Photoshop Elements for Genealogists Part 3

By Barry J. Ewell

Topics Covered

- Experiment to learn
- Experiment with Levels
- Experiment with Color Curves
- You cannot hurt your photos
- Use the Undo History
- How to loose your ability to backup from adjustments
- Cropping
- Cloning
- Pattern cloning
- Healing Brush
- Spot Healing Brush

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Experiment to learn

Experiment to learn

- **Many photographers get very cautions when working on pictures in Photoshop Elements. That is actually not the best way to work**

Experiment to learn

- An experimental approach shows you what controls do or do not do to a picture very quickly, whereas a more cautious approach may limit you because you do not see the possibilities

Experiment to learn

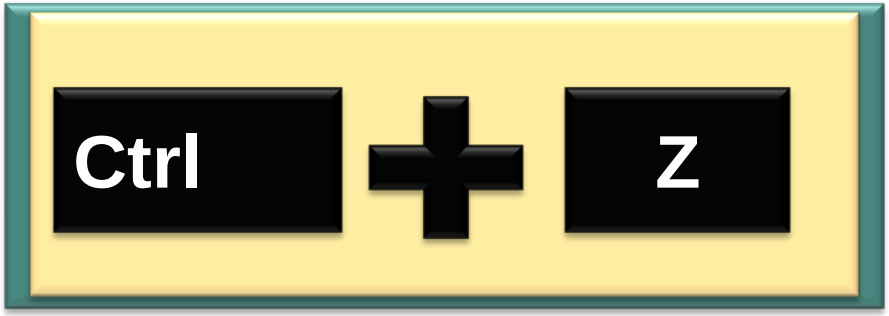
- A great way of learning the program is simply to try them out
- Experiment
- See what controls do or do not do to pictures

Experiment to learn

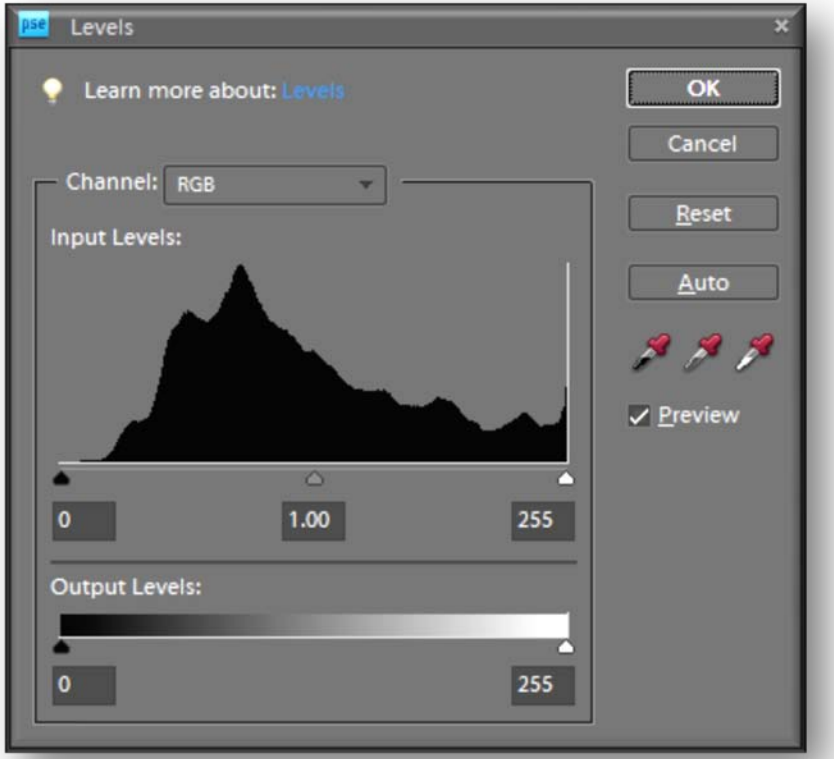
- **Sometimes it is hard to remember what all the controls are in Photoshop Elements**

Experiment to learn

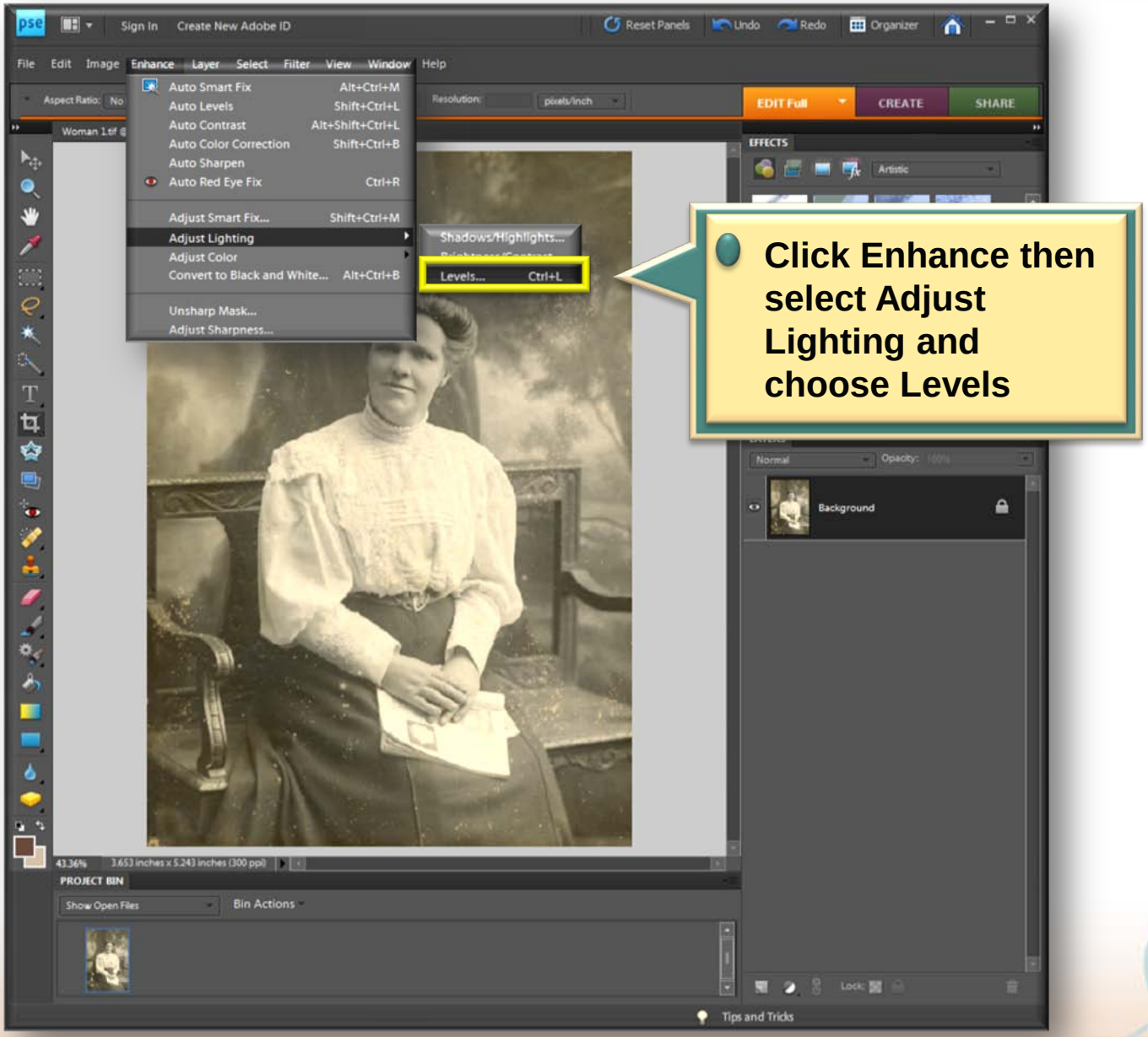
- Then simply use Ctrl+Z to undo anything that you have done



