

LAYERS

PHOTOSHOP CC

2020

About Layers

Working with Photoshop layers is like making a sandwich. You can see through layers—if they are transparent—to the layers below. You can move a layer to position the content on the layer and also change the opacity of a layer to make content partially transparent. Virtually every thing is done in layers in Photoshop, each time you paste, it pastes the content onto a new layer, if you drag a layer into a file, it puts it on its own layer.

Work non destructively

Sometimes layers don't contain any apparent content. For example, an adjustment layer holds color or tonal adjustments that affect the layers below it. Rather than edit image pixels directly, you can edit an adjustment layer and leave the underlying pixels unchanged.

Organize layers

A new image has a single layer. The number of additional layers, layer effects, and layer sets you can add to an image is limited only by your computer's memory.

Types of Layers

Raster Layer - A layer that has a raster image on it (one made of pixels)

Type Layer - Any layer that has editable type

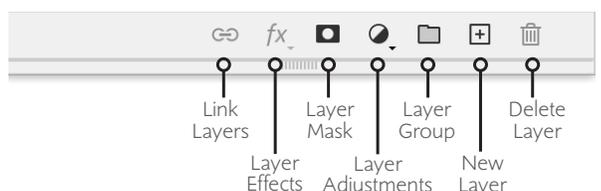
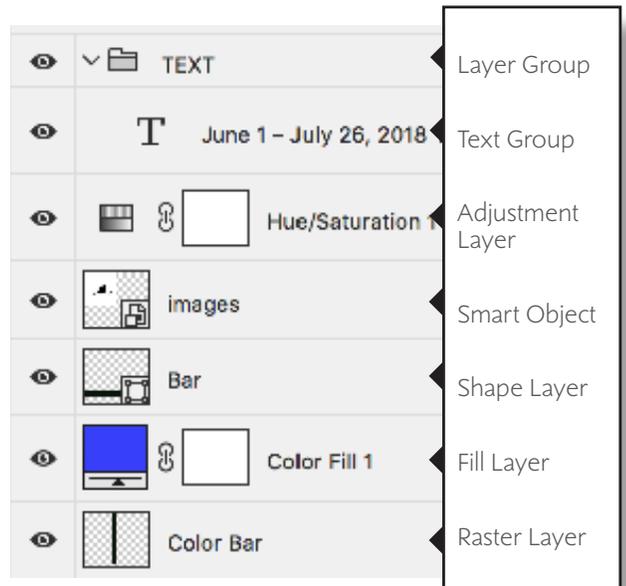
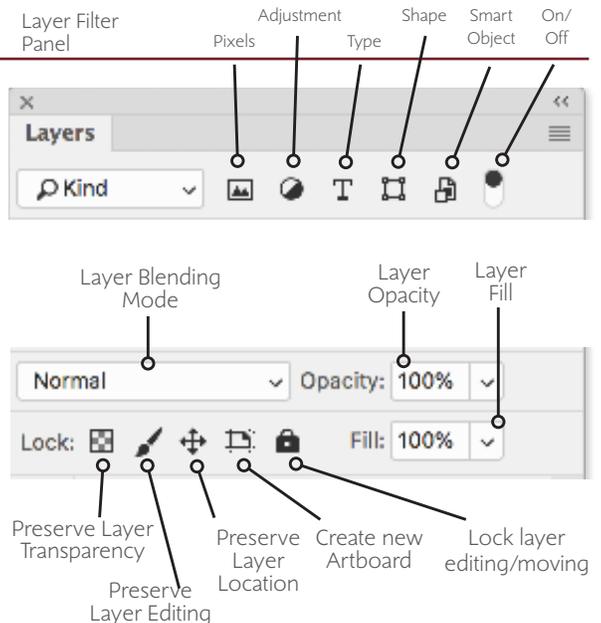
Fill Layer - A layer that is filled with a color, pattern or gradient

Shape Layer - A fill layer define by a vector mask

Adjustment Layer - Non destructive color correction

Smart Object - Smart Objects are layers that contain image data from raster or vector images, such as Photoshop or Illustrator files. Smart Objects preserve an image's source content with all its original characteristics, enabling you to perform nondestructive editing to the layer.

