

# Photoshop Mastery

Taking Photoshop to the next level

■ BY BEN WILLMORE

## Full Screen Frustration Fixes

People are constantly sending me emails asking how to solve odd Photoshop behaviors—there seems to be no end to the number of snafus you can encounter. Let's look at two pesky problems that can crop up when using Photoshop's otherwise useful Full Screen Mode feature.

Let's start by creating each problem so you can see if this has happened to you, and then we'll show you how to get things back to normal.

### Interface behind the menu bar

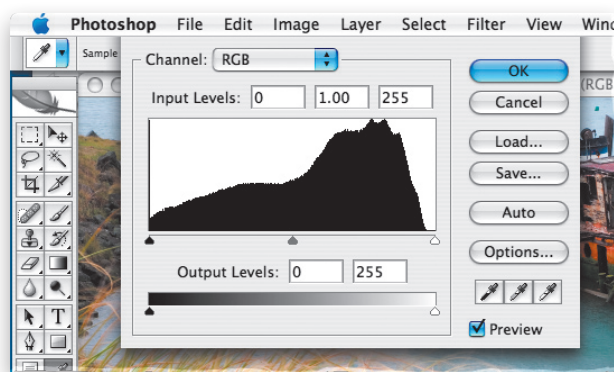
Have you ever had a dialog or palette stuck under the menu bar at the top of your screen? When that happens, you can't move the dialog/palette because you can't access its top edge.

Well, let's re-create the problem: Open any image, click on the Full Screen Mode icon at the bottom of the Toolbox, and open any dialog (for example, press Command-L [PC: Ctrl-L] to access the Levels dialog). Now move the dialog to the top edge of your screen by clicking-and-dragging its top edge. Once it's there, click OK to close the Levels dialog.

Now, to expose the problem, click on the Standard Screen Mode icon at the bottom of the Toolbox and then access the same dialog a second time.



Left to right: Standard Screen Mode, Full Screen Mode with Menu Bar, and Full Screen Mode



Levels dialog is stuck under the menu bar and cannot be moved.

To fix the problem, click OK to close the Levels dialog and then open any image. Click on the Full Screen Mode icon near the bottom of the Toolbox, access the dialog again, move it down a bit, and click the OK button. Now click on the Standard Screen Mode icon and we've fixed the problem: no more stuck dialogs.

### Missing menu bar

The second problem you might encounter is that, after switching between documents, an image appears with no menu bar even though it's in Standard Screen Mode (which should always have the menu bar visible).

To re-create this problem, open any

two images, click on the Full Screen Mode icon near the bottom of the Toolbox and then type Control-Tab to switch to the second image. That will make the second image come to the front—which should be in Standard Screen Mode because we didn't mess with that feature when the second image was active—but Photoshop will still have the menu bar hidden.

To make the menu bar reappear, press the F key three times to cycle through the screen modes.

These problems might sound obscure, but I'm always amazed at how often I get requests for help with these particular oddities. ■



The quick and easy fix for this example where the menu bar isn't visible is to press F three times.

Ben Willmore is the best-selling author of Adobe Photoshop CS2 Studio Techniques and Up to Speed: Photoshop CS2, as well as co-author of How to Wow: Photoshop for Photographers. Ben spends many of his days as a "digital nomad" in his 40' motorcoach. Learn about his latest adventures at [www.wherisben.com](http://www.wherisben.com).