

Tip: Use The Grid in Photoshop

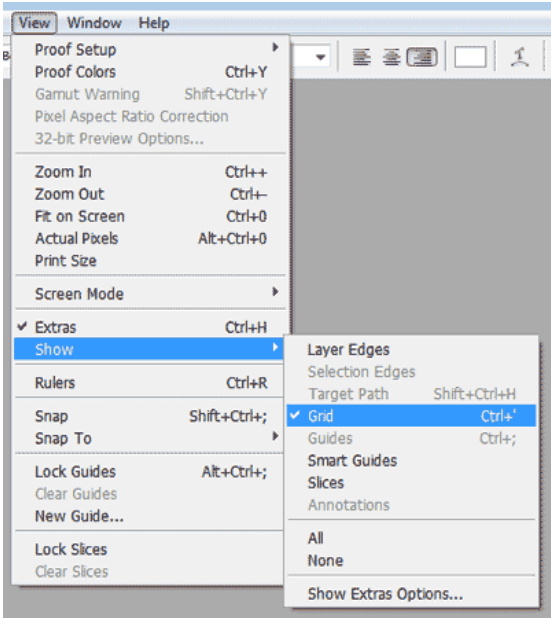
Posted by [David Leggett](#) in [Photoshop Tutorials](#) on February 06th, 2008



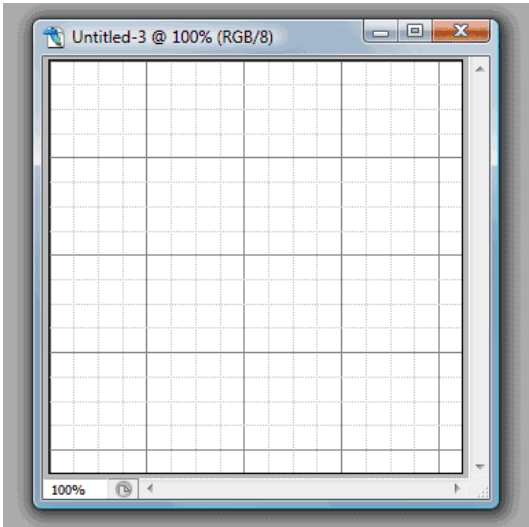
Today's Photoshop tip will show you how to take advantage of the "Grid" feature in Photoshop. The Grid is the perfect alignment tool for graphic design, and is very easy to use. By combining the use of the Grid with the "Snap" feature, users can perfectly align objects along grid lines and subdivisions.

Enabling the Grid

Open up the document you'd like to work with (or create a new document), and enable the Grid by checking **View > Extras**, and then checking **View > Show > Grid**.



You should now see a grid laid over your canvas. *The grid lines are not actually a part of your image, they are more or less just reference lines.*



Note: The Grid Lines are the darker lines. The light, dotted lines are known as "Subdivisions".

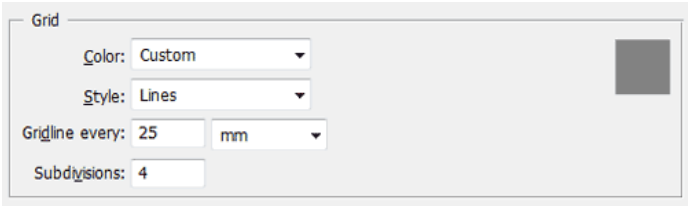
Grid Preferences

Apple Inc. v. Smith Interface Techs., LLC
IPR2024-01119, -01116, -01115 | Smith EX2013

Perhaps you need to adjust the grid to better suit your working conditions. It's very easy to setup grid lines to distance themselves in inches, pixels, as well as other standard measurement units.

To adjust the **Grid Preferences**, go to **Edit > Preferences > Guides, Grid & Slices...**

From here, you can adjust the Grid Color, Style (Lines, Dashed Lines, Dotted Lines), the distance between grid line, and the number of subdivisions between grid lines.

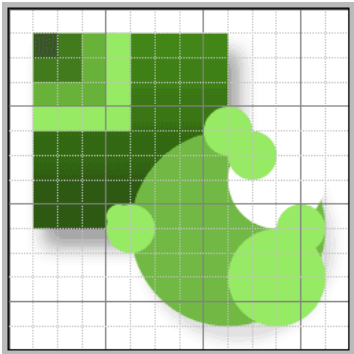


Snap to Grid

Snapping is a useful feature in Photoshop that allows users to align layers, shapes, text, etc, perfectly with other objects, guides, or in our case the grid.

To enable **Snap to Grid**, first **Enable Snap (View > Snap)**, and then make sure **Snap to Grid** is checked (**View > Snap To > Grid**).

You should now be able to easily align your different layers with the grid **PRECISELY**.



You may want to take note that enabling snapping will ALWAYS have objects snap to the grid, other layers, or whatever else **Snap To** is set up for. You will often find it necessary to disable snap while working with certain graphics.

