

Clone Stamp

The clone stamp does exactly what the name says. It copies an area exactly to how it's presented in the photo. You have to set a clone point

Healing brush is a combination of the clone stamp and the spot healing brush. It's better for larger areas than the spot healing brush. Unlike the clone stamp, Photoshop analyzes the surrounding pixels and tries to closely match the source to the destination in terms of color and texture. This one also makes you choose your sample or clone point.....

Patch Tool

The patch tool is probably one I use more often when I need to retouch a photo. It's similar to the healing brush as Photoshop integrates the source to the destination more seamlessly.

The patch tool offers greater flexibility and more accuracy when it comes to size, shape and whether you want to duplicate the object or remove it.

The Spot Healing tool now has two **very different** options. Content Aware and Proximity Match. These do completely different things to the image structure.

- "Content Aware" tries pretty cleverly to assess continuing areas of color and "fills them in". However, while appearing superficially quite good., in practice it can produce harsh color transitions and drop offs,
- "Proximity Match" uses the healing technology and just picks a more or less random area just to pop in there. Smoother gradients and transitions though and less likely to create junk in your image.

The Healing Brush is more similar to "Proximity Match" method mentioned above, but it allows you to **CHOOSE** your source areas.