

## Day Two: Opening up Photoshop- It won't bite!

Yesterday I gave you an overview of Photoshop and we discussed how it's used and the purchase options available to you. Today, I want to talk about how you can customize Photoshop to look and work in a way that is personalized to you. For starters, I want to show you the default Photoshop screen and Sherry's own setup for the program.

Here's what Photoshop looks like upon installation, which is how I use Photoshop:

Here's what Sherry works with on her own two-monitor system:

From looking at these images, you can see how flexible this program is. You have many options for arranging your workspace. This customizable interface is just one of the aspects of Photoshop we love!

So let's explore the program a bit more:

Panels which you see on the right side of your screen allow you to modify your image and have available menus with additional commands and options.

Your Toolbar is a floating panel normally placed at the left of the screen.

Your collection of panels and your toolbar is called the Workspace.

Photoshop allows you to save any arrangement of panels as your own custom workspace. You can even save multiple workspaces and switch between them if you like. I just love that feature!

Photoshop ships with a number of presets - versions the developers think will be most useful for different tasks. Let's explore these workspaces:

Photoshop defaults to a workspace named Essentials. You'll see that other preset workspaces are available for different tasks. Photoshop lets you add, reset and delete any workspace.

Photoshop also provides a reset option for the current workspace, if you rearrange something while using the program. The interface on PS is sticky. Unless the program crashes, the way you leave Photoshop when you quit the application is the way it will look when you reopen it.

So, if I have the Layers panel open and I exit the program, I'll find it in the same place the next time I start the program. Sometimes, you'll move a panel around or expand a panel but not want it that way for long—even for long enough to make it into a new workspace. The Reset command puts the workspace back to the way it looked when you (or Adobe) created it.

I like to think of Reset as the cleanup command.

Photoshop has other sticky controls as well. The File > New command is one of the most obvious. It will default to the last document type and size you created. In many cases, the Filter and Effects settings are also sticky, so take time to look at the options before you accept something.

So, how do you change the location of the panels? Let's take a look, starting with arranging panels.

### Arranging Panels

1. Open Photoshop and choose Essentials from the workspace list.
2. Choose Reset Essentials on the menu on the Options bar.
3. Now, choose Painting from the workspace list in Photoshop. The panels move to new positions and some disappear and some new panels take their place.
4. Let's customize this a bit. The Clone Source tool on the outside of the docked panels is something that graphic artists don't always need. Let's close it.
5. Click the Clone Stamp icon location on your monitor.
6. The Clone Stamp panel opens.
7. Click the menu icon on the extreme upper-right of the open panel.
8. On the menu, choose Close Panel. If you were to select the Close Tab Group option, the entire small dock would disappear. When you choose Close, only the Clone Stamp disappears.

So, now you know how to remove a panel (or an entire Tab Group). What if you want it back?

You can always choose Reset Painting. You can also open the Window menu and find the name of the panel you wish to open. You can do this regardless of whether the panel was originally visible on the dock or not.

How do you get a panel out of the dock so you can always have it open? It's easy! Simply place your cursor on the panel tab (on its name) and hold the mouse and drag. The panel follows your cursor. Once it's out of the dock, you can move it anywhere you want.

Try it yourself.

Now that we've taken a look inside Photoshop, it's time for the fun stuff. In tomorrow's lesson we'll begin exploring how you can use Photoshop to turn your paintings, sketches and doodles into digital artwork! I can't wait.

Falling in love with Photoshop? I don't blame you. It's one of my favorite design tools. Let me encourage you to join Sherry London for [Photoshop for Designers](#). It's the best way to get super familiar with all the wonderful ways you can use Photoshop as you create. Check it out.