

SCRAPPER'S GUIDE

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Shortcuts - Layer Blending Modes (Photoshop Elements)



Tip of the Week by Jen White on April 5, 2011

Are you a blender?

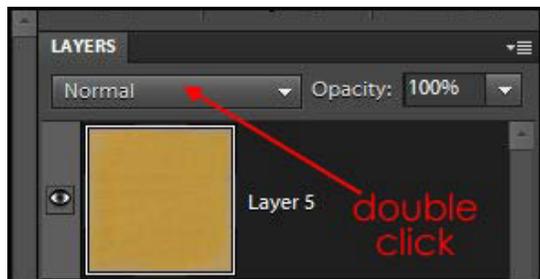
You know, one of those people who love to play with the blending modes in the Layers panel.

I am. I'm constantly cycling through them to see what interesting effect I can achieve. In the end, though, I usually wind up using the same three or four modes.

In this tip, I'll share three ways to put a giddy-up in your blender so you can get blending faster!

Method 1: The Double Click (Windows only)

- * Double click on the current Blending Mode in the Layers panel.
- * Use your keyboard up/down arrows to move to the previous or next mode.



Pro: You can use this method to change the blending mode of a layer with whatever tool is currently active.

Con: Modes do not continuously cycle through. When you get to the end, you have to use the arrow keys to laboriously go backwards through all the layers styles that you just tried.

Method 2: The Shift and Go (Mac & Windows)

- * Hold down the Shift key while pressing the plus key or minus key.



Pro: Modes continuously cycle through.

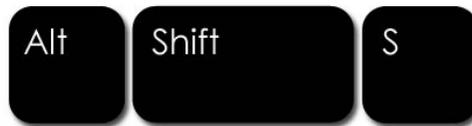
Con: If you use a tool with blending modes, such as the Brush tool, this method will change the blending mode of the brush, not the layer.

Method 3: Mode a-la-Cart (Mac & Windows)

* Press, for example, Alt Shift S (Mac: Opt Shift S) and you'll instantly activate the Screen blending mode for a layer.

* Each blending mode corresponds to a different letter. Some make sense, others do not.

Pro: Memorizing the shortcut combinations of blending modes will quicken your steps.



Con: If you are currently using a tool with the shortcut for blending modes or ranges (the Brush tool, for example), this method will change the blending mode of the brush, not the layer.

Here is a complete list of Layer blending mode shortcuts:

Normal	Alt Shift N	Lighten	Alt Shift G	Overlay	Alt Shift O	Difference	Alt Shift E
Dissolve	Alt Shift I	Screen	Alt Shift S	Soft Light	Alt Shift F	Exculsion	Alt Shift X
		Color Dodge	Alt Shift D	Hard Light	Alt Shift H	Subtract	none
Darken	Alt Shift K	Linear Dodge	Alt Shift W	Vivid Light	Alt Shift V	Divide	none
Multiply	Alt Shift M	Lighter Color	none	Linear Light	Alt Shift J		
Color Burn	Alt Shift B			Pin Light	Alt Shift Z	Hue	Alt Shift U
Linear Burn	Alt Shift A			Hard Mix	Alt Shift L	Saturation	Alt Shift T
Darker Color	none					Color	Alt Shift C
						Luminosity	Alt Shift Y

Note: The three methods named in this tutorial are not official names, I just made them up! :)

Credits:

Tip of the Week: Shortcuts - Blending Modes, by Jen White

Software: Adobe Photoshop Elements 9.0



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