

A BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO ADOBE PHOTOSHOP®

BRUSH PANELS and OPTIONS

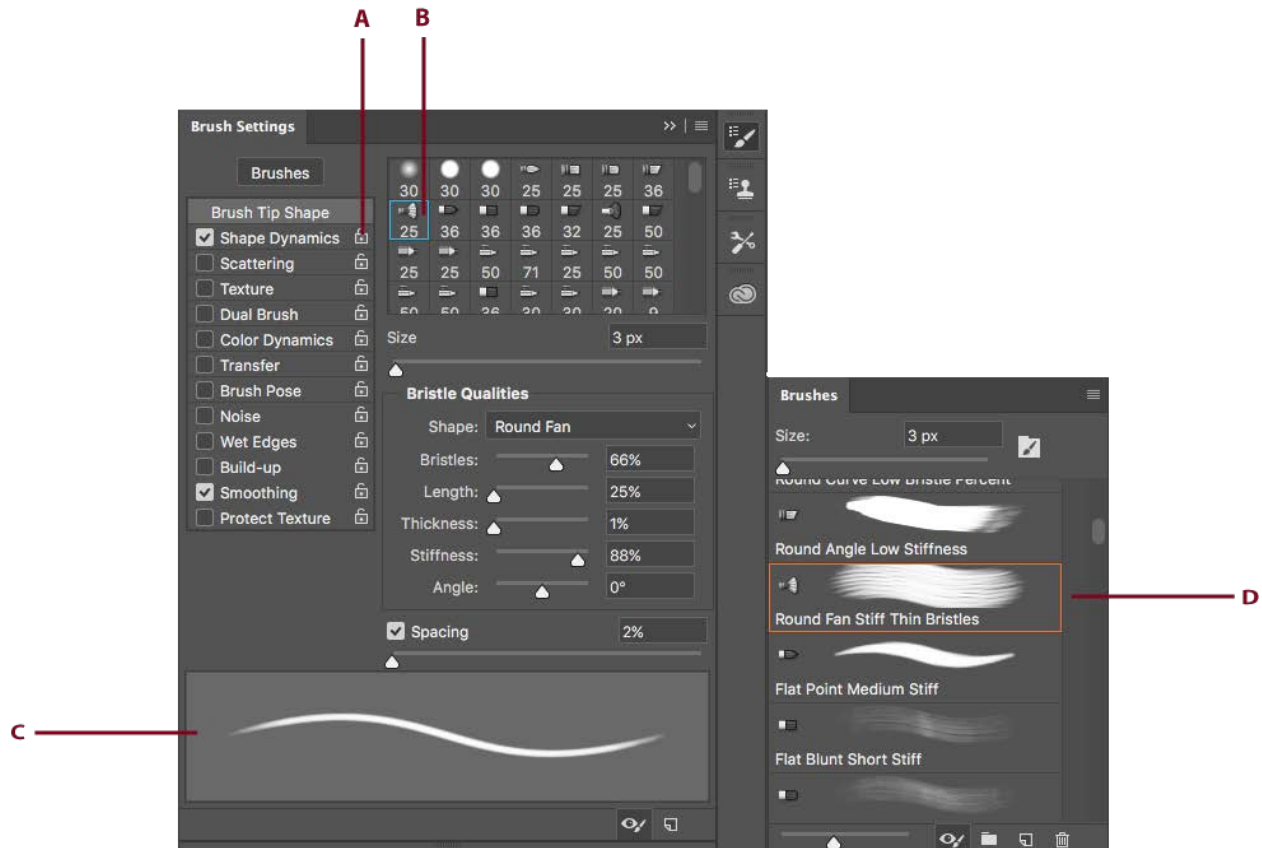
THE BRUSH PANELS

The Photoshop **Brush Panels** provide the means to choose from existing brush presets, select a different brush tip, change how a brush stroke is applied, and much more.

