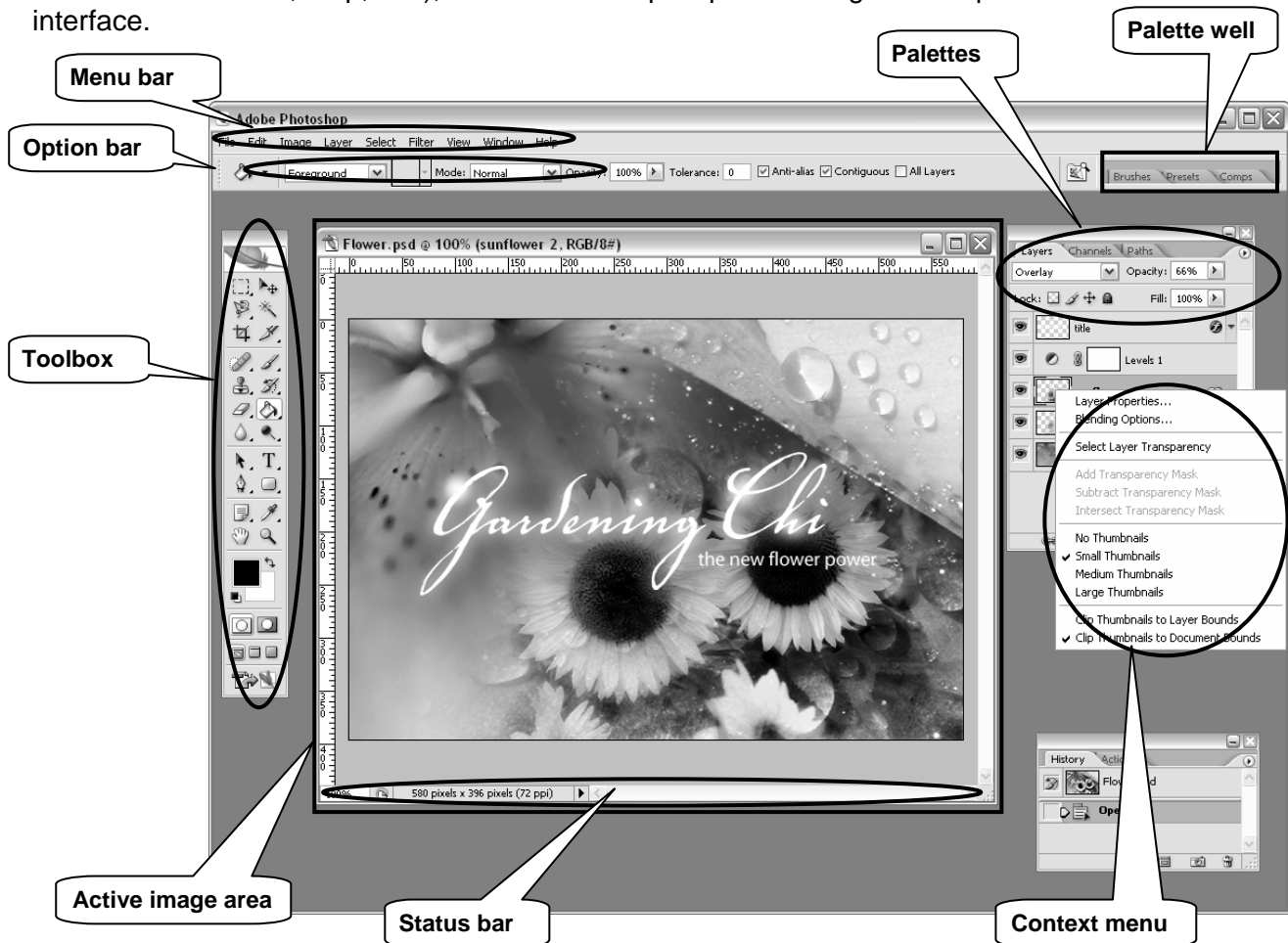


Introduction to Photoshop

Photoshop is the ultimate Swiss army knife for all your imaging needs, from basic to highly sophisticated image editing. For example you can simply enhance a photograph (remove red eye effect and scratches, crop, etc.), or create a complex photo collage or a sophisticated Web interface.



