

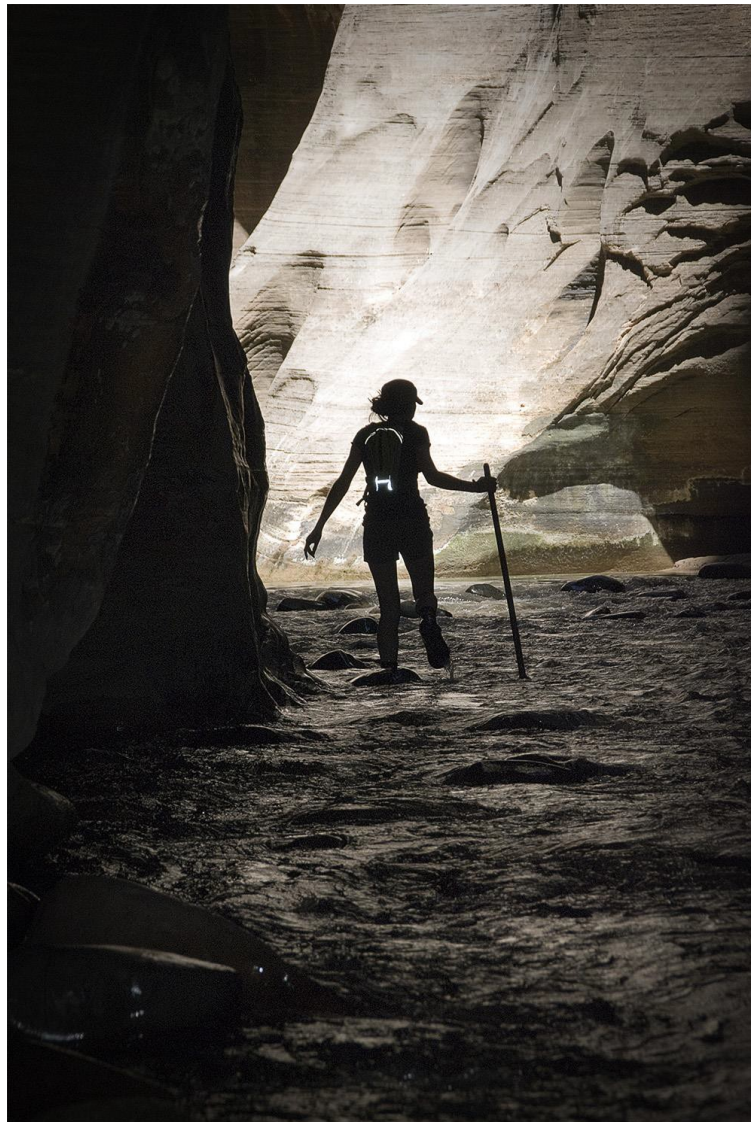


Using the Clone Stamp Non-Destructively

The Clone Stamp Tool is one of my favorite Photoshop tools. It is used to remove distracting elements from an image; and, to me, it just seems like magic!

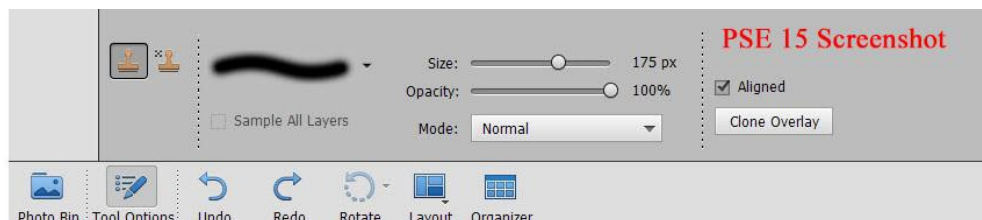
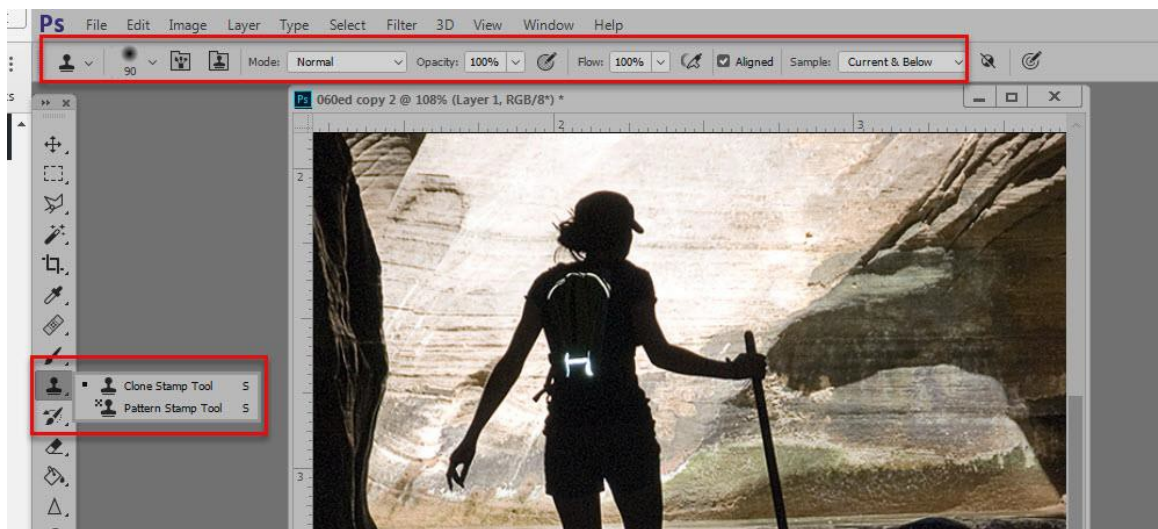
This is a picture I took of my daughter-in-law, Melissa, when we were hiking "[The Narrows](#)." I love the shot, but find the reflective labels on her back-pack distracting. Let's remove those via the Clone Stamp Tool.

