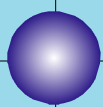




# Tips and Tricks

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# the digital doctor

By Helene DeLillo

ASK DR. HELENE

*I hope everyone finds themselves well rested after vacations and the hot summer days. We had fun fishing on the Cape and at the Madonna concert at Madison Square Garden! I am looking forward to attending Seybold Seminars and meeting many of you in person. I will be at the Digital Imaging booth (#2022) giving away prizes for the best questions! A special thanks goes out to all of my readers for questions and suggestions. Please feel free to email me at [helene@dancingicon.com](mailto:helene@dancingicon.com) - please be specific with your questions.*

**?** Why is it that every time I go shopping for a machine I have such a challenge figuring out which machine will really be the fastest for my digital imaging work. What is megahertz speed and how can it be measured?

*KC, Art Director*

The performance of a computer system depends on many things, not just the megahertz.

It depends on the software you are using on your computer, the amount of RAM, the system software configuration, the functions you are performing, and more.

I recently attended the keynote presentation at MacWorld in New York City, and Apple Senior VP of Hardware Jon Rubinstein described why the clock speed of a computer isn't an accurate way to compare system performance.

I thought this was one of the best technical descriptions of megahertz, so here's the link: [www.apple.com/g4/myth/](http://www.apple.com/g4/myth/). You can also go to Motorola and Intel's websites for more technical information.

**?** I work in Photoshop daily and I have this annoying thing — I select and deselect objects all the time. Is there a way to load the last selection even when I have gone past it in the history palette?

*K. Arnold, color separator & retoucher*

Well there are a few things I use in my bag of Photoshop selection techniques — Selecting being my least favorite production task.

When you select something you can save your selection in the mask of the layer by going to the Layer

menu and choosing, Make Layer Mask. Or if you have gone beyond that, like you mentioned, you can choose reselect from the Select menu — the keyboard command is Command Shift D.

**?** What's the best way to correct more patterns and textures in scans of photos on textured papers.

*G.G., photographer*

There are a few techniques I can suggest:

Use the Gaussian Blur Filter at a setting of 1-2 pixels.

Use the Noise Filter and select Despeckle.

(With both of the above filter techniques I sometimes apply the filter at a higher amount and then go to the History Palette and save the effect so that I can undo the filter and selectively use the history brush to apply the correction to the problem areas. This way my entire image isn't burry.)

Try rescanning the image by placing the photograph at an angle so it's off center and crooked. Sometimes this corrects the pattern. Just like when you are shooting and rotate the lens to adjust focusing.

With textured papers, scan at a much lower resolution, like 150, and it should lessen the texture in the paper.

I can't guarantee that these techniques will work in every situation because many times it depends on the type of pattern. Feel free to email the photo as a jpeg and I'll give you input!

**?** I have recently purchased an Olympus 3040 and have had a lot fun reentering the photo world. I would like your advice on the best way to print the images I have captured with the camera? Bob, photographer

Here are a couple of suggestions:

To get the best output (Prints) from digital cameras, I suggest you shoot in the highest resolution possible, usually TIF or the highest JPEG setting on your camera.

You also need to consider what you are making prints for.

Since you have an Olympus camera, you may want to try their great printer, the P400. Go to your local camera or computer store and see if you like it.

If you are considering waterproof prints and archival natured printing, you should take a look at the Epson printers. They are great for quality, long-lasting prints.



*Helene DeLillo owns and manages Dancing Icon, Inc. in New York City. Specializing in digital imaging, Dancing Icon has designed some of the biggest digital photography studios in the city, including Sothebys.com and Pier 59 Studios. To reach her, call (800) 626-0817.*