Mastering the Keyboard

Hello Masters Academy! If you have watched this video, you know that this is a very different kind of lesson. Instead of focusing on a particular technique, Ben demonstrates just how much can be done in Photoshop using ONLY keyboard shortcuts. In fact, he completely removed the mouse and trackpad from his computer so that he would be forced to complete the entire video using only the keyboard. Pretty crazy!

Because the shortcuts are the focus of this video, that's what is contained in this PDF. All of the shortcuts that he covered have been categorized into charts on the following pages. In addition to keeping things organized, this makes it so you can print out the individual charts and keep them by your computer. Ben always recommends that you learn these shortcuts a handful at a time (to keep from getting overwhelmed) so you can use one chart at a time to do just that.

NOTE: The chart containing the shortcuts related to layers is larger than the others. Therefore, I had to shrink it a bit in order to fit it vertically in this document. For printing purposes, you will see that I included an additional page at the end, which contains the same chart, just oriented horizontally. This will allow for slightly larger text when printing.

Essential Photoshop Shortcuts

COMMAND	SHORTCUT
Create new document	Command+N
Open a document	Command+O
Save document	Command+S
Search for a command (Open Find dialog)	Command+F
Advance to next data field	Tab
Move to previous data field	Shift+Tab
Select all	Command+A
Copy	Command+C
Paste	Command+V
Activate Move Tool	V
Transform	Command+T
Fit document to image window	Command+0
Close window	Command+W
Resize image/Open Image Size dialog	Option+Command+I
Open Canvas Size dialog	Option+Command+C
Switch between document windows	Control+Tab

The Move Tool & Selections

COMMAND	SHORTCUT
Activate Move Tool	V
Move a layer (While Move Tool is active)	Arrow keys
Move a layer by larger increments	Shift+Arrow keys
Activate Marquee Tool	M
Move selection (While Marquee Tool is active)	Arrow keys
Move selection in larger increments	Shift+Arrow keys
Select all	Command+A
Deselect	Command+D
Reselect	Shift+Command+D
Invert selection (to get the opposite)	Shift+Command+I

Layers

COMMAND	SHORTCUT
Create new layer	Shift+Command+N
Create new layer (skip New Layer dialog)	Shift+Command+Option+N
Delete a layer (Move Tool must be active)	Delete key
Duplicate active layer[s]	Command+J
Select all layers	Option+Command+A
Move a copy of the active layer (Move Tool must be active)	Option+Arrow keys
Move between layers in Layers Panel	Option+Square bracket keys ([ ])
Move between layers AND select those layers	Option+Shift+Square bracket keys ([ ])
Move active layer up or down in the Layers Panel	Command+Square bracket keys ([ ])
Group selected layers	Command+G
Ungroup	Shift+Command+G
Merge selected layers	Command+E
Lock active layer	Command+/
Toggle visibility of active layer	Command+, (comma)
Fill entire layer with foreground color	Option+Delete
Fill entire layer with background color	Command+Delete
Fill contents of layer with foreground color	Shift+Option+Delete
Fill contents of layer with background color	Shift+Command+Delete
Cycle through blending modes (Move Tool must be active)	Shift+plus/minus keys (+ -)
Change opacity of active layer (Move Tool must be active)	Number keys (Ex: 7 = 70% Opacity)
Change fill setting of active layer (Move Tool must be active)	Shift+Number keys

Curves & Levels

COMMAND	SHORTCUT
Open Curves Adjustment	Command+M
Cycle through dots on the curve (inside Curves Adjustment)	Plus & Minus keys (+ -)
Move active dot on curve (inside Curves adjustment)	Up and down arrow keys
Open red curve	Option+3
Open green curve	Option+4
Open blue curve	Option+5
Open RGB curve	Option+2
Open Levels Adjustment	Command+L
Switch between fields for each of the Levels sliders	Tab
Change numbers in Levels fields to move sliders left/right	Up and down arrow keys
Close adjustment dialog	Return/Enter

Channels

COMMAND	SHORTCUT
View RGB Channel	Command+2
View red Channel	Command+3
View green Channel	Command+4
View blue Channel	Command+5
Load RGB Channel as a selection	Command+Option+2
Load red Channel as a selection	Command+Option+3
Load green Channel as a selection	Command+Option+4
Load blue Channel as a selection	Command+Option+5

The Crop Tool & Quick Mask Mode

COMMAND	SHORTCUT
Activate Crop Tool	C
Lock in Crop (while Crop handles are active)	Return/Enter
CROP TIP: If there is an active selection when you enter the Crop Tool, the crop handles will automatically be moved to the selection bounds.	
Enter Quick Mask Mode	Q
QUICK MASK TIP: You can crop off any part of an active selection that extends outside of the canvas by tapping the Q key twice. This enters Quick Mask Mode and then exits Quick Mask Mode, but in the process, the part of the selection that extended beyond the document bounds will be removed. Mode	

Lightroom

COMMAND	SHORTCUT
Open image in Photoshop	Command+E
Export image	Shift+Command+E
Reveal image in Finder window	Command+R
Save metadata to XMP file	Command+S

Adobe Camera Raw

COMMAND	SHORTCUT
Move to next field (moves through adjustment sliders)	Tab
Move active slider up or down	Up and down arrow keys
Move active slider in larger increments	Shift+up/down arrow keys
Move to different adjustment panel	Command+number keys (Ex: Command+2 opens the Curves panel)

The Mac Finder & Operating System

COMMAND	SHORTCUT
Open Spotlight	Command+Space key
Switch between open apps	Command+Tab
Move between files in Finder window	Arrow keys
Move between files AND select multiple files	Shift+arrow keys
Copy files	Command+C
Duplicate files	Command+D
Delete selected file[s] in Finder	Command+Delete
Find (opens Finder with search field active)	Command+F
Open folder that's currently highlighted in Finder	Command+down arrow key

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Create new layer (skip New Layer dialog)	Shift+Command+Option+N
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