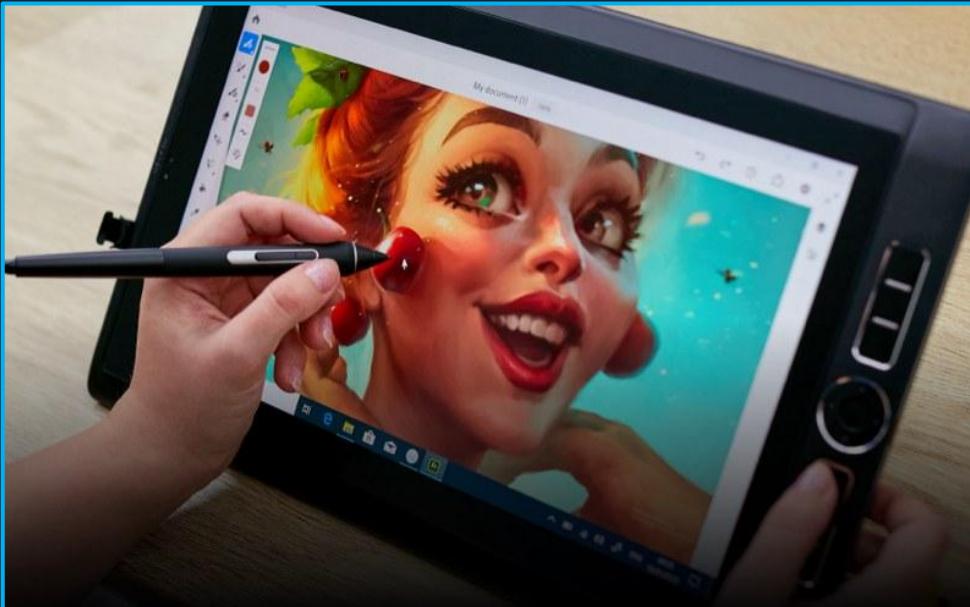


Wacom Setup



Setting up a Wacom tablet & basic settings

Wacom Setup | Contents



This lesson will walk through the process of setting up a Wacom Tablet. The lesson will cover the following:

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2. Introduction
3. Properties
4. Application Settings
5. Mapping
6. Orientation
7. Touch Settings
8. Pen Settings
9. Express Keys & Touch Ring
10. Backup & Restoring Settings
11. Common Issues
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Wacom Setup | Lesson Overview

Today's learning goals and outcomes include:

- A basic understanding of the functionality of tablets and their use in industry.
- A basic understanding of Wacom properties and settings and how to adjust them.
- A basic understanding of pen pressure settings in various production tools.

In this lesson you'll be learning about the basic functionality of Wacom tablets and how to set them up.

We will start by looking at the general functionality of a Wacom tablet and how they are used in industry.

We will then move onto Wacom tablet properties and settings and how they can be adjusted.

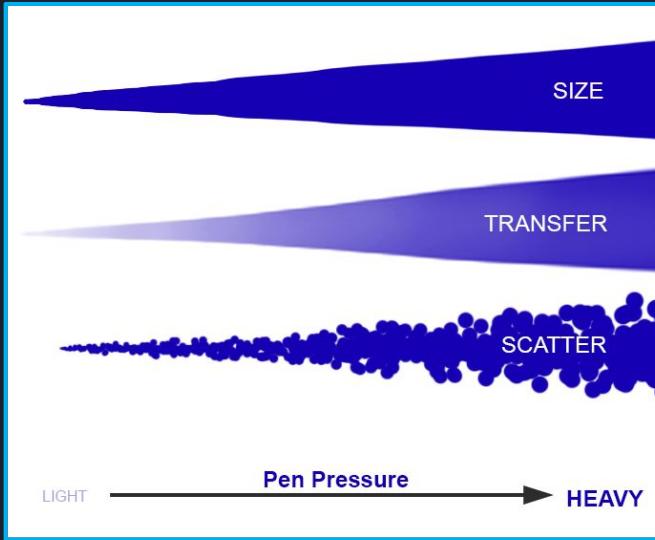
This will be followed by how pen pressure settings can be adjusted in various production tools.

Wacom Setup | Introduction

1



2



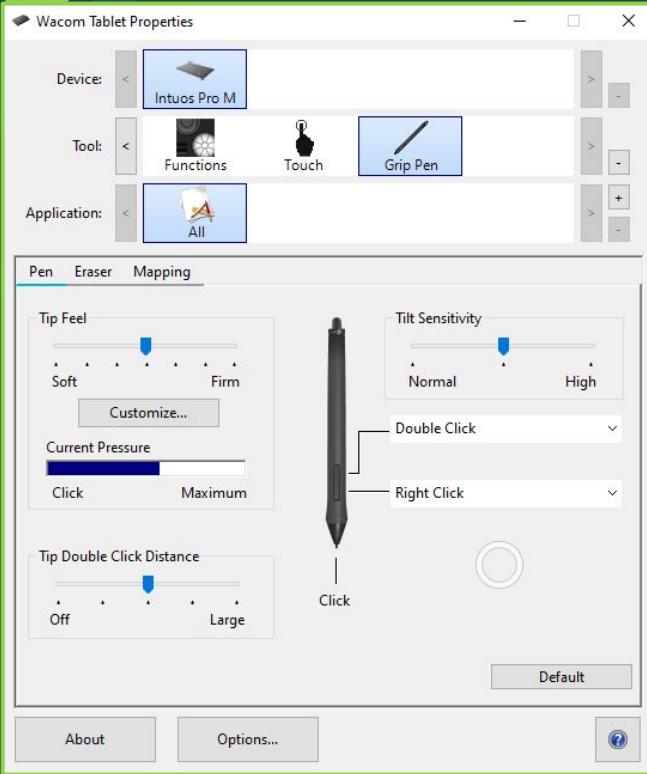
A graphics tablet is a computer input device that allows a user to draw digital images using a stylus. The primary advantage of a tablet over conventional input devices like a mouse is the ability to utilise pen pressure, which can be used to control the size and intensity of a stroke, which is particularly useful when conceiving, sculpting and texturing. Using a stylus also tends to be more comfortable for artists that have a background in traditional mediums. Graphics tablets come in many different forms and sizes, but generally fall into one of two categories:

