



October 2025 Bridge & Photoshop Update

In this lesson, we'll explore the key updates and changes made to Photoshop and Bridge in the October 2025 release.

Key Concepts

1. Temperature and Tint Adjustment (0:24): The addition of temperature and tint sliders, along with a white balance eyedropper, to the color vibrance adjustment layer provides more control over color correction within Photoshop.
2. Improved Subject Selection (0:53): Enhancements to the Select Subject feature, both online and offline, lead to more accurate subject selections, especially with fine details.
3. AI Denoise Alternative (1:11): The AI Denoise filter may not be effective in all cases, the Denoise feature within Adobe Camera Raw (ACR) provides a faster and often superior alternative.
4. Generative Upscaling (3:17): Generative Upscale uses AI to increase image size, offering options like Topaz Gigapixel for natural-looking results.
5. Free Adobe Stock Images (6:57): Photoshop now provides direct access to free Adobe Stock images, streamlining the process of adding stock content to projects.
6. Bridge Folder Navigation Workaround (7:39): A workaround exists for Mac users to drag folders to the Bridge icon in the dock by holding down the command key.

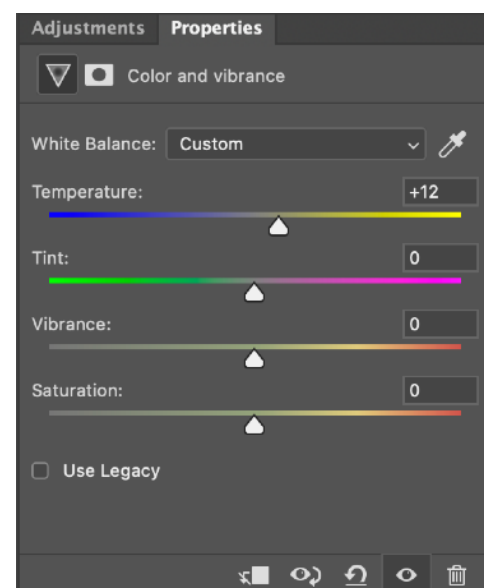
Color Vibrance Adjustment

The new version of Photoshop (version 27) enhances color adjustments by adding temperature and tint controls to the Vibrance adjustment layer. A white balance eyedropper tool has been incorporated.

To use the eyedropper:

1. Click on the eyedropper icon within the Vibrance adjustment panel.
2. Click on an area in your image that should be white or gray. Photoshop will attempt to remove any color cast from the image, assuming the selected area should be neutral.

This feature mirrors similar functionalities found in Adobe Camera Raw (ACR) and Lightroom.



Improved Subject Selection

The Select Subject feature has been improved in the latest Photoshop release. Both the internet-dependent and localized versions now offer better selection quality. This improvement is noticeable in images with fine details like bike spokes or chains.

Previously, the tool struggled to accurately select small openings, such as those in a chain link. The updated version is better at recognizing these details, leading to more precise selections. Also, the "Remove Background" function has been improved to minimize unexpected object insertions.

AI Denoise and Sharpen Filters

Photoshop now includes AI Denoise and AI Sharpen filters under the Filter menu, powered by Topaz Labs. However, the Presenter finds the AI Denoise filter often produces unsatisfactory results and prefers the Camera Raw denoise feature.

⚠ Output too large. Try a smaller scale or reduce the image size. ✕

Denoising in Adobe Camera Raw (ACR)

For RAW files, the Denoise feature in Adobe Camera Raw (ACR) is recommended.

1. Open the RAW file in Photoshop. This will automatically open it in ACR.
2. Locate the Denoise option.
3. Adjust the Denoise slider as needed. The presenter increased it from the default of 50 to 75.
4. In the Sharpening section, adjust the Masking slider. Hold down the Option key while clicking and dragging the Masking slider to view the mask. The goal is to turn areas without useful detail completely black. This prevents sharpening from exaggerating noise in those areas.



