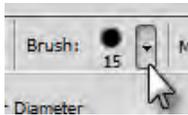


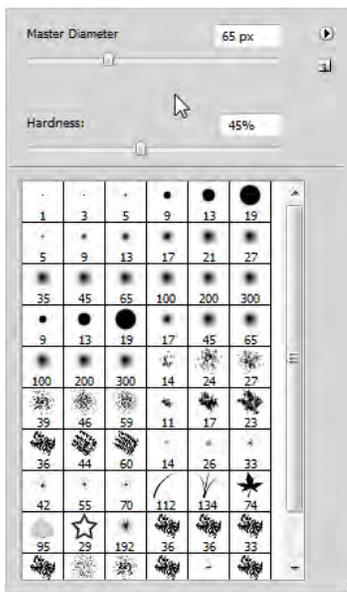
# BRUSH UP

Great effects can be achieved using the brush-based tools in Adobe® Photoshop®. This tutorial will give you an introduction to the concept of brush-based tools and to some of the controls that you need to understand.

Some of the most common brush-based tools in Photoshop include the Brush tool, the Healing Brush, and the Clone Stamp. All of these tools apply their effects through a “painting” function. The information below will focus on the Brush tool, but the concepts apply to the use of any brush-based tool.



To get started, choose the Brush tool  from the Tools panel. When the Brush tool is selected you should see the brush options appear in the Options bar at the top of the application. You can click on the downward arrow to open the Brushes panel (see screenshot at left).



When the Brushes panel opens you will see two sliders—one for brush diameter and one for brush hardness—and a scrolling window where you can choose the brush tip shape.

**Master Diameter:** The diameter slider controls how large or small the brush tip is. The diameter is measured in pixels.

**Hardness:** The hardness slider controls how soft the edge is on the brush. A very soft brush (created with a low hardness setting) will have a feathered edge to any color or effect that it applies. A high hardness setting will give the brush tip a hard or sharp edge with little or no feathering (see example below).

**Brush Tip Shape:** The brush tip affects the shape in which the painting or effect is applied. For most applications you will want to use a round brush, but for special effects you can use a variety of brush shapes.

**Choosing a Color:** Choose the color with which you want to paint by clicking on the foreground color swatch at the bottom of the Tools panel.

## GIVE IT A TRY

**STEP 1:** Open an image on which you want to try out the brush tool settings and select the Brush tool from the Tools panel.



**STEP 2:** Click on the downward arrow in the Options bar (to the right of the word Brush) to reveal the Brush panel. Choose a round brush tip, adjust the diameter to about 100 pixels, and set the hardness to 100%. After adjusting the settings, hit the Enter or Return key to close the Brushes panel.

**STEP 3:** Click and drag across your image to paint. Notice the hard edge that the brush stroke has.

**STEP 4:** Go back to the Brushes panel in the Options bar. Change the hardness setting to 50%. Then click and drag across the image. The brush stroke should have a soft edge. Repeat this step, but this time set the hardness to 0%. When you paint this time, the brush stroke should have a very diffused edge.

Hardness Settings: The hardness setting controls how sharp or how feathered the edge of the brush is. See examples above.



## ADJUSTING SETTINGS “ON THE FLY”

While you are working you can adjust your brush settings using some helpful shortcuts.

**Right-Click:** When you right-click (or Control-Click on a Mac with a one-button mouse) while using a brush-based tool, you will see the brush options appear in the location of your mouse cursor. You can make the adjustments and then click Enter/Return twice to hide the dialog box. Note: don't click on the image to hide the dialog box because you will “paint” on the image where you click. Hitting the Enter/Return key twice is the best way to hide the dialog box.

**Adjusting with the Keyboard:** Your brush diameter can be adjusted as you paint by using the right bracket key  to make the brush larger and the left bracket key  to make the brush smaller.

