SCREEN MODES determine how Photoshop displays the various interface items used while making edits to images or other documents. This guide provides details on Managing Screen Modes and covers subjects including a description of each Mode, how to switch between modes, accessing interface elements, and so forth. This guide does not cover details on using tools, the items in the Panels, etc. That will occur during the presentation portion.

SCREEN MODES and INTERFACE TRICKS

The many panels, tools, menus and options available in Photoshop's interface can crowd and clutter up the screen, leaving less room for viewing and editing images. This guide covers using Photoshop's Screen Modes to minimize the interface items and maximize the work area, and introduces some handy keyboard tricks for getting the most out of this great feature.

A Screen Mode controls how much of Photoshop's interface is displayed on your screen. There are three Screen Modes to choose from: Standard Screen Mode displays the entire interface. This is the mode Photoshop uses by default, and the one that takes up the most room. Full Screen Mode With Menu Bar hides some, but not all, of the interface elements. Full Screen Mode completely hides the interface, leaving only the image on the screen.

Where To Find The Screen Modes

There are two places to find and select the Screen Modes. One is in the Menu Bar along the top of the screen. Open the View menu in the Menu Bar and choose Screen Mode. From here, you can switch between Standard Screen Mode, Full Screen Mode With Menu Bar, and Full Screen Mode. A checkmark next to a Screen Mode means that it's currently active:
Viewing the **Screen Modes** from the **View menu**.

Another place to find and select the Screen Modes the **Screen Mode** icon, located at the bottom of the **Toolbar**. Click and hold on the icon to view a fly-out menu, then choose a Screen Mode from the list. The little square next to the Standard Screen Mode means it's currently active:

Viewing the **Screen Modes** at the bottom of the **Toolbar**.

**The Standard Screen Mode**

The Standard screen mode in Photoshop.
By default, Photoshop uses the Standard Screen Mode, which displays the entire interface, including the Toolbar (seen on the left in this example) and the Panels (seen on the right in this example). It also includes the Menu Bar and the Options Bar along the top, the Document Window tab, the scroll bars along the right and bottom, and the Status Bar in the bottom left of the document window. The Standard Screen Mode gives us quick access to everything we'd need, but it also takes up the most screen real estate.

Screen Modes vs View Modes
The example above shows the interface in Standard Screen Mode while also using the Fit on Screen View Mode. Screen Modes show or hide different parts of the interface while View Modes control how the interface is displayed on the screen. View Mode options are available in the View menu, located in the Menu Bar:

Selecting "Fit on Screen" from the View menu. Switching to the 100% View Mode.

In the Fit on Screen mode, Photoshop adjusts the interface display to fill the entire screen. The 100% View Mode sets the image zoom level to 100%, with each pixel in the photo taking up exactly one pixel on the screen. This displays the image in full detail, but hides portions of the image that do not fit within the document window. (This issue is particularly evident on smaller screens running at lower screen resolutions.) The Panel Area along the right is the biggest problem, blocking much of the image from view:
Interface clutter becomes more of a problem as we zoom in closer to the image.

**Full Screen Mode With Menu Bar**

To free up a bit more space, select the *Full Screen Mode With Menu Bar* option. Open the **View** menu, choose **Screen Mode**, and then choose **Full Screen Mode With Menu Bar**. Or, click and hold on the **Screen Mode** icon at the bottom of the Toolbar and choose **Full Screen Mode With Menu Bar** from the list:

![Screen Mode menu](image)

Selecting "Full Screen Mode With Menu Bar" from the Toolbar.

**Full Screen Mode With Menu Bar** hides any interface elements that were part of the document window itself. This includes the **tab** at the top, the **scroll bars** along the right and bottom of the image, and the **Status Bar** in the lower left of the document window. It also hides the buttons for minimizing, maximizing and closing Photoshop which are normally found in the upper left of the interface. Also, if you had two or more images open in separate tabs, only the active document remains visible. All of Photoshop’s other interface elements (the Toolbar, panels, Menu Bar and Options Bar) remain on the screen:
Full Screen Mode With Menu Bar hides any interface elements related to the document window itself.

Full Screen Mode
To maximize the work area, switch to Full Screen Mode. Open the View menu at the top of the screen, choose Screen Mode, and then choose Full Screen Mode. Or, click and hold on the Screen Mode icon at the bottom of the Toolbar and choose Full Screen Mode from the fly-out-menu:

Choosing "Full Screen Mode" from the Toolbar.

If this is the first time you've selected Full Screen Mode, Photoshop will pop open a dialog box explaining the basics of how Full Screen Mode works. If you don't want to see this message every time you switch to Full Screen Mode, click the Don't show again checkbox. Then, click the Full Screen button:
Photoshop explains how Full Screen Mode works before you switch to it.

In Full Screen Mode the interface is completely hidden, leaving just the image itself visible:

**Full Screen Mode** hides all interface elements.
Accessing Interface Elements From The Sides in Full Screen Mode

To temporarily show the Toolbar and/or the Panels Area while in Full Screen Mode, hover your mouse cursor anywhere along the edge of the screen where those elements are located. When done, move the mouse cursor away and the Toolbar and/or Panel Area will again disappear:

Temporarily showing the Toolbar.
Temporarily showing the Panels.

**How To Exit Out of Full Screen Mode**
To exit Full Screen Mode, press the **Esc** key on your keyboard. This will return you to the Standard Screen Mode.
Showing And Hiding the Interface from The Keyboard

Pressing the Tab key will show or hide the Toolbar, the Options Bar, and the Panels Area:

Press the Tab key to show the Toolbar, the Panels, and the Options Bar.

To show and hide just the Panels area, press Shift+Tab on your keyboard (this works in all three Screen Modes):

Showing just the Panels in Full Screen Mode by pressing Shift+Tab.
The Fastest Way To Switch Screen Modes
The fastest way to switch between Screen Modes is by cycling through them from the keyboard. While in Standard Screen Mode, pressing the letter F on your keyboard switches to Full Screen Mode With Menu Bar. Pressing F again switches to Full Screen Mode. Pressing F one more time switches back to the Standard Screen Mode. To cycle backwards through the screen modes, press Shift+F.