



Introduction to Photoshop

An Essential Guide for Absolute
Beginners

—

Kevin Wilson

Apress®

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Absolute Beginners**

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WIDNES, UK

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About the Author

With over 20 years' experience in the computer industry, **Kevin Wilson** has made a career out of technology and showing others how to use it. After earning a master's degree in computer science, software engineering, and multimedia systems, Kevin has held various positions in the IT industry, including graphic and web design, digital film and photography, programming and software engineering, developing and managing corporate networks, building computer systems, and IT support.

He currently teaches computer science at college and works as an IT trainer in England while researching for his PhD.

Introduction

The aim of this book is to provide a first course in the use of Photoshop to manipulate and enhance photographs and create graphics for print or the Web.

It provides a foundation for those who wish to manipulate photos or create graphics based on sound design principles, and because the book is intended to be a primer, it allows the beginner to become comfortable with using Photoshop to complete various tasks.

As it is a first course, no previous experience of using Photoshop is assumed.

Throughout the book, we'll explore the ins and outs of Photoshop with practical examples and lab exercises for you to complete yourself. For this purpose, we've included various sample images and projects in the following repository: github.com/apress/introduction-to-photoshop.

CHAPTER 1

Getting Started with Photoshop

Adobe Photoshop is an image manipulation application developed by Adobe and is primarily designed for photo editing, retouching, image creation, and graphic design.

Photoshop is the industry standard and comes with a vast array of tools for manipulating digital images. It has become quite common to say that an image has been "photoshopped," meaning that it's been airbrushed, edited, or manipulated in some way.

To make full use of Photoshop you'll need a subscription to Adobe Creative Cloud. You'll then be able to download Photoshop and install it on your computer.

Creative Cloud subscriptions can be quite pricey, but you can get a Photography Package for about \$20 per month which includes the latest version of Photoshop.

It should be noted that the screenshots in subsequent chapters are correct at the time of writing; however, as Adobe releases updates to Photoshop, there may be slight differences in appearance.

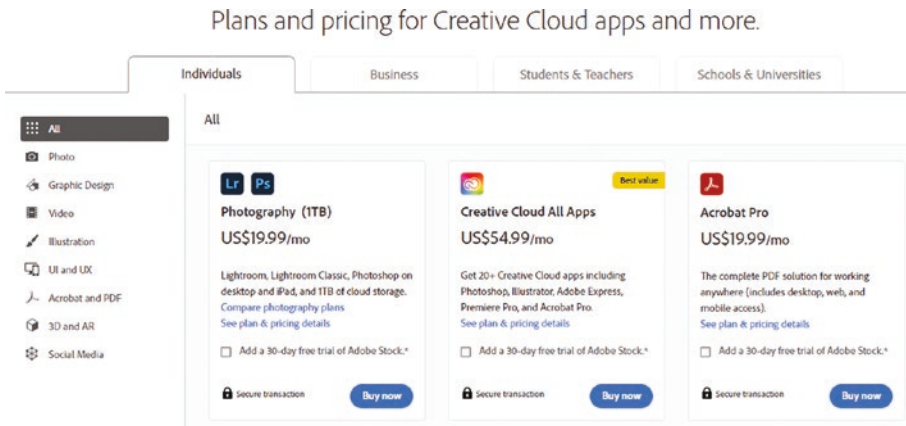
Let's get started.

Purchasing Photoshop

You can download Photoshop from Adobe’s website. Adobe apps can be quite expensive; however, you can take out a photographer’s plan and use Photoshop for a fee. Open your web browser and navigate to

www.adobe.com/creativecloud/plans.html

Select the “Individuals” tab, then scroll down and click “Buy now” under the “Photography (1TB)” plan.



Select “Annual paid monthly,” or if you want to purchase a full year, select “Annual, prepaid.” Click “Buy now.”

Photography

Easily edit, organize, store, and share your photos from anywhere — and transform them into anything you can imagine. Make every shot stunning — and sync across mobile and desktop — with Lightroom. And create beautiful images, graphics, and art on desktop or iPad with Photoshop.