1. **Pen tablets** are tablets that have a drawing surface that is separate from the primary display.
2. **Display tablets** have a built-in display that allows users to draw directly onto the surface of the screen.

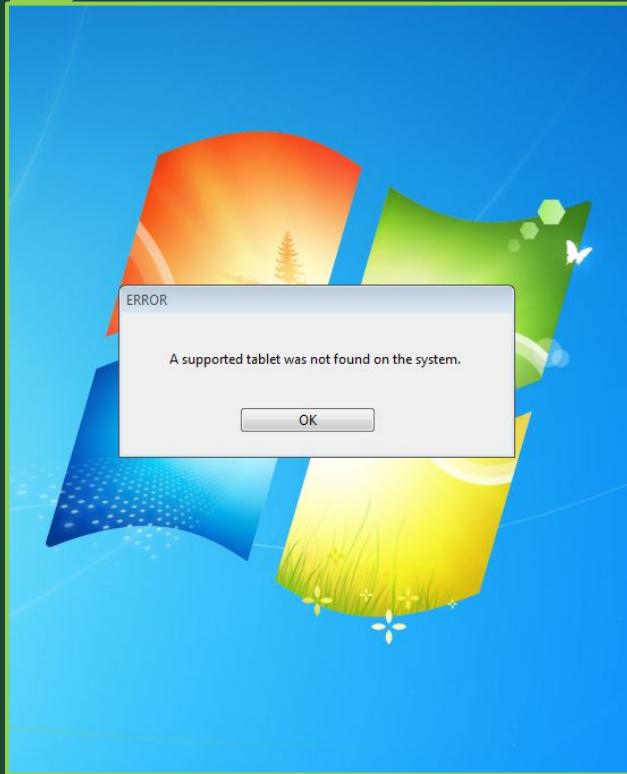
Regardless of the tablet used the key properties and functionality is relatively consistent.

Wacom Setup | Properties

1



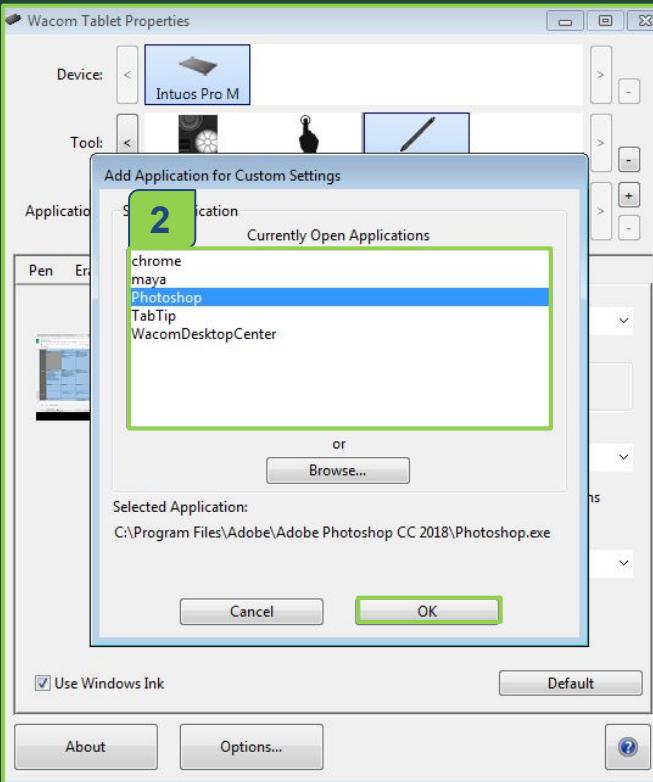
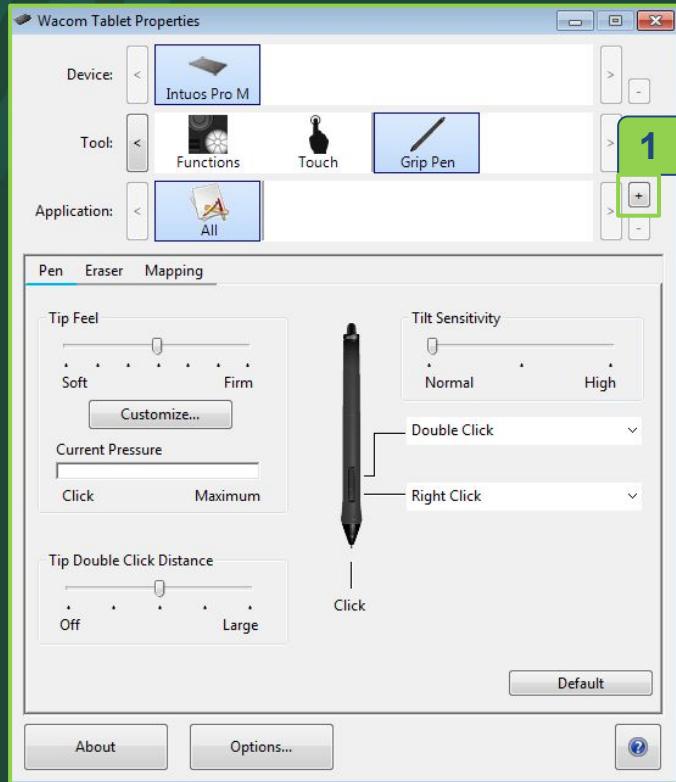
2