The main components of the Photoshop work area are:

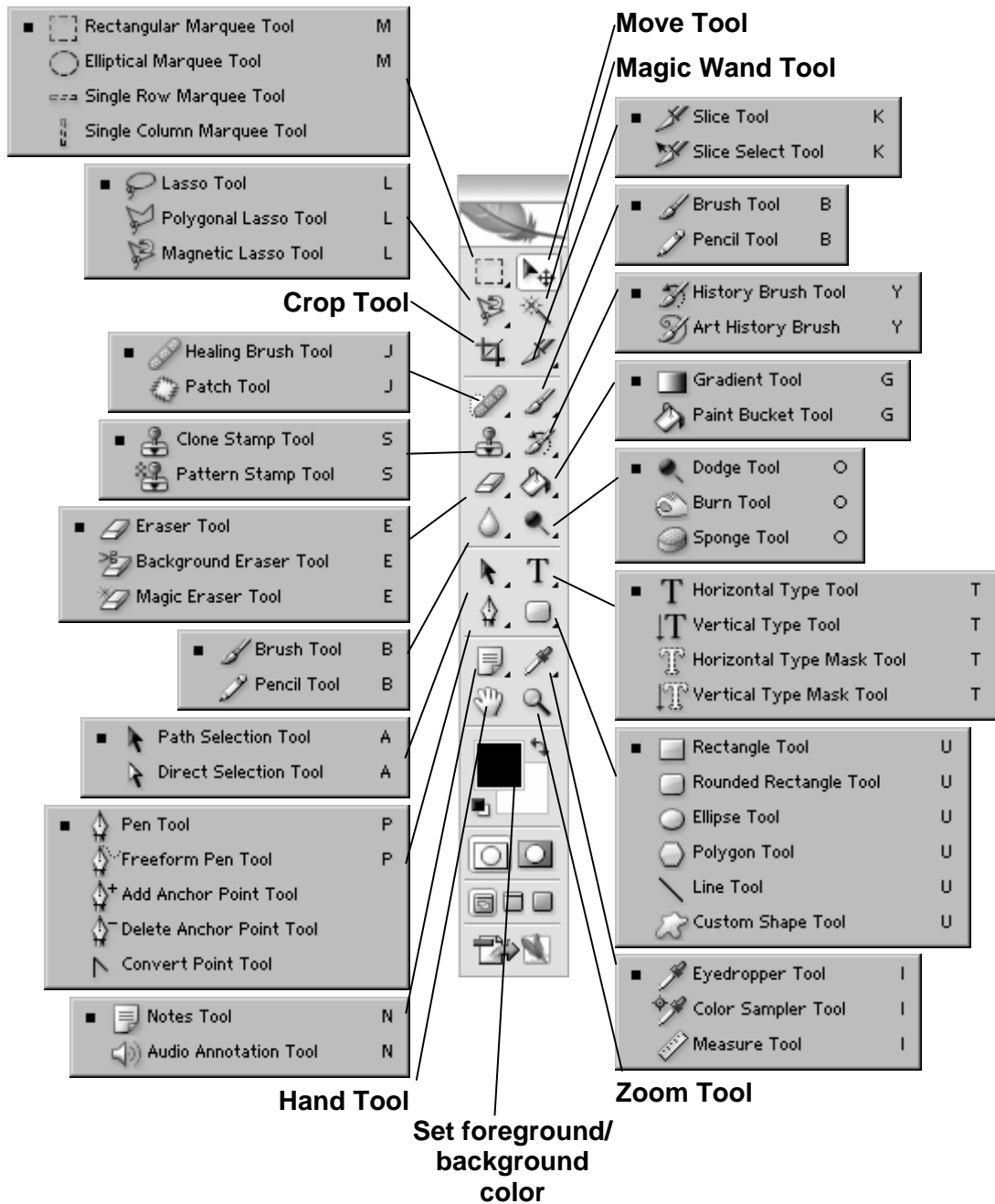
- **Menu bar** - contains menus organised by tasks. For example, the **Layers** menu contains commands for working with layers.
- **Toolbox** - contains tools for creating and editing images.
- **Options bar** – provides options for the currently active tool.
- **Active image area** (also called **Document window**) – displays the active open file. Several images can be open at the same time, but only one can be active at a time.
- **Palettes** – help you monitor and modify images. They can be nested by dragging the title tab of one into the body of another. Use the **Window** menu to show/hide palettes