Includes

- Lr** Lightroom
- LrC** Lightroom Classic
- Ps** Photoshop
- PsE** Photoshop Express
- PsC** Photoshop Camera

Extras

- 1TB of cloud storage
- Step-by-step tutorials
- Adobe Portfolio
- Adobe Fonts
- Behance
- Creative Cloud Libraries
- Access to the latest features

Recommended for

- Photo management
- Photo editing
- Compositing

Choose a payment plan:

Annual, paid monthly
US\$19.99/mo
Fee applies if you cancel after 14 days. ⓘ

Annual, prepaid
US\$239.88/yr
No refund if you cancel after 14 days. ⓘ

Add a 30-day free trial of Adobe Stock and get up to 10 standard assets. Cancel risk-free before your free trial ends and you won't be charged. Pay US\$29.99/mo after your trial ends.

Secure transaction **Buy now**

There is also a 30-day trial of Adobe Stock where you can find thousands of photos, images, and other illustrations you can use in your designs. Note that after the 30-day trial, you will be charged a fee. I usually leave this option unselected.

Enter your email address you want to use for your Adobe ID, then click “Continue” to run through the buying process.

Step 1 of 2

Enter your email. You'll use it to access all your Adobe products.

We'll create an account if you're new, or ask you to sign in.

Email address

By clicking "Continue", I agree that I have read and accepted the [Terms of Use](#), and that the Adobe family of companies can keep me informed by sending personalized emails about products and services. See our [Privacy Policy](#) for details or to opt-out at any time.

Continue

Summary

Lr Ps Creative Cloud Photography plan with TTB

Subscription: Yearly, billed monthly **US\$19.99/mo**

Subtotal: **US\$19.99/mo**

TOTAL: US\$19.99/mo + tax

Select your payment method: either a credit card or PayPal, enter your details, then click “Continue” or “Agree and subscribe” at the bottom of the screen.


CHAPTER 1 GETTING STARTED WITH PHOTOSHOP

Step 2 of 2

Enter your payment information.

Your new account login

Your payment method


 Credit/Debit

Card number MM/YY

First name Last name

Zip code Country/Region


Phone number (optional)



By clicking "Agree and subscribe", you agree: You will be charged US\$9.99 (plus tax) monthly. At the end of your one-year term, your subscription will automatically renew monthly until you cancel (price subject to change). No annual commitment required after the first year. Cancel anytime via Adobe Account or Customer Support. Cancel before Sep 24, 2022 to get a full refund and avoid a fee. You also agree to the Terms of Use and the Subscription and Cancellation Terms.

[Agree and subscribe](#) [Back](#)

Summary

 Creative Cloud Photography plan with 1TB


Subscription

Yearly, billed monthly US\$19.99/mo

Subtotal US\$19.99/mo

TOTAL US\$19.99/mo + tax


Once you've subscribed, click "Get started" to download Photoshop.

 Thank you, Kevin! Your order was placed successfully.


Get started with Creative Cloud Photography plan with 1TB

Use your account to access all your Adobe products and services.

[Get Started](#)



Summary

 Creative Cloud Photography plan with 1TB

Confirmation email sent to

Order Number

Payment method

You're being charged £16.64/mo

Questions? [Contact us.](#)

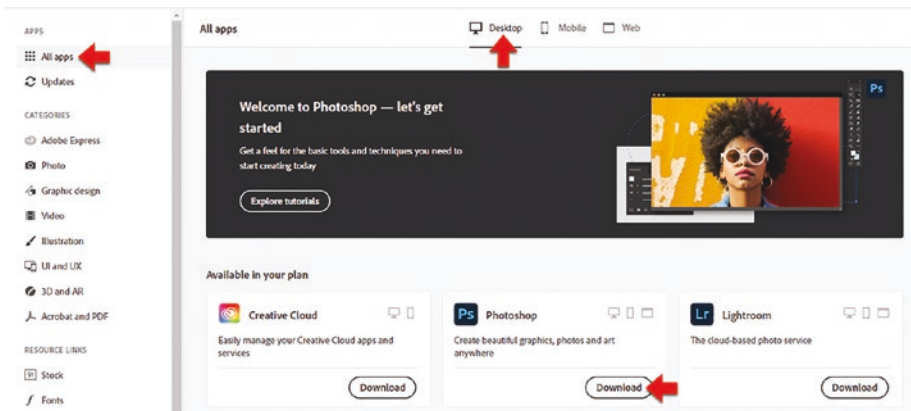
See the next section for details on how to download and install Photoshop on your computer.