To adjust the settings for the tablet the Wacom Tablet Properties application must first be opened.

1. In the Windows start menu type "Wacom" into the search bar and click on **Wacom Tablet Properties** application.
2. If you receive an error, double check that the device is connected and that the correct drivers have been installed. The latest drivers can be found on the Wacom website: <https://www.wacom.com/en/support/product-support/drivers>

Wacom Setup | Application Settings

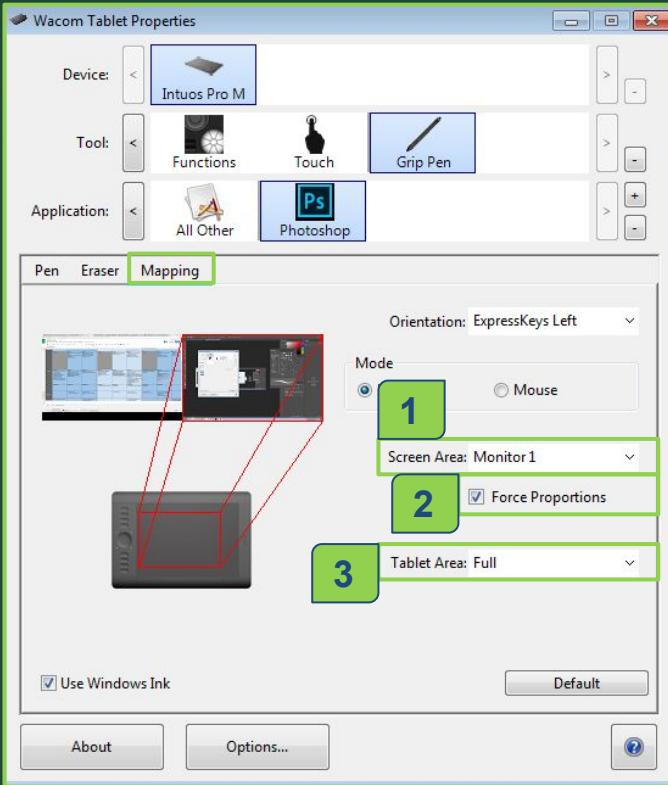


Wacom tablet settings can be adjusted separately for different applications.

1. To add settings for a new application, press the + button in the application section of the properties window.
2. If the application is open it will appear in the currently open applications list. If the application is not in the list you can browse for the executable. Select or browse to Photoshop and click Ok.

You may need to close and re-open the application after you have added and applied settings in order for settings to update.

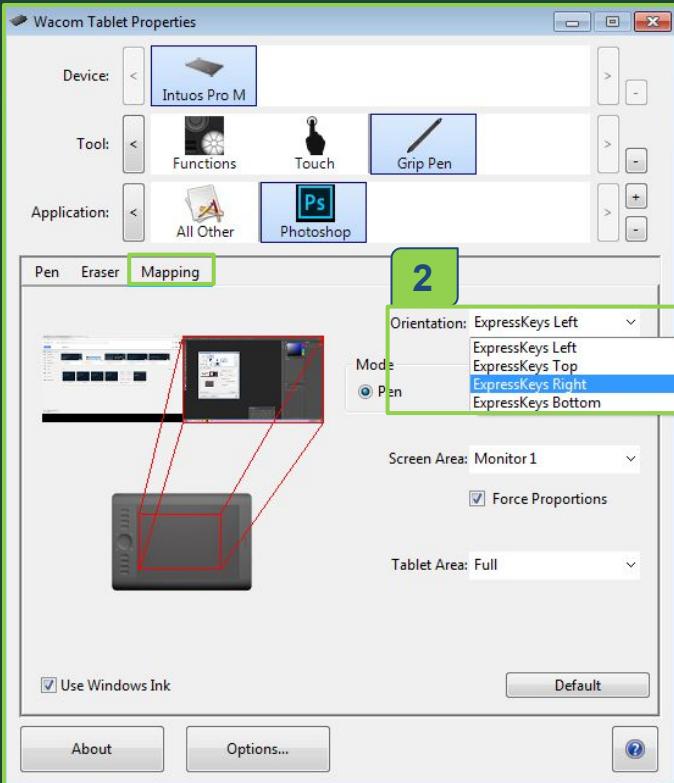
Wacom Setup | Mapping



For greater control when using multiple displays it is important to map the Wacom's area to a single screen.

1. Under the Grip Pen section, click on the **Mapping** tab and select the monitor your application is using in the dropdown menu.
2. Check the **Force Proportions** box so that your Wacom's workspace matches the screen aspect ratio.
3. Ensure that the **Tablet Area** is set to full, to make full use of the surface area of the tablet.