Experiment with Levels

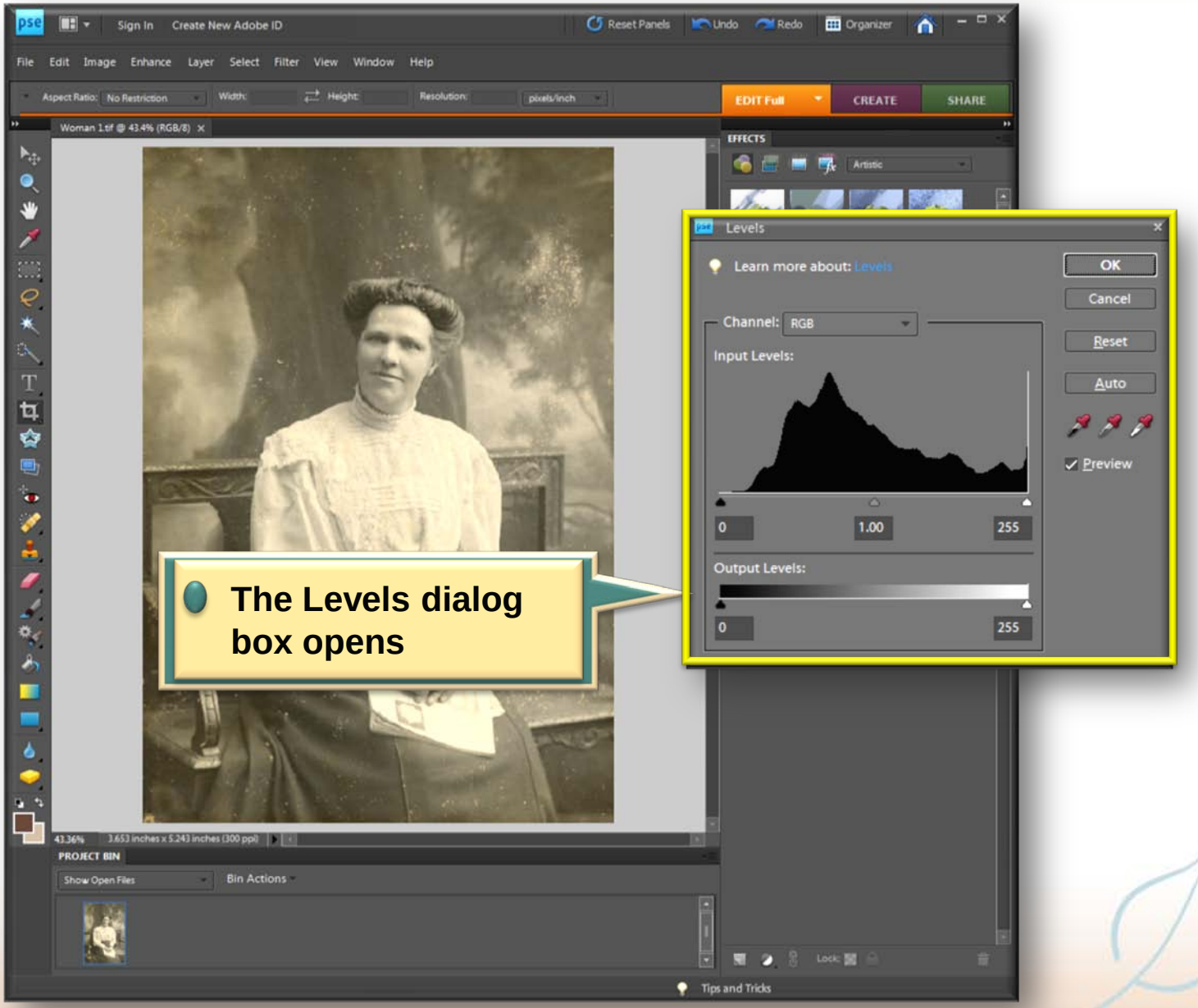


Experiment with Levels

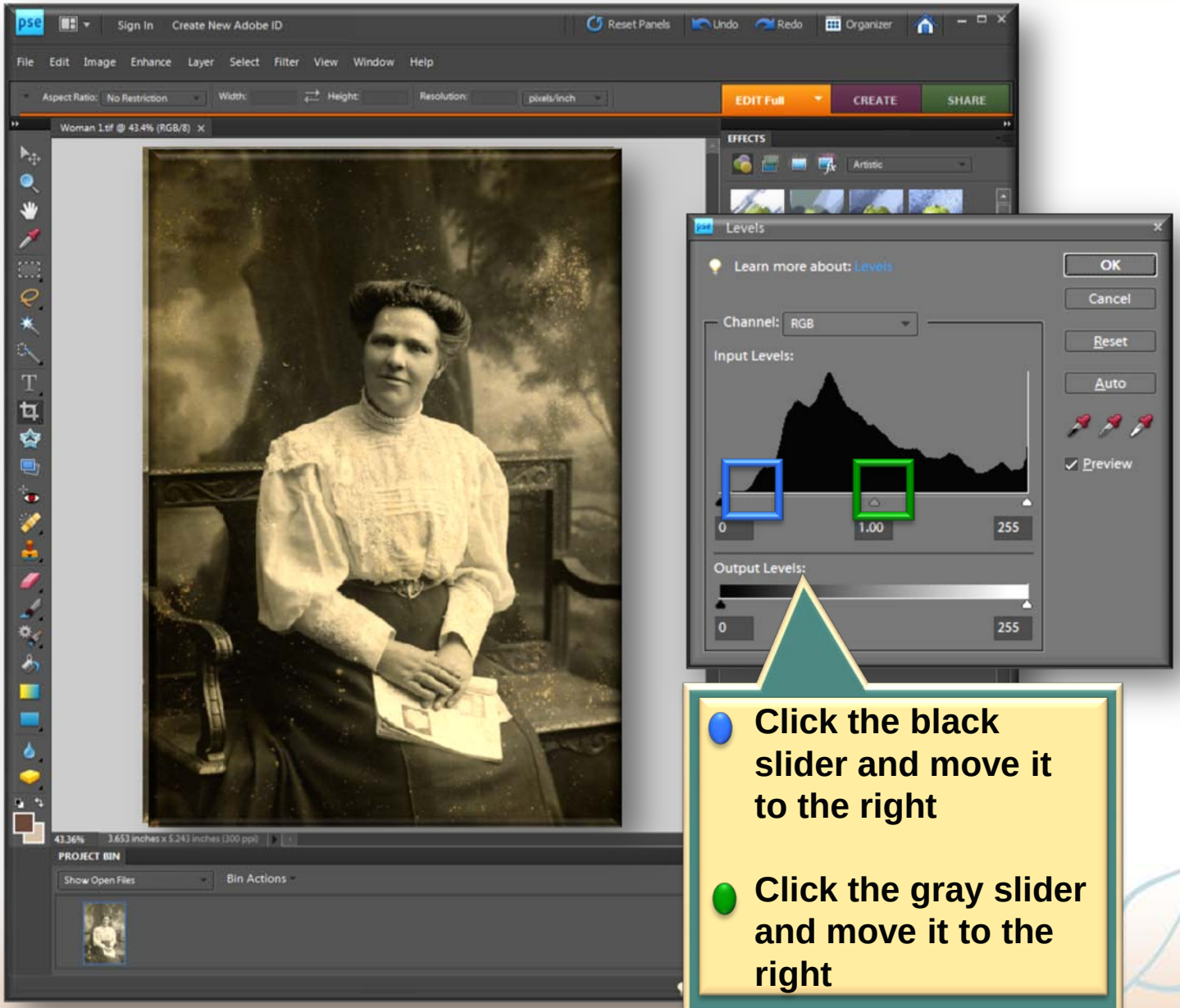


Click Enhance then select Adjust Lighting and choose Levels

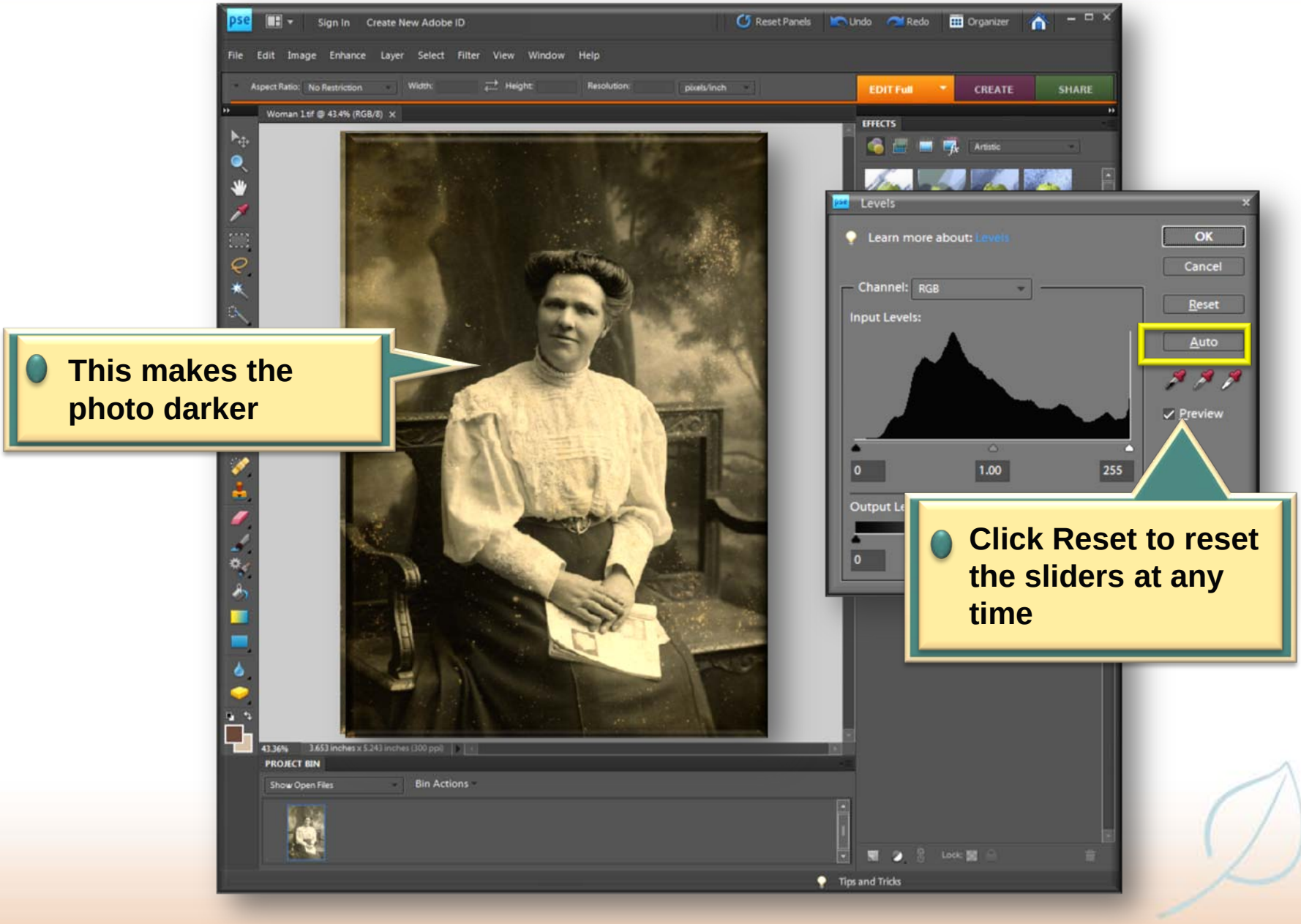
Experiment with Levels



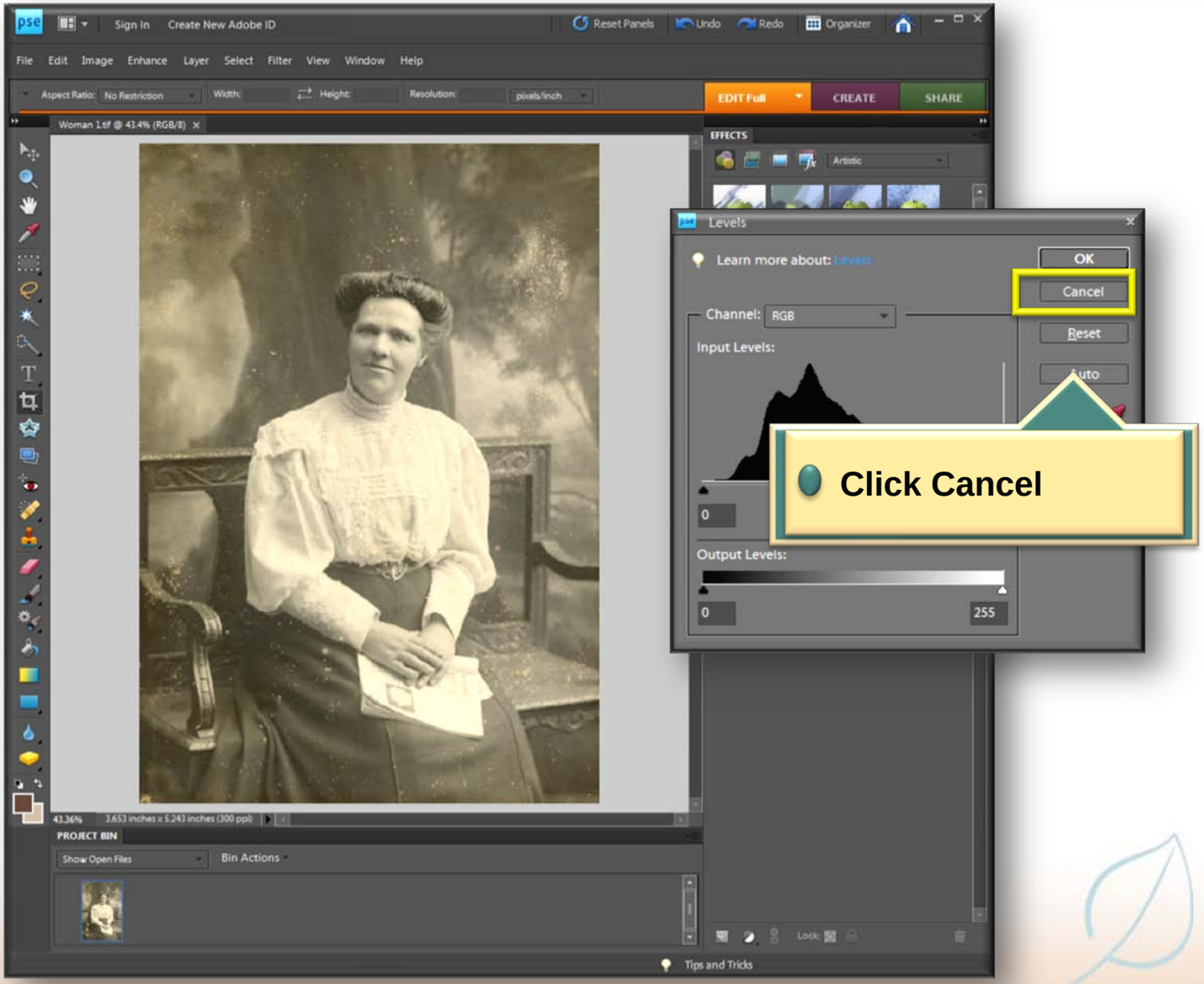
Experiment with Levels



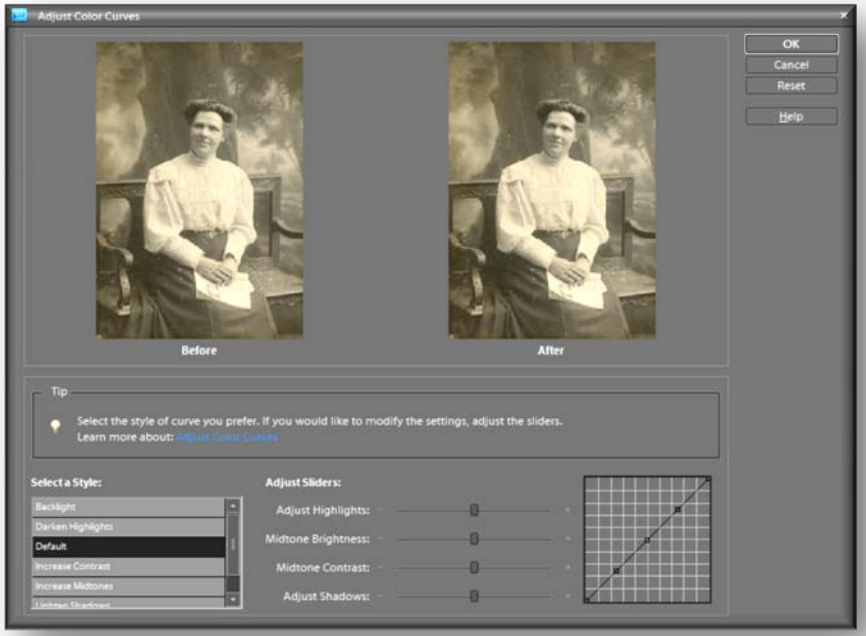
Experiment with Levels



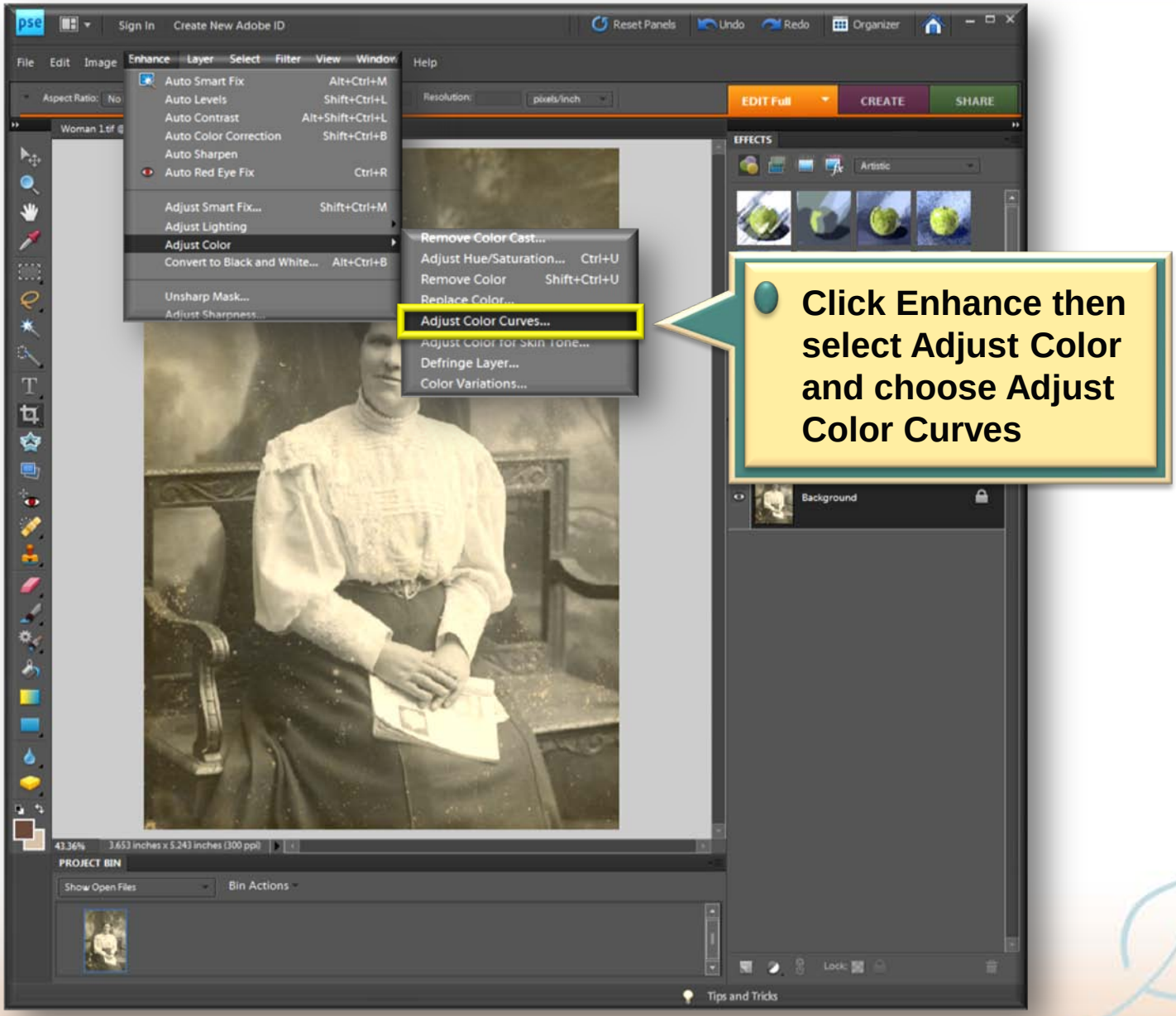
Experiment with Levels



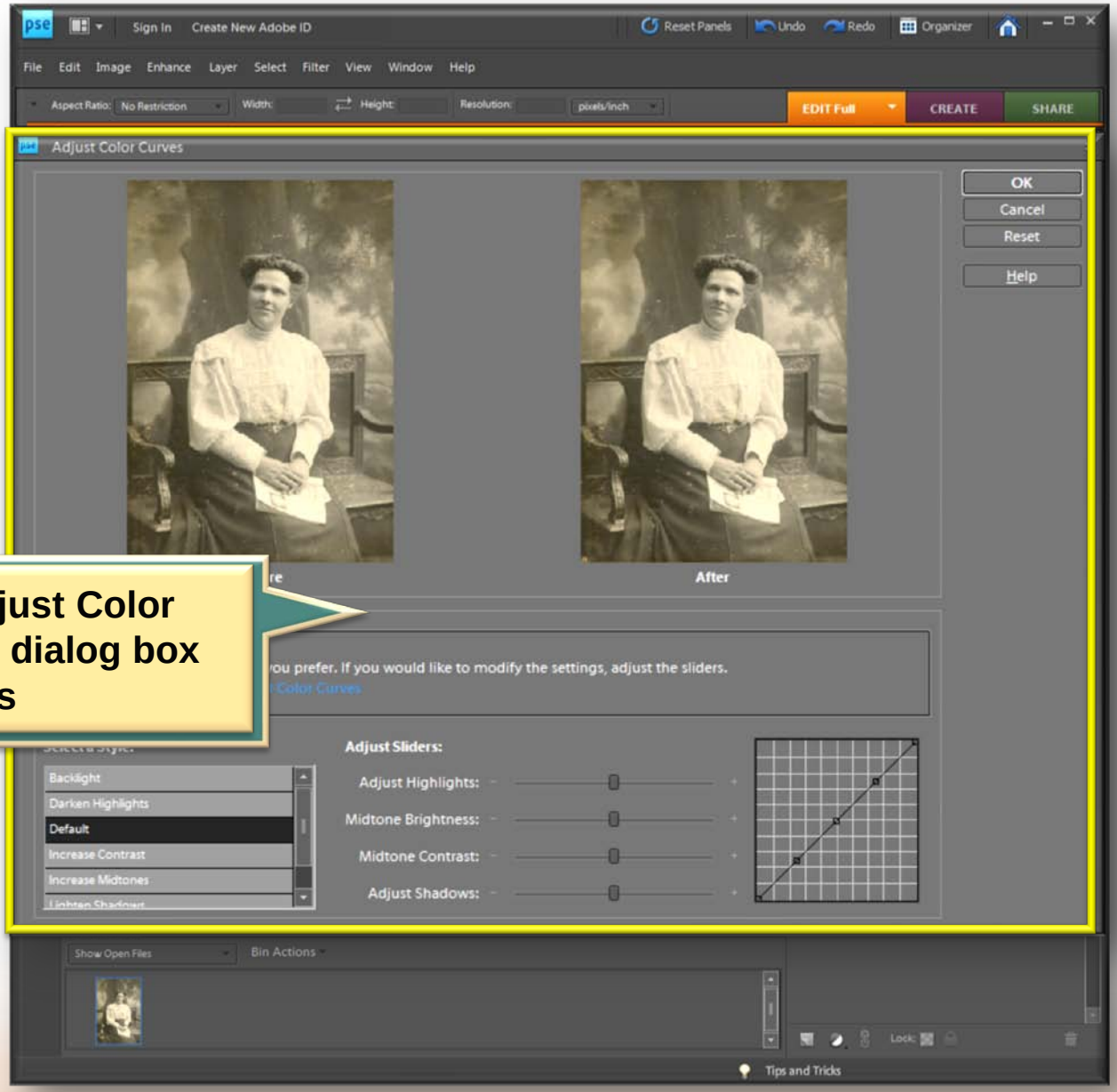
Experiment with Color Curves



Experiment with Color Curves

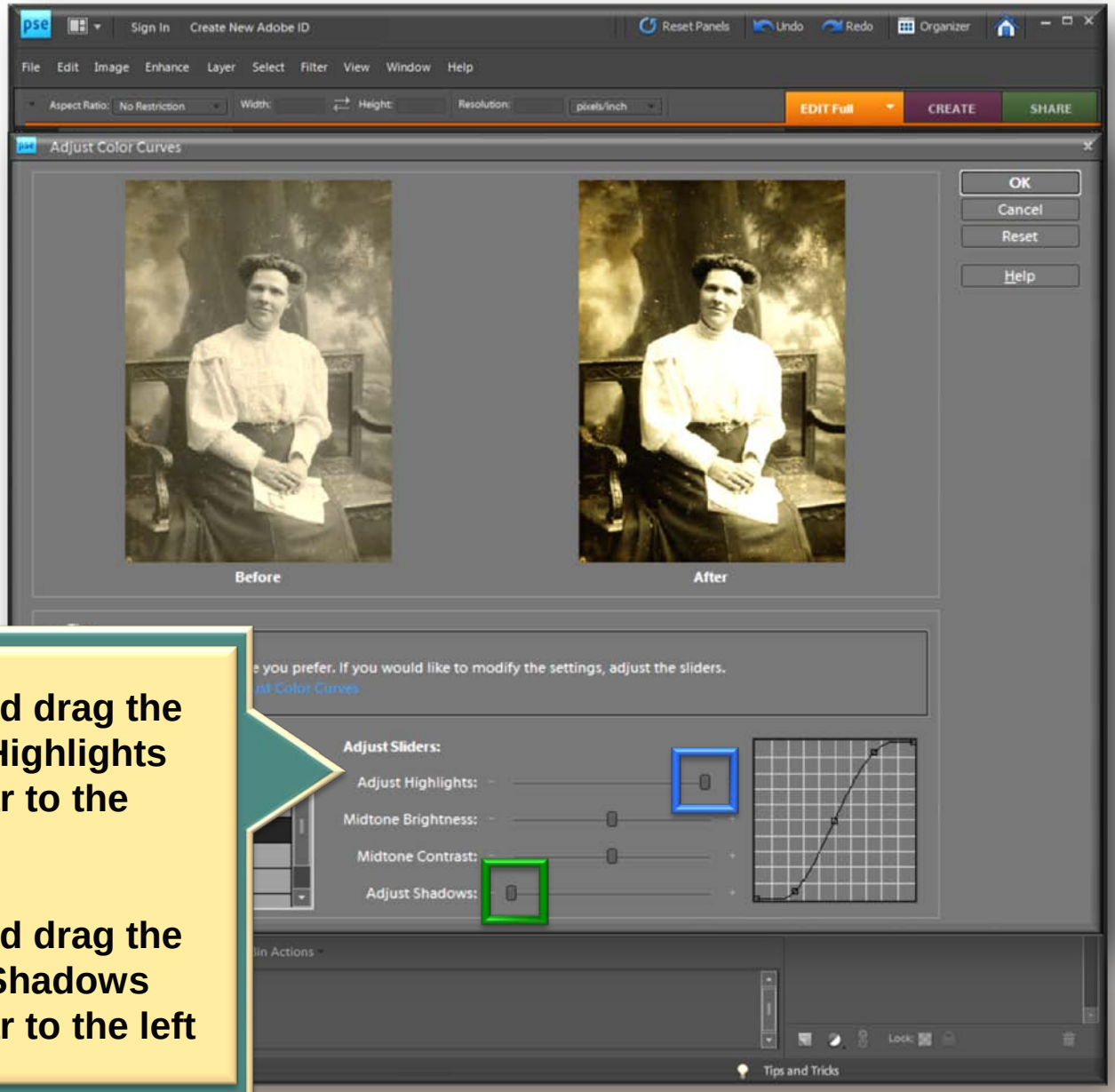


Experiment with Color Curves



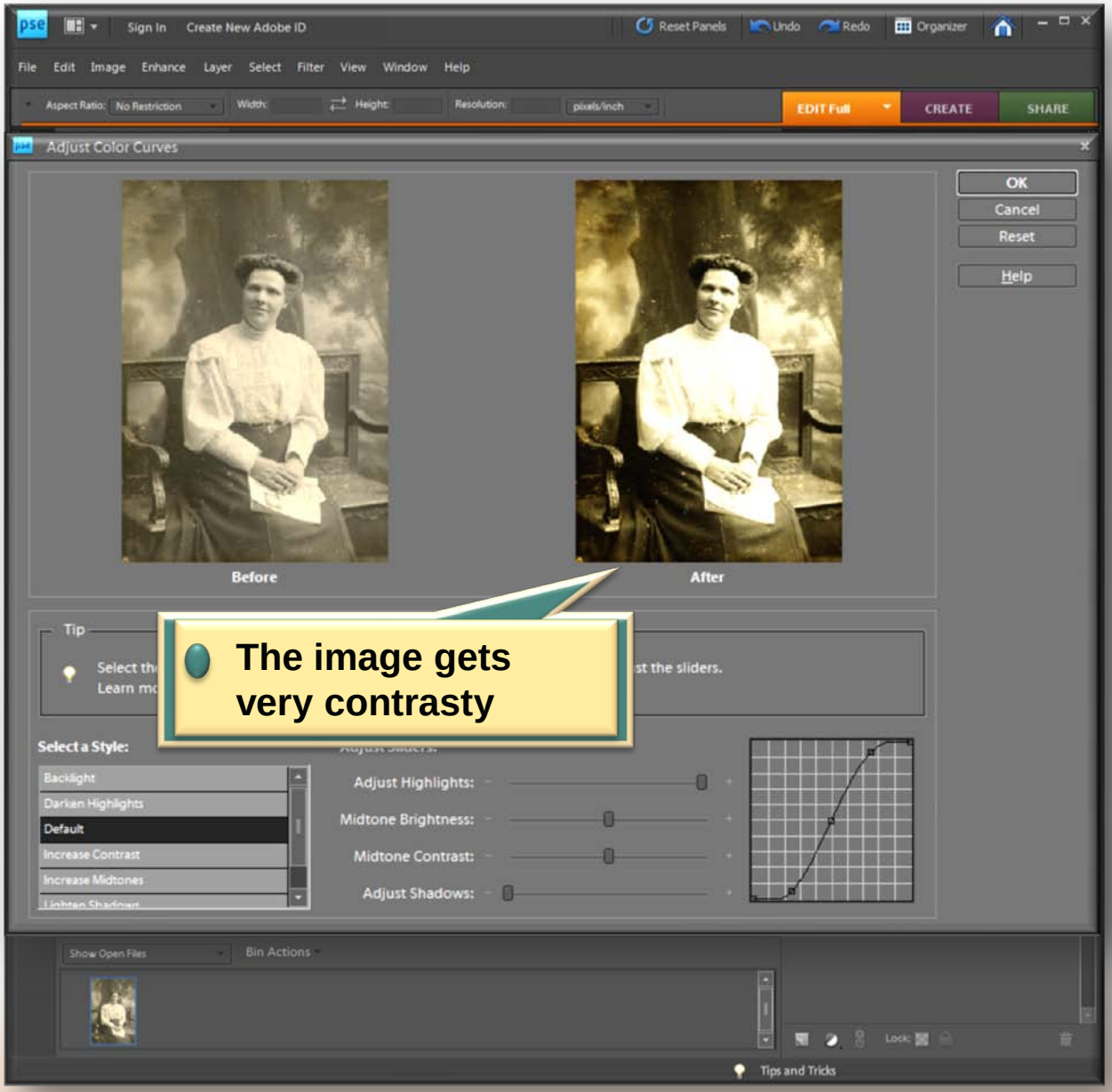
- **The Adjust Color Curves dialog box appears**