Downloading Photoshop

Once you've purchased Photoshop, go to your desktop apps catalog. To do this, open your web browser, navigate to the following link:

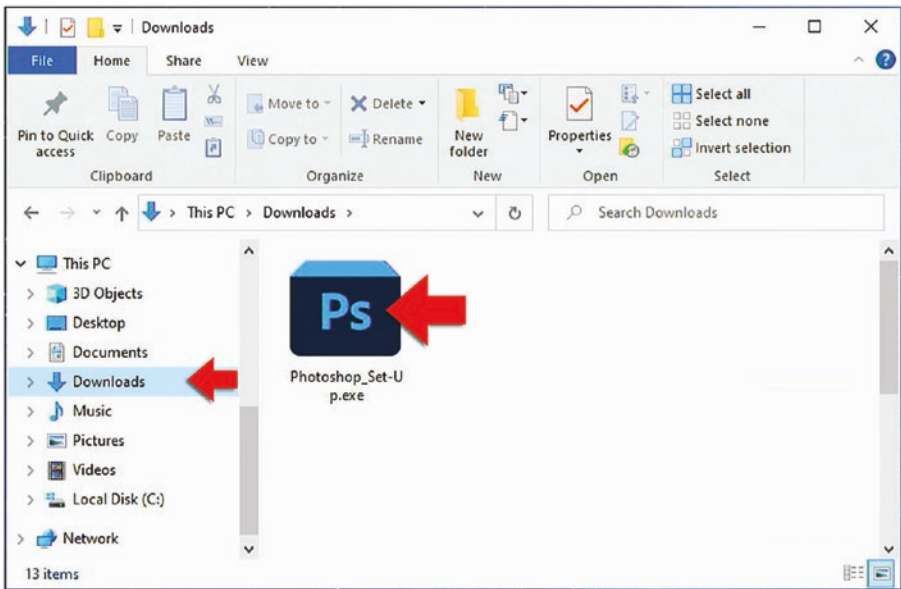
creativecloud.adobe.com/apps/all/desktop

Sign in with your Adobe ID if you haven't already done so. Select all apps on the left hand side, then click on the "Desktop" tab in the middle. Scroll down to "Photoshop," then click on "Download."

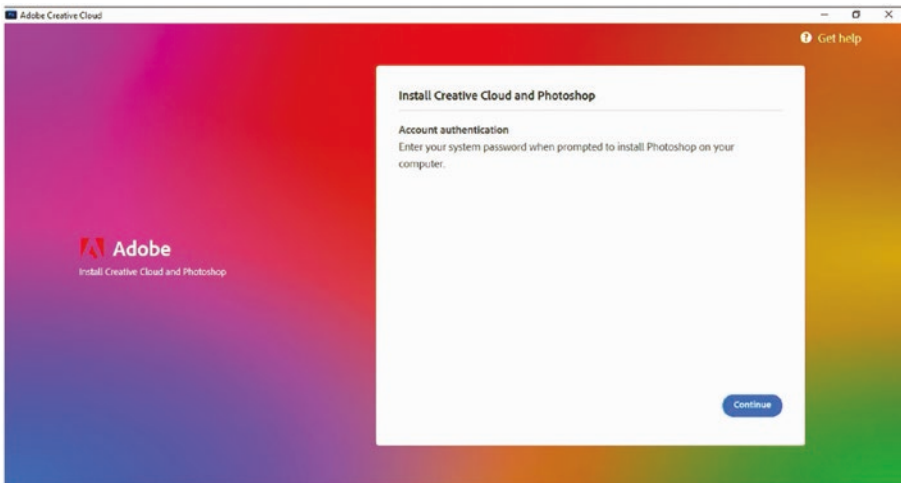


Navigate to your downloads folder using File Explorer (or Finder on a mac). Double-click the file - which is usually "Photoshop_Set-Up."