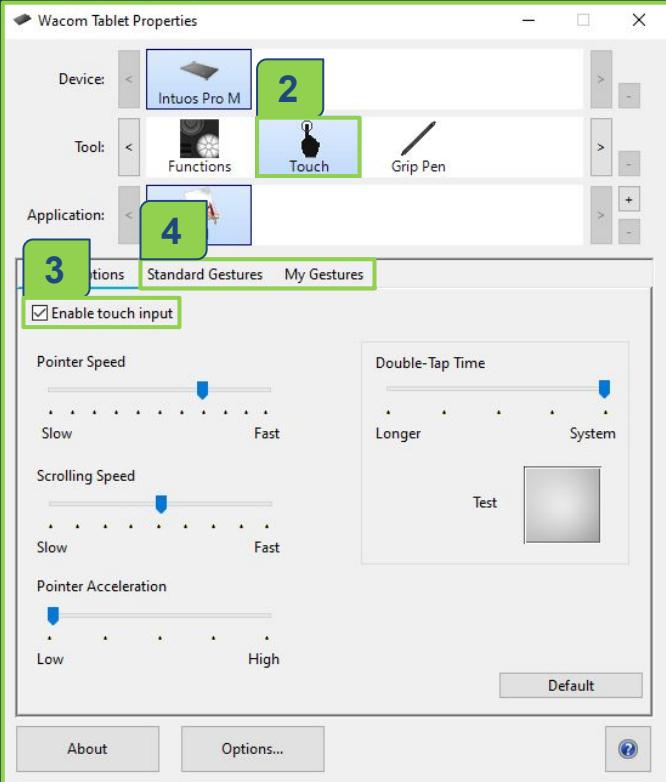
Wacom Setup | Orientation



To facilitate left-handed artists the default orientation of the tablet can be adjusted so that the express keys are on the right side instead of the left. If you are left-handed:

1. Rotate the tablet 180 degrees so that the keys are on the right side.
2. Under the Grip Pen section, click on the **Mapping** tab and under orientation select **ExpressKeys Right** from the drop down menu.

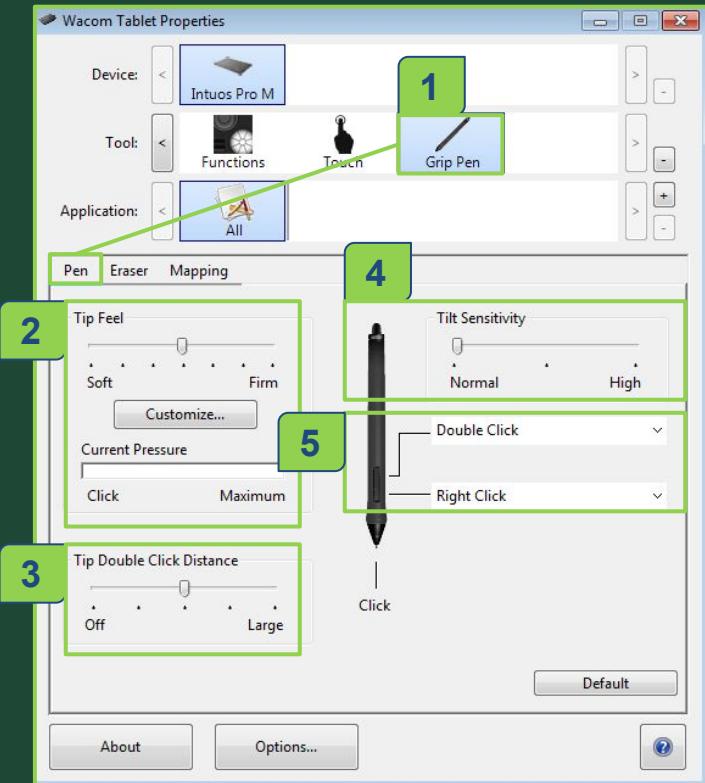
Wacom Setup | Touch Settings



Most tablets have a touch sensitive surface, this allows them to be used like a mouse, similar to a trackpad on a laptop and also allows the use of gestures.

1. Run a finger across the surface of the tablet and note the movement of the cursor.
2. To adjust touch settings, click on the **Touch** button in the tool section of the properties window.
3. Touch input can be enabled/disabled by clicking the **Enable touch input** checkbox.
4. Touch gesture settings can be adjusted under the **Standard Gestures** and **My Gestures** tabs.