Brush Panels overview

There are two panels that control brush settings:

- The **Brushes** panel (called the **Brush Presets** panel in CS6) lets you select an existing brush from a wide range of brush presets. This panel is on the right in the example below.
- The **Brush Settings** panel (called the **Brush** panel in CS6) contains the brush options that determine how paint is applied to an image. It is here that you can modify brush attributes and design new custom brushes. This panel is on the left in the example below:



Brush Settings panel (Left) and Brushes panel (Right)

- A. The Lock Icon** toggles a **Brush Option Set** between **Locked/Unlocked**
Note: Click the checkbox to the left of an Option Set to enable or disable the Option Set
- B. Brush Tip** selection options
- C. The brush stroke Preview** shows how the brush stroke will look with current settings
- D. The Brushes panel** previews existing brush presets available for selection

To open the Brush panels, either go up to the **Window** menu at the top of the screen and choose **Brushes** from the list, or press the **F5** key on your keyboard (press it again to close the panel), or click on the **Brushes panel toggle icon** in the Options Bar (click it again to close the panel):

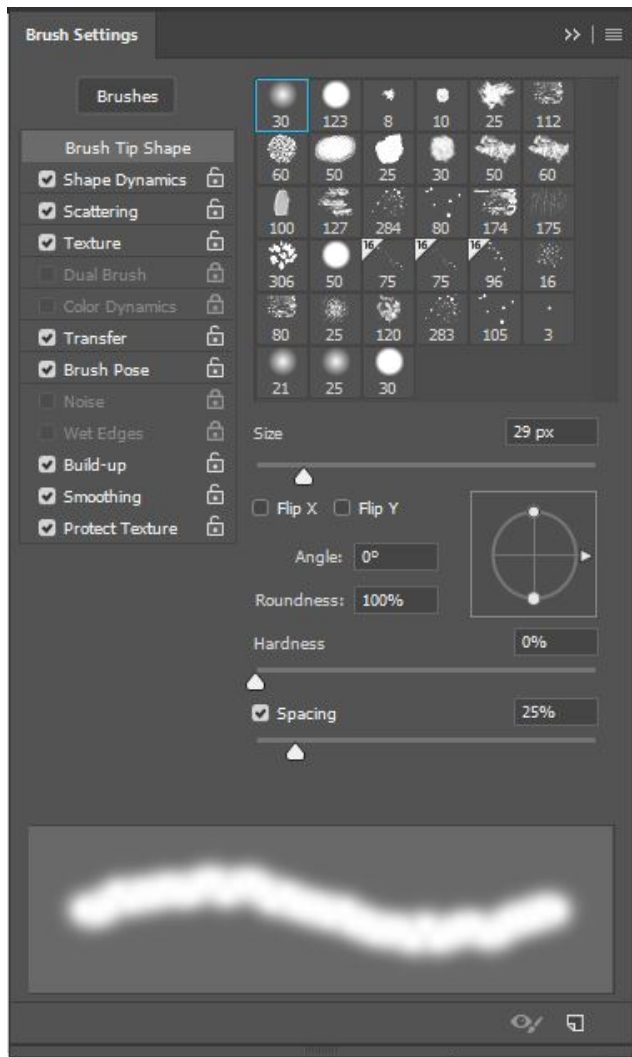


The **Brushes panel icon** in the Options Bar toggles the Brush panels between open and closed.

Brush Settings Overview

When you first open the Brush Settings panel the **Brush preview** at the bottom of the panel will

display the current brush, with the **Brush Tip** used (on the right) and **Brush Tip Shape** settings (on the left):



The **Brush Settings** panel displaying the current brush settings.

In the **Brush Settings** panel you can select a **Brush Tip** (on the right side), select options for the **Brush Tip Shape** (on the left side), change the brush **size**, **angle**, **hardness** (and more), or click **Brushes** (Brush Presets in CS6) to choose an existing brush preset.

Using these options, you can either *temporarily* alter the way a brush applies paint to an image or you can *save* the altered settings as a **New Brush preset**. To save a new brush it must be saved as part of a set of brushes. Choose **Save Brushes** from the Brush Presets panel menu, then save the brush to a new set or update the brush in an existing set.

