

**Why isn't this working in
Photoshop?!?!?!?!?**

...

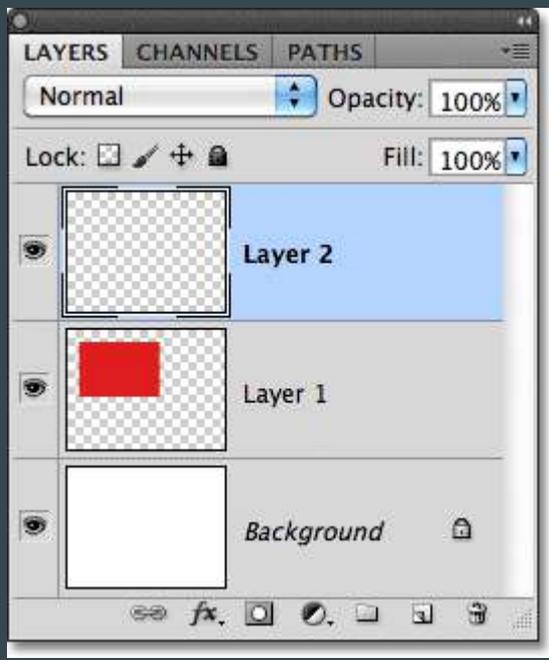
Photoshop is great, but...there are some common problems

- 1) It says the layer/area is empty...
- 2) Where did all my palettes and tool boxes go?
- 3) I opened a bunch of files and now I can't find some of them...
- 4) Why is my tool only a + sign?
- 5) I just transformed something and now Photoshop won't let me do anything else...
- 6) Help! My magnetic lasso tool went crazy!
- 7) I am trying to use a layer mask, but I keep on getting black and white on my pic...
- 8) How do I undo a whole bunch of steps?

It says the layer/area is empty...

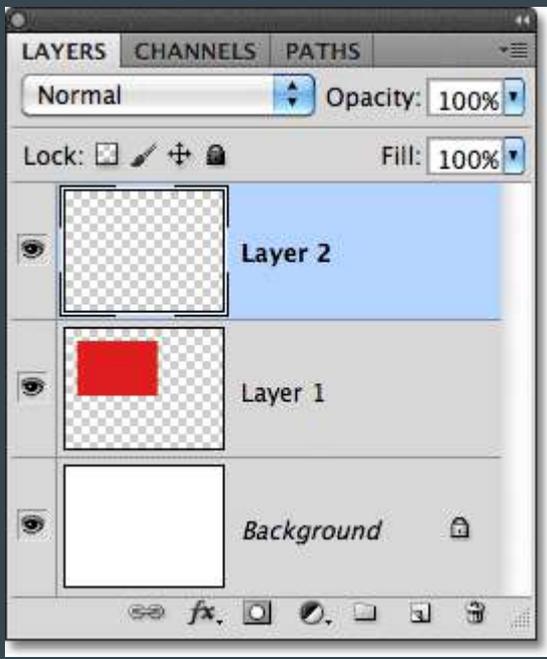
PROBLEM: Ok, you are trying to select an area and do something with it, like copy it, and you get an error message saying that it is empty.

GUESS SOLUTION



It says the layer/area is empty...

PROBLEM: Ok, you are trying to select an area and do something with it, like copy it, and you get an error message saying that it is empty.



SOLUTION:

You are on the wrong layer!!

TIPS:

It really helps to always rename your layer so you can keep track of them.

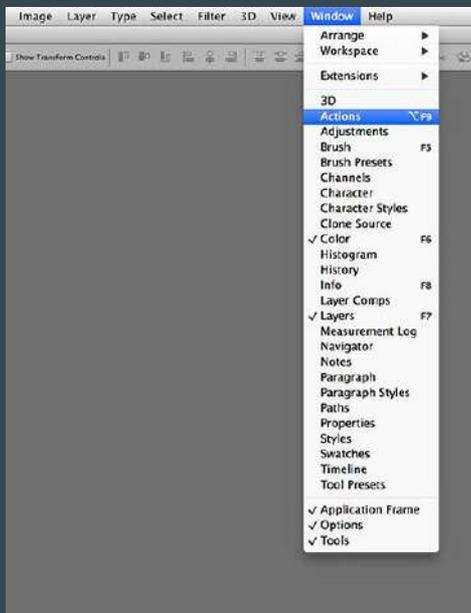
Also, you can turn on and off “the eye” to check what is on which layer.