Experiment with Color Curves

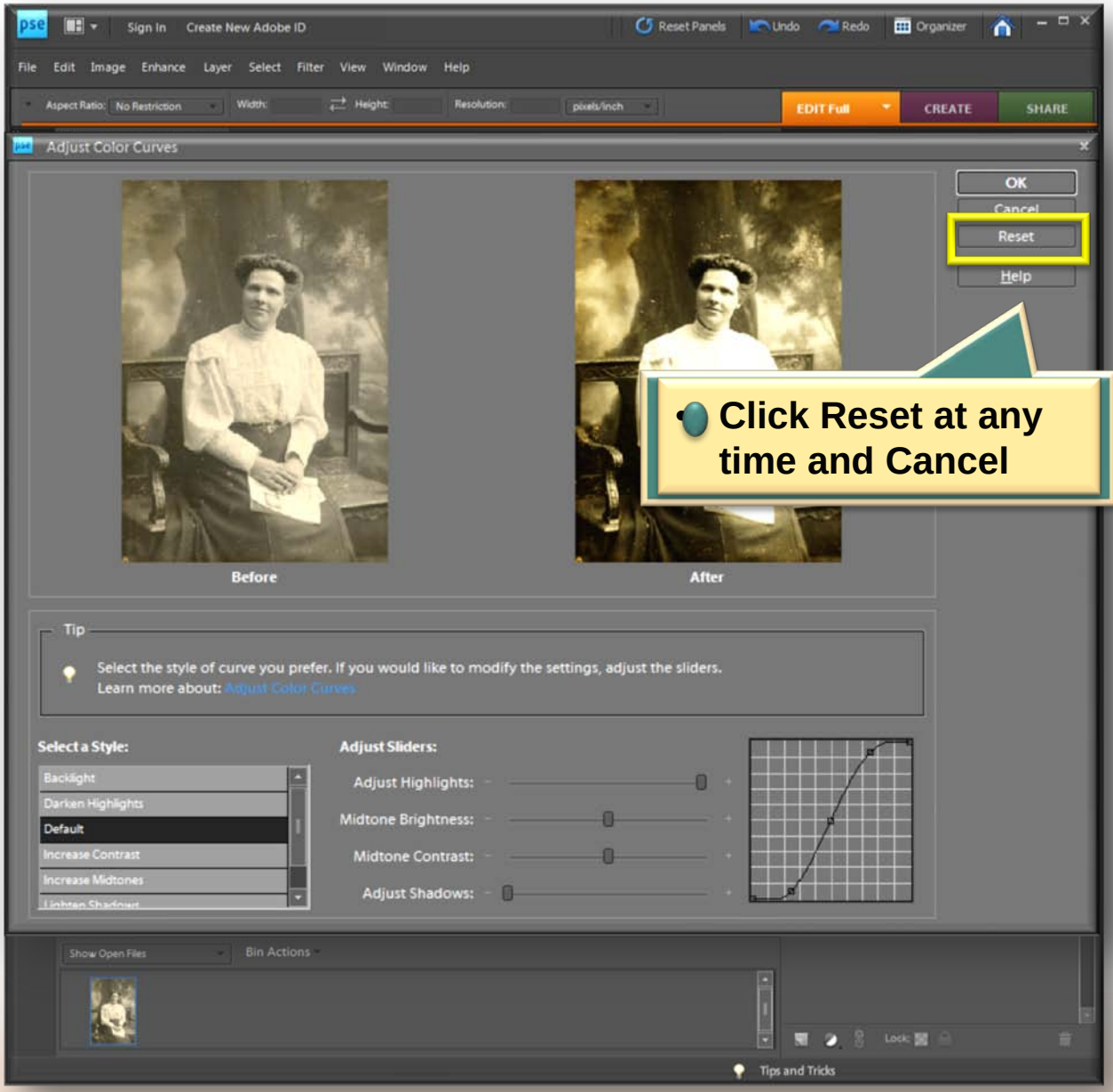


- Click and drag the Adjust Highlights slider far to the right
- Click and drag the Adjust Shadows slider far to the left

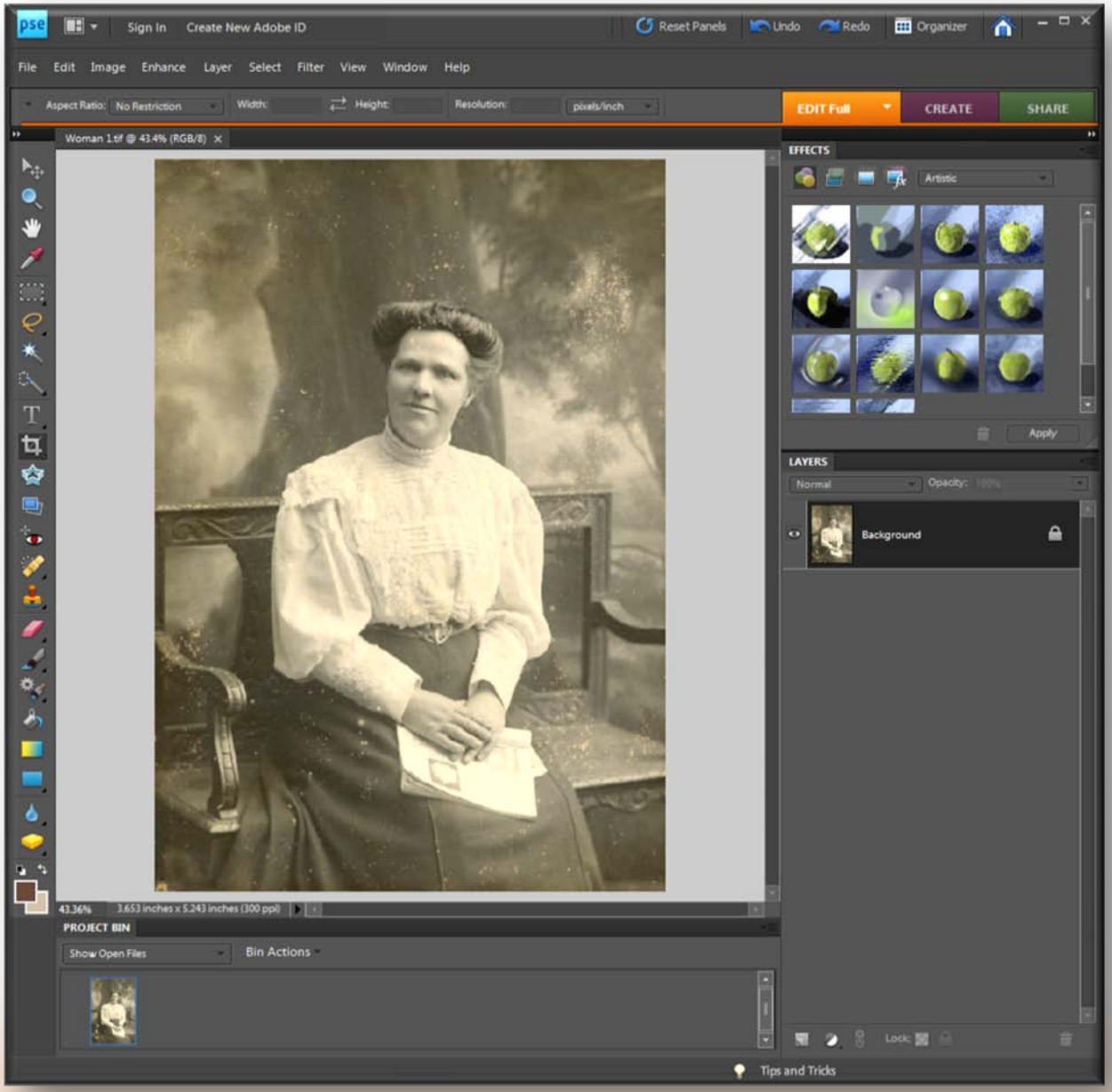
Experiment with Color Curves



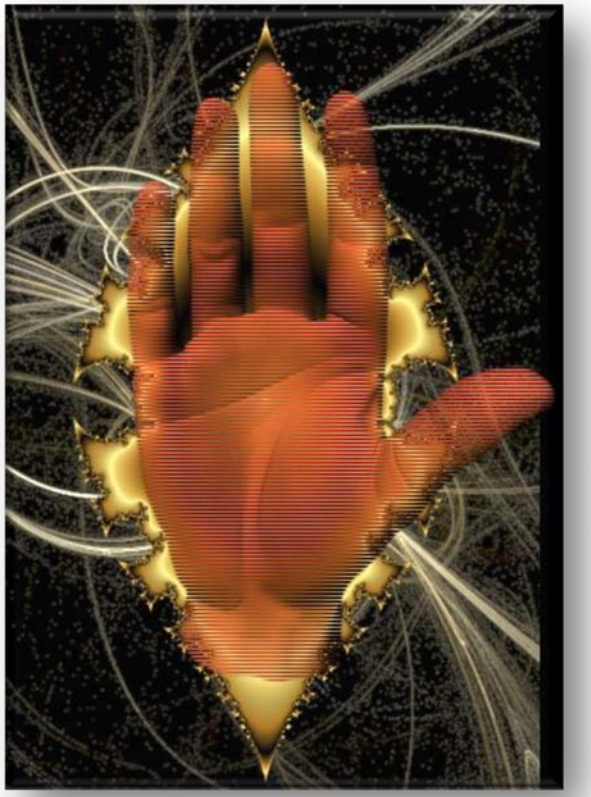
Experiment with Color Curves



Experiment with Color Curves



You cannot hurt your photos



You cannot hurt your photos

- Another reason many photographers get very cautious when working on pictures in Photoshop Elements is that they are afraid of hurting their images

You cannot hurt your photos

- You cannot really hurt your pictures

You cannot hurt your photos

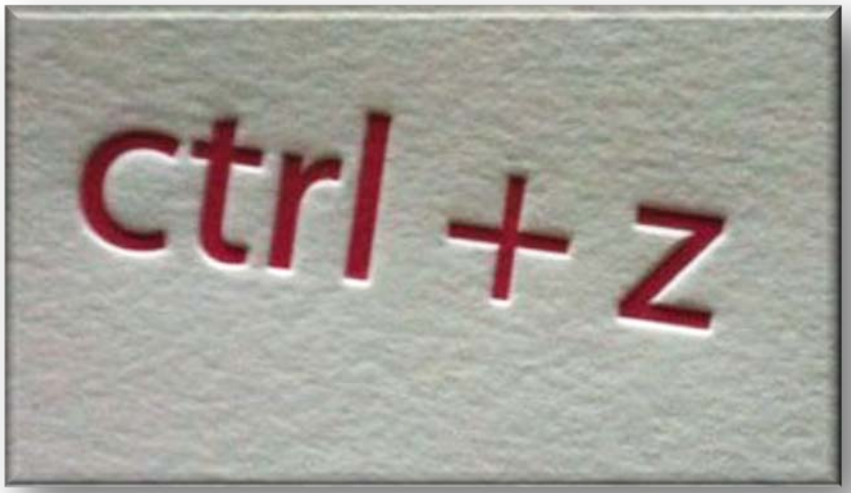
- This is an important to keep in mind because it frees you to work more confidently with your pictures

You cannot hurt your photos

- As long as you have done a Save As for your original image, you cannot hurt the original image because you are now working on a copy

You cannot hurt your photos

- And as you work, you can always undo everything that you have already done



You cannot hurt your photos

- As long as you do not save what you have done, there is no change made to the file you are working on except within Photoshop Elements

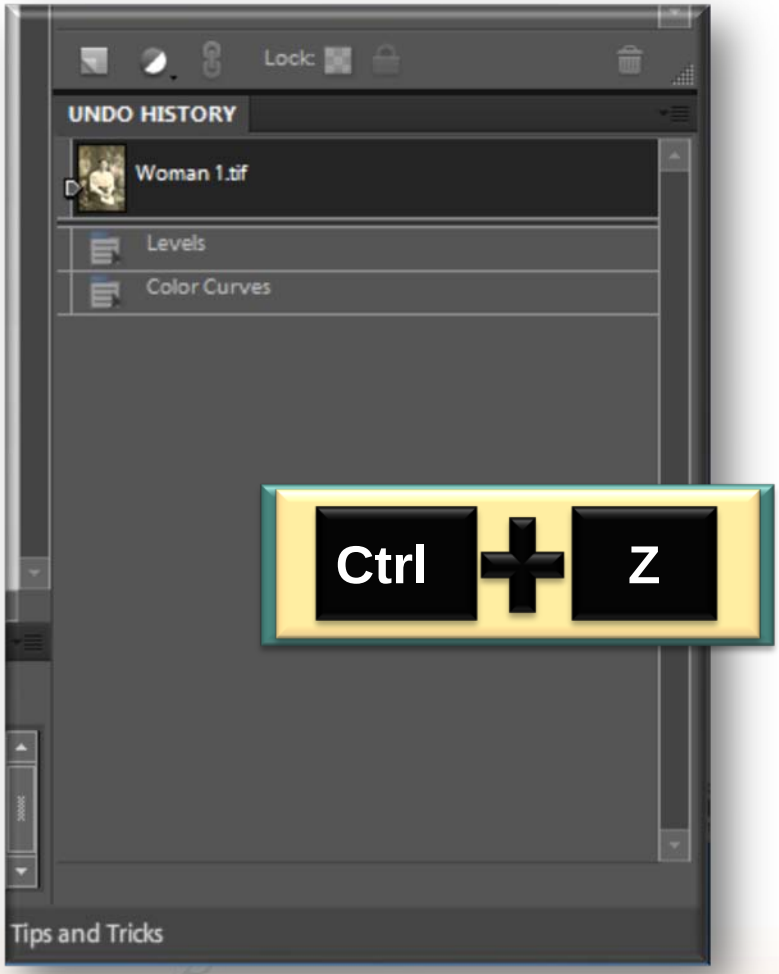
You cannot hurt your photos

- **The Undo History palette gives you even more options to back up on your adjustments**

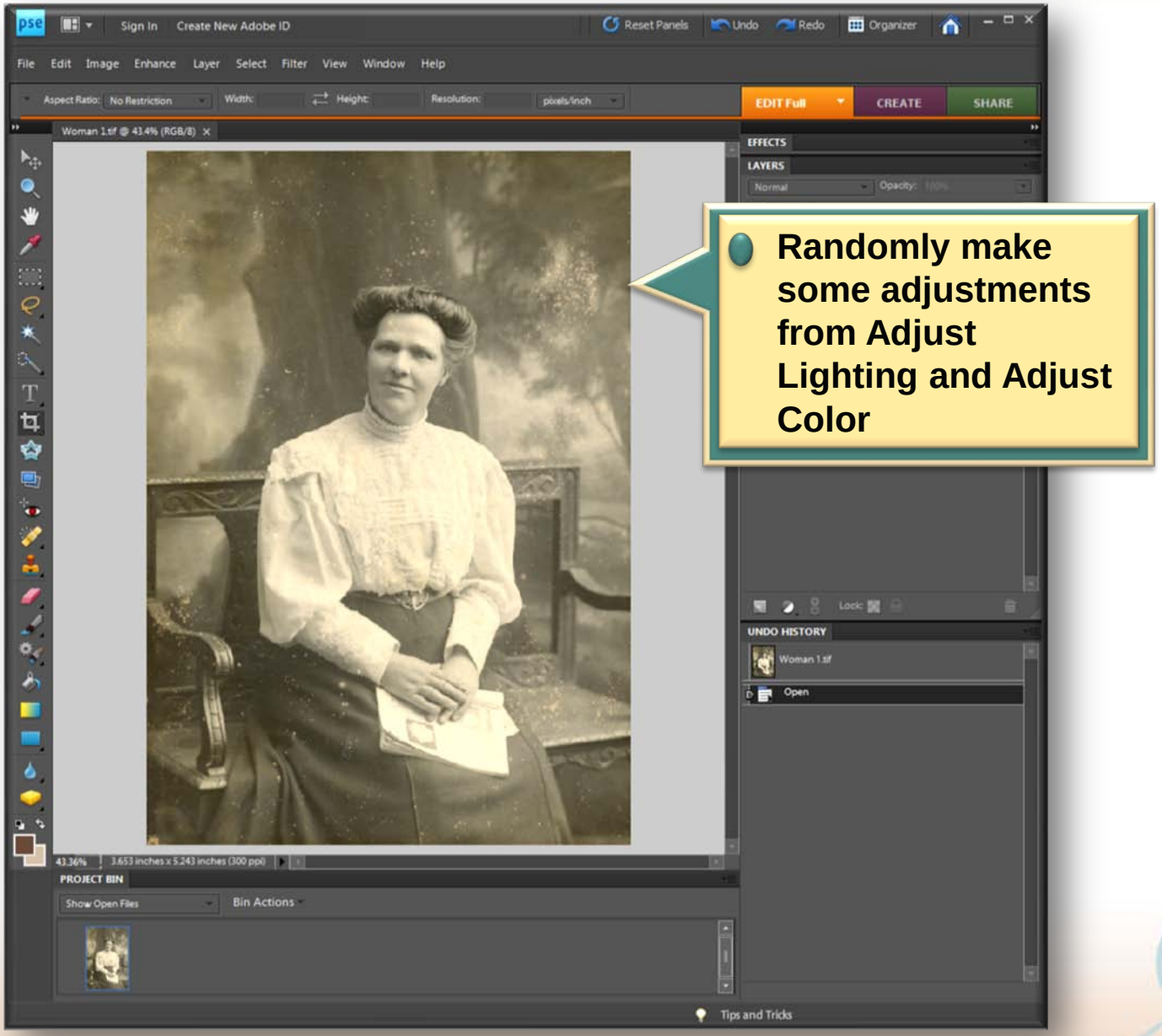
You cannot hurt your photos

- **Knowing all of this can help you experiment without restraint to really discover possibilities for your image**

Use the Undo History



Use the Undo History



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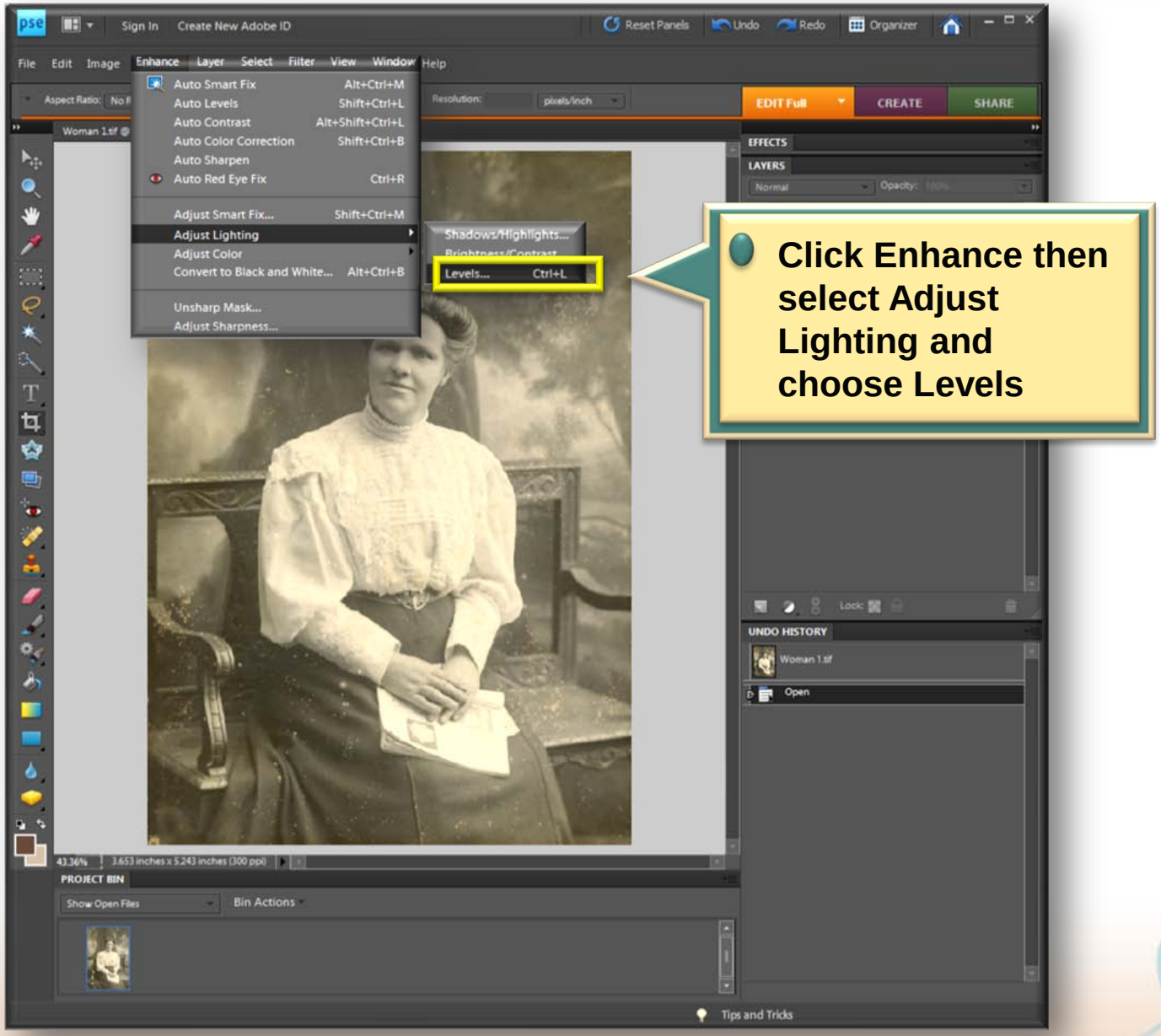