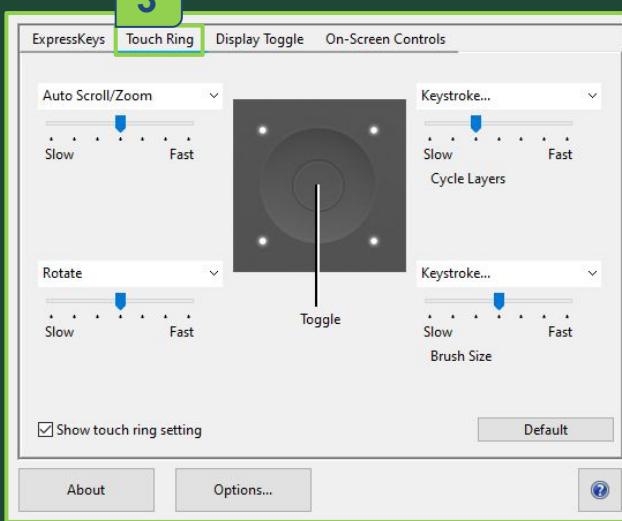
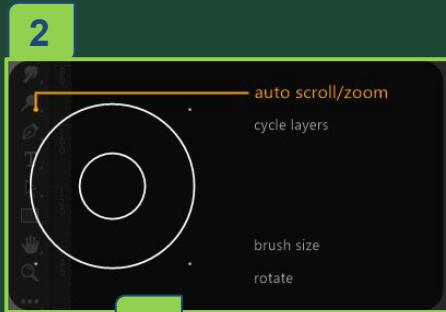
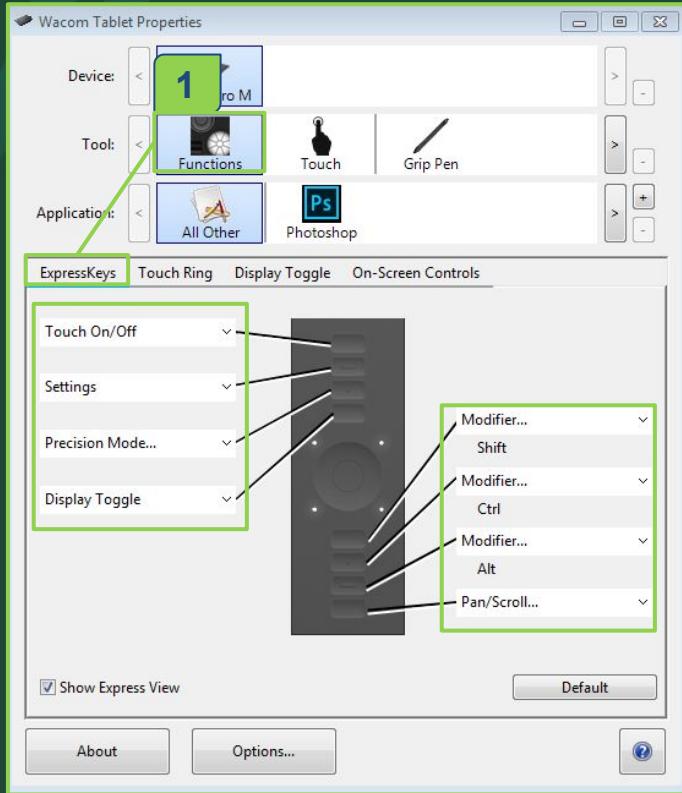
Wacom Setup | Pen Settings



To adjust touch pen settings:

1. Under the **Grip Pen** section, click on the **Pen** tab.
2. Pen pressure sensitivity can be adjusted by dragging the slider under **Tip Feel**. A firm tip tends to be better for sketching and drawing linework. A soft tip tends to be better for achieving a more painterly feel.
3. **Tip Double Click Distance** controls the maximum delay required for two consecutive clicks to be interpreted as a double click, it can also be toggled off.
4. Tilt is also supported by some software packages. **Tilt Sensitivity** can be modified by adjusting the slider.
5. The functions for the pen buttons can also be modified in the Pen tab.

Wacom Setup | Express Keys & Touch Ring

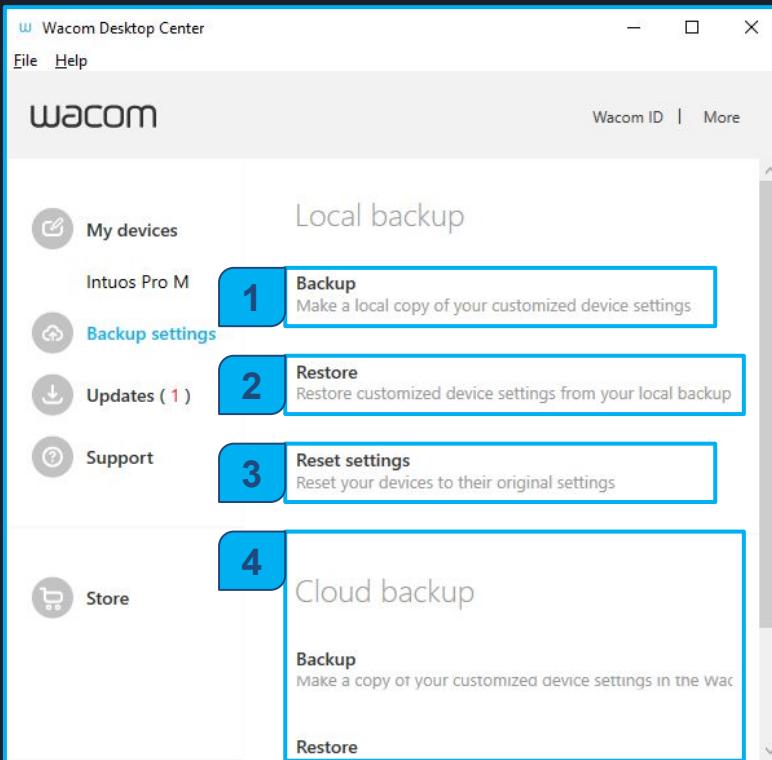


Express keys and the touch ring are buttons on the slide of the tablet which are linked to various shortcuts/functions in applications.

