

Keyboard Curves

If you're a fan of keyboard shortcuts and keyboard/mouse combinations, dog-ear this page right now—or better yet, print a copy of the shortcuts from this book's Missing CD page (www.missingmanuals.com)—because there are a slew of 'em that you can use with Curves:

- To cycle through your document's channels (starting with the composite channel), press Option-2, 3, 4, 5, 6 (Alt+2, 3, 4, 5, 6 on a PC). In CS3, press ⌘-1, 2, 3, 4, 5 (Ctrl+1, 2, 3, 4, 5).
- To show clipped shadows and highlights, Option-drag (Alt-drag) the panel's shadows or highlights sliders, or click the shadows or highlights eyedropper and then press and hold Option (Alt) as you hover your cursor over the image.
- To switch from 25 percent to 10 percent grid (page 379), Option-click (Alt-click) the grid.
- To cycle forward (left to right) through curve points, press =. (In Photoshop CS3, the keyboard shortcut is ⌘-Tab [Ctrl+Tab].)
- To cycle backward through curve points, press - (that's the minus sign). (In CS3, the shortcut is Shift-⌘-Tab [Shift+Ctrl+Tab].)
- To deselect the selected point(s), press ⌘-D (Ctrl+D).
- To select multiple points, Shift-click the points.
- To delete a single point, select it and press Delete (Backspace), drag it off the grid, or ⌘-click (Ctrl-click) it.
- To nudge the selected point one unit in the standard Curves dialog box (two units in the Adjustments panel), press one of the arrow keys.
- To nudge the selected point 10 units in the standard Curves dialog box (16 units in the Adjustments panel), press and hold Shift and then use the arrow keys.

Regular Curves dialog box only:

- To open the Curves dialog box, press ⌘-M (Ctrl+M).
- To open a Curve dialog box with the settings you used previously, press Option-⌘-M (Alt+Ctrl+M).
- To reset all settings, Option-click (Alt-click) the Cancel button.
- To cycle through the Curves dialog box's buttons, fields, and lists, press Tab on a PC. When you have a checkbox selected, you can press the space bar to turn it on or off. If you select the Preset field, you can cycle through the presets by using the arrow keys on your keyboard. Likewise, if the Channel pop-up menu is selected, you can cycle through the channels with the arrow keys. And if one of the labels like Output or Input contains an underlined character, you can press the corresponding key to select it. For example, instead of pressing the Options button to open it, you can tab to Options and then press the letter T.
- New in CS4, you can open the Auto Color Options by Option-clicking (Alt-clicking) the Auto button in the Adjustments panel.

And here are a couple of shortcuts you can use only after you click the on-image adjustment button (shown in Figure 9-21):

- To add a point to all channels simultaneously, Shift-⌘-click (Shift-Ctrl-click) your image.
- To delete a point on the curve, ⌘-click (Ctrl-click) an area of the image with the same Input/Output levels as the point you want to delete. When a preview circle appears around the point, (circled in Figure 9-21), you're clear to click.