

Photoshop Housekeeping

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Note: These are my recommended settings; but they should not be considered as “carved in stone” or “handed down from Heaven”! I recommend that you start with these settings and change them according to your tastes and workflow.

1. Preferences
 - 1.1. Location
 - 1.1.1. Mac
 - 1.1.2. Windows
 - 1.2. General
 - 1.2.1. Uncheck “Export Clipboard”
 - 1.2.2. Check others according to personal preferences
 - 1.3. Saving Files
 - 1.3.1. “Always Save”, “Always”, “Always”
 - 1.3.2. Recent files list: 10 as a minimum, more as personal preference
 - 1.4. Display & Cursors
 - 1.4.1. Don’t use “Pixel Doubling”
 - 1.4.2. Painting Cursors: Full size Brush Tip & Show Crosshair in Brush Tip
 - 1.4.3. Other Cursors: Standard
 - 1.5. Transparency: Use the defaults
 - 1.6. Units & Rulers: Use the defaults, although the print resolution may vary depending on your printer and print size.
 - 1.7. Grid
 - 1.7.1. To see the “Rule of Thirds” with the grid, use Gridline every 33.33 percent and one subdivision.
 - 1.8. Plug-Ins & Scratch Disks
 - 1.8.1. If you have more than one HD online, set it as your first scratch disk
 - 1.9. Memory & Image Cache
 - 1.9.1. The more RAM you have, the higher the cache levels you can have
 - 1.9.2. Adobe recommends that you not use more than 70% of your available RAM for PS or PSE. So do I.
 - 1.10. Type: Use smart quotes so you appear to know about typography.
2. Palettes in Photoshop: Open as window and drag to palette desired
 - 2.1. Top Right
 - 2.1.1. Navigator
 - 2.1.2. Info
 - 2.1.3. Histogram
 - 2.2. Middle Right
 - 2.2.1. History
 - 2.2.2. Actions
 - 2.3. Bottom Right
 - 2.3.1. Layers
 - 2.3.2. Channels
 - 2.3.3. Paths
3. Palettes in Photoshop Elements: Click on “More” and select “Place in Palette Bin when Closed”
 - 3.1. Reorder them with drag&drop
4. Color Settings
 - 4.1. Location on both platforms: Edit
 - 4.2. PS: Use North America Prepress 2
 - 4.3. PSE: Use either “Always Optimize for Printing” or “Allow Me to Choose”
5. Workspace

- 5.1. PS: Window > Workspace... > Save Workspace
- 5.2. PSE: The Window menu lets you choose what's shown; but you only have one workspace.
6. Preset Manager
 - 6.1. Location on both platforms: Edit
 - 6.2. In PSE, most photographers will use only Brush presets.
 - 6.3. In PS, there are more, with Brushes and Tools most valuable to most photographers
7. Bridge & Photo Browser (aka Organizer)
 - 7.1. These are separate applications that let you select, group and move files on your hard drives.
 - 7.2. They're not limited to handling picture files.
 - 7.3. They have their own preferences that should be examined and set to the way you want to work.