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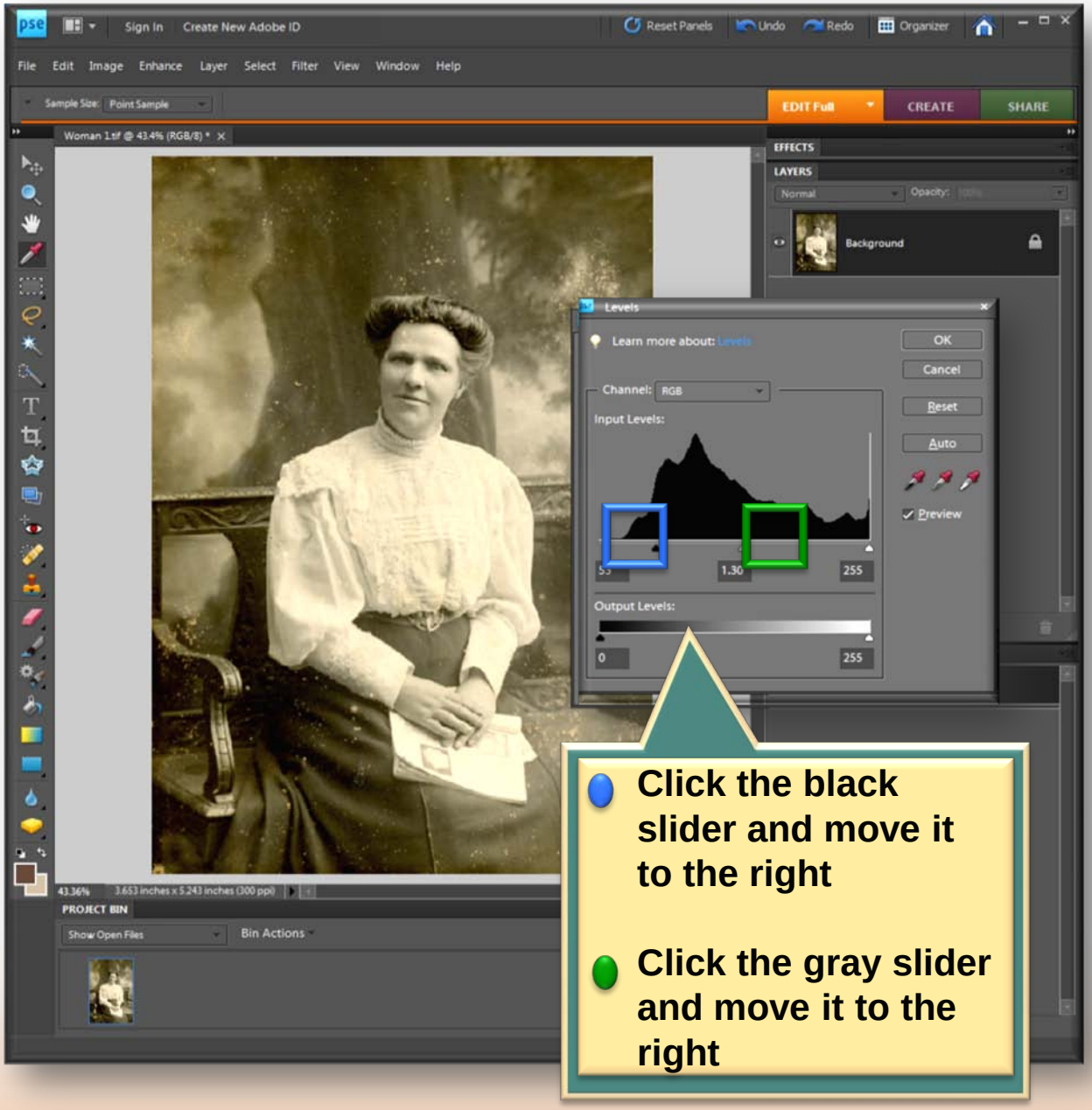

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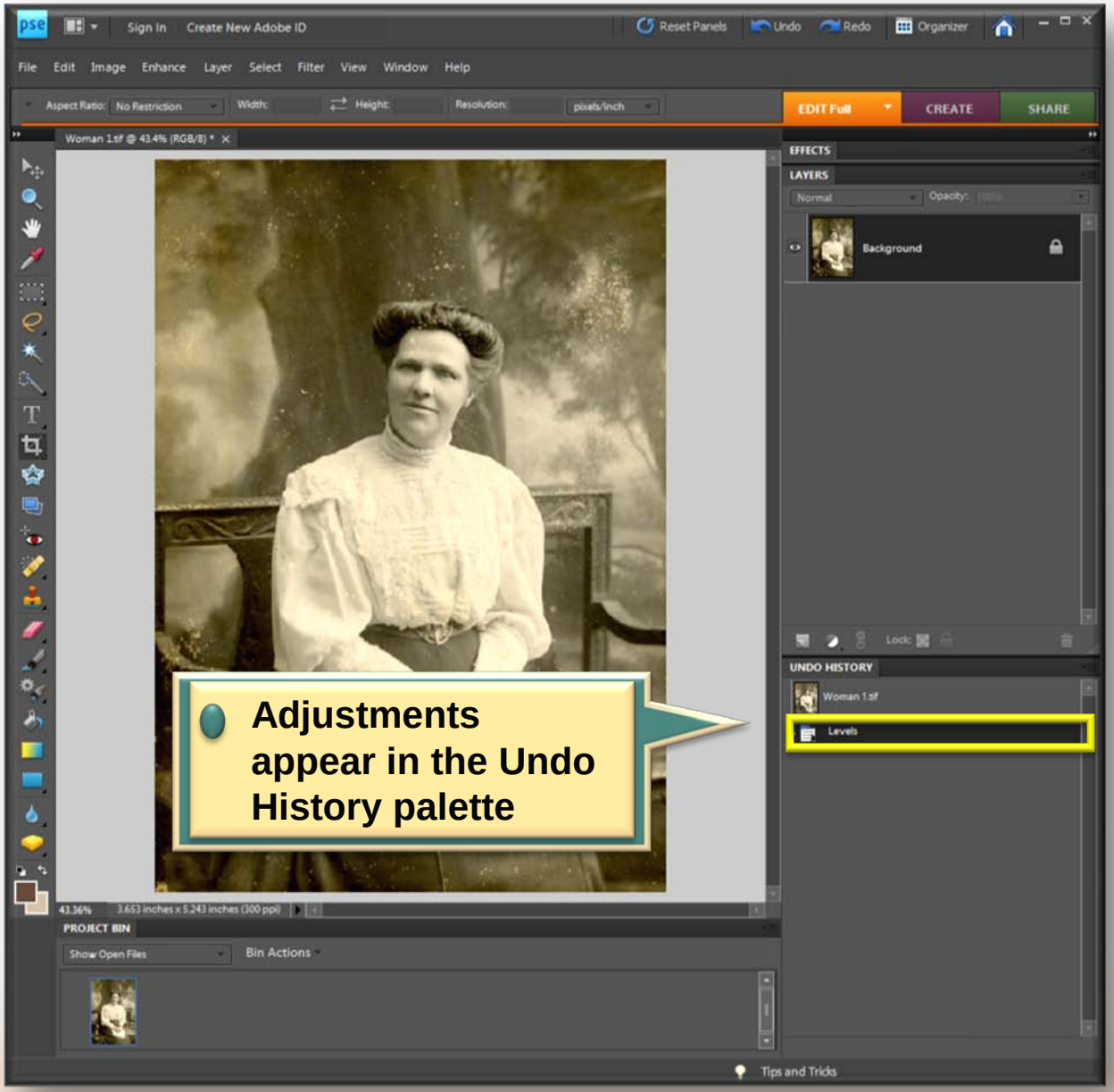

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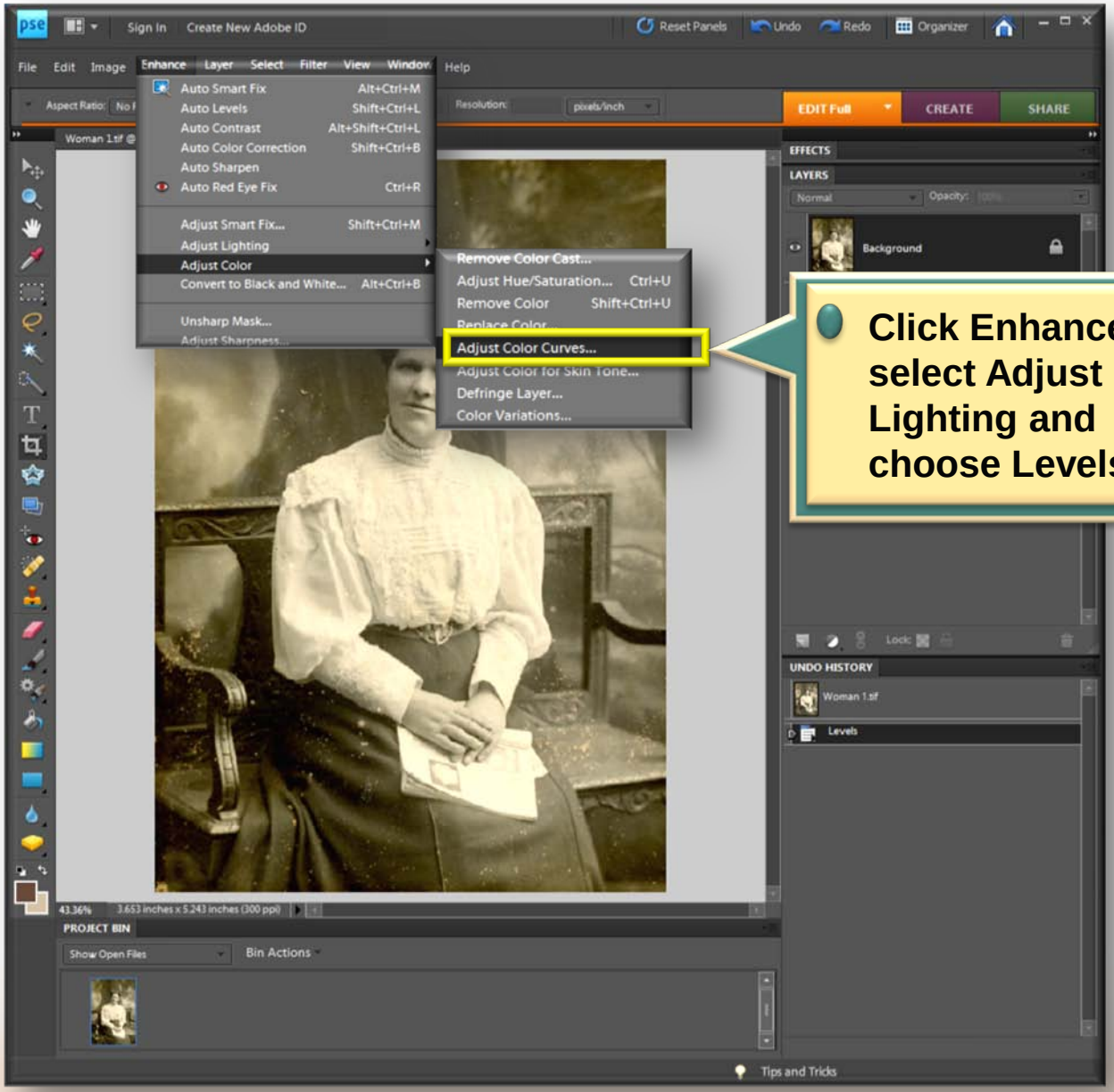

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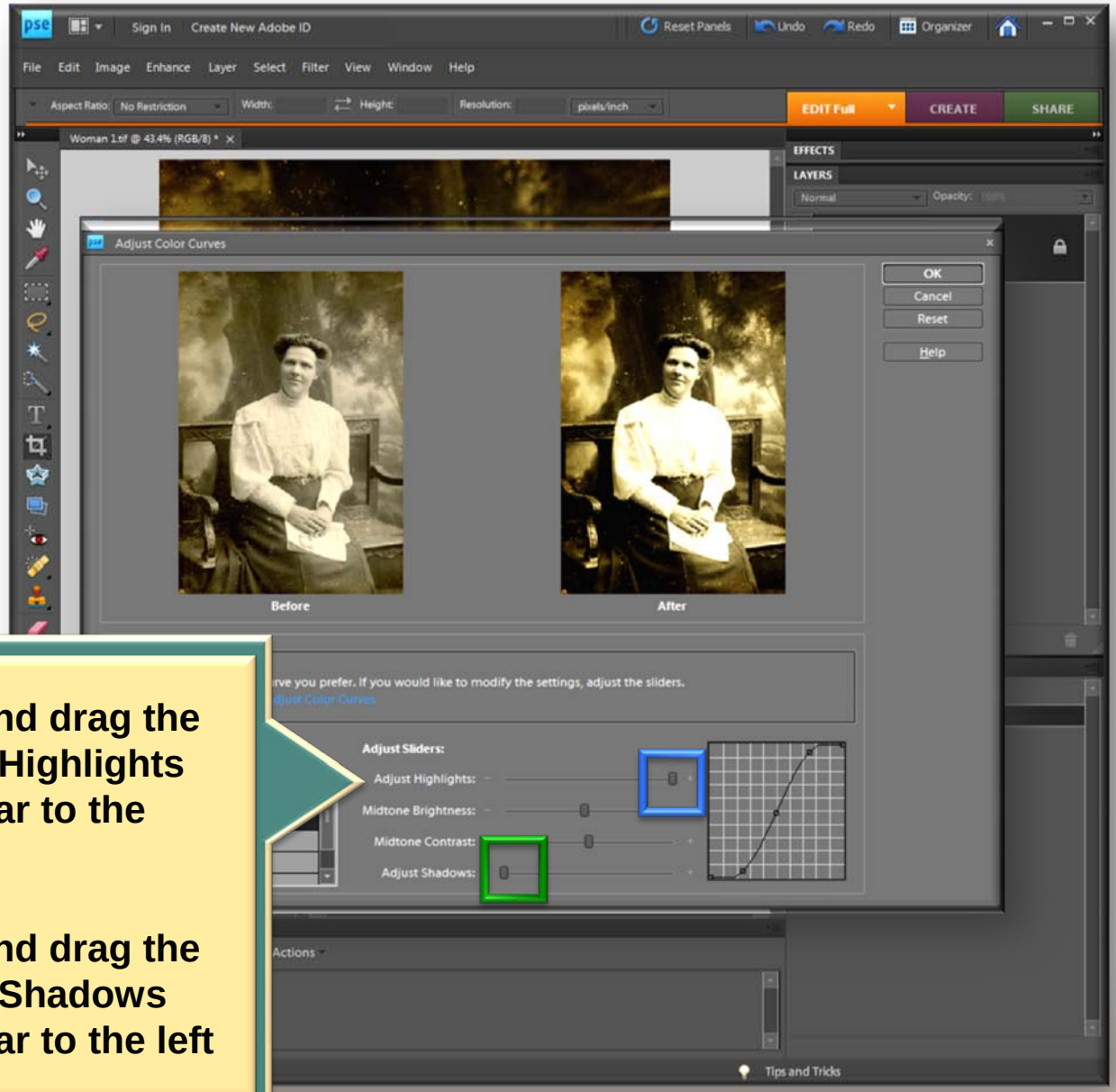
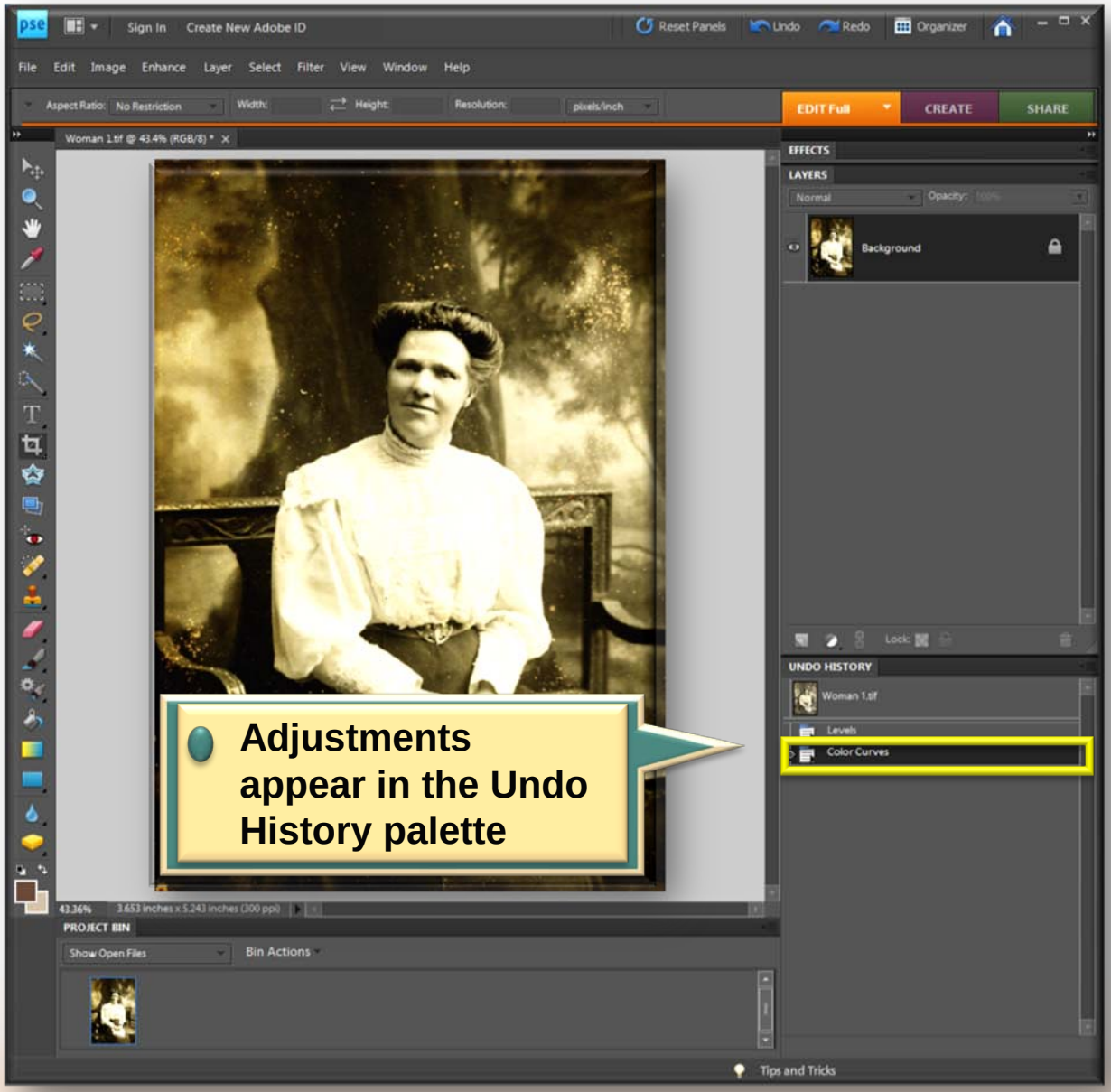


- Click and drag the Adjust Highlights slider far to the right
- Click and drag the Adjust Shadows slider far to the left