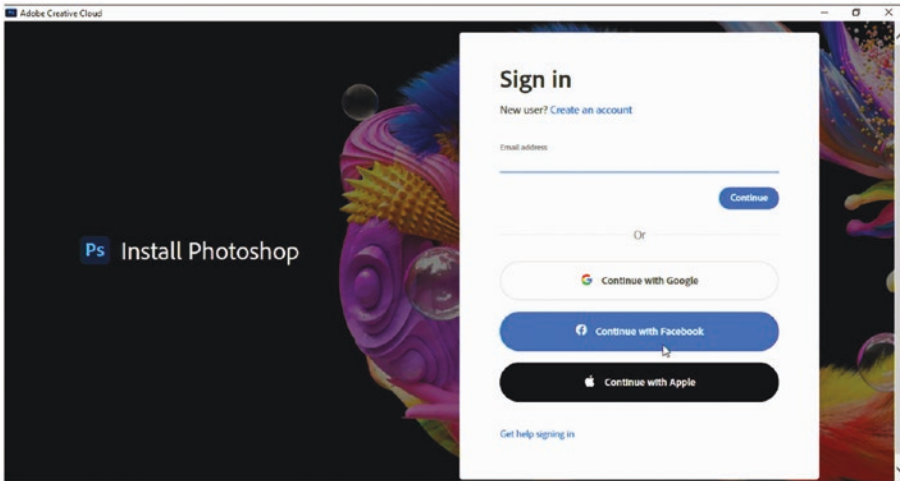
CHAPTER 1 GETTING STARTED WITH PHOTOSHOP



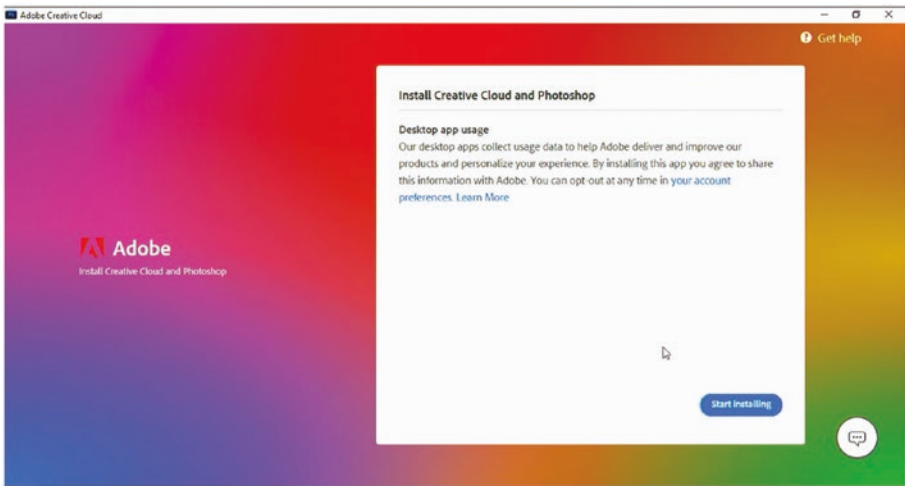
Once the installer program opens, click “Continue” on the title screen.



Sign in with your Adobe ID and password you created when you purchased Photoshop, click “Continue.”

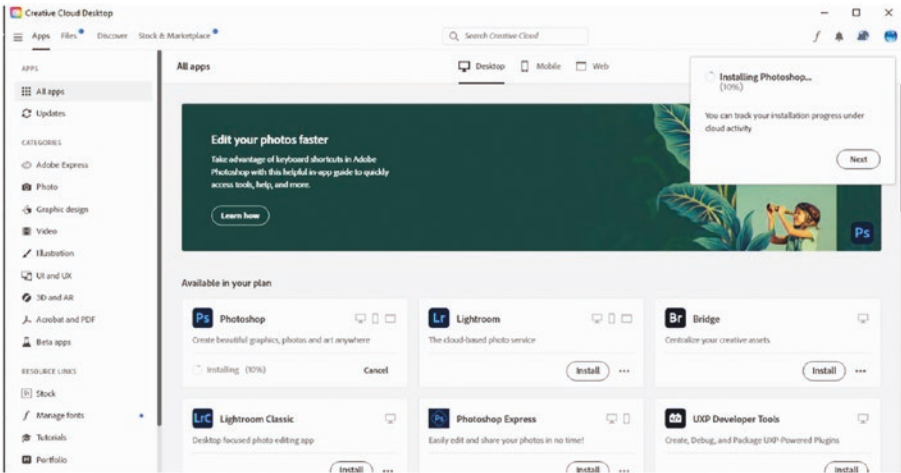


Click “Start installing” on the bottom right to run through the setup. This will take some time depending on how fast your computer is.