Other useful elements are:

- **Palette well** – helps you organize the palettes in your work area.
- **Status bar** – located at the bottom of every document window, it displays useful information about the image and brief instructions for using the active tool.
- **Context menu** – display commands relevant to the active tool, selection, or palette. You access them by right-clicking on an image or palette item.

The **Toolbox**, **Palettes** and **Active image area** can easily be moved around the workspace by clicking the top bar and dragging them.

The Toolbox



The Photoshop CS2 **Toolbox** contains all the tools you need for manipulating and creating images, for example, making selections, cropping, drawing, painting, erasing, moving, magnifying, etc.

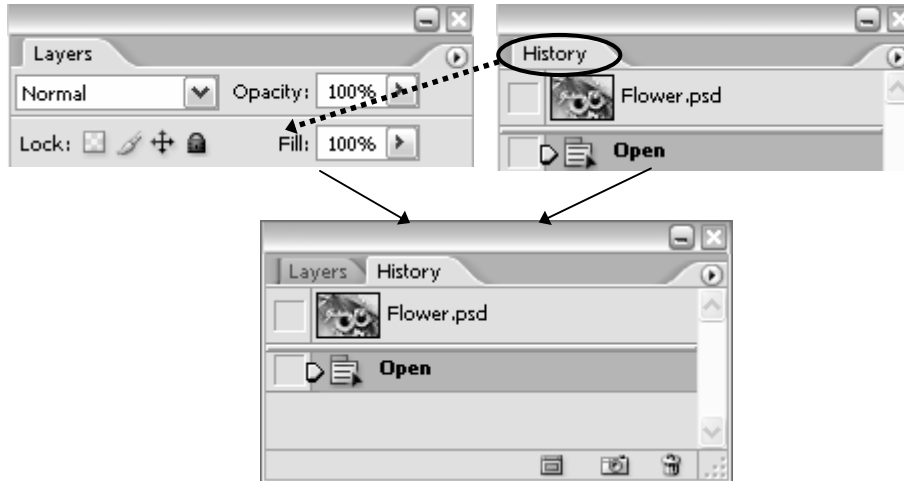
Some of the buttons represent families of tools rather than single tools. For example, the **Rectangular Marquee Tool** is the default for selecting geometrical shapes, but if you right-click on it, a palette pops out with more choices such as an **Elliptical Marquee Tool**.

Further options are available when you hold down the **<Shift>**, **<Ctrl>** or **<Alt>** keys as you use a tool. For example, hold down **<Shift>** to select a circular shape with the Elliptical Marquee Tool.

Palettes

Palettes are one of the main means of accessing many of the features of Photoshop. You can show and hide them using the **Window** menu. Alternatively, you can press the **<Tab>** key while holding down **<Shift>** to hide/show them all.


Palettes can be moved around or nested (stacked behind one another) by dragging the title tab of one palette onto the body of another.

