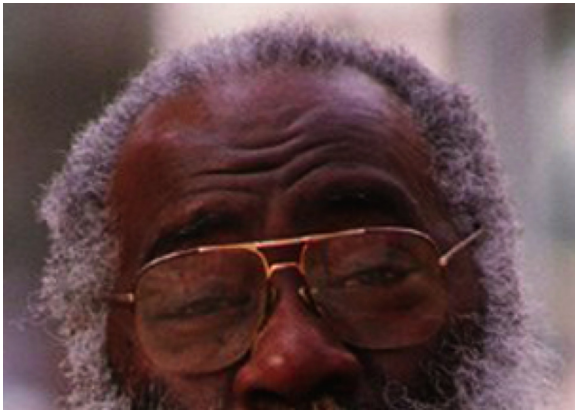# Healing Brush and Patch Tool

The Healing Brush and Patch tools allow you fix imperfections, like scratches, wrinkles, dust spots, etc., causing them to disappear into the surrounding image. They work very much like the cloning tools. You sample pixels in one are of an image, then paint over another area replacing it with the sampled pixels.

The Healing Brush and Patch tools add extra features. They match the texture, transparency, lighting, and shading of the sampled area. Instead of replacing them, pixel for pixel, like the clone stamp. This causes the painted pixels to blend seamlessly into the rest of the image.

Using the Healing Brush tool:

1. Select the Healing Brush tool in the toolbox.
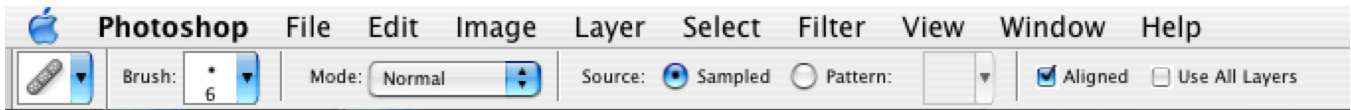　It is nested in with the Patch and Color Replacement tools in the Tool Bar.

2. In the options bar, click the current brush to open the Brush pop-up palette.
　Change the brush size to fit the area to be repaired. In general it should be about the same size, or a little smaller.

3. Move the Diameter slider to reduce or enlarge the brush tip size.

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4. Set the other controls in the options bar as follows:
Mode: Normal will give you a straight blend and in general this is the option you will use. Other options are available and can produce interesting effects.
Source: Sampled
Aligned: Selected
This will keep your brush and sample points aligned as you move over the canvas and let go of the mouse.

Note: If Aligned is not selected and you lift up on the mouse button, and then start brushing again, your original sampled area will be used rather than where you left off when you let go of the mouse button.

Use All Layers: Not selected. Unless you are sampling for another visible layer, do not select this option.

5. While holding down the Alt/Option key, click an area of the image that will be used as a sample.

6. Release the Alt/Option key.
This sampled area will be used a model for the area to be repair.

7. Drag the cursor across the touch up area.
A plus sign appears over the sample area. When you let up on the mouse button, Photoshop corrects that area.

Note: If you don't get the results you want with the healing brush, try the Clone Stamp tool or the Patch tool.

A couple of tricks when using the Healing Brush.
1. Fading the effect: When smoothing out wrinkles or laugh lines, you will want to keep some of them for a more natural look.

In the Edit Menu -> Fade -> Whatever was the last effect used will be listed in the Fade Command.

2. To keep unwanted colors from bleeding into the healed area, select the area around the target before applying the Healing Brush to it. This will limit all changes to the selected area only. This works really well where areas of contrast are very strong and you don't want the dark or light color to bleed into your target area.
This trick also works well with the regular Clone Stamp tool.