1. Click on the Functions tool and then the **ExpressKeys** tab, the button functions for each application can be adjusted via the drop down menus.
2. The **Touch Ring** allows quick access to pre-defined functions, press the button in the center of the touch ring and move your finger around the touch ring to cycle through the various functions. The ring itself will control the selected function.
3. To adjust touch ring settings, click on the **Touch Ring** tab in the functions section.

It is worth spending some time adjusting the settings to best align with your workflow to improve efficiency.

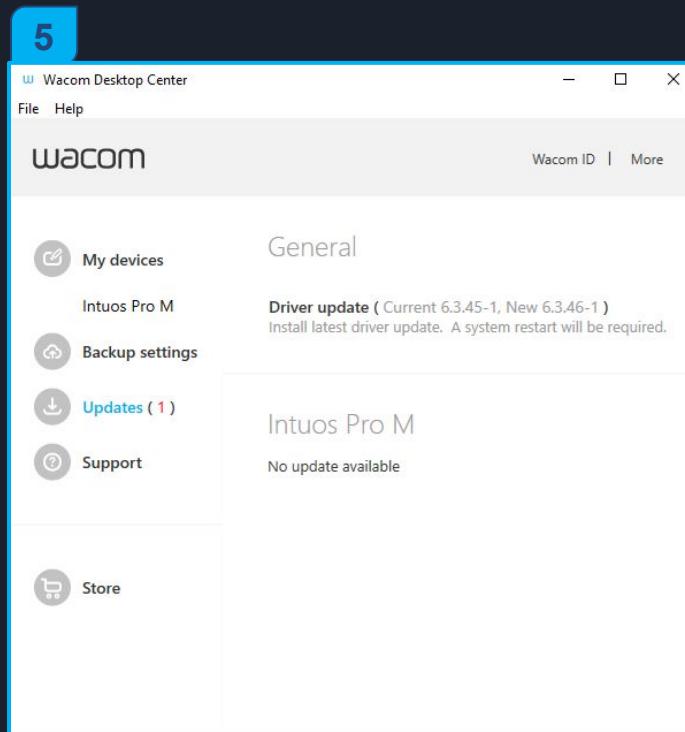
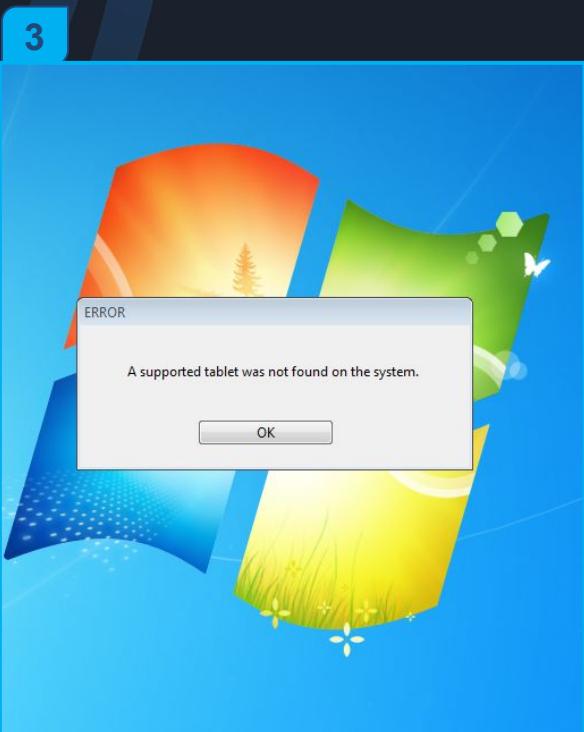
Wacom Setup | Backup & Restoring Settings



Once device settings have been adjusted it is a good idea to create a backup, this is particularly important when moving between different workstations. Backing up and restoring device settings can be done via the **Wacom Desktop Center**.

1. **Backup** allows a copy of your customised device settings to be saved locally as a .wacomprefs file.
2. **Restore** allows a previously saved local backup to be loaded onto the current system.
3. **Reset settings** can be used to return the device to factory default settings.
4. Device settings can also be backed up on the Wacom Cloud which is part of your Wacom account, allowing the device settings to be accessed on any device that has internet access.

