Adobe® Photoshop® CS6 DigitalClassroom™

A Complete Training Package!

- Full-color, step-by-step instructional book

Jennifer Smith and the AGI Creative Team

Adobe® Photoshop® CS6 Digital Classroom

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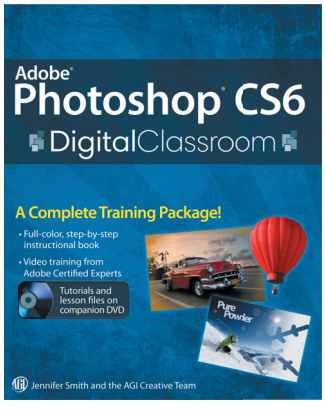

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Starting up

About Photoshop Digital Classroom

The *Adobe® Photoshop® CS6 Digital Classroom* provides a broad foundation of essential Photoshop skills. It is the perfect way to learn Photoshop if you are just starting out with the software, upgrading from a previous version, or if you have never received formal training-even if you have been using Photoshop for years. The *Adobe Photoshop CS6 Digital Classroom* provides you with essential skills across a wide range of Photoshop's capabilities. Whether you plan to use Photoshop for color correction and retouching of images, creating digital artwork, designing web pages, or creating advertisements, the *Photoshop Digital Classroom* is your starting point for beginning to understand everything that Photoshop offers. It has been a best-selling Photoshop book for many versions, and is widely used by schools teaching Photoshop, digital imaging, and digital design.

The *Adobe Photoshop CS6 Digital Classroom* helps you get up-and-running right away. You can work through all the lessons in this book, or complete only specific lessons. Each lesson includes detailed, step-by-step instructions, along with lesson files, useful background information, and video tutorials on the included DVD–it is like having your own expert instructor guiding you through each lesson while you work at your own pace. This book includes 14 self-paced lessons that let you discover essential skills, explore new features, and understand capabilities that will save you time. You'll be productive right away with real-world exercises and simple explanations. The *Adobe Photoshop CS6 Digital Classroom* lessons are developed by the same team of Photoshop experts who have created many official training titles for Adobe Systems.

Prerequisites

Before you start the *Adobe Photoshop CS6 Digital Classroom* lessons, you should have a working knowledge of your computer and its operating system. You should know how to use the directory system of your computer so that you can navigate through folders. You also need to understand how to locate, save, and open files, and you should also know how to use your mouse to access menus and commands.

Before starting the lessons files in the *Adobe Photoshop CS6 Digital Classroom*, make sure that you have installed Adobe Photoshop CS6. The software is sold separately, and not included with this book. You may use the free 30-day trial version of Adobe Photoshop CS6 available at the *adobe.com* website, subject to the terms of its license agreement.

Adobe Photoshop CS6 versions

Photoshop CS6 comes in two versions: Adobe Photoshop CS6 and Adobe Photoshop CS6 Extended. The Extended version offers everything you find in Photoshop CS6, along with additional tools for editing video, motion-graphics, 3-D content, and performing image analysis. This book covers both versions of Photoshop CS6. Where appropriate, we have noted any features that are available only in the Extended version. Adobe Photoshop CS6 is used to refer to both versions of the software throughout the book.

System requirements

Before starting the lessons in the *Adobe Photoshop CS6 Digital Classroom*, make sure that your computer is equipped for running Adobe Photoshop CS6, which you must purchase separately. The minimum system requirements for your computer to effectively use the software are listed below and you can find the most current system requirements at *http://www.adobe.com/products/photoshop/tech-specs.html*

Windows

- Intel® Pentium® 4 or AMD Athlon® 64 processor
- Microsoft® Windows® XP with Service Pack 3 or Windows 7 with Service Pack 1
- 1 GB RAM
- 1 GB of available hard-disk space for installation; additional free space required during installation (cannot install on removable flash storage devices)
- 1024×768 display (1280×800 recommended) with 16-bit color and 256 MB (512 MB recommended) of VRAM and OpenGL 2.0–capable system
- DVD-ROM drive
- Broadband Internet connection required for software activation and access to online services.

Mac OS

- Multicore Intel processor with 64-bit support
- Mac OS X v10.6.8 or v10.7
- 1 GB RAM
- 2 GB of available hard disk space for installation; additional free space required during installation (cannot install on a removable flash storage device or case-sensitive volume)
- 1024×768 display (1280×800 recommended) with 16-bit color and 256 MB (512 MB recommended) of VRAM and OpenGL 2.0–capable system
- DVD-ROM drive
- Broadband Internet connection required for software activation and access to online services.

Starting Adobe Photoshop CS6

As with most software, Adobe Photoshop CS6 is launched by locating the application in your Programs folder (Windows) or Applications folder (Mac OS). If you are not familiar with starting the program, follow these steps to start the Adobe Photoshop CS6 application:

Windows

1. Choose Start > All Programs > Adobe Photoshop CS6. If you have a Creative Suite installed, you will navigate to that folder to locate the Photoshop CS6 folder.
2. Close the Welcome Screen when it appears.