Where did all my palettes and tool boxes go?

PROBLEM: Suddenly, I can't find my tool box, or a palette, or some other part of the Photoshop screen that I am used to having.

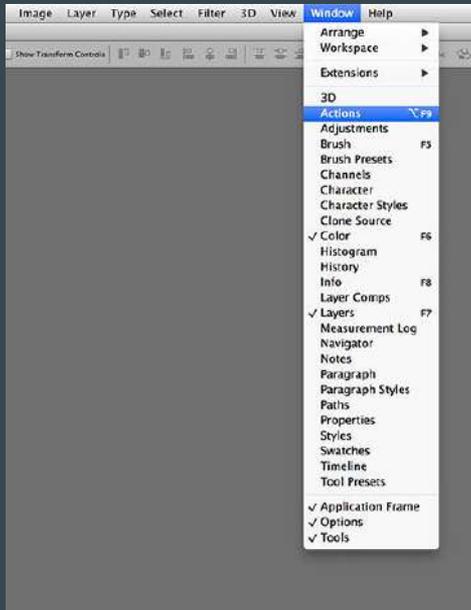
GUESS

SOLUTION



Where did all my palettes and tool boxes go?

PROBLEM: Suddenly, I can't find my tool box, or a palette, or some other part of the Photoshop screen that I am used to having.



SOLUTION:

Go to the upper right hand corner and choose **RESET ESSENTIALS**

TIPS:

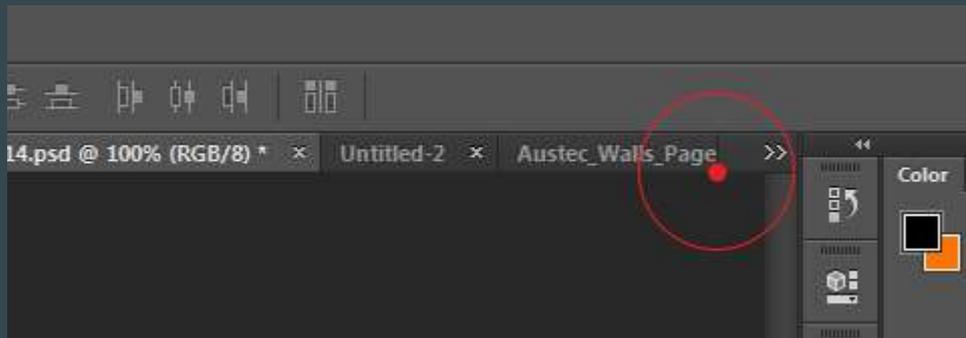
When you can't find a specific palette, try going to **WINDOWS** on the top menu bar and see if you can find the item that you need

I opened a bunch of files and now I can't find some of them...

PROBLEM: You opened up like 10+ files at once, but you can't find some of them in the tabs at the top.

GUESS

SOLUTION



I opened a bunch of files and now I can't find some of them...

