Using the Pen Tool:
Drawing Paths in Photoshop®

WEEK 7
Images for Pen Tool Practice

- Use Adobe Illustrator® to open file: *Bicycle_Pixels vs. Vectors.ai*
- Painting with Pixels vs. Drawing with Vectors
- In Photoshop®, open the Paths panel (Window > Paths)

1. **Straight.psd**
   Saving a Work Path.
   Moving and adjusting paths (Selection and Direct-Selection tools).
   Command/Control key temporarily gives you the Direct-Selection Tool.
   Undo (Command-Z/Control-Z) will delete the last point you drew.
   Hold the Shift key to constrain lines to Horizontal, Vertical, or 45 degrees.
   Adjustment handles, paths, and points don't print (unless filled or stroked).
   Fill & Stroke path(s), using the menu commands or the Path panel buttons.

2. **Curves.psd**
   Curve Points have handles, and *Corner* Points don't have handles.
   Draw as few points as possible, creating smooth efficient curves that are easy to edit.
   Types of Paths: a Work Path, a "Named" Path, a Subpath, and a Clipping Path.

3. **Combo.psd**
   Option-click (Mac) or Alt-click (Windows) to set a corner point, and drag your mouse in the direction you want the line to go next.

4. **Edit.psd**
   Add points, subtract points, convert points, and break handles.

- Vector-based layers: a Shape layer or a Type layer
- Convert a Path into a Selection—and vice-versa—using the Path panel commands
- See any Photoshop® or Illustrator® technique book for pen tool basics

Homework: Drawing Paths Using the Pen Tool

Directions:

1. Look in the folder named *Homework_Path Practice*, which contains two photos of a 1938 Chevrolet: *Chevy 1.jpg* and *Chevy 2.jpg*.
2. Open the file called *Chevy 1.jpg* in Photoshop®.
3. Open the Paths panel (Window > Paths).
4. Use the Pen Tool to trace all outlines of the car. It isn't necessary to trace the window cutouts. Remember to include the front bumper in your outline.
5. The Pen Path should be an outline only; please do not add a fill or stroke color.

Grading Scale and Criteria:

A = 90–100. **Both** views of the car *(Chevy 1.jpg* **and** *Chevy 2.jpg)* accurately traced, with all paths saved. Path fits tightly against the car body, tires, and bumper—all the way around. Minimal & efficient use of vertex points. No open paths.

B = 80–89. **One** view of the car *(Chevy 1.jpg* **or** *Chevy 2.jpg)* accurately traced, with all paths saved. Path fits tightly against the car body, tires, and bumper—all the way around. Minimal & efficient use of vertex points. No open paths.

C = 70–79*. **One** view of the car *(Chevy 1.jpg* **or** *Chevy 2.jpg)* traced, with all paths saved. Pen path has minor accuracy and contour fitting problems, or is constructed using far too many vertex points.

* A Pen Path that is not done well enough to merit at least a "C" grade will need to be redone, so take your time and outline carefully until you have a good feel for using the pen tool. Most students can achieve an "A" on this assignment, if it is submitted on time and revised as needed.