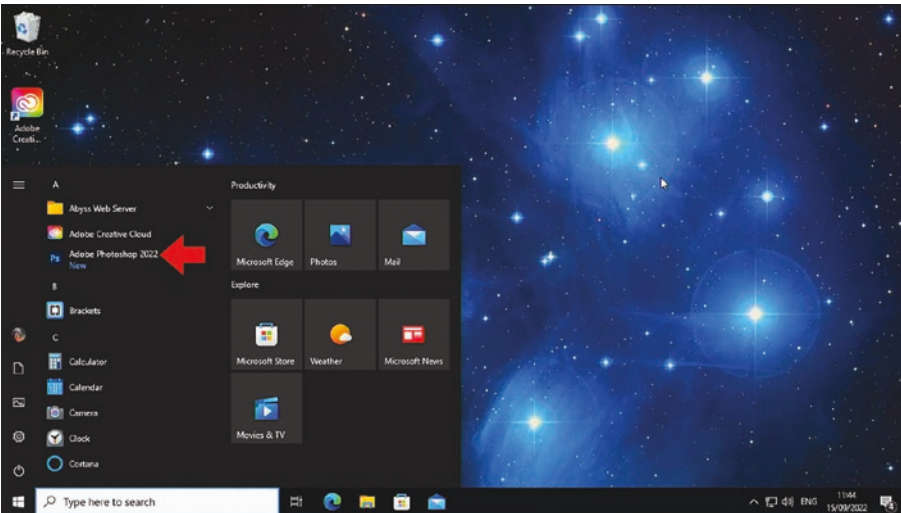
Once Creative Cloud is installed, Photoshop will follow. Allow Photoshop to install on your computer. You’ll see the progress on the top right of the screen.

CHAPTER 1 GETTING STARTED WITH PHOTOSHOP



Again, this will take some time to complete.

Once installed, you'll find Adobe Photoshop on your start menu in Windows. Click the icon to launch the application.

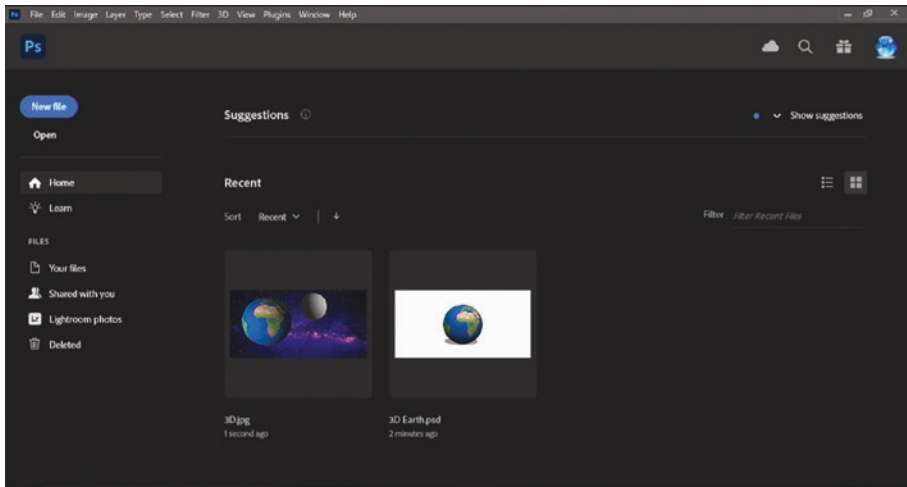


Or if you're using a Mac, you'll find Photoshop in Finder or on Launchpad. Click the icon to launch the application.



Opening a Blank Project

Once Photoshop opens, you'll see a thumbnail list of all your most recent projects in the middle. You can either open one of these or open a new blank project.



To open a new project, click “New file” on the left-hand side of your screen. You can also select “New” from the “File” menu on the top left. Here you’ll see some preset page sizes and templates.

In Figure 1-1, along the top of the “New document” dialog box, you’ll see some tabs. Here you’ll find preset sizes for print, art/illustration, web, and mobile. This allows you to select correct page sizes for example if you’re creating a flyer that is letter size, or if you’re creating a social media graphic for the web.