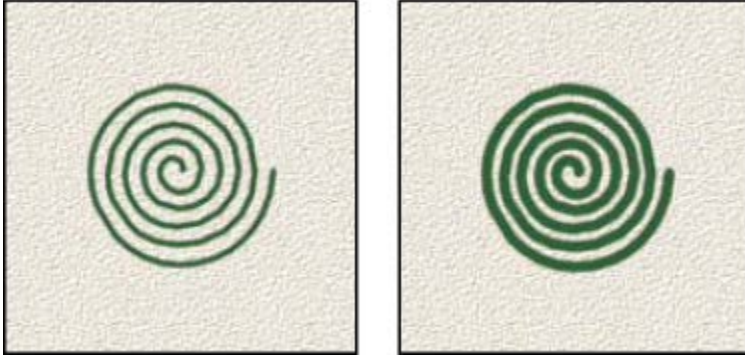
THE SETTINGS OPTIONS

Standard brush tip shape options

For standard brush tips, you can set the following options in the Brush Settings panel:

- **Size (diameter)**

Controls the size of the brush. Enter a value in pixels or drag the slider.



Brush strokes with different diameter values

- **Use Sample Size**

Resets the brush to its original diameter. This option is available only if the brush tip shape was created by sampling pixels in an image.

- **Flip X**

Changes the direction of a brush tip on its x axis.



A

B

C

Flipping a brush tip on its X axis

A. Brush tip in its default position **B.** Flip X selected **C.** Flip X and Flip Y selected

- **Flip Y**

Changes the direction of a brush tip on its y axis.



A

B

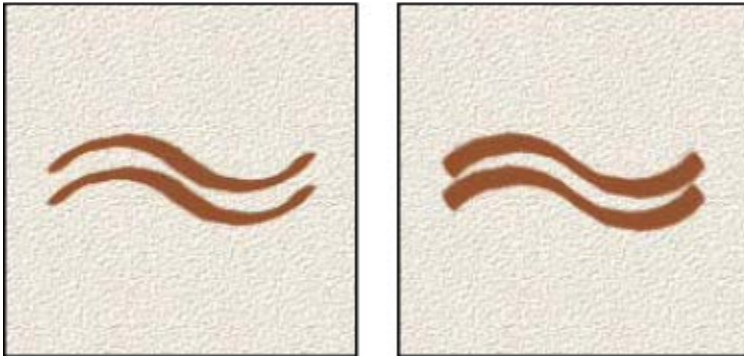
C

Flipping a brush tip on its Y axis

A. Brush tip in its default position **B.** Flip Y selected **C.** Flip Y and Flip X selected

- **Angle**

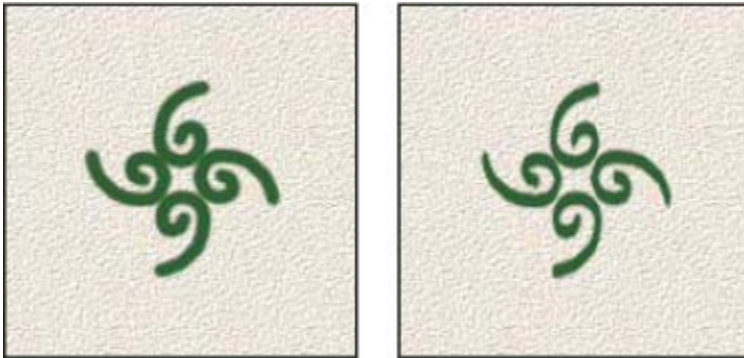
Specifies the angle by which an elliptical or sampled brush's long axis is rotated from horizontal. Type a value in degrees, or drag the horizontal axis in the preview box.



Angled brushes can create a chiseled stroke

- **Roundness**

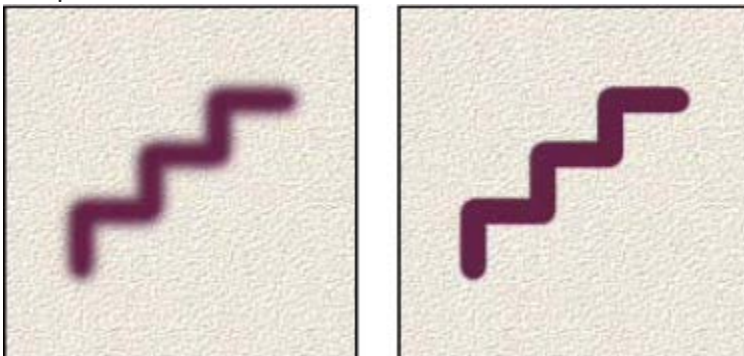
Specifies the ratio between the brush's short and long axes. Enter a percentage value, or drag the points in the preview box. A value of 100% indicates a circular brush, a value of 0% indicates a linear brush, and intermediate values indicate elliptical brushes.