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59 Comments

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 Luke Dalfonso (1 Point)
January 7, 2011 at 9:30 am

Thanks! This makes Mnecraft art alot easier.

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Ebabil (2 Points)
December 19, 2010 at 10:02 pm

Thanks it was very usefull!

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Fitri PMRELOAD (1 Point)
December 18, 2010 at 12:13 pm

nice tutorial..
i need this.. thanks

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Danny J (1 Point)
November 23, 2010 at 4:11 am

I use the Square Grid with this tool for my designs.
<http://thesquaregrid.com>

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Barbara Simmons (2 Points)
October 29, 2010 at 4:14 pm

my grid won't show up – using Photoshop CS; when I go view>show>grid a dark outline shows up around the new image, when I go view>hide, the dark outline goes away, but the grid will not show up when I ask it to. What have I done?

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nok (1 Point)
October 28, 2010 at 3:05 am

vist for basic training of photoshop
<http://training4free.co.cc/Basic%20training/Basic%20training.html>

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Mitari Enteh (1 Point)
October 23, 2010 at 9:23 am

This tutorial is absolutely useful! Thanks for sharing!

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Kendroosh (1 Point)
October 12, 2010 at 10:24 pm

Regarding grids ... does anyone know where I can get a software program that creates dotted grids that print? I don't think the grid in photoshop is printable. Thank you.

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Leo Geo (1 Point)
August 20, 2010 at 2:49 am

Thank you for your posting and new updates.This site is really helpful to me.

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iLiketoDraw (1 Point)
July 31, 2010 at 7:13 am

Thanks this was really helpful and informative. Definitely a useful little guide.

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funpages (1 Point)
July 9, 2010 at 8:26 pm

i am glad that i stumbled upon your blog. now i can learn the basics the right way. thanks!

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Labici Danut (1 Point)
June 20, 2010 at 5:06 pm

OMG thanks :D

This will help me with PixelArt :D

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Luke (1 Point)
June 18, 2010 at 1:00 pm

I am learning Web Design and I found this thread very helpful indeed. Thank you for posting.

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jackstraw (1 Point)
June 11, 2010 at 2:04 pm

Is there a way to have snap turned off by default?

We receive dozens of photos from the outside world each day and many of our sources have snap turned on when they submit the files (and I'm sure many don't even realize it's turned on.)

It's extremely annoying to have to turn off snap on each of these images for cropping. I keep it turned off images that originate here, but the setting imports with incoming images in CS3 (and probably other versions of Photoshop as well.)

I'm wondering if there's a way to not import the snap setting on images that don't originate from our own work flow.

Thanks.

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Aery (1 Point)
May 28, 2010 at 3:58 pm

Hi,

I am Surely Going to Use This

Thanks for Sharing

Regards.

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steve (1 Point)
May 24, 2010 at 8:23 am

I'm trying to design a clock face. I need a grid with an x-y axis so i can have a center point for the shaft where the movement will be. I will need the grid to allow for 30 degree increments for proper placement of the hours. Any suggestions on how to achieve this. Steve

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Gary (1 Point)
March 24, 2010 at 2:44 pm

I really enjoyed the concise explanation of the use of Grids and used it recently, but now the Grid appears in all photos I call up to work with in PS. How do I turn that off? I hit View, then uncheck Extra, but the Grids keep coming back when I reopen the pictures. Thanks.

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Michael Earls (1 Point)
February 17, 2010 at 11:30 pm

Thanks for the tutorial, it was a great help!

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chillicothe (1 Point)
February 14, 2010 at 1:55 pm

This is what I needed. I needed to be able to split the image / grid equally into ten parts and the default was only splitting it into 8 parts.
Thanks from Chillicothe OH!

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ฟังเพลงใหม่ (1 Point)
February 3, 2010 at 12:37 am

its very nice. Great post36

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เพลงใหม่ล่าสุด (1 Point)
February 2, 2010 at 1:53 am

its very nice. Great post23

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โหลดเพลงฟรี (1 Point)
February 1, 2010 at 3:09 am

its very nice. Great post17

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โหลดเพลงใหม่ฟรี (1 Point)
January 30, 2010 at 12:14 pm

great i never seen before.

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BuddyJ (1 Point)
December 29, 2009 at 10:52 pm

The sad thing about grids is that if you paint over them, the grids get stenciled onto the canvas. Not a good thing at all for one that draws using a grid by grid method.

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Tommy (1 Point)
November 30, 2009 at 8:41 pm

How do I get the grid to print on my photo in photo shop? Thanks, great tutorials

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kiedis (1 Point)
November 28, 2009 at 12:20 am

under photoshop cs4 mac the grid preferences will be found under:
photoshop > preferences > guides, grids and slides
and not under:
Edit > Preferences > Guides, Grid & Slices...

