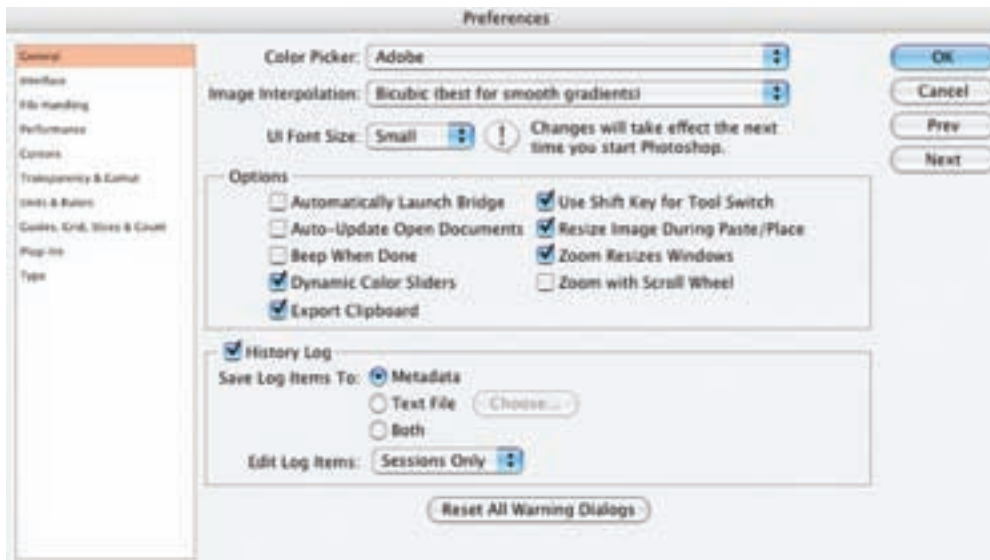


Helpdesk

If you've got a pesky Photoshop dilemma, the Helpdesk is the perfect place to come for an answer **BY ADAM SMITH**



EMBEDDED INFO: This is a great option that can jog your memory and save you from having to remember or jot down precise applications

RECORD YOUR APPLICATION

Hi there. I'm an eager Photomanip artist and I love to create fine art as well as restore and enhance photography. I work with a lot of layers and, at times, have specific ways of working that I like to keep track of. I know all about saving applications but wondered if there is a more concise way of remembering just what tools and effects I have applied to a piece of art. I have heard on the grapevine that there is. Please help.

Richard, Tamworth

We'd be glad to, Richard. Saving and loading your applications is a great way to reuse specific preferred effects. However, just because you have saved them and filed them away doesn't always mean you're going to remember where they have been applied and to what effect. But there is a way to resolve this dilemma. Simply access your Preferences option, from Edit>Preferences (Windows), Photoshop>Preferences>General (Mac OS) and select General. Click the History Log box to activate the options. You will be presented with Metadata, Text File and Both. Essentially, you need to activate Metadata. This will embed specific application info in your file information. What a useful little reminder!

A HELPING HAND

Hi all. I was wondering if you could help me out. In September I will be starting university, doing a Graphic Art and Design degree. Do you have any good URLs or book references that will help me out, to gain a better understanding? I have looked on Amazon and visited bookshops but don't know what books will work best for this course. Thanks for your time.

Peter, Doncaster

Well Peter, the subject you will be studying can cover many different disciplines, from illustration and digital practice to layout etc. We think having a creative

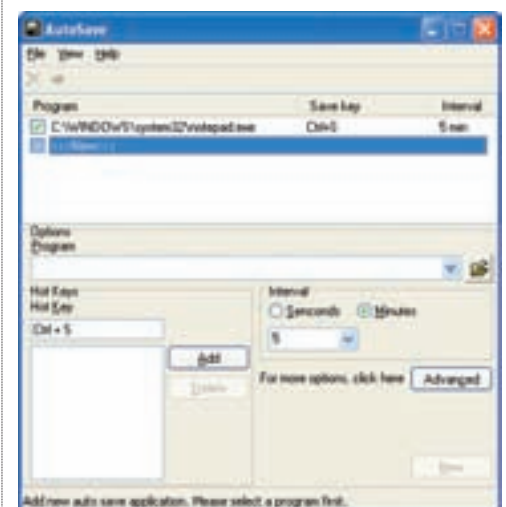


appetite will help you find your feet. However, there are plenty of book titles that can influence and inspire your practice and method. One prime example is the *Basics Design* book series from AVA Publishing. This includes topics such as format, typography, image and colour, demonstrating the skills of recognised industry professionals. You could also try www.design-bookshelf.com, a site dedicated to promoting the publishing industry's most innovative design-related titles. Other than that, perhaps tapping the online communities for those that have participated in the same course might be interesting. You could even question some top professionals for their opinions. No one knows better than them and you'll find most are only too happy to help.

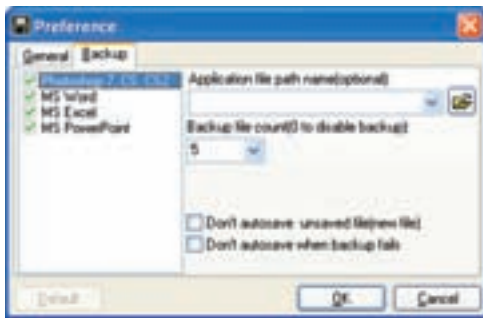
SAVE THE DAY

Hi *Advanced Photoshop* team. This may not be the most obvious of problems to solve, but I'll ask anyway as it's driving me mad! Is there a way that I can set up an action or script that automatically saves my work during a specific time? I recently lost a very detailed piece of work due to poor housekeeping and it was not funny at all. Hope you can help.

