

Precise Photo-editing

Summary of tutorial given by Arlene Shiner
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To edit precisely

- Zoom in to the area (CTRL + or CTRL -)
- Use the precise cursor (CAPS LOCK). Hit CAPS LOCK again to go back to the regular cursor. The cursor can be changed more permanently by going to Edit > Preferences > Cursors.
- Use a drawing tablet and stylus

Advantages of Drawing Tablets

- More control when selecting
- Natural feel - like using a pen
- Ergonomic - less hand strain
- Pen pressure and pen tilt can be used
- The tablet works with several editing tools (anytime a brush is selected).
- Most photo editing and paint programs accept the tablet - even Windows Paint or Paint. Net.

What it looks like

Tablets for everyone's wish list

 <p>BAMBOO™</p>	 <p>intuos₄</p>	 <p>Cintiq</p>
<p>For Home or Office Get hands-on with your projects! Wacom Bamboo pen tablets feature multi-touch capability that lets you work with your computer in a whole new way.</p>	<p>For Creative Professionals Intuos4 takes art & design to the next level by turning on the full power of Painter, CorelDRAW other leading software applications.</p>	<p>For Extreme Creative Professionals Work directly on screen! The Cintiq interactive pen display combines the benefits of an LCD monitor with the natural feel and superior performance of Wacom's pen technology.</p>

The tablet is a drawing surface that plugs into the USB port on your computer. Customizable keys can be set on the tablet and also on the stylus (pen) of some models.

Buying considerations

- Larger tablets cost more and may be necessary if you have large hands or a large monitor. Intuos 4 has a feature for left-handedness.
- More levels of pressure and pen tilt are in the more expensive models.
- A wireless mouse comes with some models.
- Choose the model that has bundled software that meets your needs. Most models in Wacom's Bamboo line come with Photoshop Elements, Corel Painter Essentials and Nik Color Efex software. These are not the most recent versions, but still very useful. The Bamboo Pen and Touch Craft tablet comes with software for scrapbooking. The smaller Bamboo tablets are excellent for beginners and even for children.

The Intuos line of tablets comes with a choice of software: Autodesk (Sketchbook), Elements 7 for PC, or Elements 6 for MAC.

The Cintiq tablets are used by professionals. They allow you to draw directly on a computer screen, and cost over \$2000.

For a complete description with specifications see:

<http://www.vistek.ca/search/wacom%20tablets.aspx>

Take a "tour" by going to

<http://www.vistek.ca/store/ComputerAccessories/246318/wacom-bamboo-pen-touch-fun-medium-international.aspx>

See the mini applications that are available for the new Bamboo at

<http://bamboo.wacom.eu/dock-minis/en/>

Corel sells tablets with some of their software. Tablets can also be purchased through Amazon Canada online and Wacom's online store. Tablets are on display at some Henry's Camera stores and Staples. (They also work with Windows writing applications.)

Using the tablet and stylus

- Allow some time to get used to the feel of the tablet. Try the exercises that come with it or create your own.
- If you want to edit in the left corner of computer screen, you must put the stylus in the left corner of the tablet.

Pen Pressure

Pen pressure is set in the option bar of your photo-editing software or in the brushes panel of Photoshop (Window > Brushes). Select "Brush dynamics." The check box and the blue "Brush Dynamics" line must be activated to see all of the sliders and choices that you can make.

Look in the drop down lists that accompany each choice in the Brushes panel. You may see pen pressure, pen tilt, or stylus wheel as choices. Only some tablets allow pen tilt, and the stylus wheel is for the air brush pen that is an additional accessory.

Some tips for photo-editing

- Use the stylus for selecting with the marquee, lasso and pen tools.
- Pen pressure can be useful for painting on masks and Quick Mask.
- When using the smudge tool, moving the cursor along a line smooths the edge. If the cursor is dragged perpendicular to the edge, "threads" or "hairs" are pulled in that direction.
- To paint digitally, load a brush style, choose a brush tip. Each brush gives different setting choices in the Brushes panel.
For good results, vary the brush size by using the [and] keys. Also, change brush settings, and add texture.
- To paint with colour without covering your photograph, duplicate the background layer (CTRL J). Choose a colour. Pick "color" from the drop down list in the option bar (the small triangle beside Normal).
- You can always lower the opacity of a layer, or use Edit > Fade to lessen the effect.
- On a duplicate layer, try Photoshop's Art History brush or Elements' Impressionistic brush for painterly effects.
- With either a mouse or a stylus, TRY PAINTING!!!
- Note: The International Salon has a creative category.