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asma (1 Point)
November 20, 2009 at 5:51 am

how do i print these grids.. sometimes you want to sketch on top of the design (draft).

Please let me know as i am not able to find the solution online as yet.

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evilkitty75 (1 Point)
November 9, 2009 at 9:47 am

Ok so we all know bout the grid what about a tut on if i can set my guide lines?

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JoeShmoe123 (1 Point)
October 14, 2009 at 11:18 am

How do you get teh grid to look like it's supposed to? I know it's a very useful feature but it doesn't seem to be working in my CS4. I used the same preferences as in the tutorial, but I didn't get all the smaller lines

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Jem (1 Point)
June 4, 2009 at 6:05 am

Is it possible to print image with the Grid Lines ? Need to label the lines, i.e. 1 – 10, say and A – J to give references to image which is a jpg photo.
Thx

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chris (1 Point)
May 12, 2010 at 1:50 am

did you get a reply to this?
how do you print with the grid?

thx!

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huwaw69 (1 Point)
May 8, 2009 at 2:23 am

Wow this grid really helps a lot in other ways in photoshop

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Caryn Caldwell (1 Point)
May 4, 2009 at 10:19 pm

Thank you, thank you! I set mine for the rule of thirds, and it has helped out a lot.

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lynn (1 Point)
April 20, 2009 at 8:06 pm

how can remove grid from photoshop...

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Kristin Clough (1 Point)
March 17, 2009 at 3:44 pm

I am trying to create a grid over a picture then slice it somehow so I can rearrange the parts in the grid. How can I do that?

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supremegraphx (1 Point)
July 3, 2009 at 3:04 pm

create your grid over your image

use square marquee tool with no preferences

and select each square that the grid created

and cut and paste. it will auto paste on new layer

do this with each square you have created with the grid

make sure you duplicate image

and make sure your on the duplicated image when you cut and paste

agian, it will paste on new layer

then re arrange layers the way you want

hope it helps if no one got you before me

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Juan Muñoz (1 Point)
March 2, 2009 at 8:46 pm

David, I am just a photoshop C3 beginner, I really love to learn from your tutorials. I think I have a good luck because I found your web. Thank's a lot for your time. Some day I will be a great designer.
Juan from Costa Rica

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Brian Feister (1 Point)
December 11, 2008 at 8:20 pm

I think this article should be edited to include in the note at the bottom "you can disable snap to grid temporarily by holding cmd/ctrl while dragging a selected item"

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Dez (1 Point)
September 19, 2008 at 4:54 pm

Grid guide in a nutshell... excellent.

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Website Design (1 Point)
June 13, 2008 at 10:14 am

I'm not using grid when im working. I think i will use it now,

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Francesca (1 Point)
April 10, 2008 at 12:02 pm

I love these basic tutorials – so quick!

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David Leggett (1 Point)
March 25, 2008 at 6:22 am

Even if it comes naturally to you, I am a firm believer that Grid Systems are an excellent way to facilitate design and creativity. We'll probably cover more on Grid Systems in Photoshop in a future tutorial ;)

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antonwoods (1 Point)
March 24, 2008 at 9:47 pm

I use grids alot when designing, it comes as a natural thing to do now so if your a begginner at designing, then i urge you to follow this tutorial and try adapt it as frequently as possible. It will deffinetly benefit you for future stuff ;)

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James PEotto (1 Point)
February 9, 2008 at 7:25 pm

Very helpful, I can't say how many times I try to move my pictures precisely and I never get it right. This will help a million. Thanks

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David Leggett (1 Point)
February 7, 2008 at 10:20 am

Hey Nir B, in the [Depth of Field Tutorial](#), I just transform a grid to get that effect. I just used the default grid settings (which I shouldn't have really). Hope that helps ya out ;) I'd appreciate if you ask such questions in the actual tutorial in question so that other users don't miss out, or get confused.

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Nir B (1 Point)

February 7, 2008 at 9:40 am

In your DOP tut, u guys gave an exapmle using a grid that simulated a 3d plane. is there such an option or did u just use Transform?. thx for the guide top class stuff.

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Michael Wilson (1 Point)

February 6, 2008 at 10:46 pm

ctrl ' will also toggle the grid.

Cheers.

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Mat Bourne (1 Point)

March 5, 2010 at 6:58 am

I thik you'll find it's Ctrl + ;

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Mat Bourne (1 Point)

March 5, 2010 at 8:24 am

LOL! Sorry... You were correct, I was thinking about turning guides on/off... :)

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Vice (1 Point)

February 6, 2008 at 12:02 pm

I really love these tutorials, so informative yet simple.

Just a little tip, snapping is really useful and I use it in most cases, but sometimes I don't want it to snap and it's a drag to go to View>Snap To (at least for me). So when using the move tool or the transform command, just hold Control and the object you're moving will not snap to anything. :)

Keep up the great work!

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