

Photoshop Tip: Cloning Basics

Duplicate your friends, your family, a dog, the grass, or even your sister's latest pimple.

By Alex Lindsay

For today's weekly Photoshop trick I'll show you how to use the Clone Stamp Tool, a powerful aid in retouching photos. You can remove blemishes, fix tarnished landscapes, or just have some fun duplicating your friends. Download the [MOV file](#) of this tip or just follow along with these steps on today's "Call for Help."

1. Click the Stamp icon and select Clone Stamp Tool. The Pattern Stamp Tool is a whole different lesson.
2. Select the Splatter Brush. Thirty-nine pixels is a good place to start. You need something with texture or you'll see softening in the area of cloned grass.
3. Select Aligned in the Tool Palette. This will continue to move your cloned region with each brush stroke. If left unselected, it'll always return to the original sample. This isn't what you want.
4. Select Use All Layers from the Tool Palette. You'll be able to clone from one layer to another without doing any work on your original.
5. Create a new layer. This will be the layer you clone to.
6. Double-click the Magnifying Glass to bring the image to 100 percent view. You always want to do image work while looking at every pixel.
7. If you need to move around your image (you'll be doing it a lot), hold down the space bar and drag the image around quickly.
8. Select the sample you want to copy to another area of the image by making sure the Clone Stamp Tool is selected. Now Option-click or Alt-click the area of the image you want to copy.
9. Begin painting the area you want to remove. Photoshop copies your selection from one place to the other.
10. In other areas, look for patterns you can repeat. Option-click or Alt-click and paint in similar areas. For example, select part of a stone to erase subjects from areas such as walls or buildings.
11. Break up repetition in repeating areas by selecting a new region and dabbing the repetitive pixels.