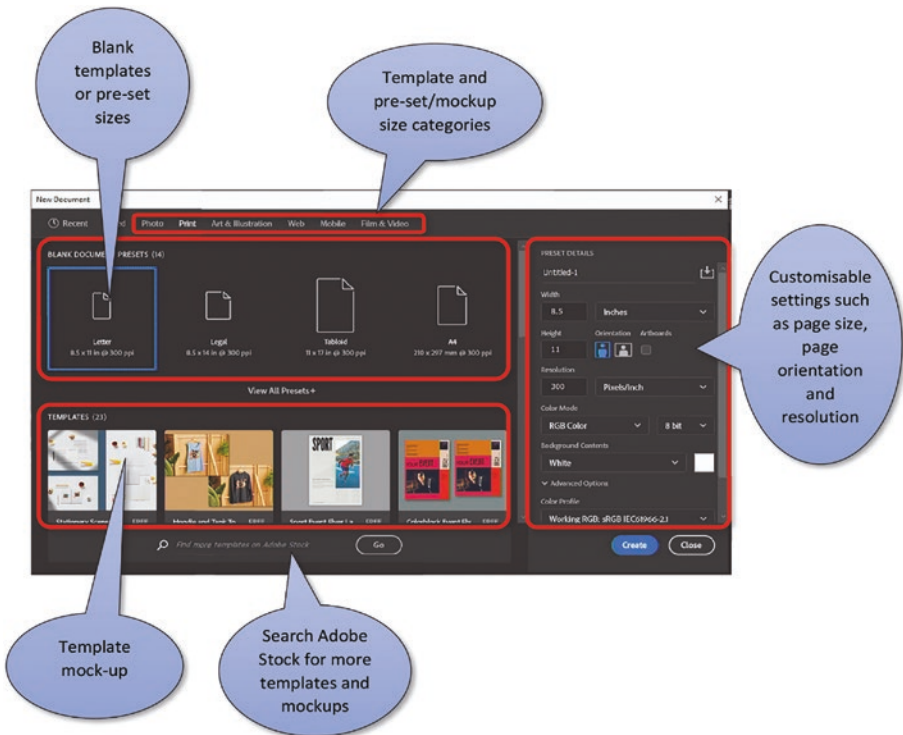


Figure 1-1. *New Document Dialog Box*

For example, if you select the “Print” tab, you’ll see some familiar page sizes such as letter, legal, A4, and so on.

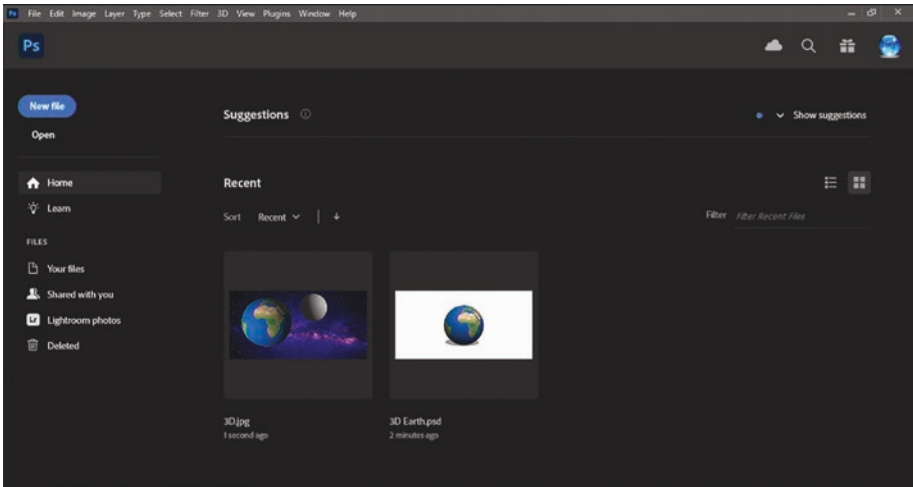
If we select A4, on the right-hand side you’ll see the preset sizes. You can change the height and width if you need to, set the orientation to landscape, or portrait, change the resolution (300 is usually the one to go for if you’re printing your work out and 72 is ideal for web). You can also set the background color (in our example, white).

Once all the settings are correct for your project, click “Create.”