Adjusting roundness to compress a brush tip shape

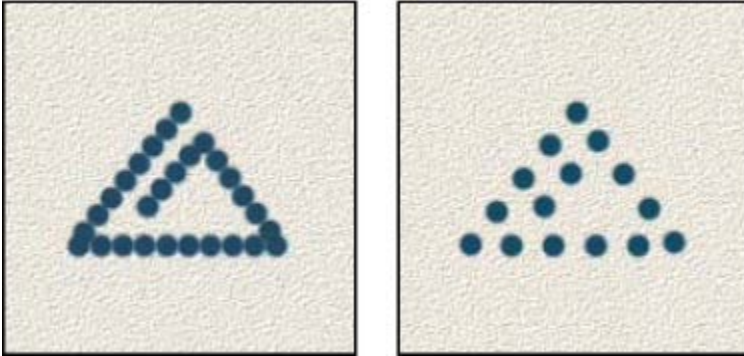
- **Hardness**

Controls the size of the brush's hard center. Type a number, or use the slider to enter a value that is a percentage of the brush diameter. You can't change the hardness of sampled brushes.



Brush strokes with different hardness values

- **Spacing**
Controls the distance between the brush marks (aka *stamps*, aka *dots*) in a stroke. To change the spacing, type a number, or use the slider to enter a value that is a percentage of the brush diameter. When this option is deselected, the speed of the cursor determines the spacing.



Increasing the spacing value

Bristle tip shape options

Bristle tips let you specify precise bristle characteristics, creating highly realistic, natural-looking strokes. These settings primarily apply to brush strokes created using a pressure sensitive pen display, such as a Wacom. Set the following brush tip shape options in the Brush panel:

- **Shape**
Determines the overall arrangement of bristles.
- **Bristles**
Controls overall bristle density.
- **Length**
Changes bristle length.
- **Thickness**
Controls the width of individual bristles.
- **Stiffness**
Controls bristle flexibility. At low settings, the brush shape deforms easily. (It is possible to vary the brush shape when using a mouse by adjusting the stiffness setting.)

Erodible tip options

Erodible tip brushes behave similar to pencils and crayons, and wear down naturally as you draw. You can see the amount of wear with the Live Brush Tip Preview to the upper left of the image.

- **Size**
Controls the size of the brush. Enter a value in pixels or drag the slider.

- **Softness**
Controls the rate of wear. Enter a value in percentage or drag the slider.
- **Shape**
Controls the shape of the tip. Choose from a variety of tip options.
- **Sharpen Tip**
Returns the tip to the original sharpness.
- **Spacing**
Controls the distance between the brush marks in a stroke. To change the spacing, type a number or use the slider to specify a percentage of the brush diameter. When this option is deselected, the speed of the cursor determines the spacing.

Airbrush tip options

Airbrush tips replicate spray cans with a 3D conical spray. With a stylus, you can alter the spread of sprayed strokes by changing pen pressure.

- **Size**
Controls the size of the brush. Enter a value in pixels or drag the slider.
- **Hardness**
Controls the size of the brush's hard center.
- **Distortion**
Controls the distortion to apply to the spray of paint.
- **Granularity**
Controls how grainy the paint drops look.
- **Spatter Size**
Controls the size of the paint droplets.
- **Spatter Amount**
Controls the number of paint droplets.
- **Spacing**
Controls the distance between the droplets. If this option is deselected, the speed of the cursor determines the spacing.

Brush pose options

Brush pose options let you achieve stylus-like effects and let you control the angle and position of the brush.

- **Tilt X**
Determines the tilt angle of the brush from left to right.

- **Tilt Y**
Determines the tilt angle of the brush from front to back.
- **Rotation**
Determines the rotation angle of the bristles.
- **Pressure**
Determines the pressure the brush applies on the canvas.
- Enable **Override** options to maintain a static brush pose.