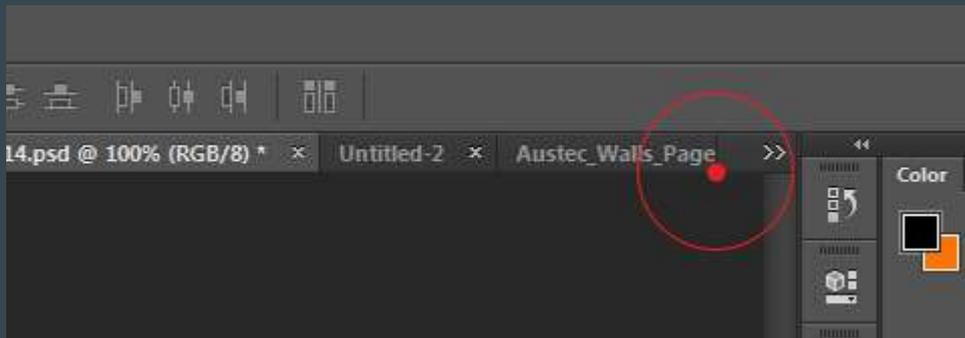
PROBLEM: You opened up like 10+ files at once, but you can't find some of them in the tabs at the top.

SOLUTION:

There is a drop down arrow >> to the right of the line of tabs at the top of the work area. Click on it, and it will list all of the other tabs.

TIPS:

Having a whole lot of files open in Photoshop can slow down the program. You might want to limit the number you have open at any given time.



Why is my tool only a + sign?

PROBLEM: you are used to having different shapes as your mouse when you use different tools. Might be a lasso, or a circle that shows the size of your brush. But suddenly, the only shape you have as a mouse is a + symbol.

GUESS SOLUTION



Why is my tool only a + sign?

PROBLEM: you are used to having different shapes as your mouse when you use different tools. Might be a lasso, or a circle that shows the size of your brush. But suddenly, the only shape you have as a mouse is a + symbol.

SOLUTION:

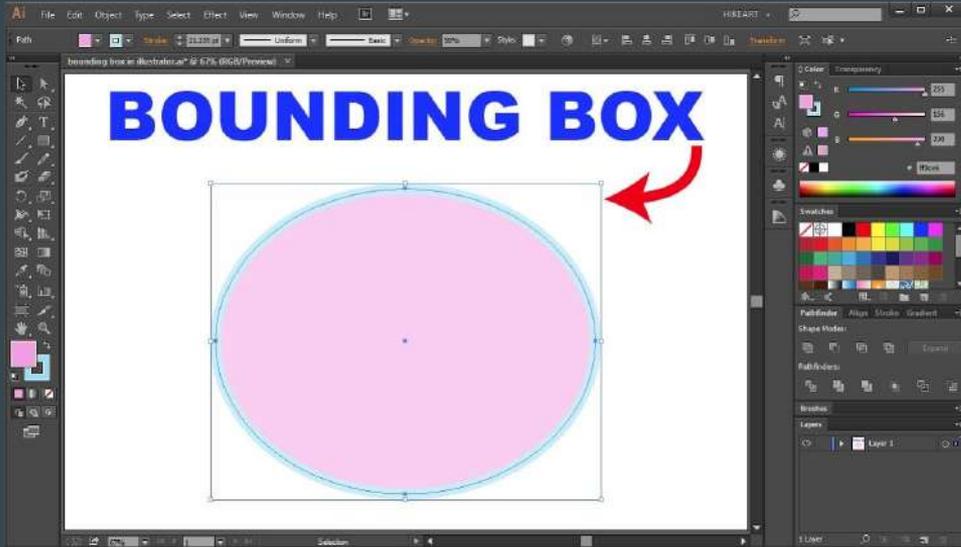
It is because your CAPS LOCK is on. Just turn it off and your mouse will look like it usually does.



I just transformed something and now Photoshop won't let me do anything else...