Use the Undo History



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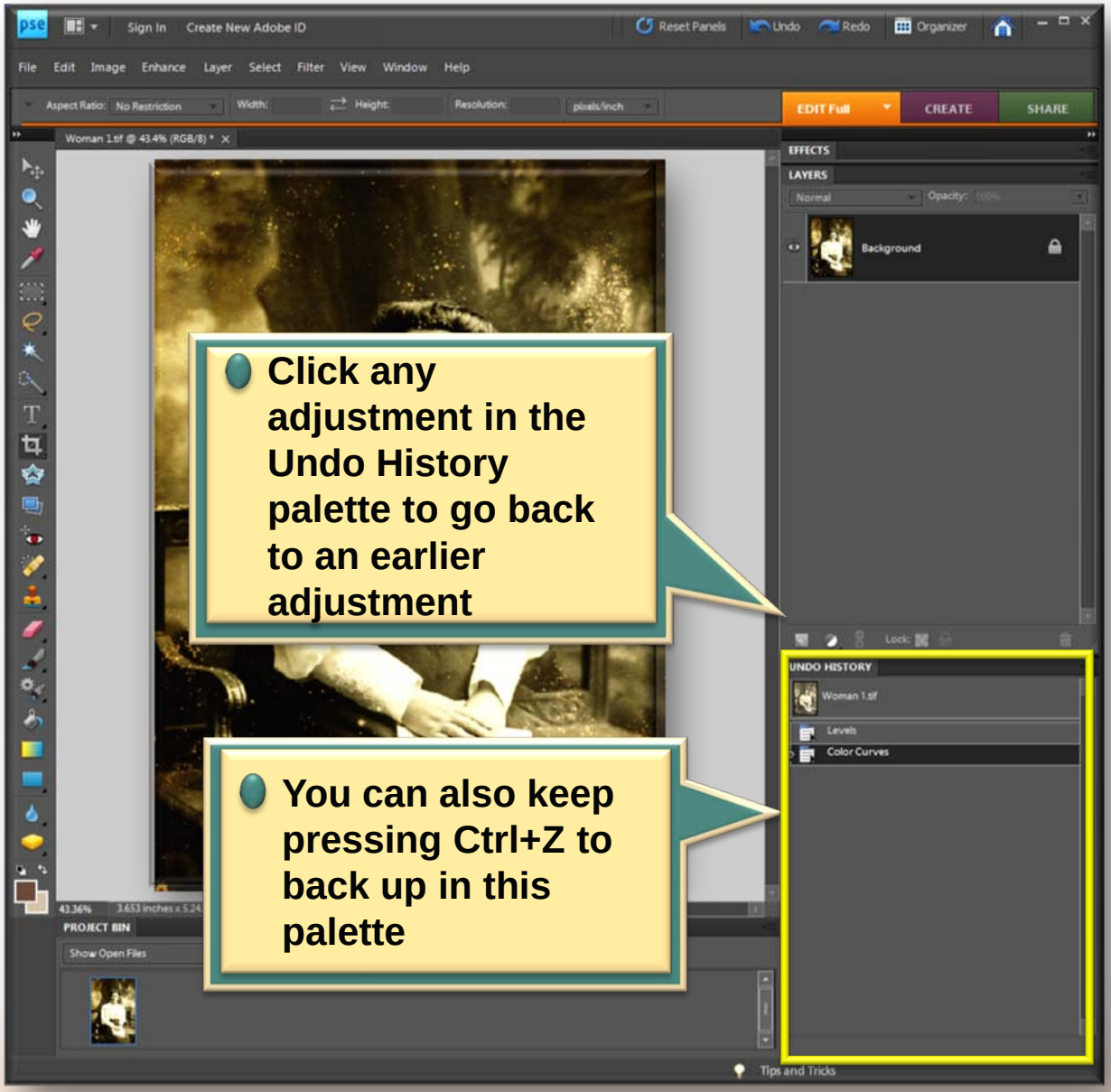

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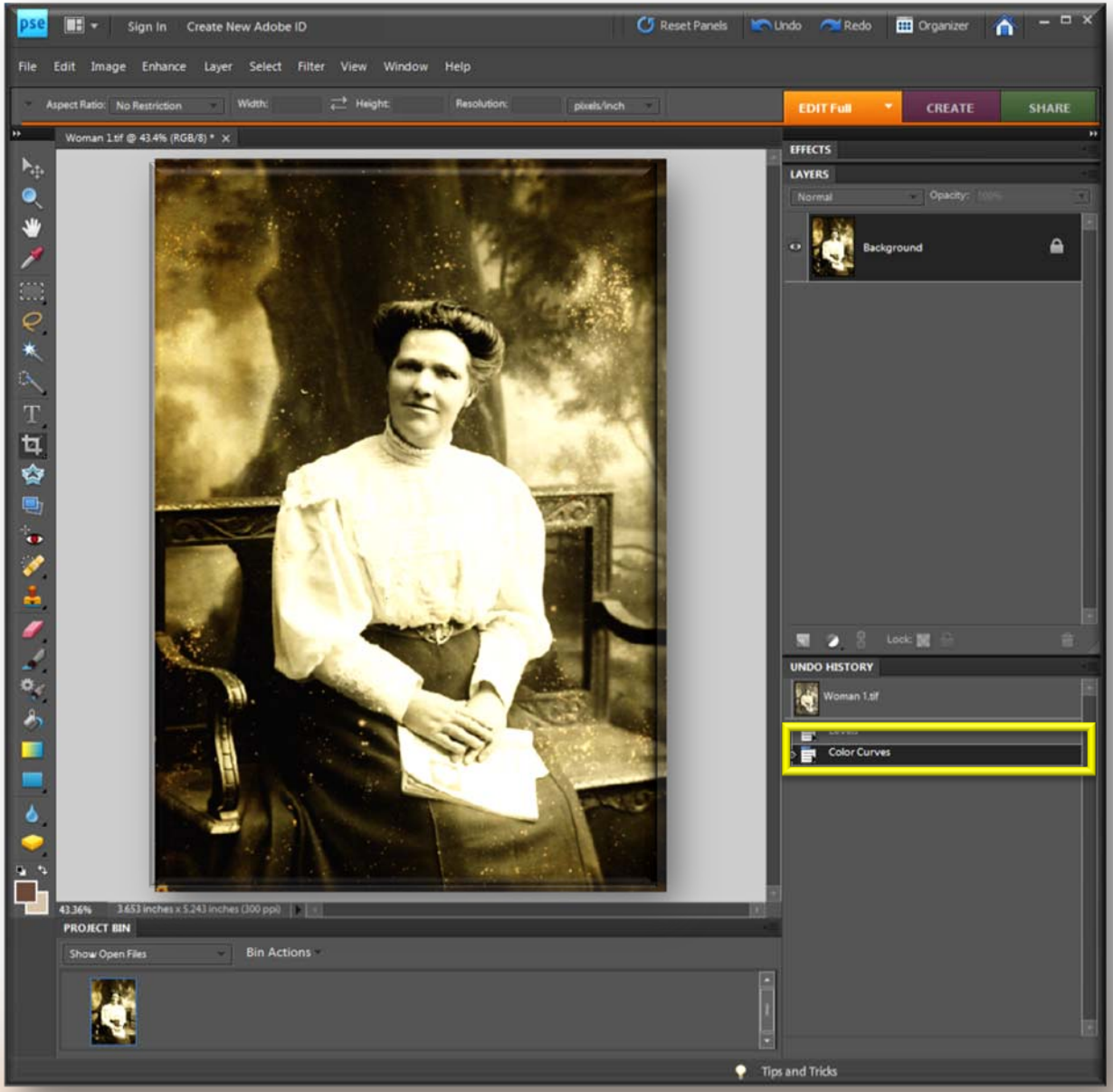

Use the Undo History

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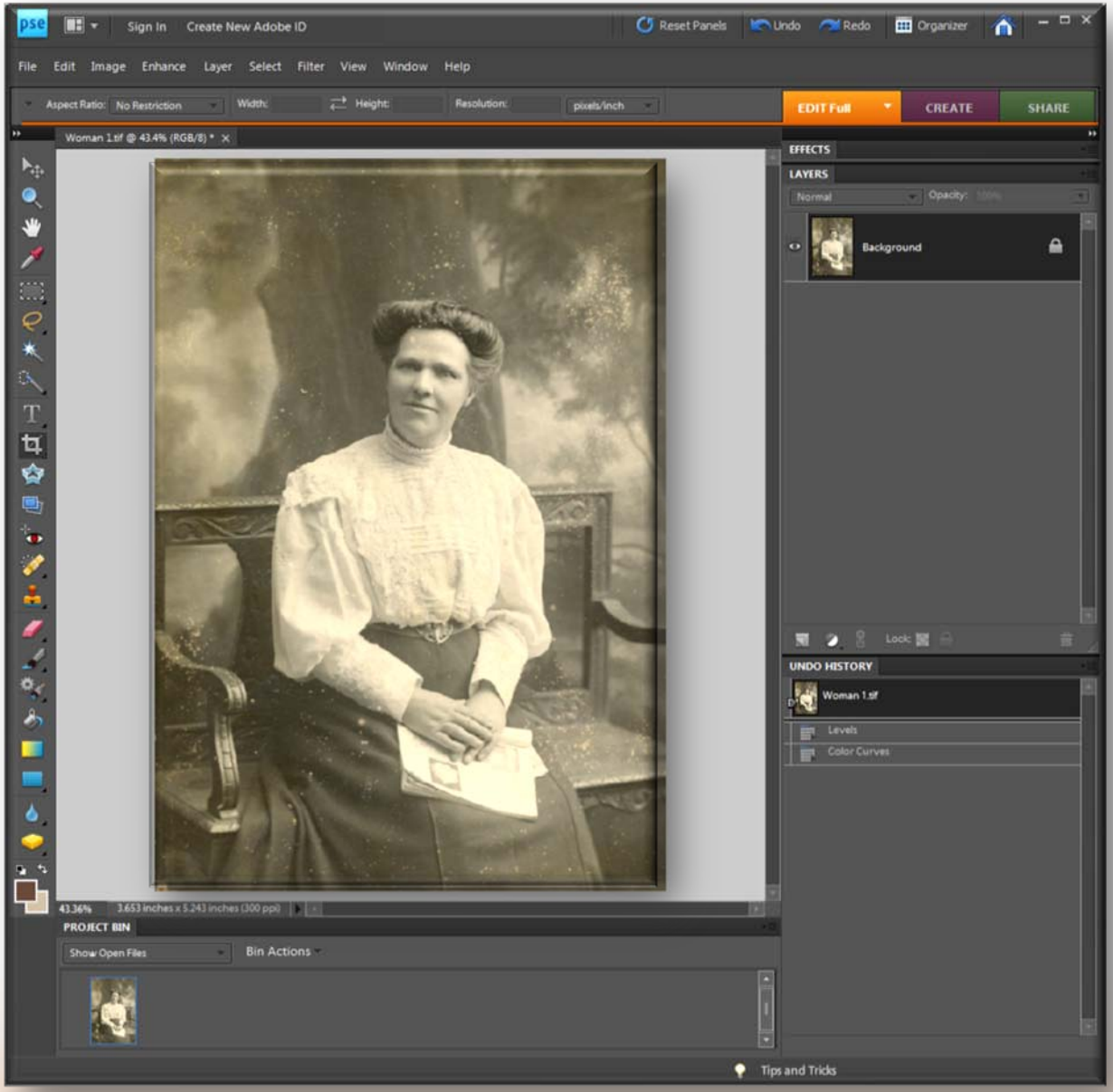
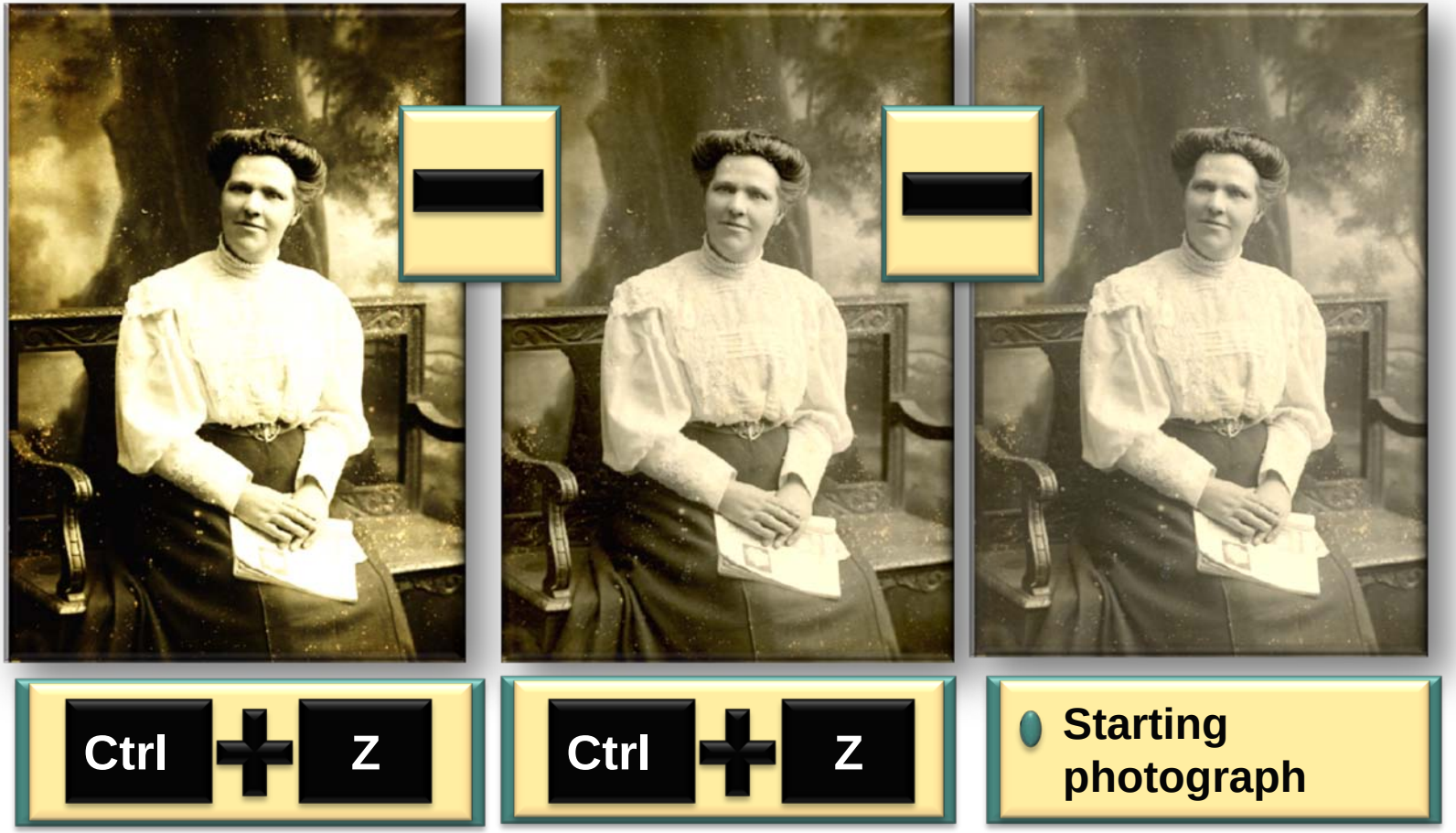


Use the Undo History

- Starting photograph
- Photograph: Adjust Lighting
- Photograph: Adjust Color

Use the Undo History



How to loose your ability to backup from adjustments

Caution!

- There is one way that you can lose your ability to back up from adjustments

Caution!

- If you make a lot of adjustments to a picture and then save and close it, you have now locked those adjustments to the picture

Caution!

- **Save your photo as you go, but only when you are sure that your adjustments are okay**

Cropping

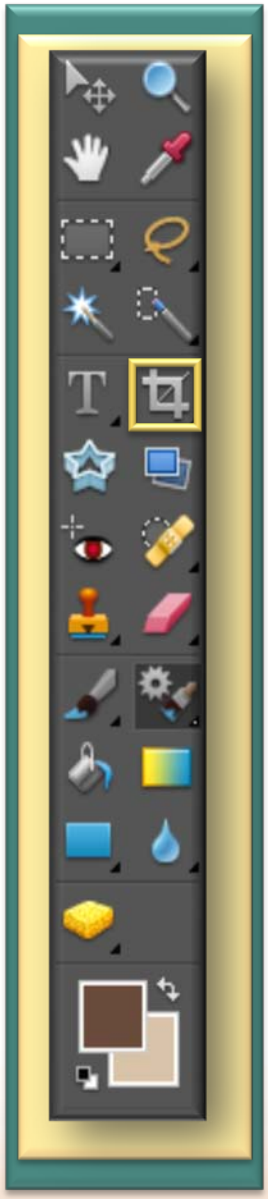
Cropping

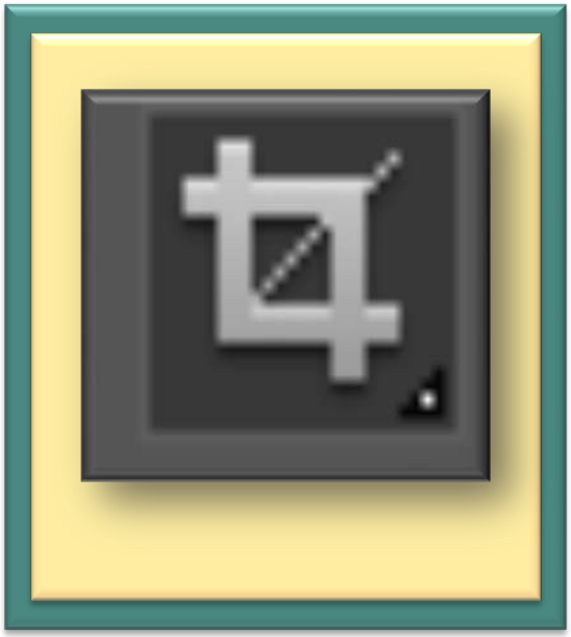
- **Cropping is a technique that can be used to remove unwanted areas of an image and highlight the main subject**

Cropping

- The area to be cropped can only be selected as a rectangle

Cropping





- Select the Crop tool from the Toolbox

Cropping

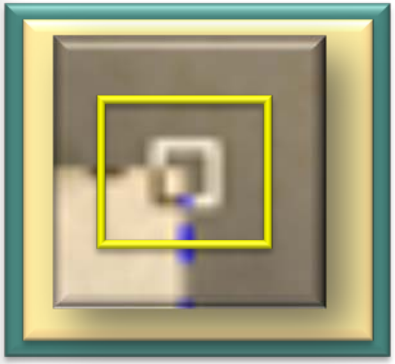
- Click and drag on an image to select the area to be cropped

Cropping

- The area that is selected is retained and the area to be cropped appears graved-out

Cropping

- Click and drag on an Click and drag on these markers to resize the crop area

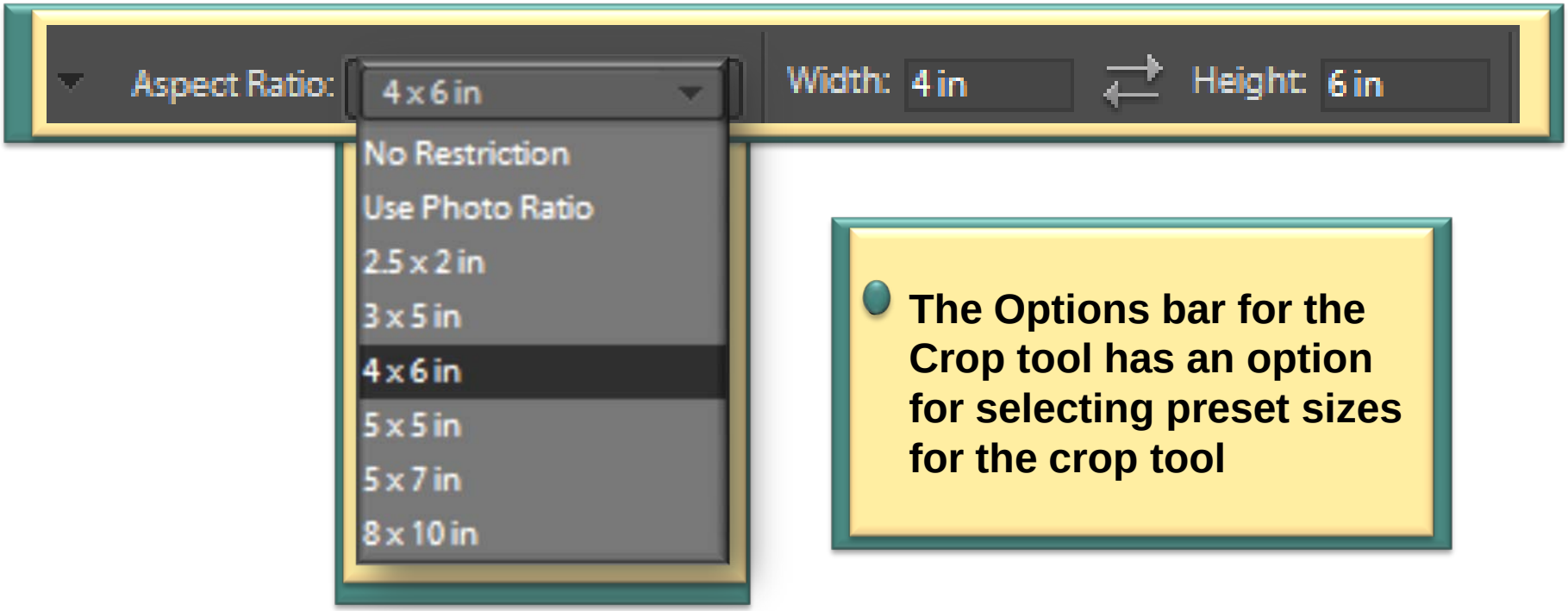


Cropping

- Click on the check mark to accept the changes or the circle to reject them

Cropping

Cropping tip



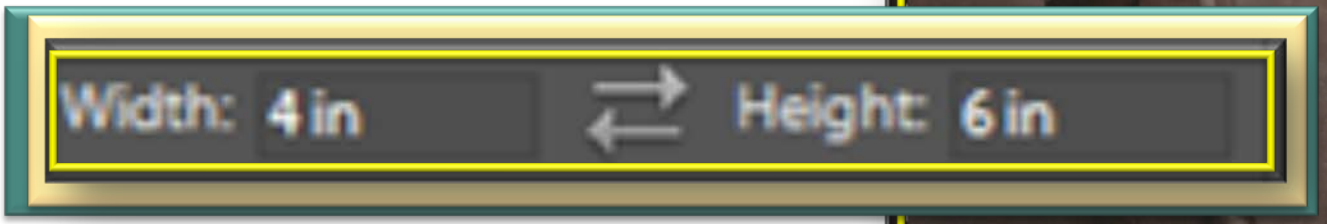
- **The Options bar for the Crop tool has an option for selecting preset sizes for the crop tool**

