

Photoshop and Lightroom for Photographers

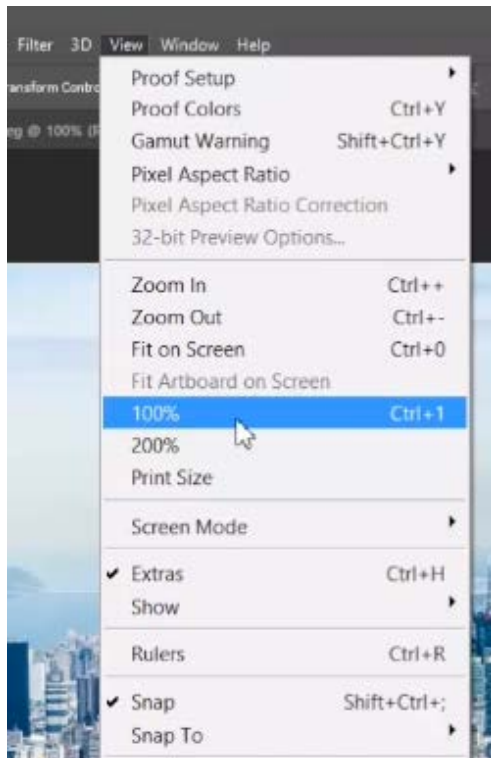
Topic 4 – Panning and Zooming in Photoshop

Learning Outcomes

In this lesson, we will look at how we can pan and zoom to see our documents from a variety of angles.

There are a number of ways to zoom in and out of an image in Photoshop

Panning and Zooming



There are also a variety of ways in which we can pan around to see different areas of a specific photograph. If we look at the view menu, there are four different options that are generally the most popular. These are: Zoom in, zoom out, fit on screen and 100%.

It's important to note that each one of these has its own keyboard shortcut and knowing these shortcuts will significantly speed up your workload. For our Mac users, it's the command key, and on Windows, which is what I use, it's the control key, and you simply use plus or minus to

zoom in and out of the image. You also use zero and one, to either fit the photograph tightly on screen, or to go to 100%.

This is our view at 100%, and Photoshop will automatically zoom in to that percentage. This can be very useful when you are working tightly on a specific section of a photograph. When we use the CTRL key and the minus key, it brings us out, and when we switch to the plus key, we can quickly zoom in. Using CTRL and zero, Photoshop will display our entire image in the preview area. You will notice that this is often zoomed in at very odd zoom percentages.

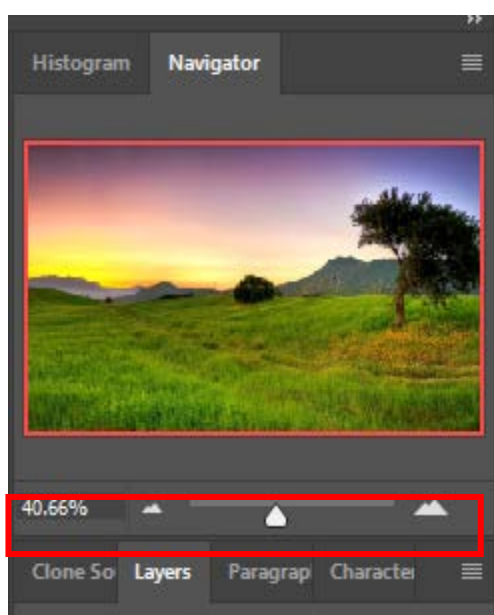


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Now, what about the zoom tool? Well, let's take a look. We select the zoom tool by tapping the Z key or we can also click on it in the tool bar. Every time you click on your image preview area with the zoom tool, it will zoom in.

If you want to zoom out, you have the choice of either switching to the zoom out option, or you can remain with the zoom in and just hold down the option key for Mac users, or the alt key for Windows, which is what we have here. When we hold down the alt key you can see that the icon in the centre of the zoom tool changes from a plus to a minus. From now on, every time we click, we will automatically zoom out. If we click and just hold down the mouse, Photoshop will keep zooming in to that area. This feature is called animated zoom, and if you really zoom in far enough, you will experience this pixel grid overlay. This reflects what I said when we talked about every photograph being composed of these millions and millions of pixels.

Once again, if we hold down the alt key, click and hold down the mouse, we'll begin to zoom out, using the same animated zoom option. By clicking and dragging to the right with the zoom tool we zoom in, and clicking and dragging to the left we zoom out.



We also have the option of using the navigator panel. We can zoom in or out using this slider. Moving to the right will zoom in. Moving to the left will zoom out. When we're zoomed in, we can move the rectangle on this section to zoom in to a different area or we can hold down the CTRL key and click and drag our own rectangle in any part of the image so that we can zoom in to that area. You can close this navigator panel, by clicking on the two chevrons, or arrows.



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We haven't looked at the hand tool yet and I want to introduce you to it because it is very useful. We can click on the hand tool to select it in the tool bar, or we can tap the H key to select it. I'm sure you're beginning to see the value of these shortcuts. If you can remember them, it will serve you well. Personally, I love using the hand tool to pan around my document. It's very useful in that you will not be limited to just going left or right, up or down. At a very basic level, this is what the scroll bars do the we see here on the x and y axis.



With the hand tool, we have the freedom to travel in both of these directions. The image will continue to move even after you release your cursor. This feature is known as flick panning. Personally, I like it as it adds energy to the process. However, if you happen to dislike flick panning and you'd rather disable it, you can go under the Edit menu, preferences, and then tools. This is Photoshop menu instead of Edit menu for Mac users. You can disable the flick panning by unchecking this option. Make sure you click OK to confirm this change. By clicking anywhere in your image as you've started to pan - the panning will come to immediately stop.

If you want to quickly fit the image onscreen or you want to zoom into 100% but you're not sure of our handy keyboard shortcuts, you can always double-click on the hand tool, and Photoshop will neatly fit the image on your screen. If you like, you can also double-click on the zoom tool and you will zoom in to 100%.



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One very handy skill is being able to zoom and pan while you're working with multiple photographs. Let's move to the window menu and click arrange. When we tile these vertically, we can see that both of our images are at a different zoom percentage.

Very often, you will want to match the zoom percentage while working on two images like what we have here. You could select window and then arrange and click match zoom. Now, we have both images at the same zoom percentage. Can you see that the one on the left changed as it is now matching the one on the right? This occurred because the photograph on the right was our active window.

If we want to zoom out on both of these images, we simply select the zoom out tool, and then we enable zoom all windows. When we click in any section of one window, both of them will automatically zoom out. On the other hand, if we wanted to zoom in, we simply switch tools and click to zoom in. Similarly, if you select the hand tool, you have the option to scroll all windows. If you click and drag in one image, both images will scroll simultaneously.



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What have we learned today? A Summary

So, what have we learned in this lesson? We have had a good introduction into how we can navigate the interface of Photoshop. We have also learned how you can customise the interface and set the layout, in the best way for your work.

