

Using the Healing Brushes



Follow these steps to use the **Spot Healing Brush** to correct a spot or blemish in an image:

1. Open an image that has one or more spots that need correcting. Zoom closer to the blemish if you want a better view.
2. Click the Spot Healing Brush to select it. Change the brush size to slightly larger than the area you want healed.
3. Choose a healing mode from the Mode drop-down menu in the Options bar. The Replace mode works like the Clone Stamp to actually replace the selected area by copying and pasting the source exactly how it appears, not blending the pixels at all. This option is rarely a good idea with the Spot Healing Brush because you don't get to pick the replacement pixels. The other modes correspond to the blending modes and create lighter or darker versions of the patch.



Using the Healing Brush

The Healing Brush tool works similarly to the Spot Healing Brush tool, with the added advantage that you get to set the sample point so that you can choose the area where the fix comes from. Using the Spot Healing brush, even multiple times, results in severely bruised and unnatural pixels due to the large size of the blemish. The Healing Brush works much better in situations like this.

1. Open an image in need of the Healing Brush tool to correct it. If necessary, change the background to a layer by double-clicking and renaming it.

2. Select the Healing Brush from the Toolbox, or press J (Shift+J to toggle to it if it is nested behind another tool).

3. Select a brush size from the Options bar. Or use the brackets for a quick brush size change. Alt-click/Option-click to set the sample point. You can reset the sample point as many times as you need to throughout the healing process by repeating this step.

4. Drag over areas that you want to be healed.

Unlike the Spot Healing Brush, you can make several passes to completely cover an area if you need to. As you drag, notice that the sample point moves along with your cursor, sampling areas in line with what you need to heal. If you have the Aligned option deselected, releasing the mouse returns the sample point to the original starting point. If Aligned is selected, the sample point remains the exact same distance from your Healing Brush tool, no matter how many times you release your mouse.

Fixing larger blemishes with the Patch tool

The Patch tool allows you to heal larger areas easily and preview the target area being used. It also uses the source more thoroughly to completely cover the area that needs fixing, so color is not left behind as frequently as it is with the Healing and Spot Healing Brushes.

The Patch tool has a new option in Photoshop CS6 that enables you to use the Content-Aware engine to match the background as closely as possible. You can choose the Normal setting or the Content-Aware setting from the Options bar, as shown below



You want to use the Normal setting to blend the area to be fixed with the area that you are using to create the patch. For instance, skin tones or areas with similar backgrounds are blended much better to create more realistic shading. The Content-Aware option uses the color and texture information from the background areas around your selection, creating a complete cover-up rather than a blend.

1. Open an image that needs to be patched. Select the Patch tool from the Healing Brush tools flyout in the Toolbox.
2. Select a Patch option from the Options bar. For a normal patch fix, select Normal. If you want to make a selection around the area that needs correcting, select Source. If you want to make a selection around the area you are using to correct the image, select Destination.
3. Draw around the area that you want to heal.
4. The Patch tool creates a selection much like the Lasso Selection tool. Draw around the area you want to select, and close the selection. You can use the Selection options in the Options bar to add to or subtract from the selection, but it doesn't have to be exact.
5. Click and drag the selection over the area that you want to use to fix the patch. The selection itself won't move, but an identical selection shows the area you are using. Additionally, the pixels inside your original selection change to preview the fix. This preview is not the final result; after you release the mouse button, the two areas are blended to create a seamless patch.
6. Press Ctrl+D/ ⌘ +D to deselect the selected areas and see your final results.

Using the Content-Aware fill

The Content-Aware fill isn't found with the Healing tools, but it takes unwanted elements seamlessly out of an image. The Content-Aware feature uses an algorithm that seamlessly fills in a selected area of a photo in a short amount of time. The Content-Aware fill and the Content-Aware patch work similarly, but the Content-Aware patch allows you to choose the area you would like to mimic.

Dayley, Brad (Author). Adobe Photoshop CS6.

Hoboken, NJ, USA: Wiley, 2012. p 526.

<http://site.ebrary.com/lib/artedmc/Doc?id=10560606&ppg=566>