Mac OS

1. Open the Applications folder, and then open the Adobe Photoshop CS6 folder. If you have a Creative Suite installed, you will open that folder to locate the Photoshop CS6 folder.
2. Double-click on the Adobe Photoshop CS6 application icon.
3. Close the Welcome Screen when it appears.

Menus and commands are identified throughout the book by using the greater-than symbol (>). For example, the command to print a document appears as File > Print.

Resetting Adobe Photoshop CS6 preferences

When you start Adobe Photoshop, it remembers certain settings along with the configuration of the workspace from the last time you used the application. It is important that you start each lesson using the default settings so that you do not see unexpected results when working with the lessons in this book. The method described in the following steps restores Photoshop back to the original setting. If you have made changes to your Colors Settings and wish to maintain them, follow the steps in the section, "Steps to reset default settings, but keep color settings."

Steps to reset Adobe Photoshop CS6 preferences

1. If Photoshop is open, choose File > Exit (Windows) or Photoshop > Quit (Mac OS).
2. Press and hold the Ctrl+Alt+Shift keys (Windows) or Command+Option+Shift keys (Mac OS) simultaneously while launching Adobe Photoshop CS6.
3. A dialog box appears verifying that you want to delete the Adobe Photoshop settings file. Release the keys then press OK.

Steps to reset default settings, but keep color settings

As you reset your preferences to the default settings, you may wish to keep your color settings. This is important if you have created specific color settings, or work in a color-calibrated environment.

Use the following steps to reset your Adobe Photoshop CS6 preferences and save your color settings.

1. Launch Adobe Photoshop CS6.
2. Choose Edit > Color Settings, and then press the Save button. The Save dialog box opens. Enter an appropriate name for your color settings, such as the date. Leave the destination and format unchanged, then press the Save button. The Color Settings Comment dialog box opens.

3 In the Color Settings Comment dialog box, enter a description for the color settings you are saving and then press OK. Press OK again in the Color Settings dialog box to close it. You have saved your color settings so they can be accessed again in the future.

4 Choose File > Quit, to exit Adobe Photoshop CS6.

5 Press and hold the Ctrl+Alt+Shift keys (Windows) or Command+Option+Shift keys (Mac OS) simultaneously when launching Adobe Photoshop CS6. A dialog box appears verifying that you want to delete the Adobe Photoshop settings file. Release the keys then press OK.

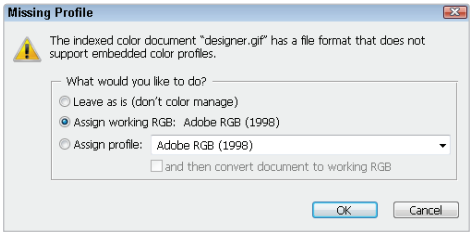
6 After Adobe Photoshop CS6 launches choose Edit > Color Settings. The Color Settings dialog box appears.

7 From the Settings drop-down menu, choose your saved color settings file. Press OK. Your color settings are restored.

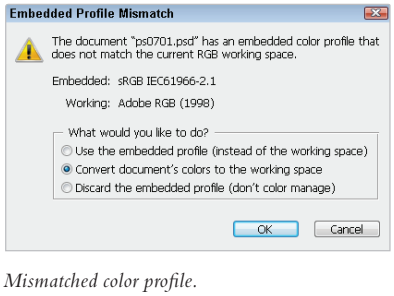
A note about color warnings

Depending upon how your Color Settings are configured, there may be times when you will receive a Missing Profile or Embedded Profile Mismatch warning. Understand that if you reset your preferences before each lesson (without restoring your color settings) you should not see these color warnings. This is because the default color setting of North America General Purpose 2 has all warning check boxes unchecked.

If you do receive Missing Profile and Embedded Profile Mismatch warnings, choose the Assign working option, or Convert document's colors to the working space. What is determined to be your working space is what you have assigned in the Color Settings dialog box. Color Settings are discussed in more detail in Lesson 6, "Painting and Retouching" and in Lesson 7, "Creating a Good Image."



Missing color profile.



Mismatched color profile.

Access lesson files and videos any time

Register your book at *www.digitalclassroombooks.com/CS6/Photoshop* to gain access to your lesson files on any computer you own, or watch the videos on any Internet-connected computer, tablet, or smart phone. You'll be able to continue your learning anywhere you have an Internet connection. This provides you access to lesson files and videos even if you misplaced your DVD.

Checking for updated lesson files

Make sure you have the most up-to-date lesson files and learn about any updates to your *Photoshop CS6 Digital Classroom* book by registering your book at *www.digitalclassroombooks.com/CS6/Photoshop*.

Loading lesson files

The *Photoshop CS6 Digital Classroom* DVD includes files that accompany the exercises for each of the lessons. You may copy the entire lessons folder from the supplied DVD to your hard drive, or copy only the lesson folders for the individual lessons you wish to complete.