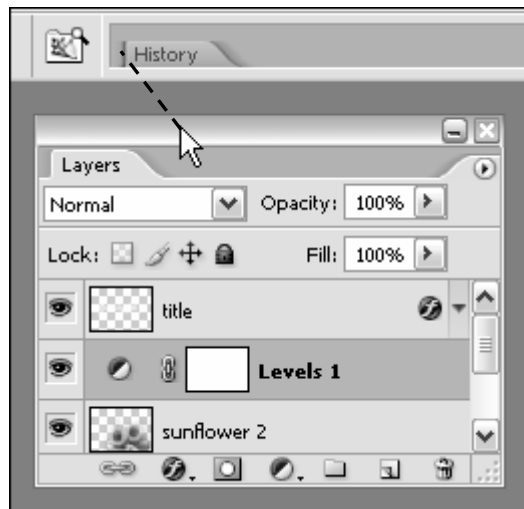


To bring a palette to the front, just click its title tab.

You can also expand/collapse them by double-clicking on the title tabs.

If you don't like having palettes floating around, you may prefer accessing them from the **Palette well**. To add a palette to the Palette well, simply drag it into it as illustrated on the right.

Clicking on the right pointing arrow  in the top right corner will bring out a menu specific to the active palette.

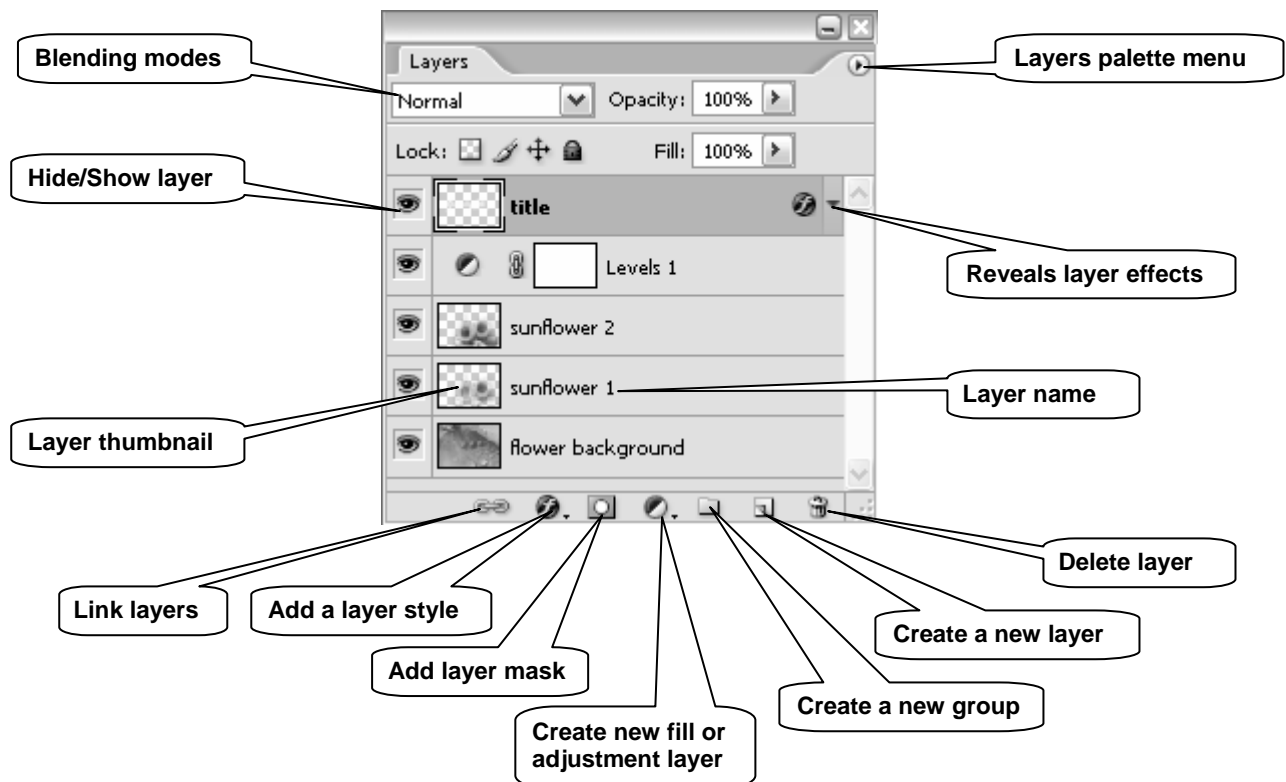


Two of the most useful palettes are the **Layers** palette and the **History** palette:

The Layers palette

Layers are an essential part of Photoshop and you need to think of them as the building blocks to every image that you create. Individual palettes and the toolbar can be displayed or hidden using the **Window** menu (those with a tick mark next to them are visible).

