates, which you can download to keep the software up to date. Refer to Figure 3.

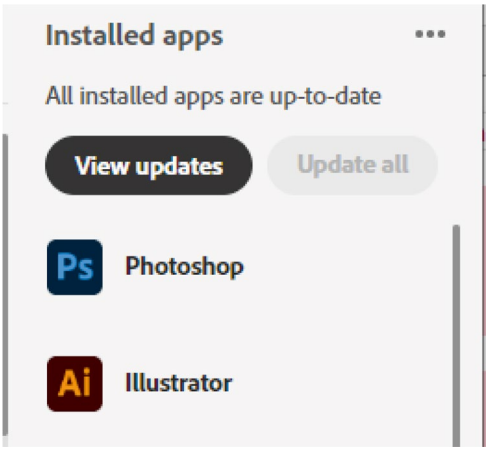

Figure 3. *Photoshop settings in the Creative Cloud Desktop to indicate it is installed and you can open the application*

Note that Adobe Bridge, to keep your photos organized, may also be downloaded. Though not used in this book, it will be briefly mentioned in Chapter 4 as it relates to the Camera Raw Filter. Camera Raw may also be installed with your Photoshop application. You may also want to download a copy of Media Encoder at the same time, but we will not require the application until Chapter 6. Refer to Figure 4.

Figure 4. *Other Adobe applications that will be installed: Bridge, Media Encoder, and Camera Raw*

Now that Photoshop is installed, click the Open button in the Creative Cloud Desktop and then, after a minute, it will load and open. Refer to Figure 5.

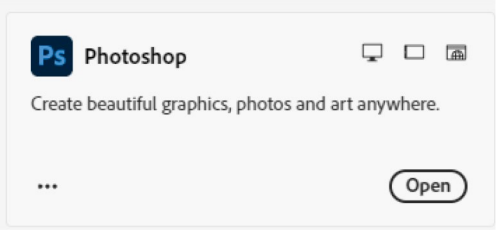

Figure 5. *Use the Creative Cloud Desktop to open the Photoshop application*

You can leave Photoshop open for now if you are planning to read Chapter 1 next and continue to use the Essentials (Default) Workspace as discussed in Volume 1. Or for now you can from the main menu choose File ➤ Exit (Ctrl/CMD+Q) if you need to exit the application.

Note that this book does not discuss the separate application Photoshop Express or Beta features unless they are installed in the current application.

Resources

Throughout this book I will be supplying a link for more details on various tools using the following link:

`https://helpx.adobe.com/`

You can also access more information on various Photoshop-related topics from the Photoshop Help menu, Discover panel (magnifying glass icon), as well as the Creative Cloud console's Discover tab. Refer to Figures 6 and 7.

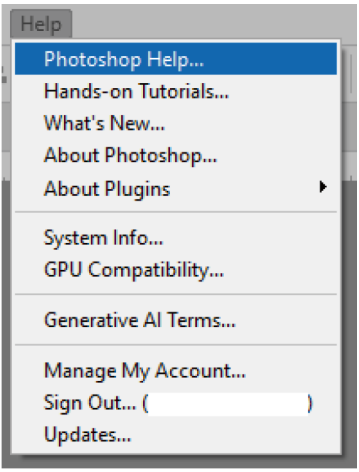

Figure 6. *Photoshop Help menu*

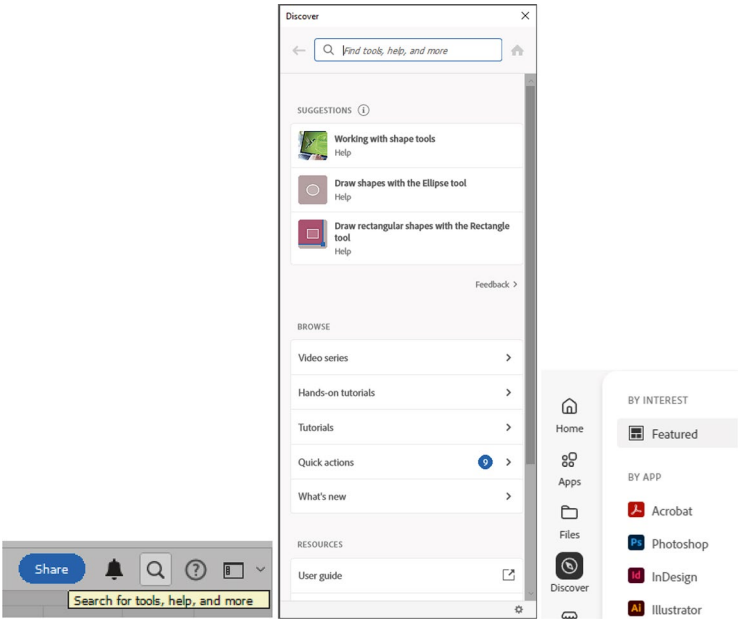

Figure 7. *Access to the Photoshop Discover panel along with the Creative Cloud Desktop gives access to Photoshop tutorials*

After you have finished this book, if you are interested in other Photoshop projects and working in combination with Adobe Illustrator, you can review some of my other Photoshop-related books should these topics be of interest to you:

- *Graphics and Multimedia for the Web with Adobe Creative Cloud*
- *Accurate Layer Selections Using Photoshop's Selection Tools*

- *Perspective Warps and Distorts with Adobe Tools: Volumes 1 and 2*
- *Creating Infographics with Adobe Illustrator: Volumes 1, 2, and 3*. These books briefly discuss Photoshop as it relates to infographic development.

Projects for this book can be found here: Link from Apress.

So now let's continue our journey into how to work with your box of historical photo treasures.