For each lesson in the book, the files are referenced by the file name of each file. The exact location of each file on your computer is not used, as you may have placed the files in a unique location on your hard drive. We suggest placing the lesson files in the My Documents folder (Windows), or at the top level of your hard drive (Mac OS), or on your desktop for easy access.

Copying the lesson files to your hard drive:

1. Insert the *Photoshop CS6 Digital Classroom* DVD supplied with this book.
2. On your computer desktop, navigate to the DVD and locate the folder named pslessons.
3. You can install all the files, or just specific lesson files. Do one of the following:
   - Install all lesson files by dragging the pslessons folder to your hard drive.
   - Install only some of the files by creating a new folder on your hard drive named pslessons. Open the pslessons folder on the supplied DVD, select the lesson you wish to complete, and drag the folder(s) to the pslessons folder you created on your hard drive.

Unlocking Mac OS files

Macintosh users may need to unlock the files after they are copied from the accompanying disc. This only applies to Mac OS computers and is because the Mac OS may view files that are copied from a DVD or CD as being locked for writing.

If you are a Mac OS user and have difficulty saving over the existing files in this book, you can use these instructions so that you can update the lesson files as you work on them and also add new files to the lessons folder

Note that you only need to follow these instructions if you are unable to save over the existing lesson files, or if you are unable to save files into the lesson folder.

1. After copying the files to your computer, click once to select the pslessons folder, then choose File > Get Info from within the Finder (not Photoshop).
2. In the pslessons info window, click the triangle to the left of Sharing and Permissions to reveal the details of this section.
3. In the Sharing and Permissions section, click the lock icon, if necessary, in the lower-right corner so that you can make changes to the permissions.
4. Click to select a specific user or select everyone, then change the Privileges section to Read & Write.
5. Click the lock icon to prevent further changes, and then close the window.

Working with the video tutorials

Your *Photoshop CS6 Digital Classroom* DVD comes with video tutorials developed by the authors to help you understand the concepts explored in each lesson. Each tutorial is approximately five minutes long and demonstrates and explains the concepts and features covered in the lesson.

The videos are designed to supplement your understanding of the material in the chapter. We have selected exercises and examples that we feel will be most useful to you. You may want to view the entire video for each lesson before you begin that lesson. Additionally, at certain points in a lesson, you will encounter the DVD icon. The icon, with appropriate

lesson number, indicates that an overview of the exercise being described can be found in the accompanying video.

DVD video icon.

Setting up for viewing the video tutorials

The DVD included with this book includes video tutorials for each lesson. Although you can view the lessons on your computer directly from the DVD, we recommend copying the folder labeled videos from the *Photoshop CS6 Digital Classroom* DVD to your hard drive.

Copying the video tutorials to your hard drive:

1. Insert the *Photoshop CS6 Digital Classroom* DVD supplied with this book.
2. On your computer desktop, navigate to the DVD and locate the folder named videos.
3. Drag the videos folder to a location onto your hard drive.

Viewing the video tutorials with the Adobe Flash Player

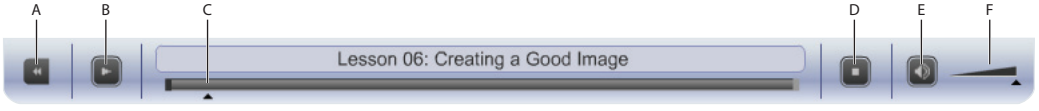
The videos on the *Photoshop CS6 Digital Classroom* DVD are saved in the Flash projector format. A Flash projector file wraps the Digital Classroom video player and the Adobe Flash Player in an executable file (.exe for Windows or .app for Mac OS). Note that the extension (on both platforms) may not always be visible. Projector files allow the Flash content to be deployed on your system without the need for a browser or prior stand-alone player installation.

Playing the video tutorials:

1. On your computer, navigate to the videos folder you copied to your hard drive from the DVD. Playing the videos directly from the DVD may result in poor quality playback.
2. Open the videos folder and double-click the Flash file named PLAY_PSCS6videos to view the video tutorials.

3 After the Flash player launches, press the Play button to view the videos.

The Flash Player has a simple user interface that allows you to control the viewing experience, including stopping, pausing, playing, and restarting the video. You can also rewind or fast-forward, and adjust the playback volume.



A. *Go to beginning.* ***B.*** *Play/Pause.* ***C.*** *Fast-forward/rewind.* ***D.*** *Stop.* ***E.*** *Volume Off/On.* ***F.*** *Volume control.*

Playback volume is also affected by the settings in your operating system. Be certain to adjust the sound volume for your computer, in addition to the sound controls in the Player window.

Additional resources

The Digital Classroom series goes beyond the training books. You can continue your learning online, with training videos, at seminars and conferences, and in-person training events.

Training from the Authors

The authors are available for professional development training workshops for schools and companies. They also teach classes at American Graphics Institute, including training classes and online workshops. Visit *agitraining.com* for more information about Digital Classroom author-led training classes or workshops.

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