

Corel® Painter™ tour for Adobe® Photoshop® users

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Corel® Painter™ is known for its responsive, realistic brushes, multitude of rich textures and fabulous special effects, which cannot be found in any other program. The biggest difference that you will notice between Adobe® Photoshop® and Corel Painter is the warmth and texture of the Natural-Media® brushes and the paper textures in Corel Painter. You'll find brushes with realistic bristles that lay down oily paint, as well as Dry media brushes (such as variants in the Chalk and Pastels categories) that are sensitive to textures on the canvas. Now, let's get started!

Before we begin the tour, you'll need to make sure that you are displaying the Default panels and palettes. To display the Default settings, choose the Window menu, and choose Arrange Palettes ► Default.

Property Bar

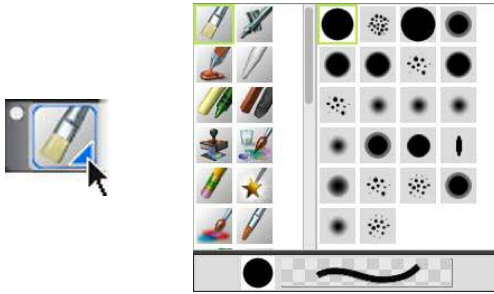
At the very top of the screen, you'll see the property bar, which is similar to the Options bar in Photoshop. The property bar changes contextually, depending on the tool that you choose from the toolbox.



The property bar with the Grabber tool selected from the toolbox.

Brush Selector bar



On the far left of the property bar is the Brush Selector bar, which lets you open the Brush Library panel. The Brush Library panel contains the amazing brush categories and brush variants of Corel Painter, such as the Real Watercolor Brushes category and its variants.



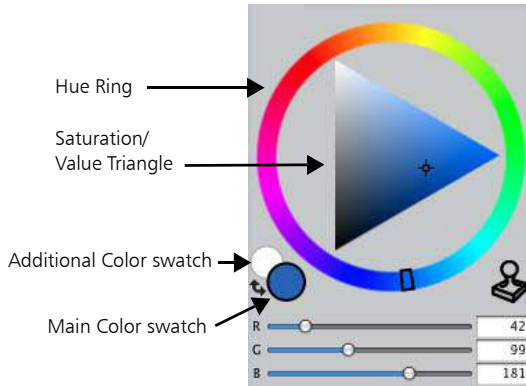
The Brush Selector bar (left) lets you choose a brush category and a brush variant (right).

Color panel

On the upper right corner of your screen you'll see the large, beautiful Color panel, which lets you choose colors. You can choose colors by using the Hue Ring and the Saturation/Value Triangle. However, if you prefer to mix color by using numbers, you can adjust the three sliders that are located under the Hue Ring. By clicking the panel options button on the right side of the Color panel, you can set the sliders to display either Red, Green and Blue, or Hue, Saturation and Value.

Also located on the Color panel is the Clone Color button, a useful control that lets you paint with color from a source image. On the left of the Color panel are the Main Color swatch  and the Additional Color swatch . The color swatches in Corel Painter operate differently than the Foreground and Background Color squares in Photoshop. To change the color, you can double-click either the Main Color swatch or the Additional Color swatch and then choose a new color on the Hue Ring. Or you can click in the Saturation/Value Triangle to choose a new tint or shade. You can use the additional color to create gradients or to use brushes that paint more than one color. Unlike the Background Color in Photoshop, the additional color does not affect the canvas.

Before moving on with the tour, click the Main Color swatch to select it.



Color panel

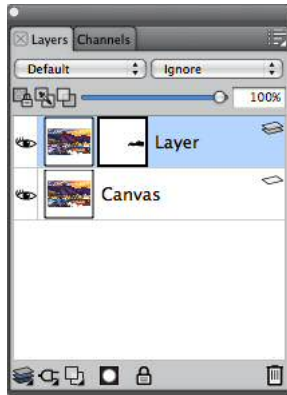
In Corel Painter 12, you can resize the Color panel by dragging the handle in the lower-right corner of the panel to resize it. Resizing the Color panel lets you select colors more accurately.

Textures

A basic paper texture is automatically loaded when you start Corel Painter. You can access additional rich paper textures by clicking the Paper Selector from the toolbox, or from the Paper Libraries panel (Window menu ► Paper Panels ► Paper Libraries).

Layers and Mask Channels

In Corel Painter, you can open Photoshop files that contain pixel-based layers and layer masks. You can access and edit the layers and layer masks by using the Layers panel, much like in Photoshop. The files you open in Corel Painter have multiple channels intact.



Layers panel

Photoshop Layer Styles

If you are using native Photoshop layer styles, such as the Drop Shadow layer style, make sure that you preserve the original Photoshop file in your archive before you convert the layer style information. That is, save the file with the live layer styles in the Photoshop (PSD) file format, and then save a new copy of this file. In the new file, convert the layer style information into pixel-based layers before importing the file into Corel Painter.

To convert a layer that has a Drop Shadow layer style, select the layer, and then choose **Layers ▶ Layers Style ▶ Create Layer**. A word of caution: Some aspects of the effects cannot be reproduced with standard layers.

File Formats

Corel Painter gives you the flexibility of opening Photoshop (PSD) files that are saved in RGB, CMYK and grayscale modes, while preserving pixel-based layers and mask channels (also referred to as alpha channels). You can also open TIFF files in Corel Painter, but only one mask channel is preserved. Layered TIFF (TIF) files that you create in Photoshop are flattened when you open them in Corel Painter. When you work exclusively with RIFF (RIF), which is the native file format for Corel Painter, you retain elements that are specific to Corel Painter when saving files. For instance, special paint media layers, such as Watercolor layers, require the RIFF format to retain the live “wet” capabilities. However, if you open a Photoshop file in Corel Painter but

plan on reopening the file in Photoshop, you should continue to save the file to the Photoshop format. Now roll up your sleeves, grab your stylus, and continue to explore Corel Painter.

