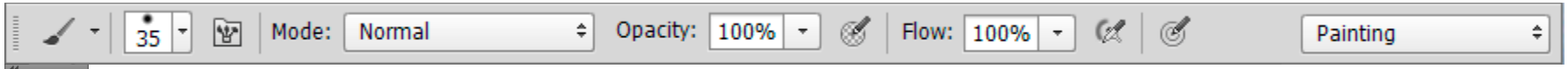
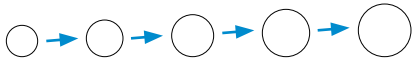
Photoshop CC brush guide illustrated advanced technique



Set the Pixel Diameter Size

While the Brush tool is active, and hovered over your image, use **[key**, a.k.a. the *left square bracket* to decrease; or **] key**, a.k.a. the *right square bracket* to increase the pixel diameter of the brush.



Or, right+click over the image. This will pop-up the Brush Preset picker panel. Make your changes to size and hardness, and begin to paint again. The panel will fold up and vanish as you begin to paint.

Set Hardness Control

While the Brush tool is active, use: **Shift** + **[** to decrease hardness or **Shift** + **]** to increase hardness. Each keypress moves the hardness/feathering in 25% increments, between 100% which is solid color from the center to the edge of the brush, to 0%, which is fading to no color at the edge of brush.

Or, right+click over the image. This will pop-up the Brush Preset picker panel. Make your changes to size and hardness, and begin to paint again. The panel will fold up and vanish as you begin to paint.

Set the Opacity Control

Use the number pad to set opacity. For example: Type 3 = 30%, or typing 77 = 77%. Or hover over the Opacity label name in the Control Panel and scrubby slide (drag) left or right.

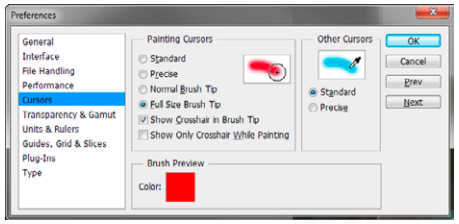
Set the Flow Control

Use SHIFT + numbers to set the flow. Or, hover over the Flow label name in the Control Panel and scrubby slide (drag) left or right.

Brush Tool Cursor

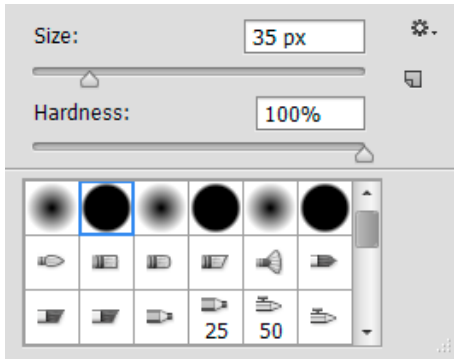
Switch to Precise Cursor by pressing Caps Lock key.

Better yet, set this in Preferences > Cursors > Painting Cursors. Choose Full Size Brush tip and Show Crosshair in the Brush Tip, as shown below:



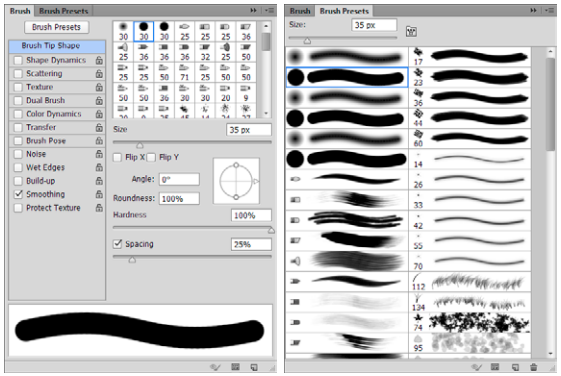
Brush Preset picker panel

To get Brush Preset picker panel, right-click on the image in the document window. Or click on the Brush Preset picker drop-down arrow in the Control Panel.



View Brush panel

Pressing the **F5** key makes the Brush panel visible.



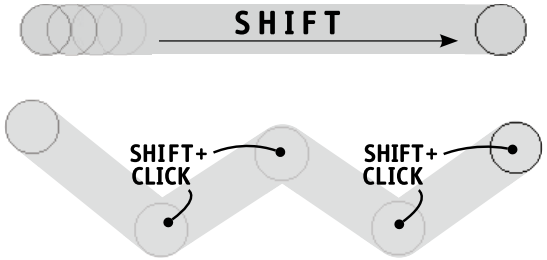
Airbrush Mode Shortcut

Shift+Option+P (Mac) or Shift+Alt+P (Windows)

Paint a straight line

Hold down the **Shift** key for a constrained painted line. Constrain angles are 0°, 45°, or 90°. Or...

Click at one point, hold down the **Shift** key and click another point to paint a straight line between the two click points, as shown below:



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