Cropping tip

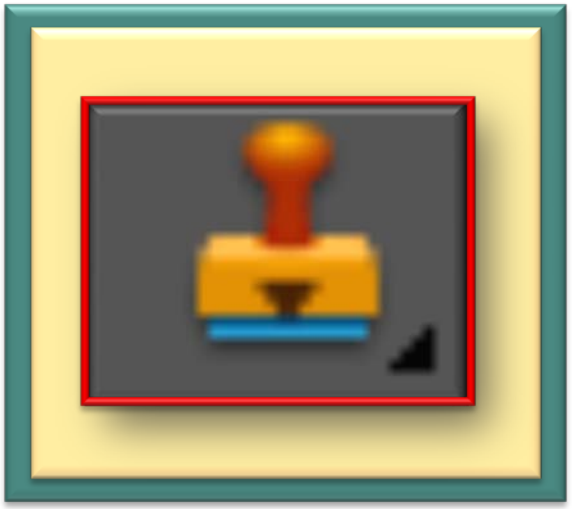
- This results in the crop being in specific proportions.
- For instance, if you want to print an image at 4 x 6 size, you can use this preset crop size to ensure that the cropped image is at the correct proportions for this

Cropping tip

- The image dialog box will also be updated accordingly



Cloning



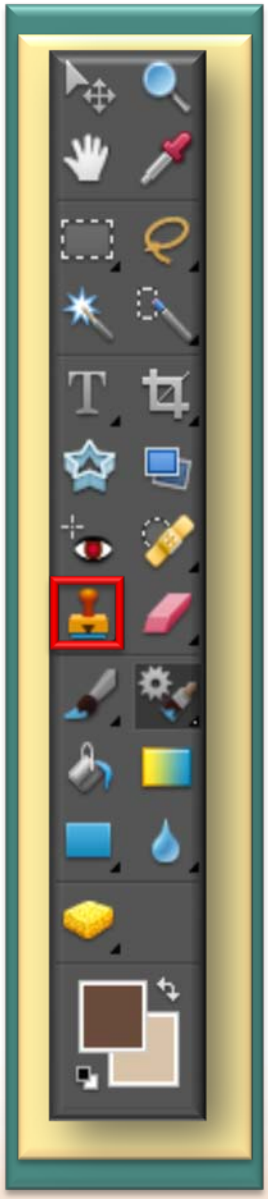
Cloning

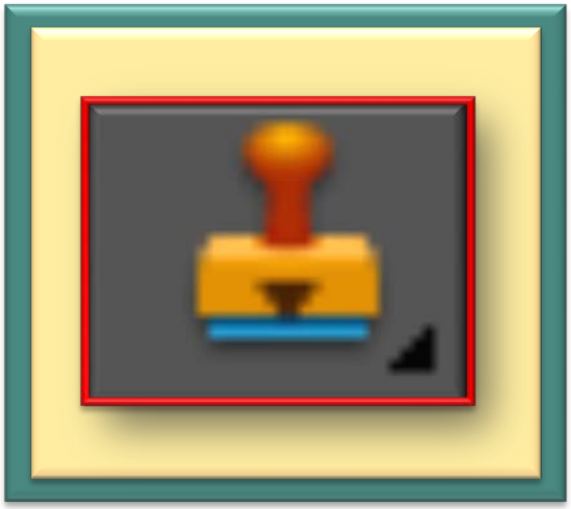
- This can be used to cover up small imperfections in an image, such as a dust mark or a spot, and also to copy or remove large items in an image such as a person

Cloning

- Cloning is a technique that can be used to copy one area of an image over another

Cloning





- Select the Clone Stamp tool from the Toolbox

Cloning

- **Set the Clone Stamp options in the Options bar**

Cloning

- Hold down Alt and click on the image to select a source point from which the cloning will start

Cloning

- Drag the cursor to copy everything over which the selection point marker passes

Cloning

Before

After

Cloning caution

- If you are copying a large object with cloning, do not release the mouse once you have started dragging the cursor for the cloning process, otherwise the cloned image will be incomplete

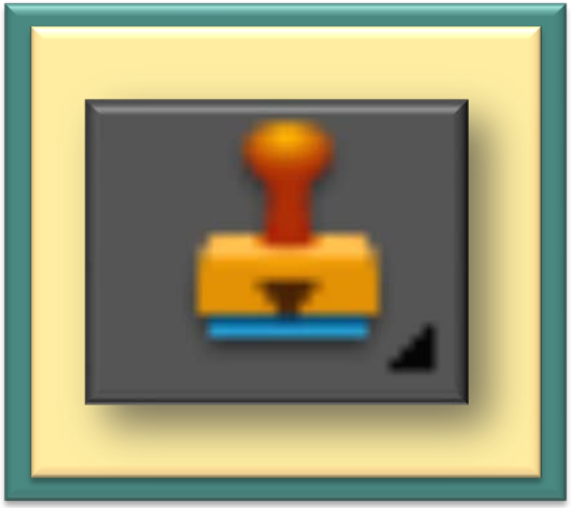
Cloning tip

- When you are removing large objects by cloning you will probably have to move your source point several times
- This will ensure that there is smooth coverage over the cloned item

Pattern cloning

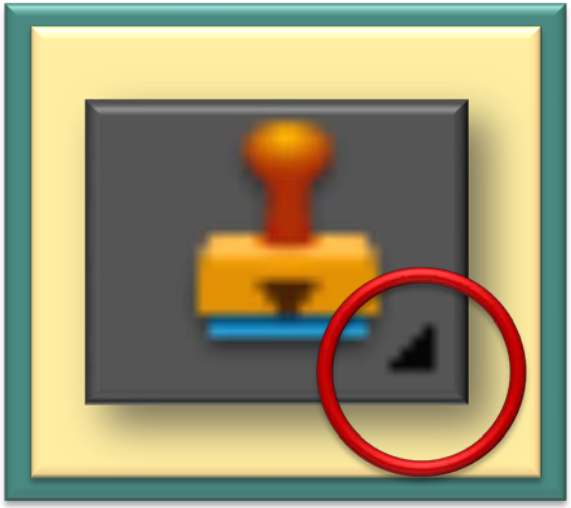
Pattern cloning

- The Pattern Stamp tool can be used to copy a selected pattern over an image, or a selected area of an image

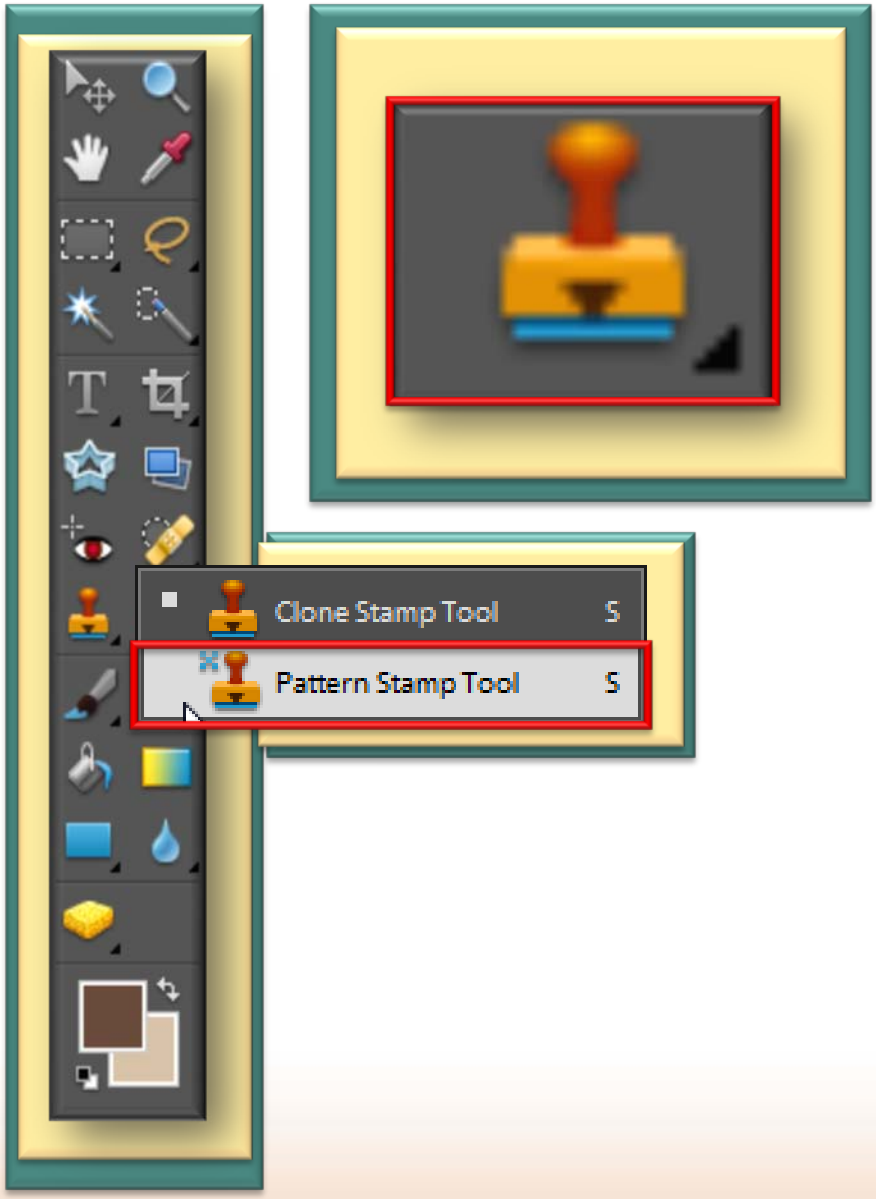


Pattern cloning

- The Pattern Stamp tool is grouped in the Toolbox with the Clone Stamp tool
- It can be selected from the Options bar or by clicking and holding on the black triangle in the corner of the Clone Stamp tool and then selecting the Pattern Stamp tool from the subsequent list

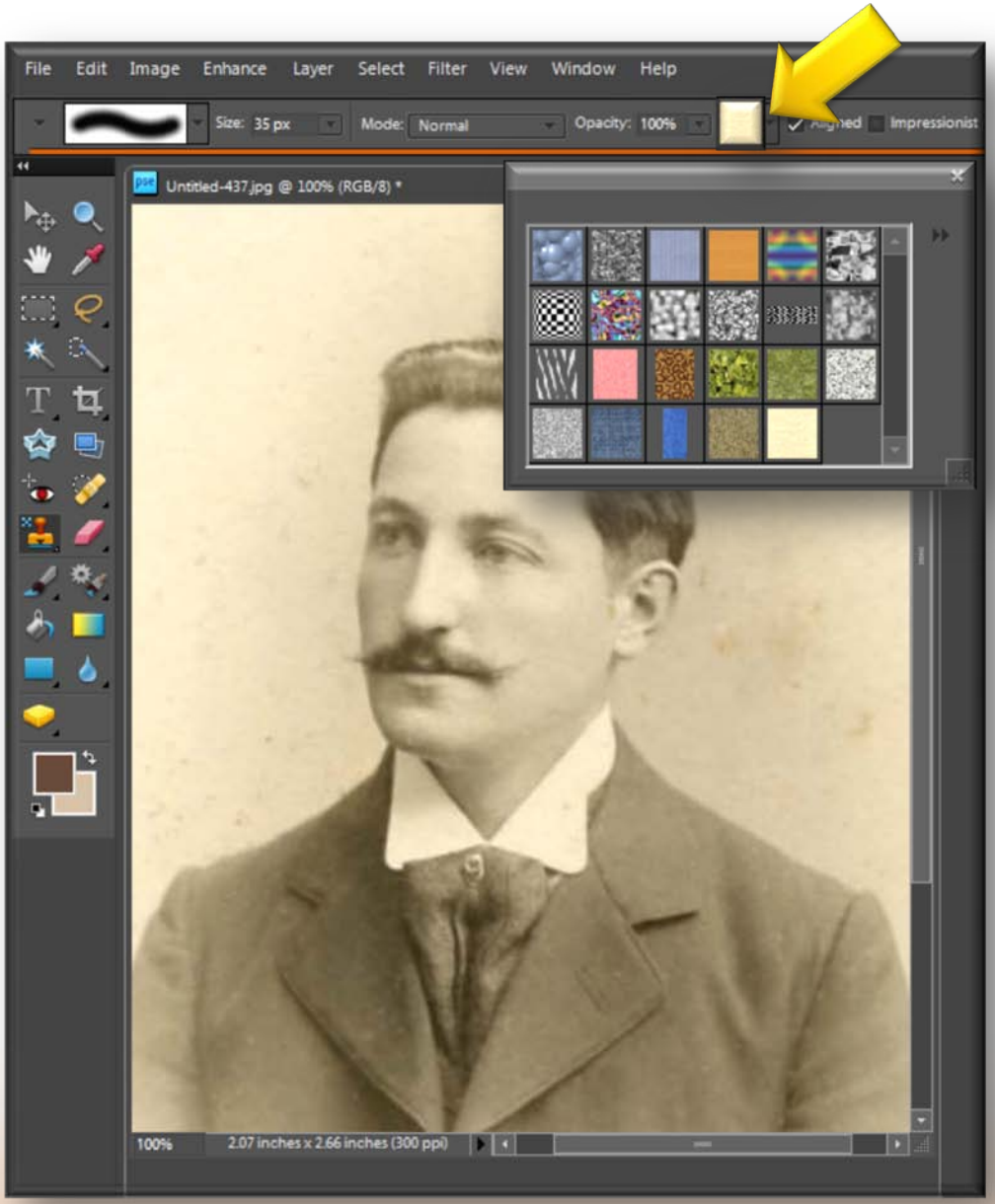


Pattern cloning



- Select the Pattern Stamp tool from the Toolbox

Pattern cloning

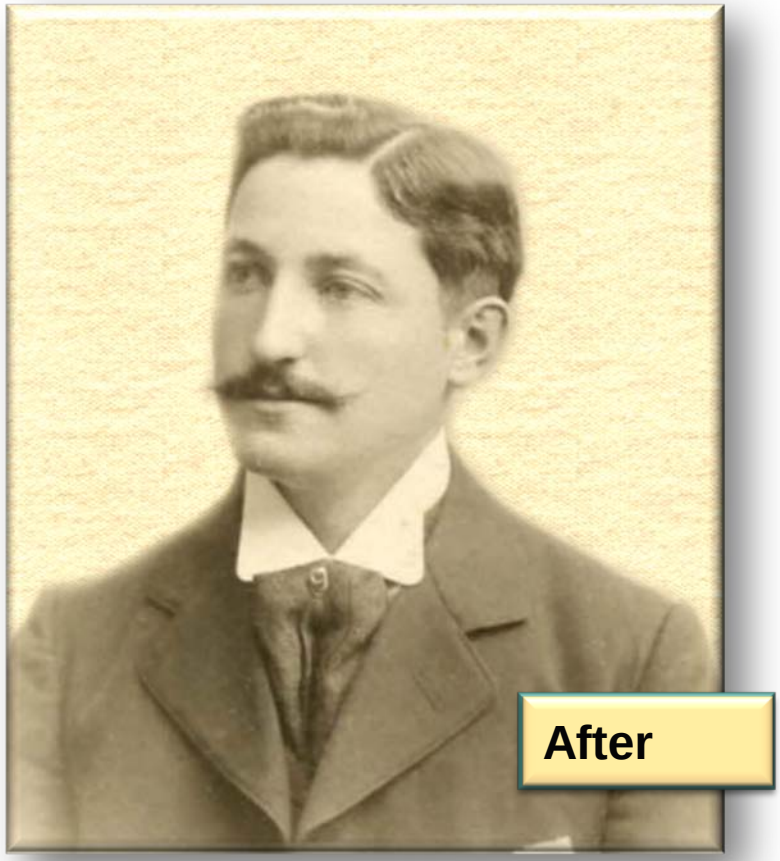


- **Click here in the Options bar to select a pattern**

Pattern cloning tip

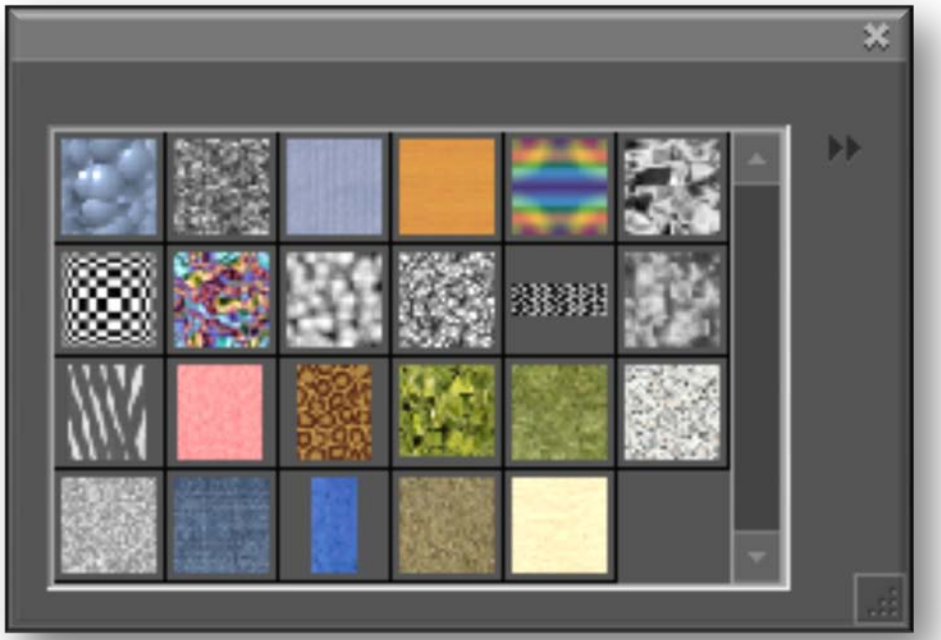
- Click and drag on an image to copy the selected pattern over it