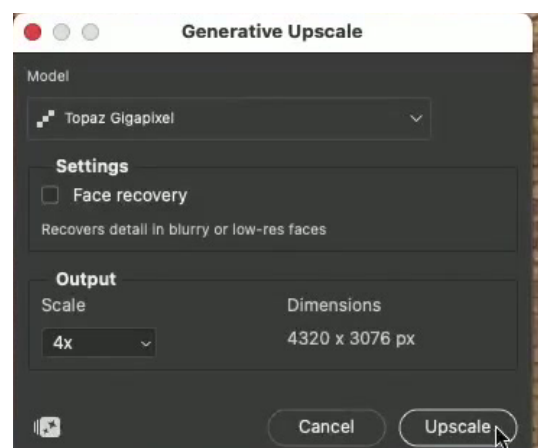
AI Sharpen

The AI Sharpen filter, also powered by Topaz Labs, is available in the Filter menu. The Presenter's experience is that the results are not consistently impressive.

Generative Upscale

The Generative Upscale feature, found under the Image menu, allows you to increase the size of an image up to four times its original size.

1. Go to Image > Generative Upscale.
2. Choose the desired upscale factor (2x or 4x).
3. Select the AI model to use. Options include Firefly, Topaz Gigapixel, and Topaz Bloom. I recommend Topaz Gigapixel for more



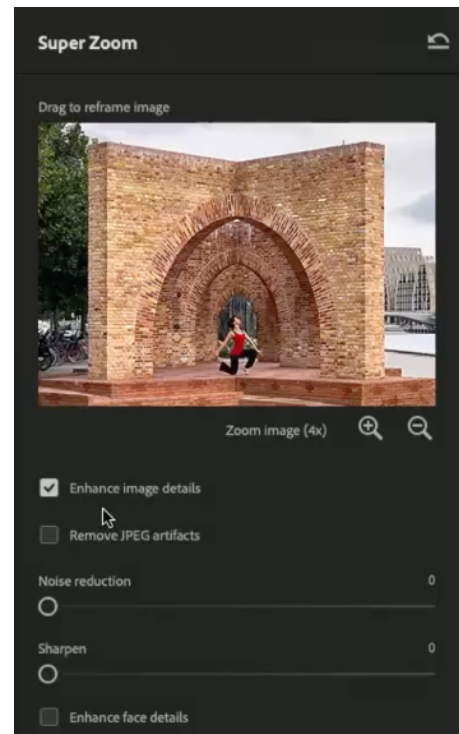
natural-looking results. Topaz Bloom can modify image content more aggressively to potentially improve quality.

The tool will generate two layers: the original image upscaled using Photoshop's standard Image Size method, and the AI-upscaled version. This allows for comparison.

Neural Filters - Super Zoom

An alternative to Generative Upscale is the Super Zoom filter, found under Filter > Neural Filters.

1. Go to Filter > Neural Filters and select Super Zoom.
2. Increase the zoom factor using the plus sign.
3. Adjust the Enhance Image Details option and other settings as desired.
4. Preview the results.