The **Layers** palette enables you to control elements of an image by assigning separate layers to each individual element. Layers allow you to work on one element of an image without disturbing the others.



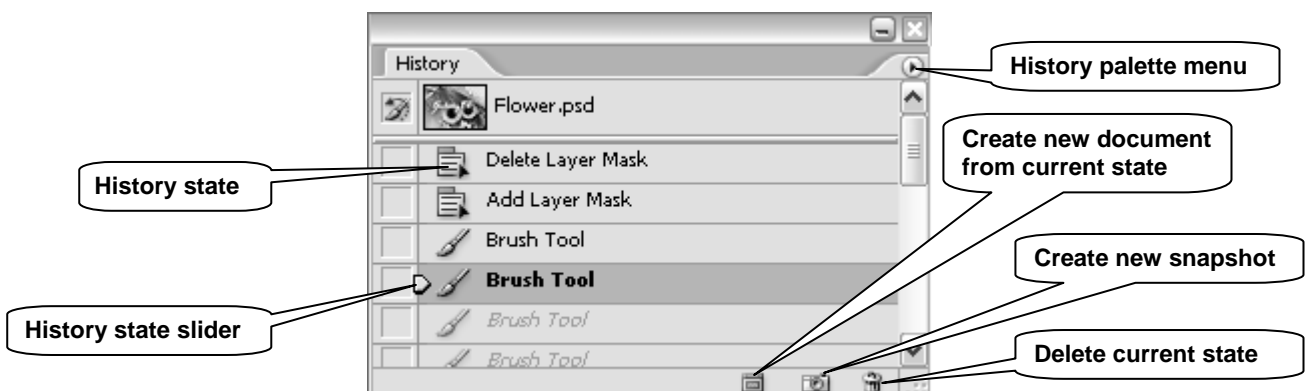
The idea is that you stack layers (in the same way that you would stack sheets of acetate transparencies) containing the various elements that will form your final image. There are different types of layers:

- **Image layers** are transparent and may contain images or part of images. They can also be used for drawing, filling with colour, etc. They contain pixel information only.
- **Adjustment and fill layers** allow you to make colour and tonal adjustments to your image without permanently changing its pixel values.
- **Type layers** allow you to insert text in your image. A new **Type** layer is automatically added above the active layer when using the **Type Tool**.
- **Shape layers** are filled with solid colours and the outline is defined with a vector mask and/or a layer mask. A new **Shape** layer is automatically added above the active layer when using one of the shape tools (**Rectangle/Rounded Rectangle/Line/etc Tool**).

In addition, you can manipulate each layer individually by applying various styles and effects (blending, drop shadow, etc.), filters and masks.

The History palette

Every change that you make to your image is recorded in the **History** palette as a history state.