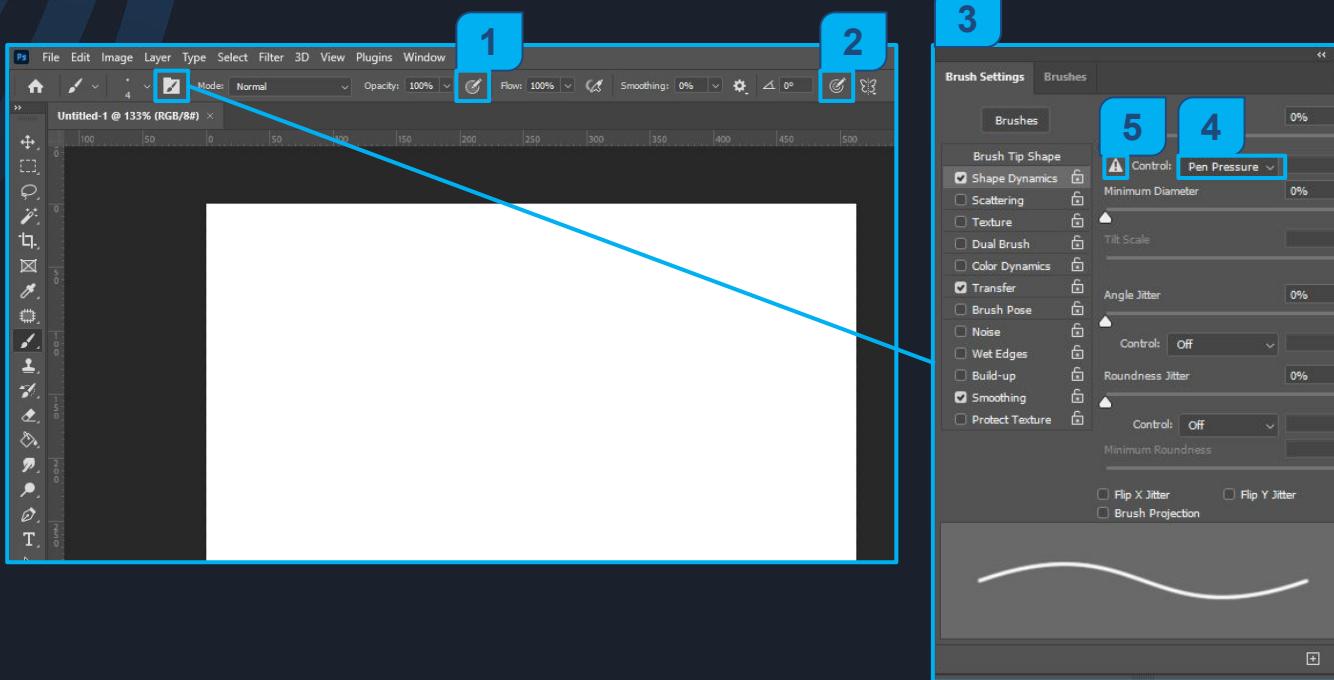
Wacom Setup | Common Issues



If you are having any issues with your device, go through the following checklist:

1. After installing the drivers for the first time it is recommend that you restart the computer.
2. If the device is not being detected or displayed ensure that the USB/HDMI cable is connected correctly and try a different USB port.
3. If the device is connected and allowing input but does not support pen pressure check that the drivers are functioning correctly by opening the **Wacom Tablet Properties** application and close and reopen any software applications that may have been open when the device was plugged in.
4. If standard mouse input is not working double check that the stylus is not resting on the surface of the tablet.
5. The **Wacom Desktop Center** can be used to troubleshoot hardware and driver issues. If an issue cannot be resolved contact Wacom support: <https://support.wacom.com/hc/en-us>

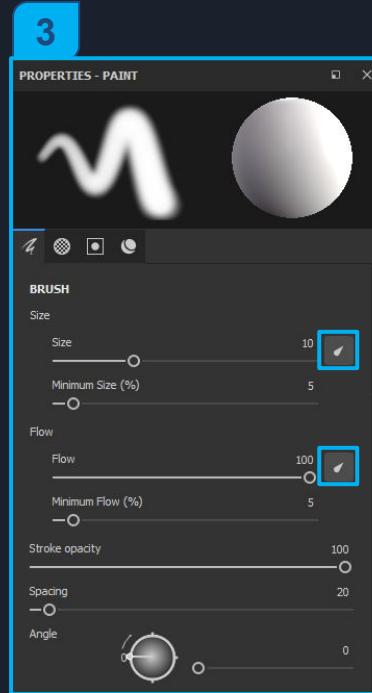
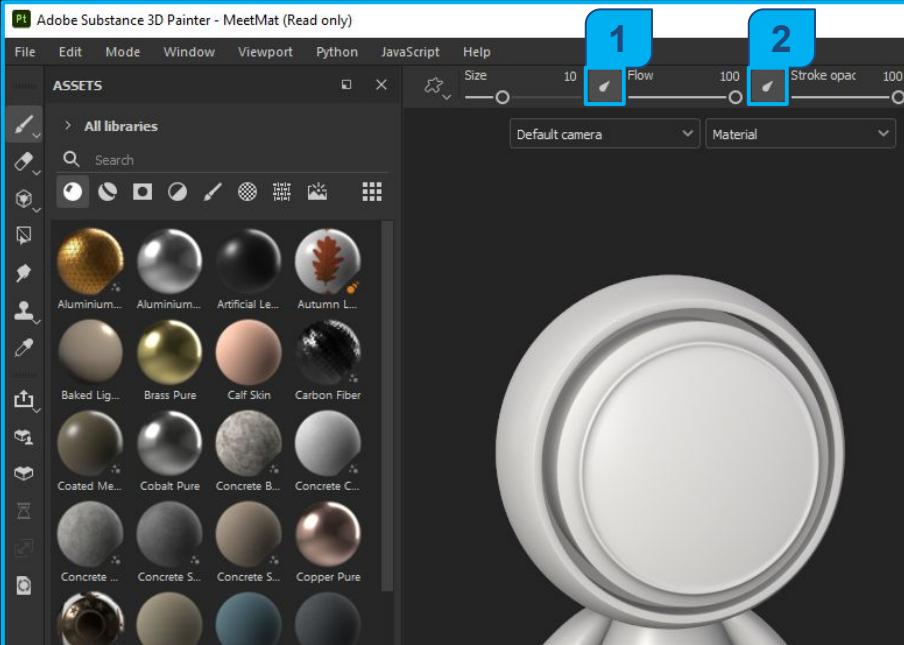
Wacom Setup | Photoshop Settings



Photoshop supports pen pressure input for brush size and opacity.