Pattern cloning tip



Pattern cloning

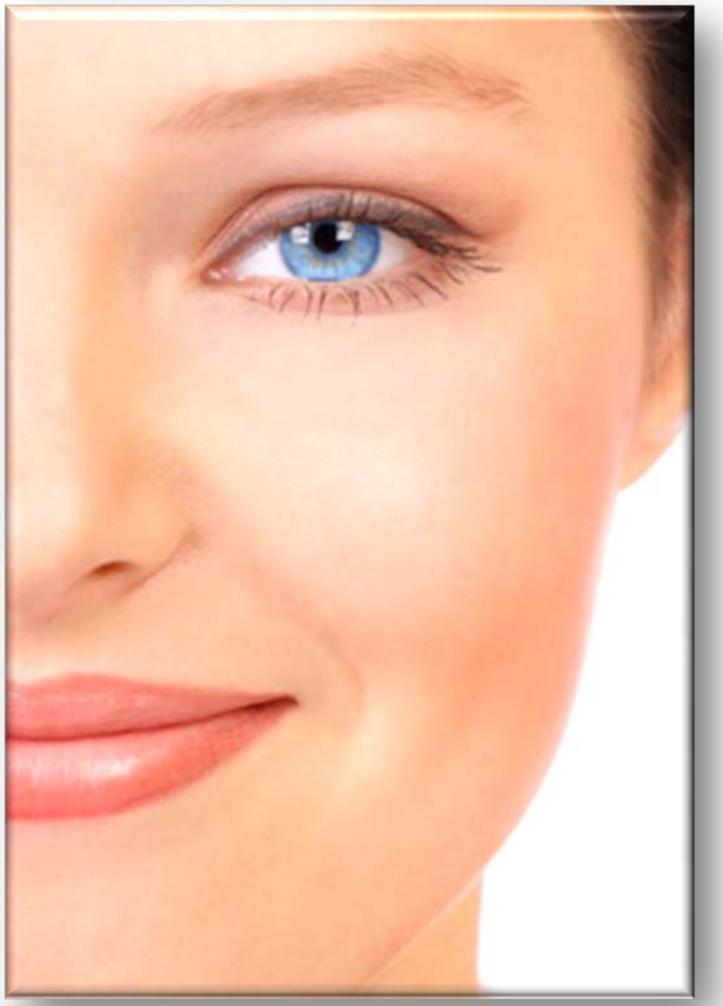
- Patterns can be added to the patterns palette by selecting an image, or an area of an image, and selecting Edit> Define Pattern from the Editor Menu bar
- Then give the pattern a name in the Pattern Name dialog box and click OK



Healing Brush

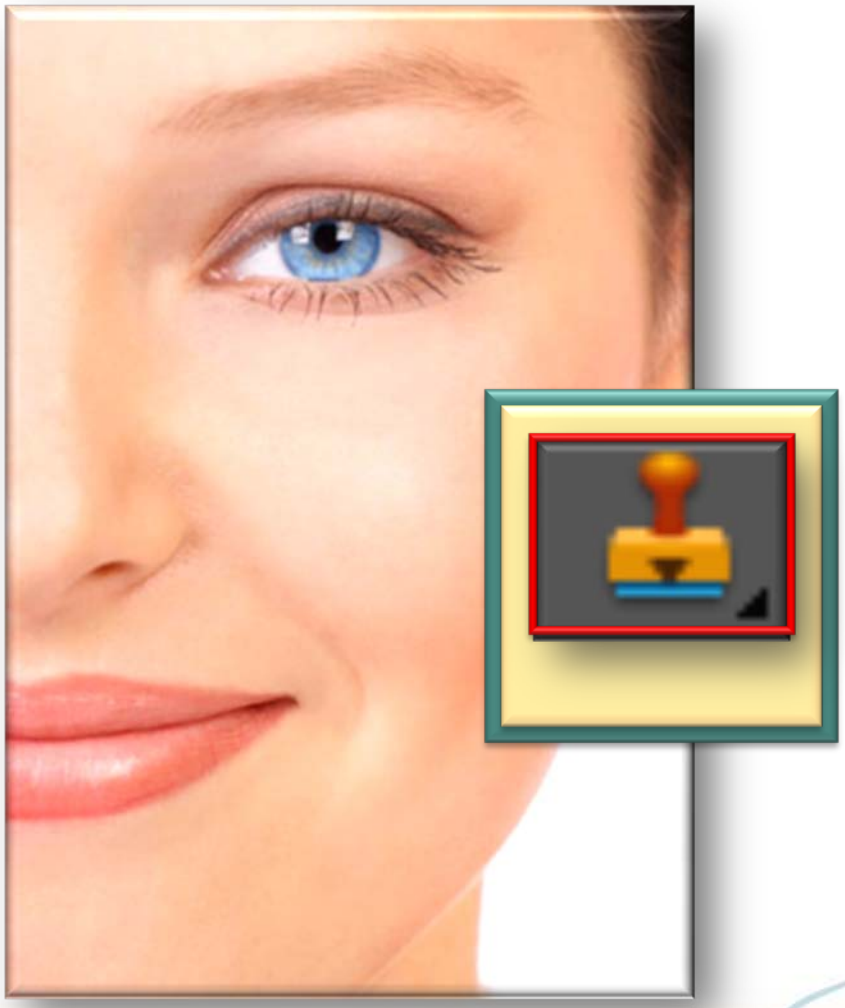
Healing Brush

- One of the favorite techniques in digital imaging is removing unwanted items, particularly physical blemishes, such as spots and wrinkles



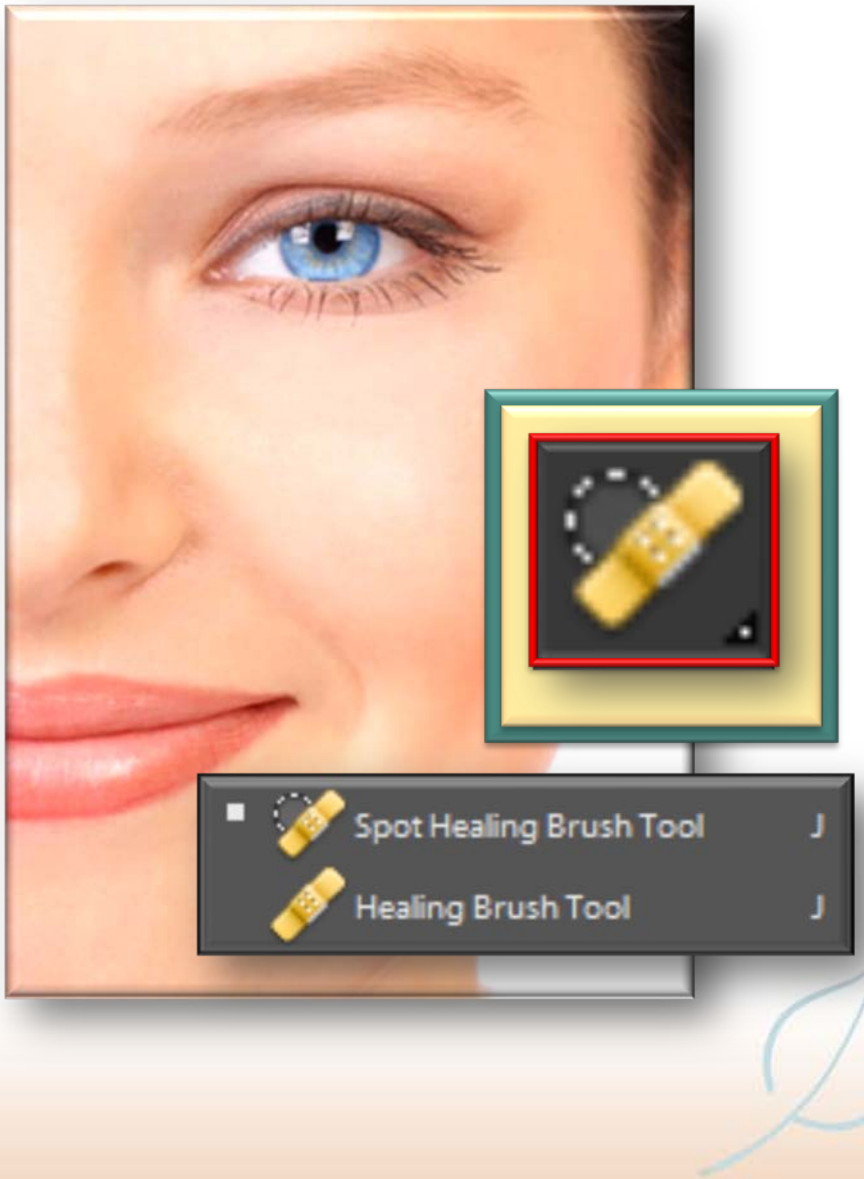
Healing Brush

- This can be done with the Clone tool but the effects can sometimes be too harsh as a single area is copied over the affected item

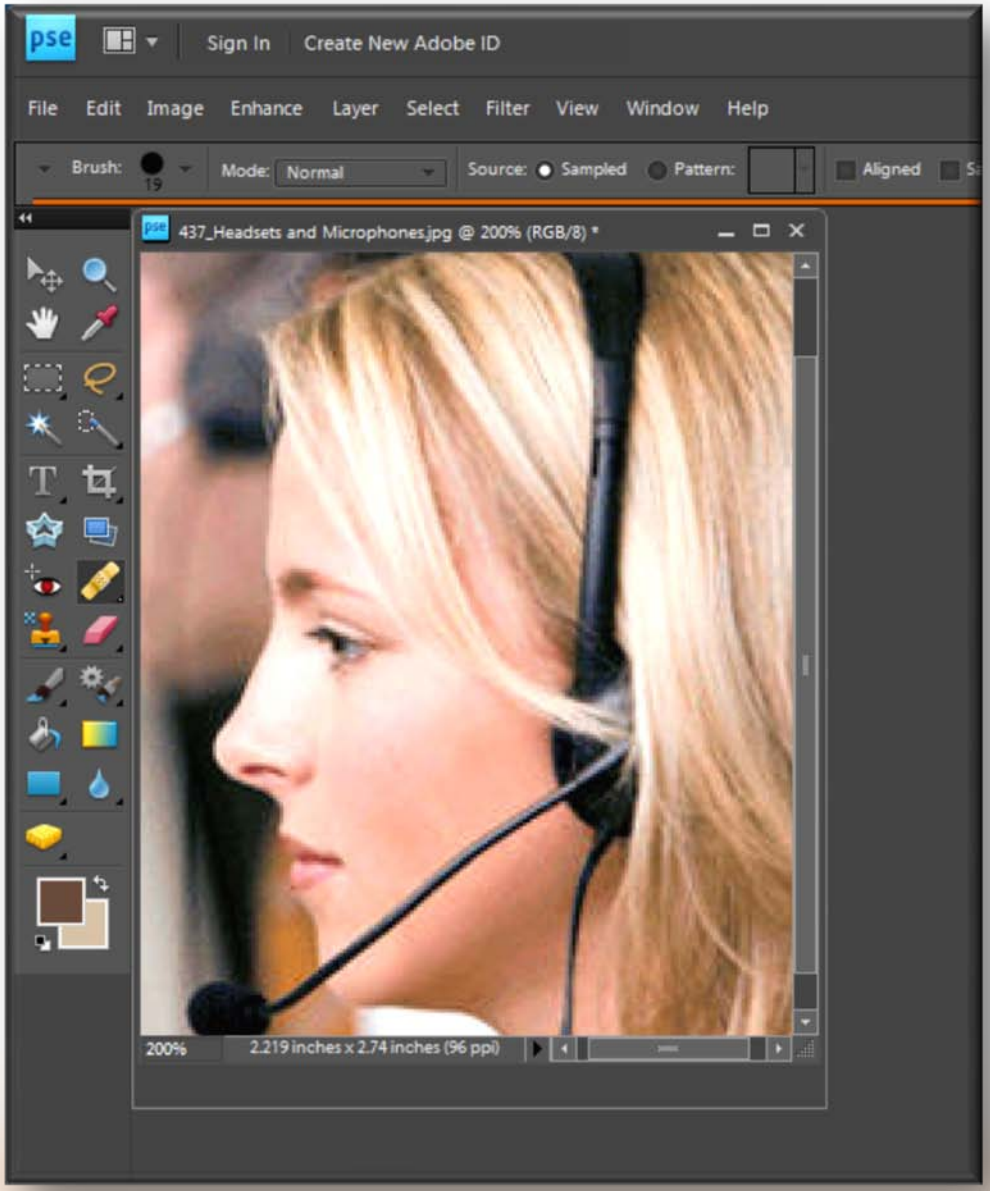


Healing Brush

- A more subtle effect can be achieved with the Healing Brush and the Spot Healing Brush tool
- The Healing Brush can be used to remove blemishes over larger areas, such as wrinkles

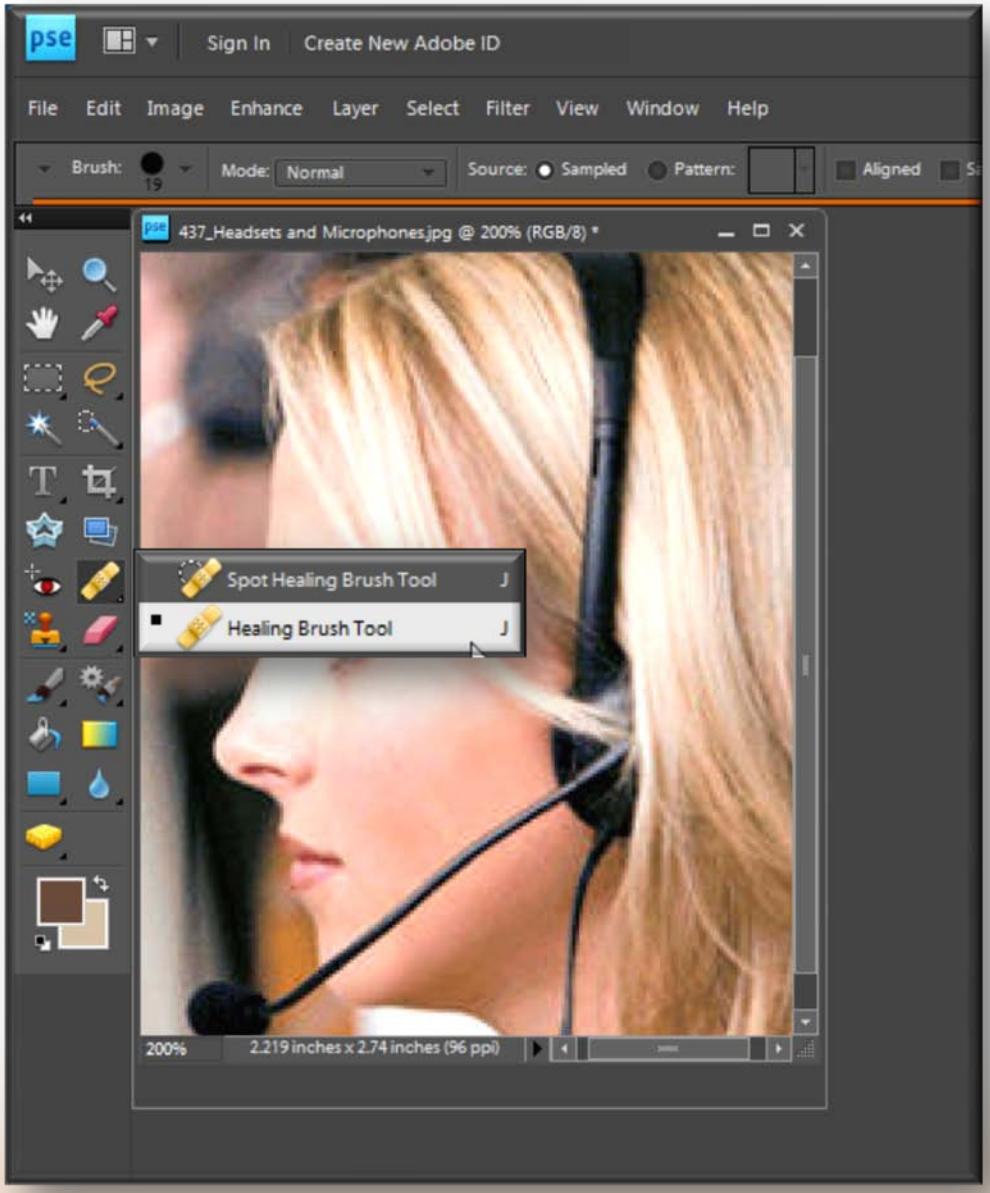


Healing Brush



- **Open an image with blemishes covering a reasonably large area, i.e. more than a single spot**

Healing Brush

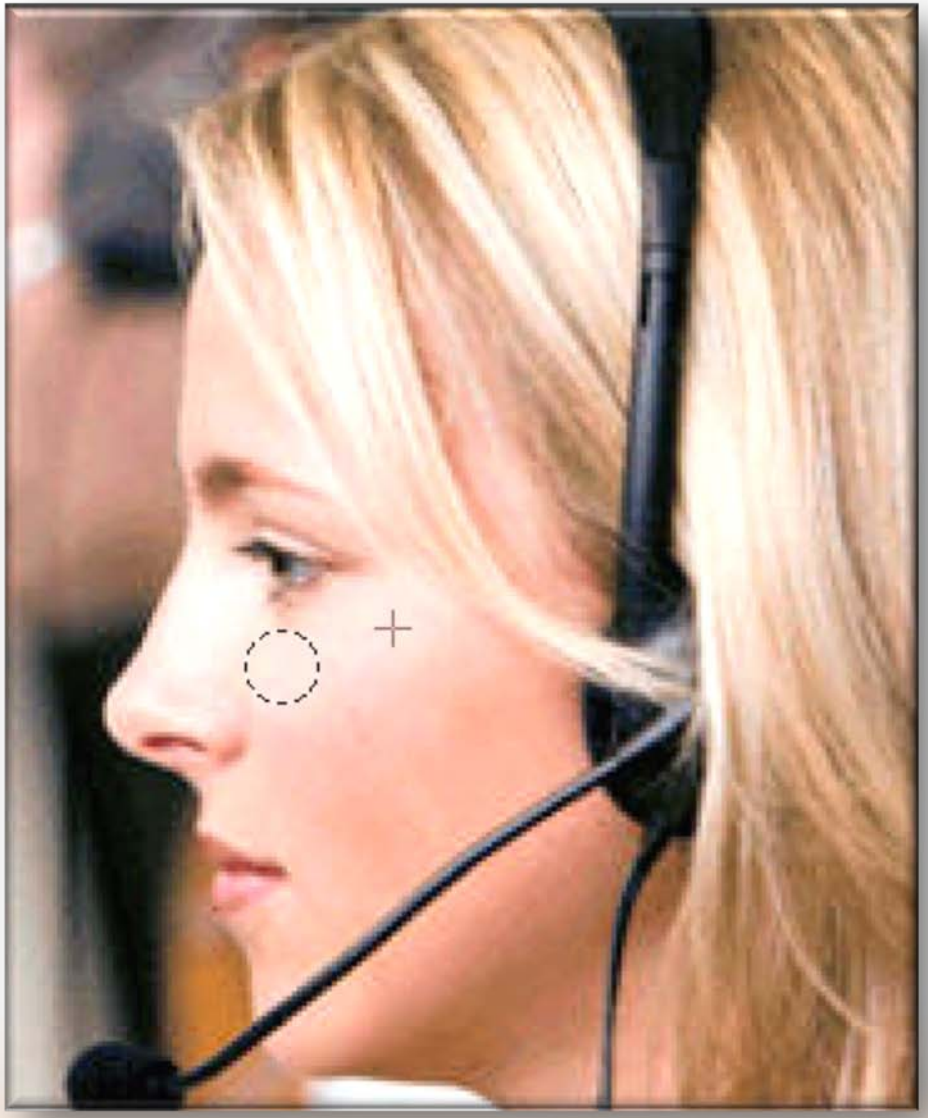


- **Select the Healing Brush tool from the Toolbox and make the required selections in the Options bar**