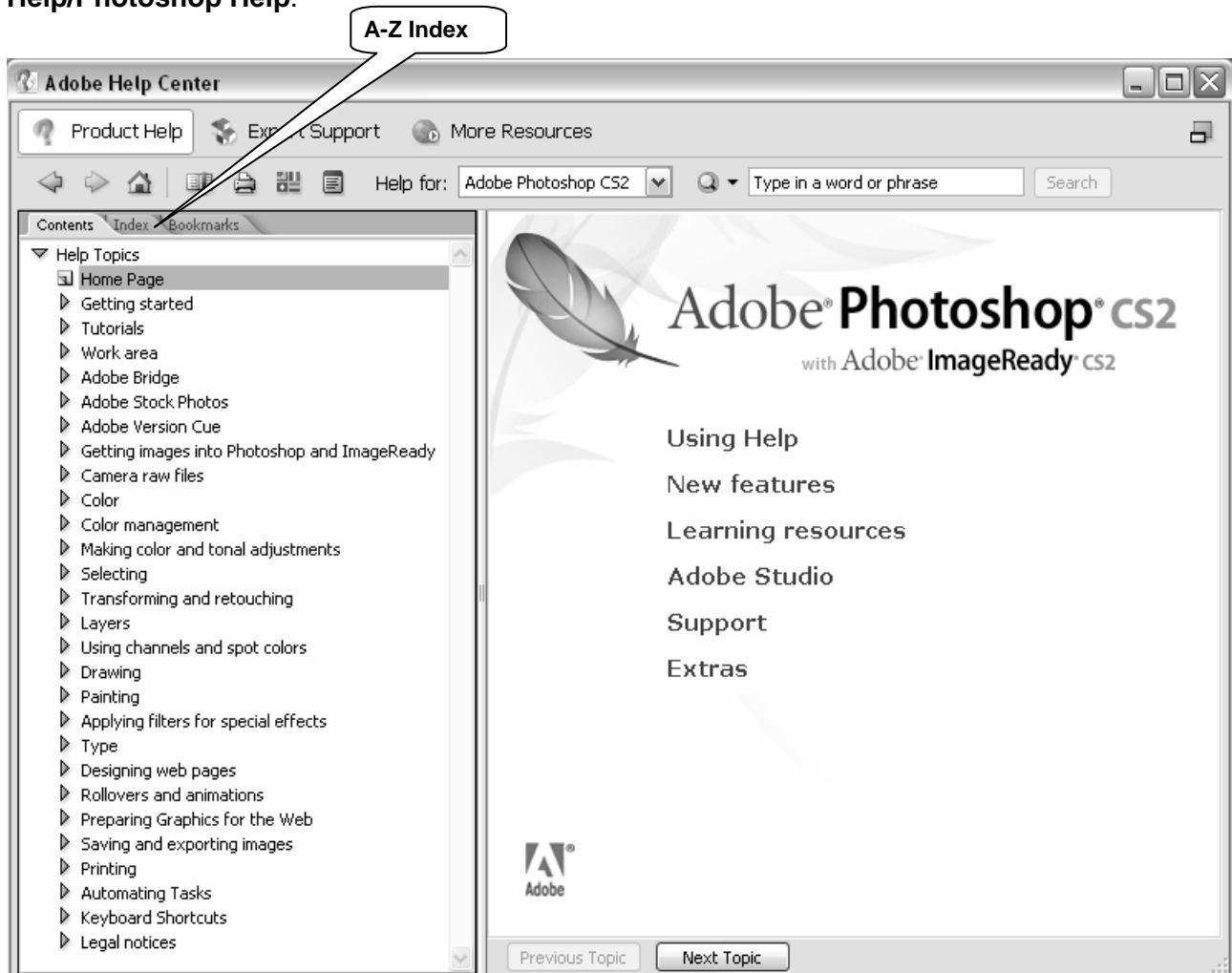
Just click on a state in the **History** palette to go back to that state (alternatively drag the **History state slider** up or down to point to the state you wish to move to). The states below the one you click on are dimmed and will be discarded if you continue to work from the selected state.

You can also delete states by dragging them into the wastebasket icon in the bottom right corner of the palette (alternatively right-click on the name of the state you want to delete, then choose **Delete** from the pop-up menu). Notice that this action will also delete all the subsequent states.

By default, the **History** palette will remember 20 states. You can change this by going to **Edit/Preferences/General**.

Getting help

Photoshop has a comprehensive help tool (see illustration below). To open it, go to **Help/Photoshop Help**.



Adobe Photoshop Help Center