Danny, Dartford, London



IN A NUTSHELL: AutoSave is a general purpose utility that can automatically save your edits and modifications periodically for a number of commonly used applications, and auto backup Photoshop and Microsoft Office documents when auto saving



Well Danny, you might like to try purchasing the affordable plug-in from ATopSoft, AutoSave. For just \$19.95, that's £9.80, you can purchase this package that is both Mac and Windows platform compatible. This is a general-purpose utility that can automatically save your edits and modifications periodically for Photoshop 7, CS and CS2, as well as other commonly used applications.

With AutoSave, you can easily retrieve the old artwork from the backup files after making fatal mistakes. This is a godsend for digital artists who devote themselves to hours of work and forget to save. It's happened to the best of us. With an intuitive interface, it's easy to use and you can quickly enable/disable AutoSave by pressing just one hotkey. Auto backup and set your Backup file count configuration from One to Unlimited. Also, set the Auto Save interval from One second to Unlimited minutes.

Visit www.atopsoft.com/products/autosave for your copy.

SPLIT MONITORS

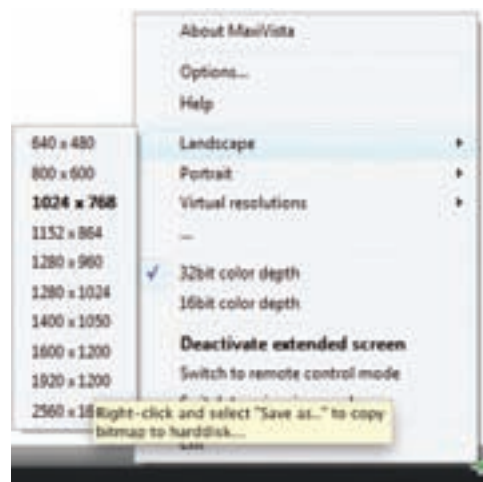
How do I go about splitting monitors? I have recently bought a second monitor and I would love to have one dedicated to palettes and the other to canvas. I don't know where to start.

Saran, Ohio, US

Well Saran, without specifying whether you're using Mac or PC platforms, we'll gladly offer advice on both. Split screening is readily available with the Mac, excluding Mac Mini. The iMac, MacBook and MacBook Pro all have a video output port, but require an adaptor, specific to each machine but readily available from Apple retailers. This is to connect another monitor, and once this is done you can extend your desktop onto the second monitor or mirror your

main desktop. As for the Mac Pro, it has a dual output, meaning you can connect two monitors straight away and, again, extend or mirror your main desktop. All configuration of dual monitors can be activated by simply accessing System Preferences>Display, thus allowing you to choose which is the main monitor and what side the second monitor is on.

PCs are a little less cost effective and a little more complicated, as standard they only have one output port. Adding a second graphics card allows you to extend or mirror your main desktop and you'll need a VGA or DVI cable to connect your second monitor. However, some PCs have a dual output graphics card (like the Mac Pro). Configuring the dual monitor setup is done in Control Panel>Display. Then click on the Settings tab and choose which is the main monitor and what side the second monitor is on, as before.



PRODUCT OPTIONS: There are other alternatives for screen splitting, such as plug-ins like MaxiVista. With screens split across four screens and an increased desktop space, you can get simultaneous visual access to a massive collection of Photoshop toolbars



CLOCK MAKER

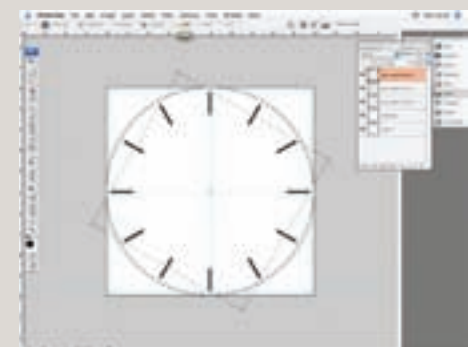
Greetings. What a great magazine you create; it's really good. In Photoshop, is there any way of putting the clock numbers around the inside clock circle, with equal distance between them, like the numbers of an original clock? Best wishes to all at *Advanced Photoshop*.

Fatah, via forum

What we can provide you with, Fatah, are the operations that will allow you to build and develop your clock face. Obviously, start by opening your symmetrical clock face and make sure that your Rulers are active (View>Rulers). Now drag and drop guidelines at the central horizontal and vertical points on your ruler and then drag another similar pair where you want to have the edge of your hour marks, say two points in both ways from the edges of your clock face. Draw your first hour mark, activate your base layer by Ctrl/Apple-clicking the Layer thumbnail and the Reactivate Hour Mark layer.

Now activate the Move Tool, selecting the Align Horizontal Layers option in the Options bar above. Press Ctrl/Apple+D to deactivate the selection. Next, move and align your hour mark, according to the top guidelines and duplicate the layer. Now move this layer, aligning it with your bottom guidelines, and you have your twelfth and sixth hour marks. Merge the layers, then duplicate and rotate by 90°.

Finally, merge all your hour mark layers together and select the Move Tool. Duplicate this layer and then Shift-click the edge, setting your Set Rotation value to 30°. Duplicate this layer and repeat the step to achieve perfectly plotted hour marks.



LET'S FACE IT: Once you have mastered the basic functions of creating your symmetrical clock face, which are so simple, you can become adventurous and decorate it accordingly

HELPDESK

CALL FOR QUESTIONS

Want help with Photoshop?

Send your emails to us at:

advancedpshop@imagine-publishing.co.uk

or post a message on our forum board at

www.advancedphotoshop.co.uk/forum.

Remember to specify whether you're using a PC or Mac and the version number of your edition of Photoshop.

"YOU CAN EXTEND YOUR DESKTOP ONTO THE SECOND MONITOR OR MIRROR YOUR MAIN DESKTOP"