Free Adobe Stock Images

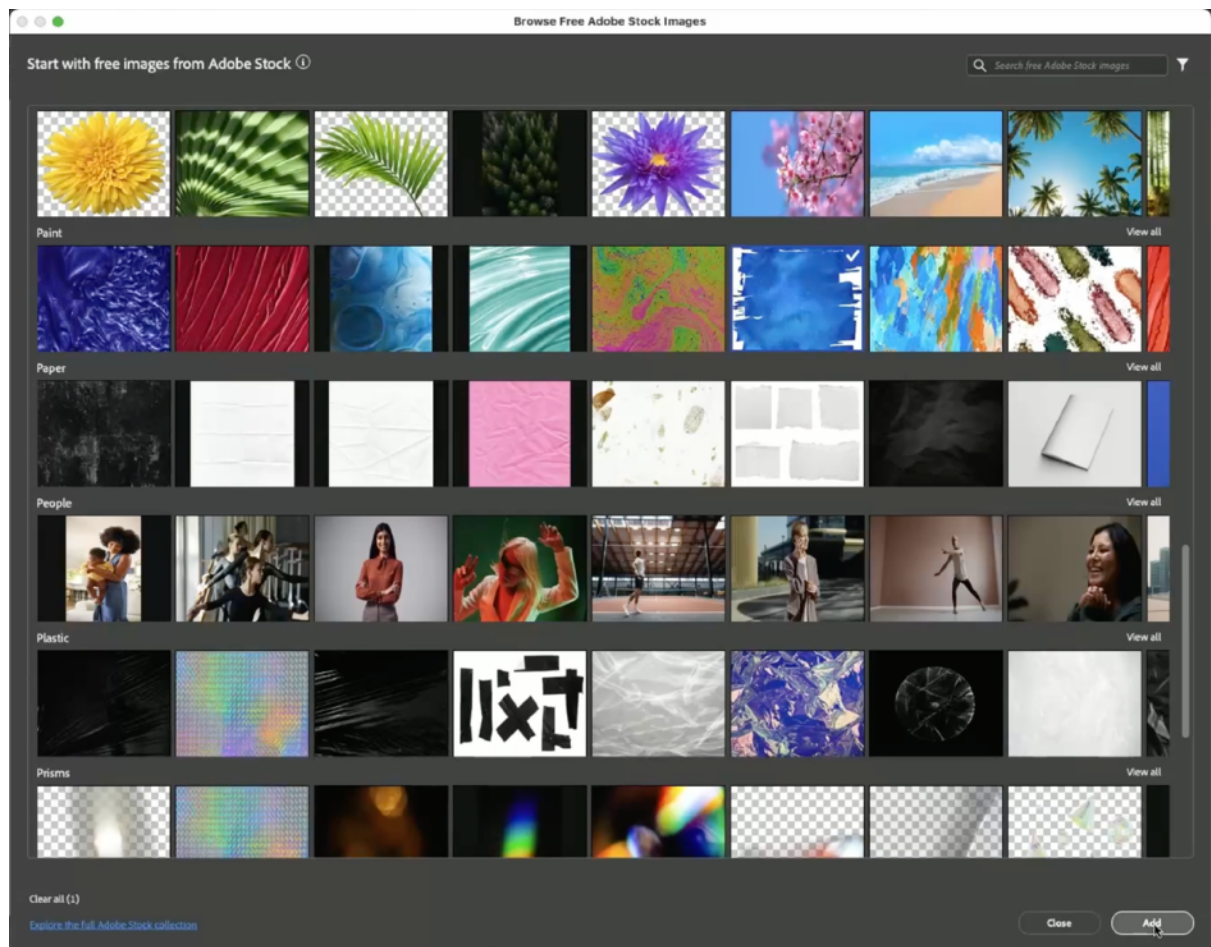
Photoshop now offers direct access to free Adobe Stock images.

You can access this feature in a few ways:

- Go to File > Place Free Adobe Stock Images.
- Click the Adobe Stock icon in the Tool panel.
- Look for the Adobe Stock icon in the Contextual Taskbar.



Once the Adobe Stock interface opens, you can search for images using the text field or browse the available selection. Click on an image and choose Add to place it in your project. The image will be added as a Smart Object in your Layers panel.



Bridge Update and Macintosh Folder Navigation Workaround

Bridge has been updated to version 16. A known issue on Macintosh is the inability to drag folders from the operating system to the Bridge icon in the dock for navigation.

A workaround exists:

1. Drag the folder towards the Bridge icon in the dock.
2. Hold down the Command key while releasing the folder on top of the Bridge icon.

This should allow you to navigate to the dragged folder in Bridge.

In summary, the October 2025 update to Photoshop introduces several new features, including enhancements to color adjustments, subject selection, and upscaling.