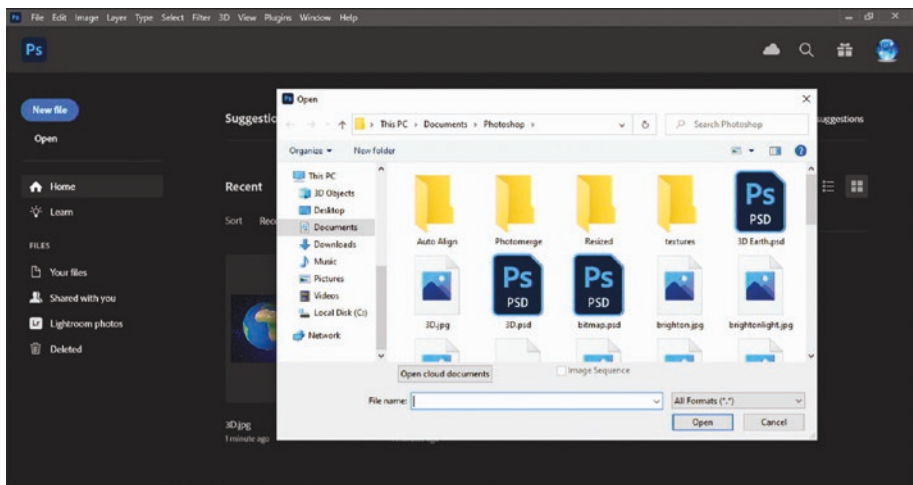
Photoshop will open a blank canvas for you to start your design.

Opening a Saved File

When you start Photoshop, you'll see a screen with a thumbnail view of all your most recently opened projects and images. If you see your project here, just click the thumbnail to open it up.



If not click “Open” on the left-hand side of your screen and browse for the project. Photoshop files have the file extension “.psd”



The project will open in the main window. Here you can edit and manipulate the image as you want using the various Photoshop tools



Saving a File

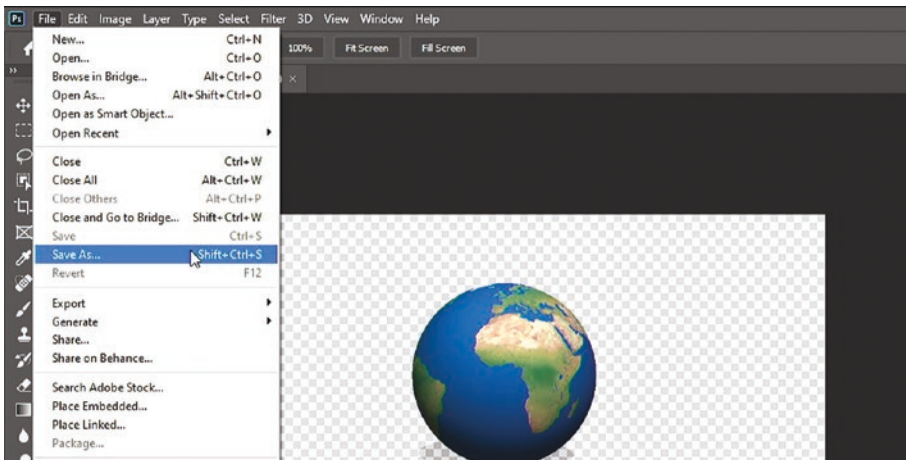
When saving a file in Photoshop, you have some options and file formats to consider:

- You should save your master file as a PSD – the master file is the version of your file that you want to be able to edit at the highest possible resolution/quality (usually 300dpi). This is the default and is the format that saves all the layers, effects, and edits you make to your files. To do this, use File ► Save As.