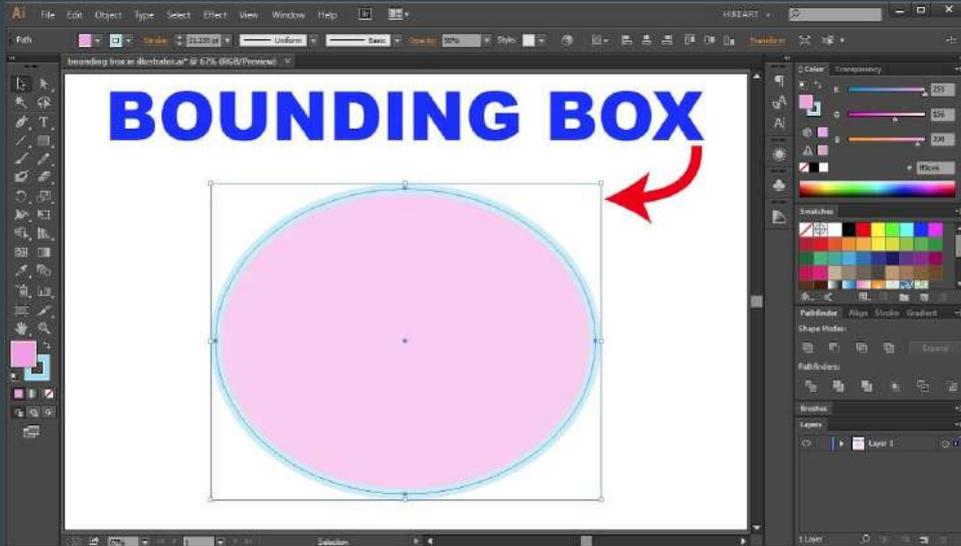
PROBLEM: I transformed something, and now I want to move onto doing something else, but it won't let me.

GUESS SOLUTION



I just transformed something and now Photoshop won't let me do anything else...

PROBLEM: I transformed something, and now I want to move onto doing something else, but it won't let me.



SOLUTION:

You always have to press ENTER to accept your changes when you transform something. Or if you try to click on another tool, you might get a pop-up that asks if you want to accept or cancel the transformation.

TIP:

You might notice the bounding box is still visible. If it is, it means you haven't pressed ENTER.

Help! My magnetic lasso tool went crazy!

PROBLEM: you were trying to select something using the magnetic lasso or the polygonal lasso, but you started messing up and now you can't get out of the tool to move on to something else.

GUESS

SOLUTION

Help! My magnetic lasso tool went crazy!

PROBLEM: you were trying to select something using the magnetic lasso or the polygonal lasso, but you started messing up and now you can't get out of the tool to move on to something else.

SOLUTION:

DOUBLE CLICK to close the selection, and then press **CTRL D** to deselect the crazy selection.

Or just press the **ESC** button

TIPS:

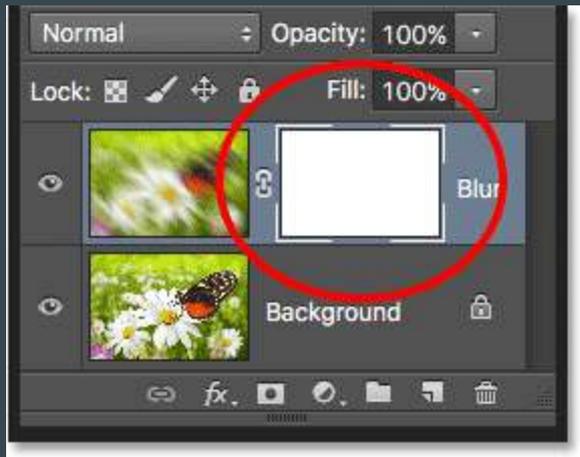
The magnetic and polygonal tools can be tricky. It is good to click where ever you want to set an anchor point.

I am trying to use a layer mask, but I keep on getting black and white on my pic...

PROBLEM: I put a layer mask on a layer, and I am trying to paint black on it to hide part of the layer, or white to reveal that part of the layer, but the actually black or white paint strokes are showing up instead.

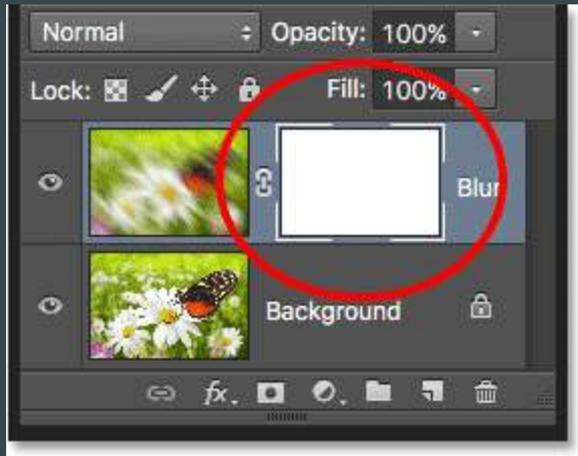
GUESS

SOLUTION



I am trying to use a layer mask, but I keep on getting black and white on my pic...