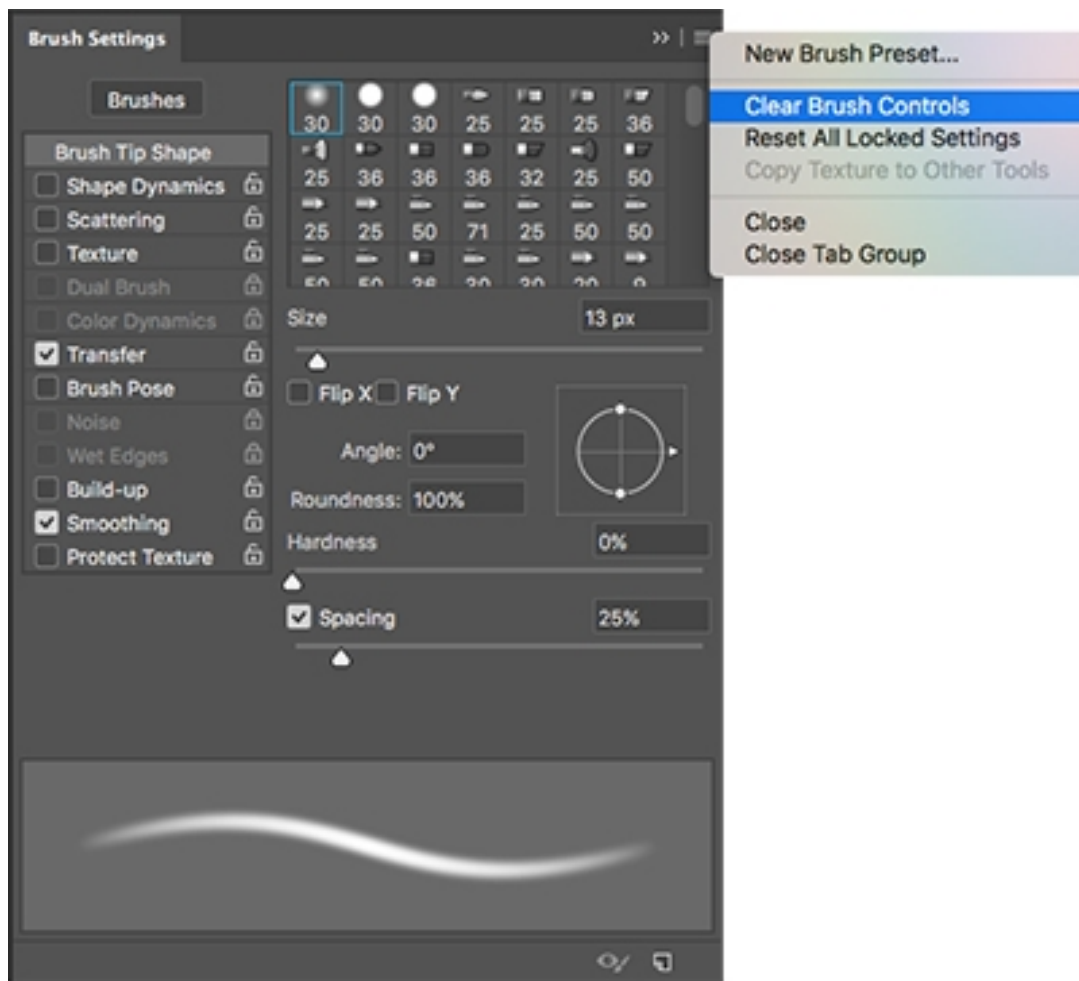
Other brush options

- **Noise**
Adds additional randomness to individual brush tips. This option is most effective when applied to soft brush tips (brush tips that contain gray values).
- **Wet Edges**
Causes paint to build up along the edges of the brush stroke, creating a watercolor effect.
- **Airbrush/Build-up**
Applies gradual tones to an image, simulating traditional airbrush techniques. The Airbrush option in the Brush panel corresponds to the Airbrush option in the options bar.
- **Smoothing**
Produces smoother curves in brush strokes. This option is most effective when you are painting quickly with a stylus; however, it may produce a slight lag time in stroke rendering.
- **Protect Texture**
Applies the same pattern and scale to all brush presets that have a texture. Select this option to simulate a consistent canvas texture when painting with multiple, textured brush tips.

Clear brush options

You can clear all options that you changed for a brush preset (except brush shape settings) at once.

1. Choose Clear Brush Controls from the **Brush Settings** panel menu.



Brush Settings panel menu