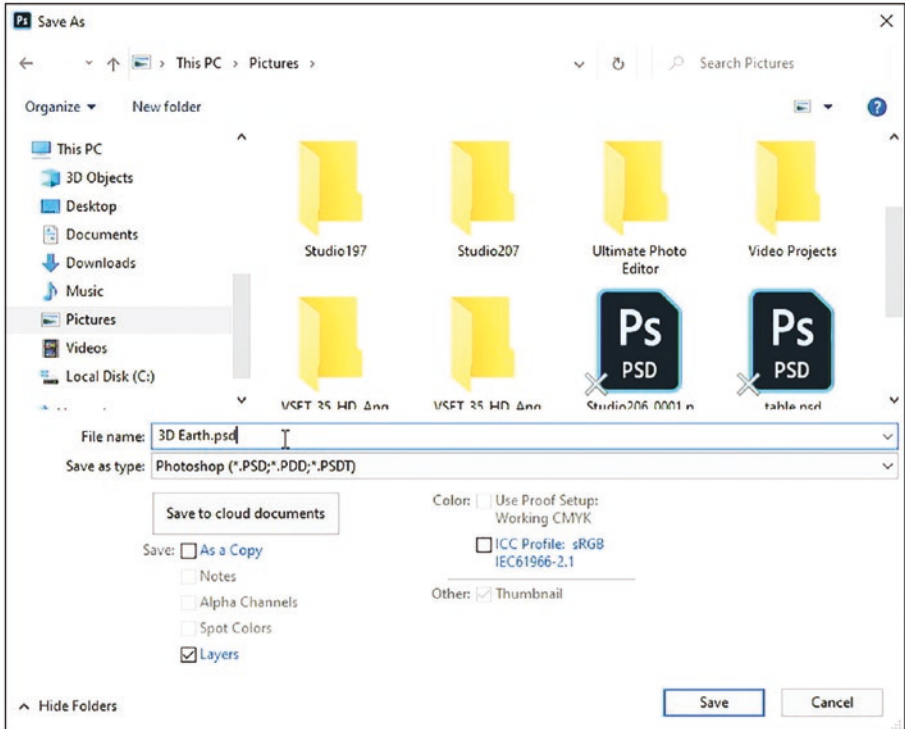
- If you're preparing your Photoshop file to send to a printing press, you'll need to use Save As. In the Save As dialog box, you can select either a TIFF, EPS, or PDF file format, depending on what the printing press requires for their printers.
- If you are saving the file to send to someone else, use in a word document, or on a website, you should export the file as a PNG or JPEG using the File ► Export Option, not Save As. This file doesn't save any layers and the image isn't as easily editable later on. These formats aren't as useful if you plan to edit the file as they don't preserve layer information.

Save As

To save a file, click the file menu on the top left, then select “Save as.”

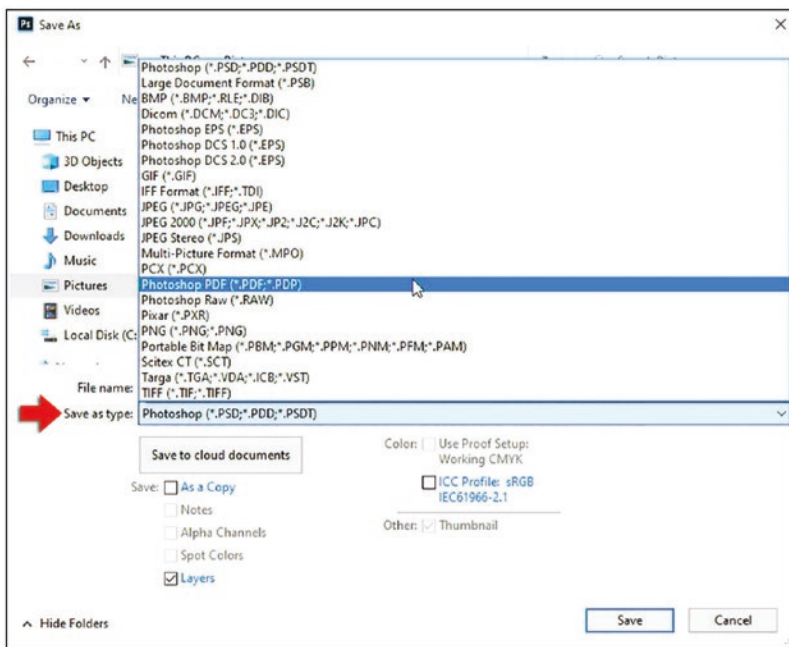


In the save as dialog box, navigate to the folder where you want to save the file, for example, in the “Pictures” folder.



Give the file a name.

In the format dialog box, select PSD for your master high quality file you want to be able to edit later. If you are sending to a printing press, select either .TIFF, .EPS, or .PDF



Exporting

You should use “Export As” when saving final versions of your file as a PNG or JPEG for the web, or another application such as Microsoft Word.

To do this, click the “File” menu on the top left.