PROBLEM: I put a layer mask on a layer, and I am trying to paint black on it to hide part of the layer, or white to reveal that part of the layer, but the actually black or white paint strokes are showing up instead.



SOLUTION:

You are clicking on the square of the actual picture, not the square of the layer mask itself. So double check the layer to make sure you are clicking on the actual layer mask.

TIPS:

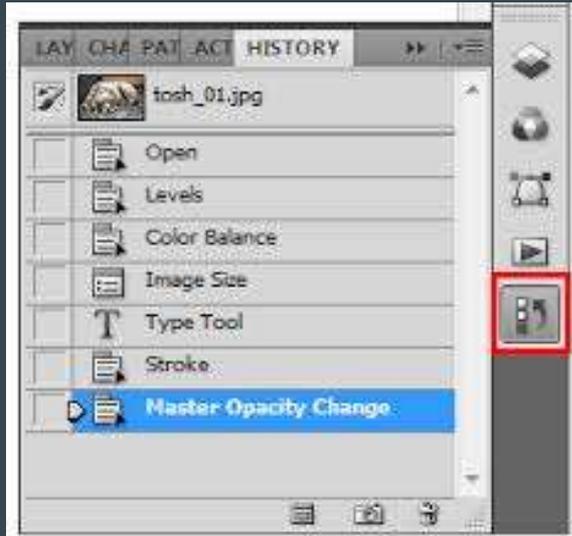
If you do mess up and paint with black or white on your actual photo, go into WINDOW>HISTORY and go back several steps to undo it

How do I undo a whole bunch of steps?

PROBLEM: I did a whole bunch of things that I want to undo, but when I press CTRL Z it only goes back one step

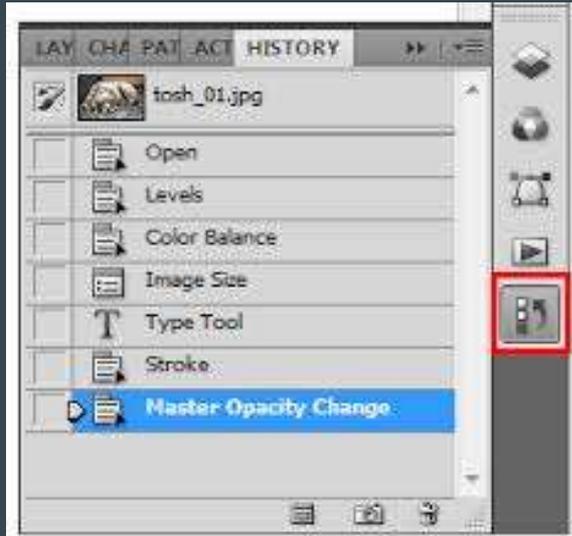
GUESS

SOLUTION



How do I undo a whole bunch of steps?

PROBLEM: I did a whole bunch of things that I want to undo, but when I press CTRL Z it only goes back one step



SOLUTION:

Go to WINDOW>HISTORY and you can go back up to 20 steps. You can also find the icon for it in the palette area. The icon is an arrow curved up next to some squares.

TIPS:

In your HISTORY, you can click on the little camera icon to take a “snapshot” of your current version of an image. You can go back to it later if you want.

Also, the HISTORY only works for the current open session of photoshop. If you close the file and open it again, the steps in history will be gone.

99% of the time, the problem is...

You are on the wrong layer!!!!

Honestly, I swear, it even happens to me. Just always double check to make sure you are on the right layer.