

## ADOBE PHOTOSHOP ELEMENTS

### Juggling all your interface options

With all the settings you can use for any given tool, trying to figure out exactly where to select an option for the edit you want to make can become downright frustrating. To help simplify the process of using tools and selecting options for the tools, here's what you might do in your normal workflow:

- 1) Select a tool in the Tools panel.

Obviously, you need to know what task you want to perform, so selecting the proper tool to complete the task is important to know upfront.

- 2) Take a quick look at the Options bar.

Before moving to other option choices, be certain that you look over the choices on the Options bar. If you want to use a tool like the Brush tool or the Clone Stamp tool, perhaps you want to make a decision about what size brush tip you want to use. This choice is specific to the selected tool and therefore appears as an Options bar choice.

- 3) Open a panel for more options.

If you want to use the Brush tool, for example, to apply some color to an image, after selecting the Brush tip on the Options bar, open the Color Swatches panel and select a color.

- 4) Open the More menu.

Maybe the color you want to use doesn't appear in the Color Swatches panel. Your next stop is the More menu. This menu appears when you click the down-pointing arrow on the Options bar. By using the menu choices, you can load different swatch libraries that provide more color options.

- 5) Get some help.

When you hover your cursor over a tool, you see that tool described in blue text. Click the blue text, and your default Web browser opens, displaying a page on Adobe's Web site where help information and tips describe using the respective tool. You'll also find blue text in the More menu. Seeing the blue text immediately

alerts you to help information that can be shown in your Web browser.

Try following the same sequence when you want to edit images in Elements by first selecting a tool and then checking out the Options bar, opening panels related to providing choices for the task at hand, clicking the More button for additional choices in the panels, and getting some help when you need it.

Excerpted from "Adobe Photoshop Elements 6 for Dummies" by Barbara Obermeier and Ted Padova. Copyright 2008. All rights reserved. Wiley Publishing, Inc. [www.wiley.com](http://www.wiley.com)