1. **Always use Pressure for Opacity** can be toggled via the button next to opacity in the tool options bar.
2. **Always use Pressure for Size** can be toggled via the button on the right of the tool options bar.
3. Options for enabling pen pressure can also be found in the **Brush Settings** window, which can be accessed via the button on the left of the tool options bar. Shape dynamics controls brush size and transfer controls opacity.
4. Pen pressure must be selected from the control dropdown to enable pressure control.
5. If an exclamation mark icon is visible next to the control dropdown in the brush settings, then the tablet device has not been detected or is not functioning correctly.

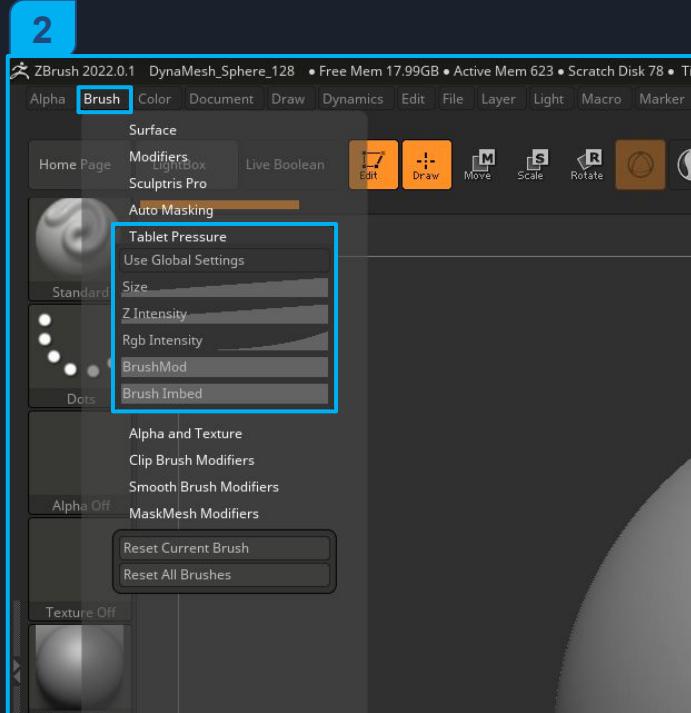
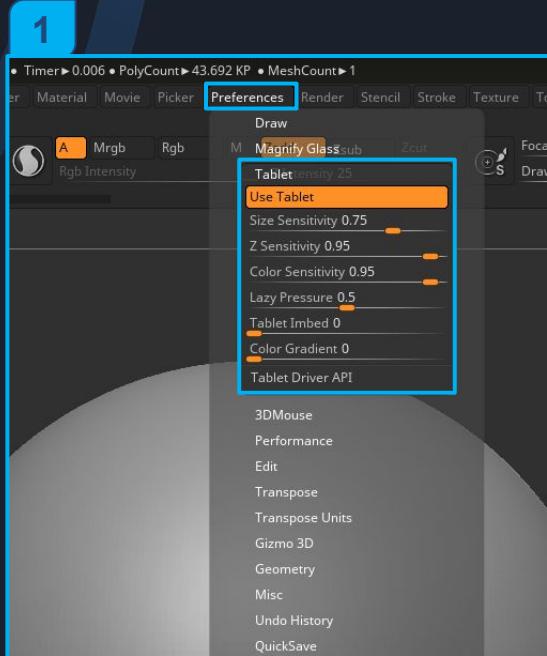
Wacom Setup | Substance Painter Settings



Substance Painter supports pen pressure input for brush size and flow.

1. Pen pressure can be enabled/disabled by clicking on the pen pressure icon next to the size and flow sliders in the Contextual Toolbar.
2. Pen pressure can also be enabled/disabled in the properties panel when a tool is selected, along with settings for angle and jitter.

Wacom Setup | ZBrush Settings



ZBrush supports pen pressure input for brush size and intensity.

1. Pen pressure can be enabled/disabled by clicking on the Use Tablet button under the Preferences/Tablet dropdown menu, various settings for tablet sensitivity can also be found in this location.
2. Pen pressure settings can also be found under Brush/Tablet Pressure drop down menu. Falloff curves can be adjusted globally or can be adjusted for Size, Z Intensity and RGB Intensity separately.

Wacom Setup | Summary

Discover what you can do with Wacom

Whether you want to draw, break into the world of design, develop your video and animation skills or become a note taking pro, there are myriad ways to get creative with Wacom.

Use a pen display or pen computer to craft amazing 3D models, grab a digital pen and hand write notes on your laptop or Android device, or learn the finer points of photo editing with a pen tablet. With Wacom, there's no limit to how you can express your creativity. If you've got the urge to make something, we can help turn it into reality.



Draw
See your sketches come to life with Wacom's amazing range of pen displays and tablets.

Design
From mastering graphics to creating amazing products, develop your design skills with Wacom.

3D & Game
Turn your passion for movies and games into 3D art and create incredible lifelike models in no time.

The Wacom website has a range of learning resources that can be used to familiarise you with the hardware and its functionality in various applications.

Today you have learned how to setup a wacom tablet and some of the basic functionality and settings.

Complete:

You should now be able to setup and adjust the settings of a Wacom tablet.

Usability:

Tablets can be used in place of the mouse in various applications to create digital assets during production.

What next:

Experiment with the various pen, mapping and function settings and find the optimal settings to complement your workflow.