Notes for Users of Adobe Photoshop









If you have previously worked with Adobe Photoshop, you may notice the differences in the tools and terminology of Corel Painter. This section describes these differences and provides additional tips to help you move smoothly between these applications.








Certain terms and concepts in Corel Painter differ from those of similar features in Adobe Photoshop. The following table lists some common terms in Photoshop with their equivalent terms in Corel Painter.

Adobe Photoshop term	Corel Painter term
Action	Script
Adjustment layer	Layer
Animation	Movie
Blending mode	Composite method
Indexed color mode	Web-safe color palette
Smart Object	Reference layer
Layer effect	Dynamic plug-ins
Layer style	Composite method
Palette	Panel
Selection	Selection
Snapshot	Clone

Comparing Tools in Corel Painter and Adobe Photoshop

The following table lists Adobe Photoshop tools and the corresponding Corel Painter tools. Many of these tools create similar results but operate slightly differently. For that reason, we also provided the title of the corresponding help topic that describes the Corel Painter tool.

Adobe Photoshop tool	Corel Painter tool	For more information
Actions palette	Scripts panel	See “Understanding the Scripts Panel” in the Help
Blur tool	Focus effect	See “Using Focus Effects” in the Help
Burn tool	Burn tool 	See “Dodging and Burning” in the Help
Clone Stamp tool	Rubber Stamp tool	See “Performing Offset Sampling” in the Help
Crop tool	Crop tool 	See “Cropping Images” in the Help
Dodge tool	Dodge tool 	See “Dodging and Burning” in the Help
Drop shadow	Drop shadow	See “Adding Drop Shadows” in the Help
Elliptical Marquee tool	Oval Selection tool 	See “Creating Path-Based Selections” in the Help
Eyedropper tool	Dropper tool	See “Sampling Colors From Images” in the Help
Filter Gallery	Effects menu	See “Applying Effects” in the Help
Freeform Pen tool	Quick Curve tool 	See “Using the Quick Curve Tool” in the Help
Gradient tool	Gradients panel Gradient fill, available with the Paint Bucket tool 	See “Applying Gradients” in the Help
Hand tool	Grabber tool 	See “Repositioning Images” in the Help
Lasso tool	Lasso tool 	See “Creating Path-Based Selections” in the Help

Adobe Photoshop tool	Corel Painter tool	For more information
Magic Wand tool	Magic Wand tool 	See “Creating Pixel-Based Selections” in the Help
Move tool	Move mode of Transform tool 	See “Moving Selections” in the Help
Paint Bucket tool	Paint Bucket tool 	See “Exploring Painting Media” in the Help
Path Selection tools	Shape Selection tools 	See “Editing Shapes” in the Help
Pen tool	Pen tool 	See “Using the Pen Tool” in the Help
Polygon Lasso tool	Polygonal Selection tool 	See “To make a freehand selection” in the Help
Rectangular Marquee tool	Rectangular Selection tool 	See “Creating Path-Based Selections” in the Help
Type tool	Text tool T	See “Adding Text” in the Help

Frequently Asked Questions from Users of Adobe Photoshop

When I open Photoshop (PSD) files, which elements are preserved and which are lost or modified?

The following table lets you know what changes to expect when you open a PSD file in Corel Painter.

Adobe Photoshop element	When the PSD file is opened in Corel Painter
Alpha channels	Alpha channels are preserved.
Blending modes	Most blending modes are preserved as composite methods. If no equivalent composite method exists for a particular blending mode, the blending mode is converted to the Default composite method.

Adobe Photoshop element

When the PSD file is opened in Corel Painter

Color	If the file does not use the RGB color model, you are prompted to convert the file to the default RGB color profile in Corel Painter. To avoid this step, you may want to convert your files to the RGB color model in Photoshop before opening them in Corel Painter.
Layers	Layers and layer masks are preserved. Layer effects and adjustment layers are not supported. To preserve the results of using these elements, you may want to merge or flatten them in Photoshop before opening the file in Corel Painter. Shape layers, layer clipping paths, and clipping groups are not preserved.

When I save files to the PSD file format, which elements are preserved and which are lost or modified?

The following table lets you know what changes to expect when you save a file to the PSD file format.

Corel Painter element

When saved to PSD file format

Color	RGB options are available when you save to the PSD file format.
Layers	All layers are converted to standard Photoshop transparent layers. All Corel Painter layer composite methods are converted to Photoshop blend modes. For information about comparing Corel Painter composite methods with Photoshop blending modes, see Saving Files That Contain Layers.
Masks	Layer masks are preserved in the PSD file.
Shapes	Shapes are converted to bitmaps and assigned to appropriate layers.

Corel Painter element**When saved to PSD file format**

Text

Text is converted to a bitmap and assigned to the appropriate layer.



About the Author

An award-winning artist and author, Cher Threinen-Pendarvis is a pioneer in digital art. She has been widely recognized for her mastery of Corel Painter, Adobe Photoshop, and the Wacom® pressure-sensitive tablet and has used these electronic tools since they were first released. Her artwork has been exhibited worldwide, her articles and art have been published in many books and periodicals, and she is a member of the San Diego Museum of Art Artist Guild. She has taught Corel Painter and Adobe Photoshop workshops around the world and is the principal of the consulting firm Cher Threinen Design. Cher is the author of *The Photoshop and Painter Artist Tablet Book*, *Creative Techniques in Digital Painting*, *Beyond Digital Photography*, and all nine editions of *The Painter Wow!* book. Visit Cher's web site at: www.pendarvis-studios.com.