For this tutorial, I am using Photoshop CC2017. This technique works the same way in Photoshop Elements.



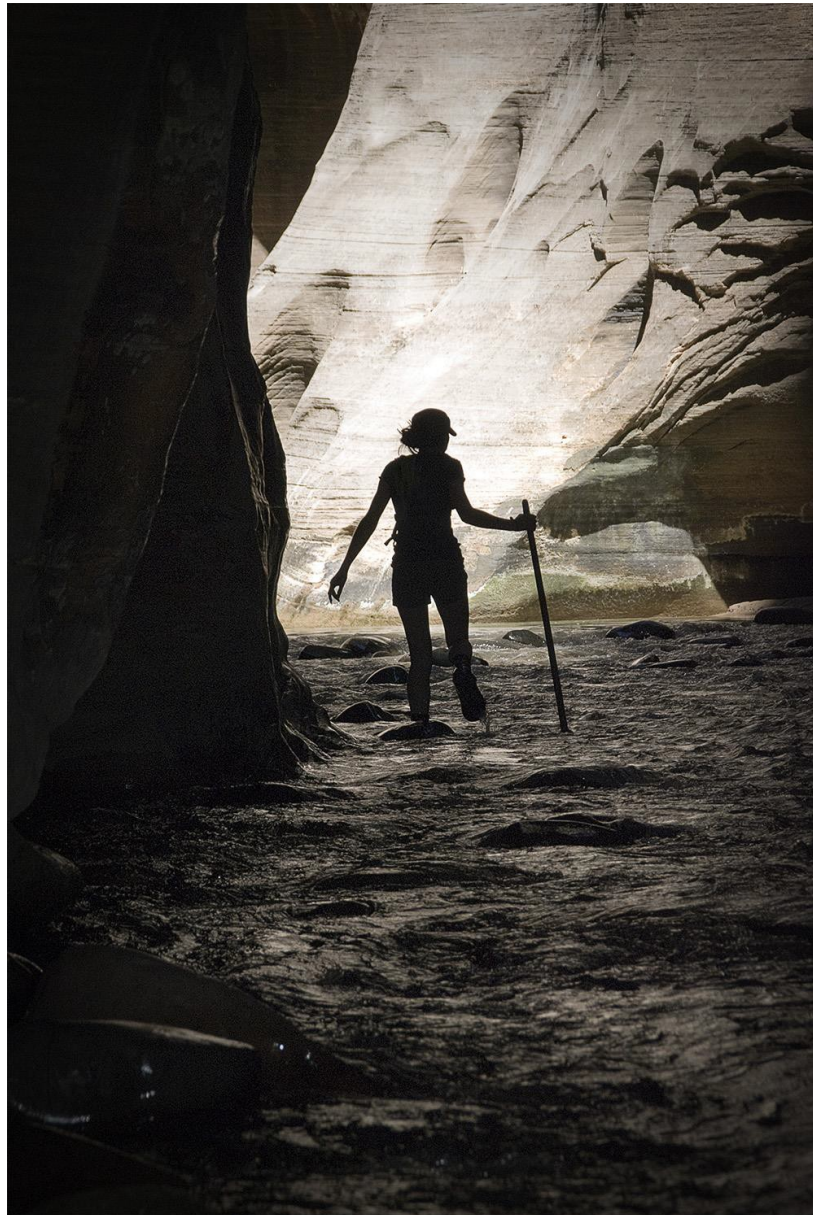
Here's how:

- Select the Clone Stamp Tool from the Tool Bar on the left.
- In the Options bar at the top of the screen:
 - Choose a soft-round brush
 - Choose Normal as the Blend Mode
 - Choose an Opacity percentage (I usually leave this at 100%, but may lower it depending upon the result I get at 100%).
 - Choose a Flow percentage (I usually leave this at 100%)
 - Choose Aligned
 - Choose: Current & Below in the Sample box



- It's always best to work non-destructively, when we have that option; and we do with the Clone Stamp Tool. Create a blank layer above the photograph.
- Making sure you still have the blank layer selected, click in the document. Then Alt+Click to select a place from which to clone. It's best to clone from an area that looks as close as possible to the area you wish to replace. In this image, I wanted to replace the white labels with black, so the most obvious place to clone was a black area on her shorts.
- Next, click over the area you want to replace. Short drags or simple clicks will do the trick. Continue until the “offending” area has been replaced by the cloned pixels.

This is my final image, which I am happy with. Even better, the cloning was done of the blank layer, so the process was non-destructive, leaving my original image intact.



Thank you for downloading my tutorial. I hope you have found it helpful.

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