Healing Brush

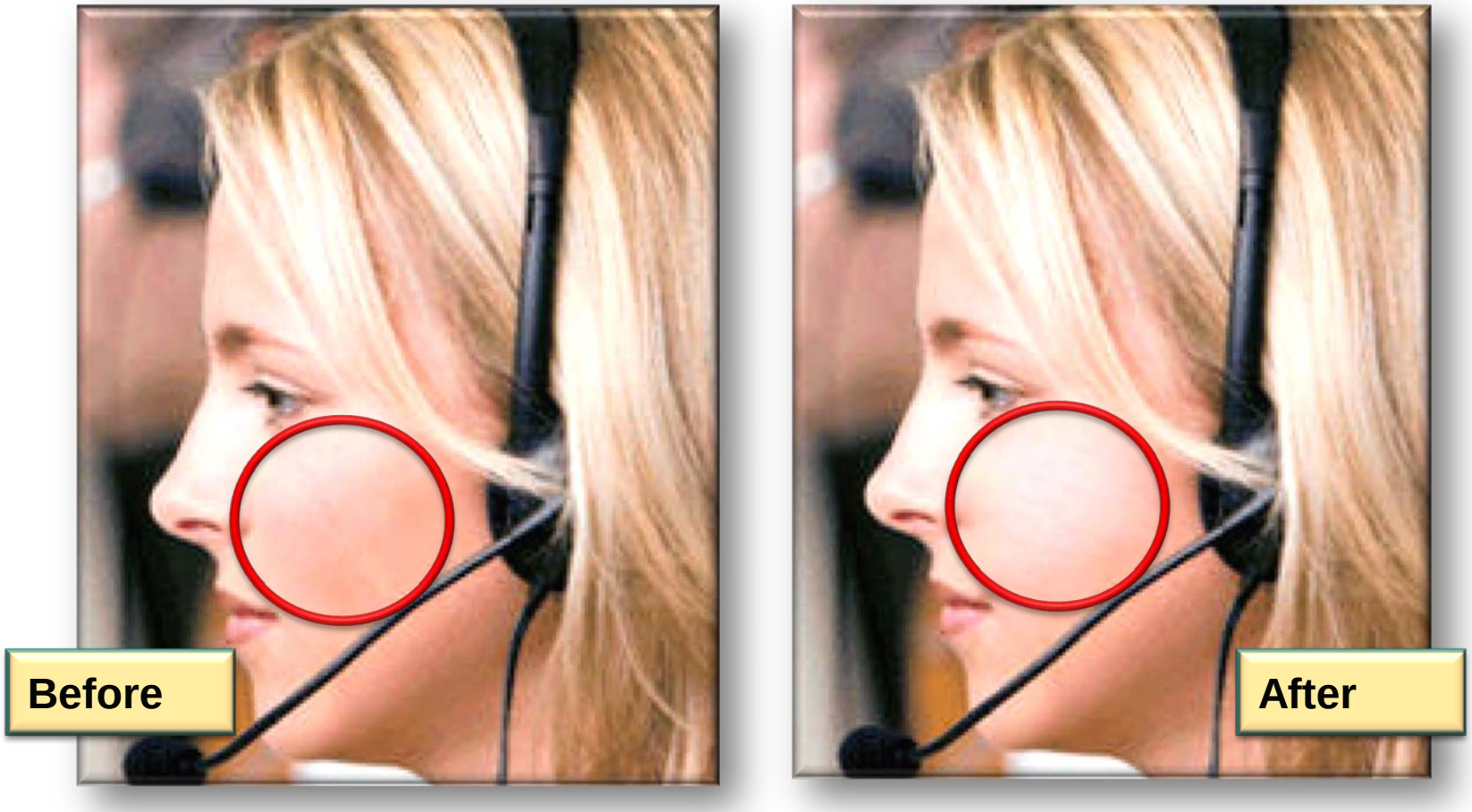
- Hold down Alt and click on an area of the image to load the Healing Brush tool
- Drag over the affected area. The cross is the area which is copied beneath the circle
- At this point the overall tone is not perfect and looks too pink

Healing Brush



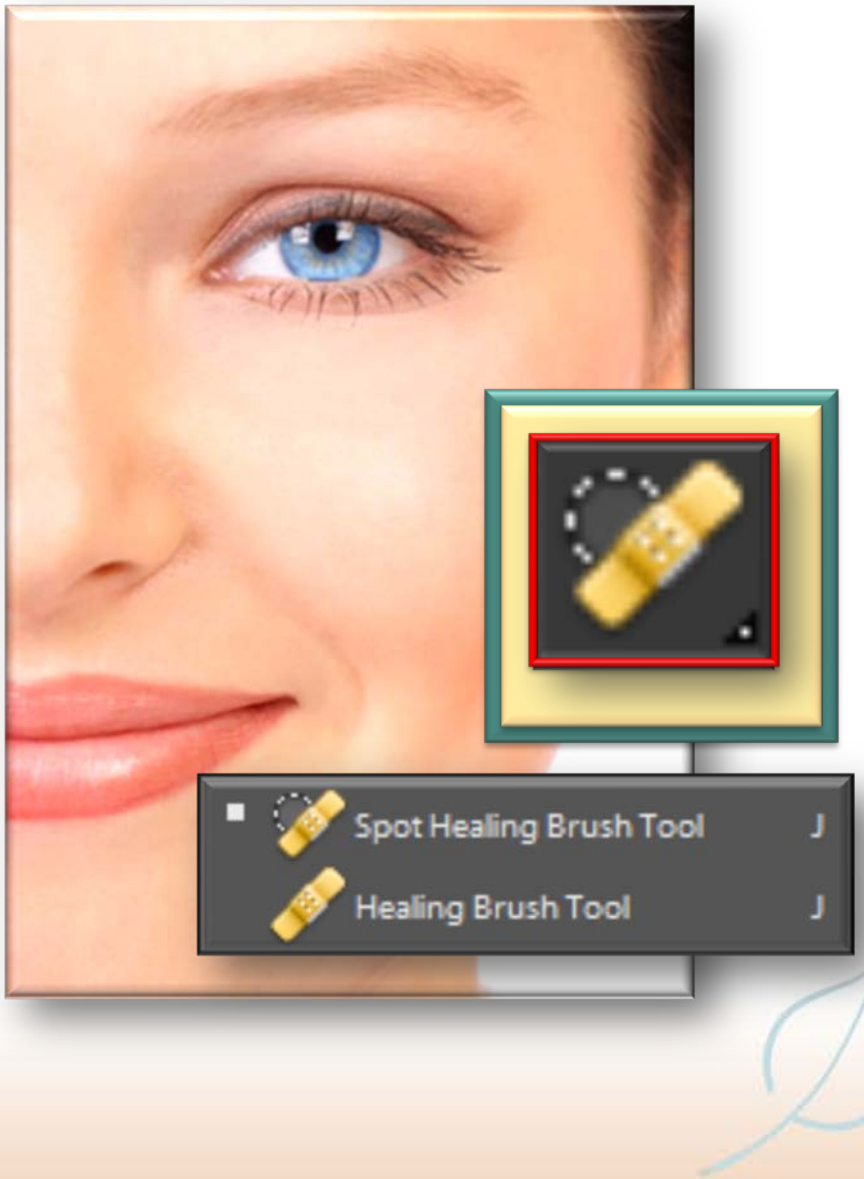
- Release the mouse and the Healing Brush blends the affected area with the one that was copied over it
- This creates a much more natural skin tone

Healing Brush

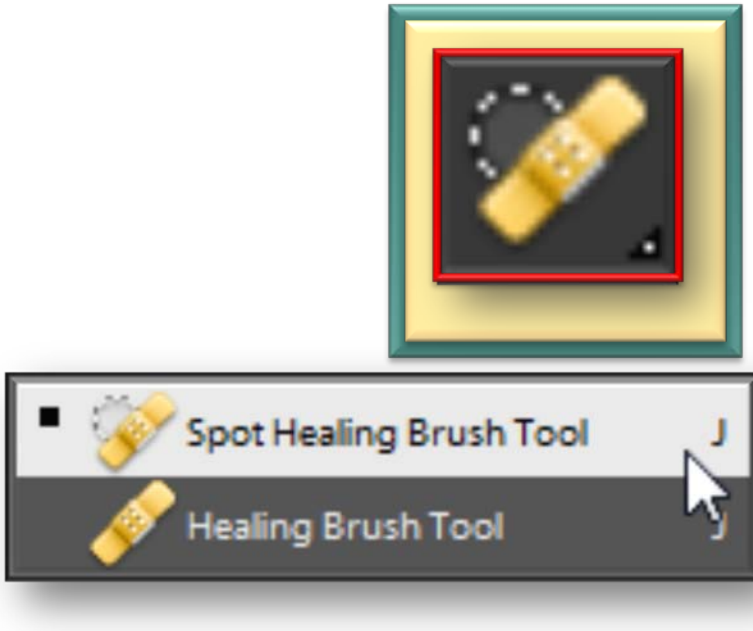


Healing Brush

- The Healing Brush tool is more subtle than the Clone tool, as it blends the copied area together with the area over which it is copying
- This is particularly effective on people as it preserves the overall skin tone better than the Clone tool does



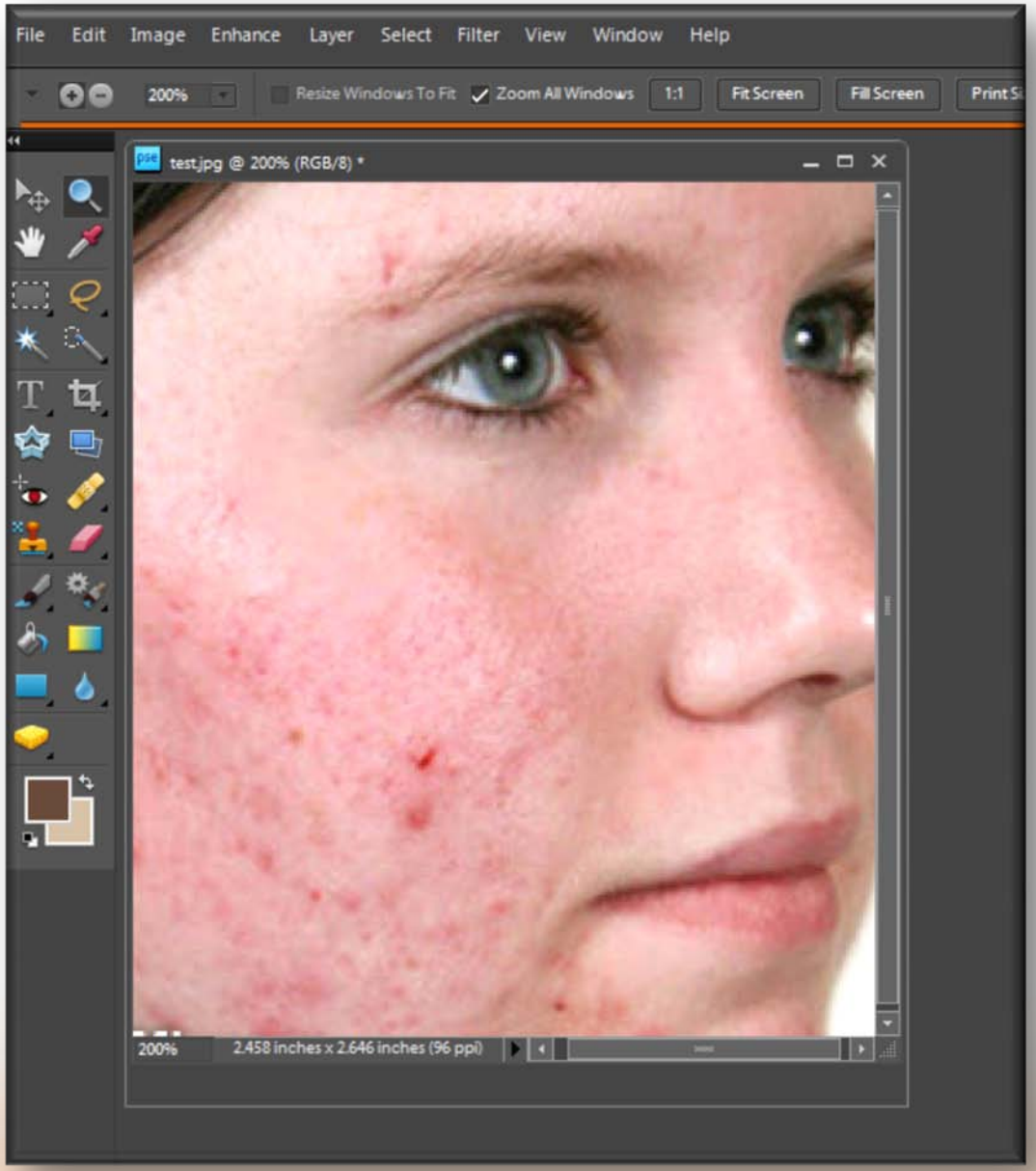
Spot Healing Brush



Spot Healing Brush

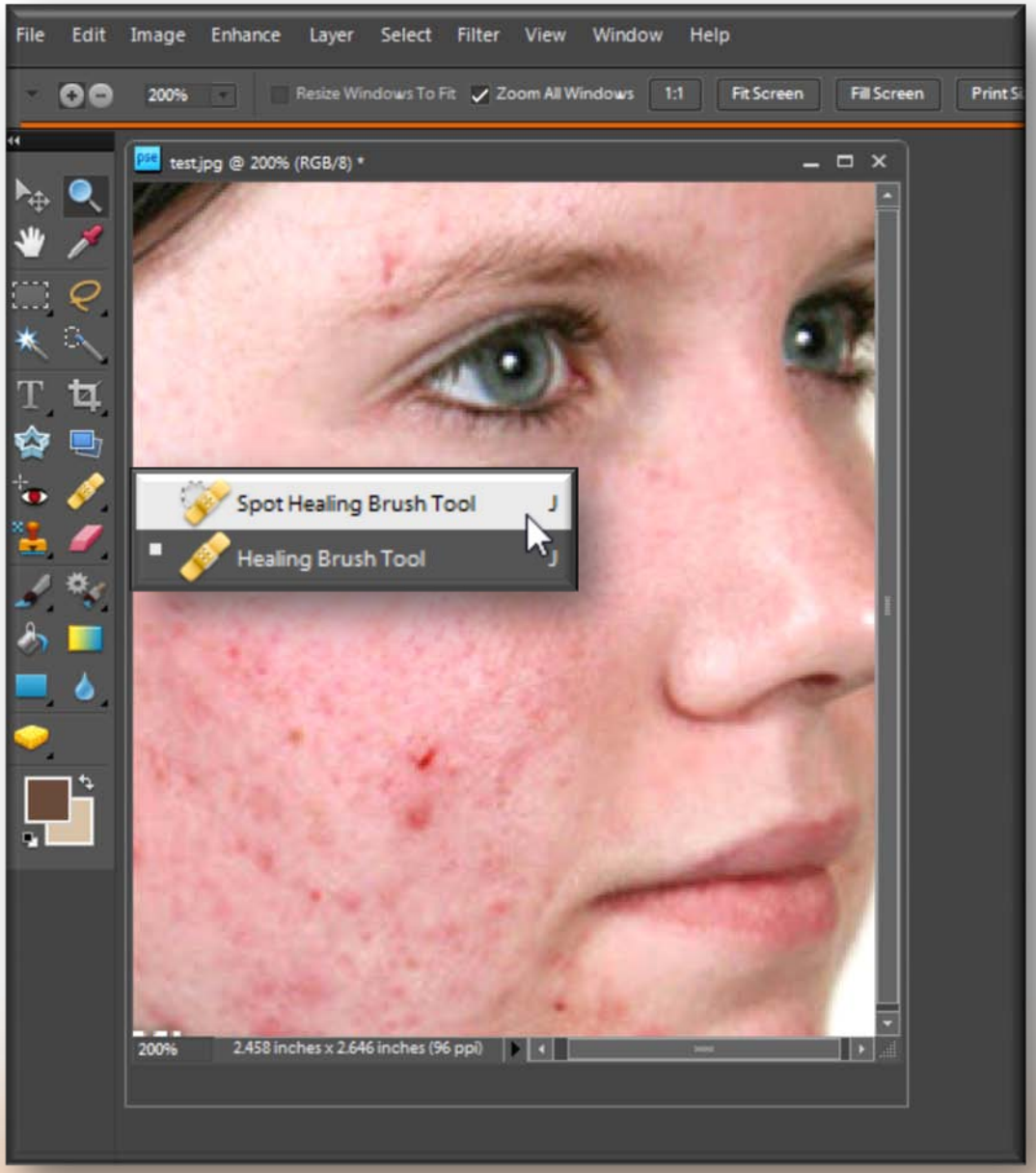
- **Spot Healing Brush is very effective for quickly removing small blemishes in an image, such as spots**

Spot Healing Brush



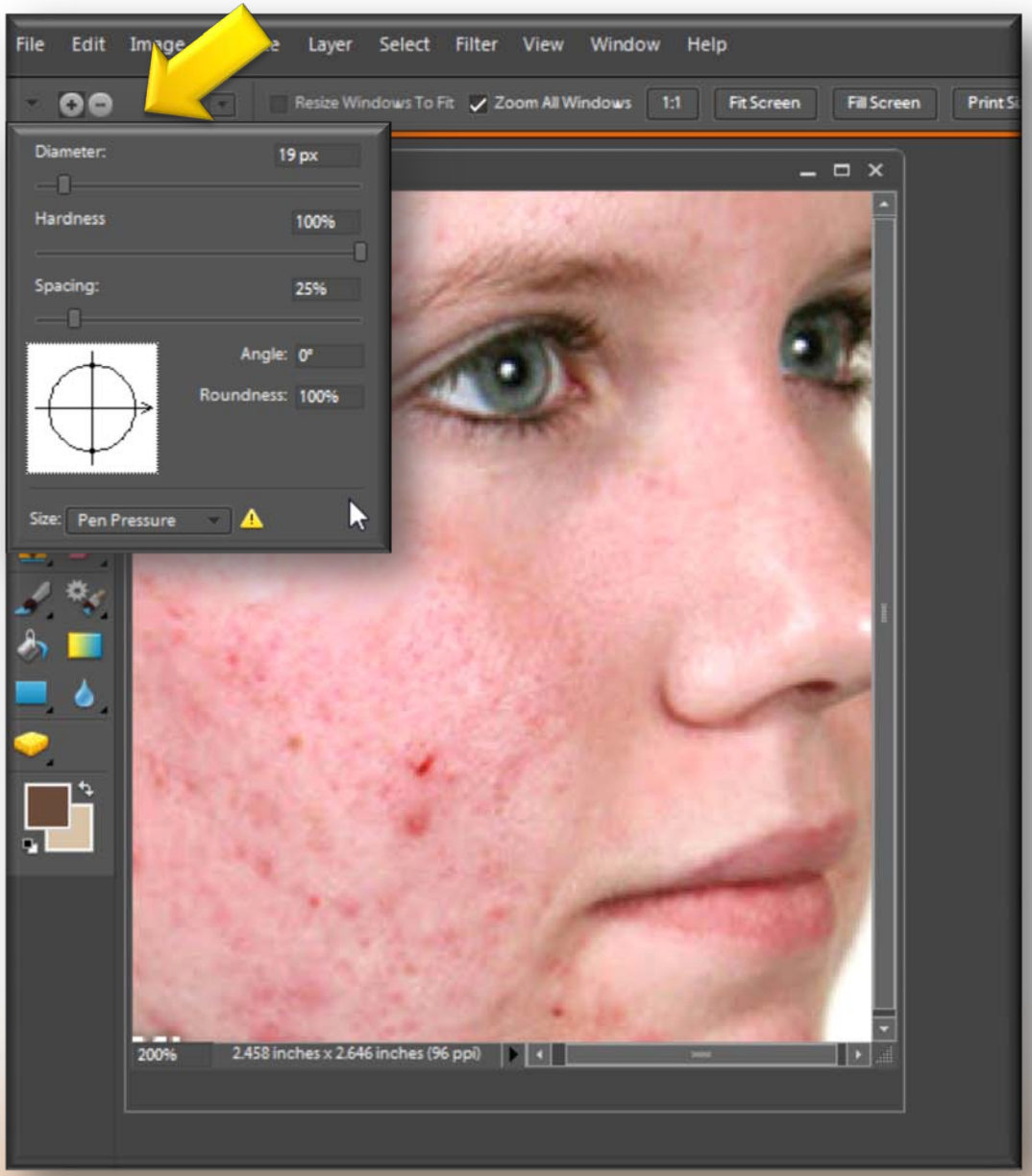
- **Open an image and zoom in on the area with the blemish**

Spot Healing Brush



- **Select the Spot Healing Brush tool from the Toolbox and make the required selections in the Options bar**

Spot Healing Brush



- **Select the Spot Healing Brush tool from the Toolbox and make the required selections in the Options bar**

Spot Healing Brush

- Drag the Spot Healing Brush tool over the affected area

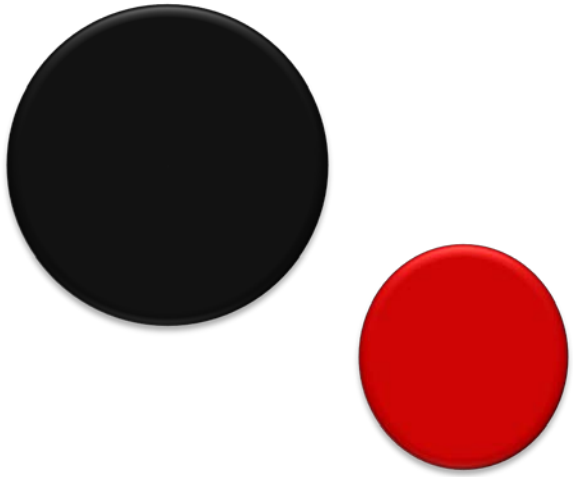
Spot Healing Brush

- The blemish is removed and the overall skin tone is retained

Spot Healing Brush

Spot Healing Brush tip

- When dragging over a blemish with the Spot Healing Brush tool, make sure the brush size is larger than the area of the blemish
- This will ensure that you can cover the blemish in a single stroke



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