Layer Group (Set) - A folder to store layers in a group



Unlocking the Background "Layer"

Technically the locked "layer" called Background really isn't a layer, it is just the bottom most image in the document. This background cannot have layers placed below it, just above it. It also cannot be moved, scaled, transformed. There is NOTHING special about this background layer, it just sits there and doesn't do anything.

To MAKE it a layer:

- **Double-click** on the layer name (Background) and name it
- Drag the **LOCK** icon into the trash icon in the layer palette
- **OPTION+DOUBLE CLICK** on the lock icon



Layer Transparency

New layers are transparent by default until pixels are added to a layer. Transparency is indicated by a gray and white checkerboard pattern on the layer and the layer thumbnail.

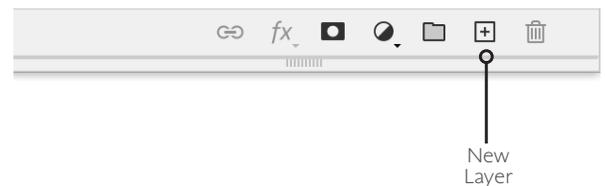
To edit preferences regarding layers, choose Photoshop > Preferences > Transparency & Gamut.

These settings allow the user to edit the transparency grid to control the color and size of the squares in the grid



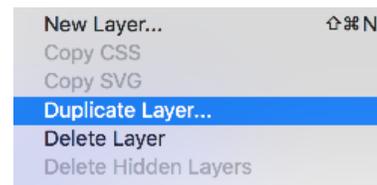
Create a new Layer

- **Click** on the  at the bottom of the layers panel, creates a new layer above the selected layer
- **Command + Click** on the  at the bottom of the layers panel, creates a new layer below the selected layer
- **Option+ Click** on the  creates a layer WITH the dialog box
- **Shift+Option+N** creates a layer WITH the dialog box
- **Shift+Option+Command+N** creates a layer WITHOUT the dialog box



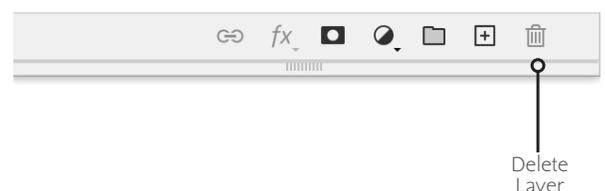
Copy a Layer

- **Drag** the layer onto the  at the bottom of the layers panel
- **Option+drag the layer** creates a duplicate layer
- **Drag a layer** from another open Photoshop file OR **Shift+Drag** will copy it into the exact location it came from
- **Command + A** (Select All) and **copy** and **paste the selection** and it automatically pastes as a new layer
- **Layer>Duplicate Layer** duplicates the selected layer
- **COMMAND + J** (Layer via Copy) duplicates the layer



Delete a Layer

- **Drag** the layer onto the  at the bottom of the layers panel
- **Click** on the  with the layer selected
- **Select the layer** with the **move tool**  then hit **DELETE**
- Multiple layers can be selected and deleted at once



Select a Layer

- **Click** on the layer thumbnail and the layer highlights in blue
 - **Command+Click** on the document and the layer will be selected
 - **Right Click (Control+Click)** on the layer to call up a list of layers to choose from
- **Auto Select** in the move tool control bar

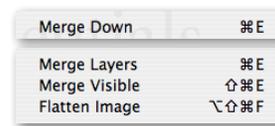


Select Multiple Layers

- **Shift+Click** selects layers in sequential order
- **Command+Click** selects layers in non sequential order

Merge Layers

- **Command + E** merges a single layer down to the next layer
- **Command + E** merges multiple selected layers
- **Shift+ Command + E** merges all layers that are made visible
- **Flatten Image** merges a ALL layers down to one layer
- **Shift+ Option+ Command + E** merges all visible layers into a new, unique layer WITHOUT flattening any other layers

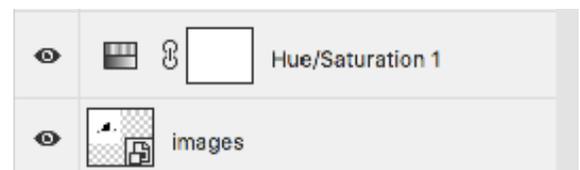


Move Layers

- **Drag the layer** up or down the layer stack to position in the stack
- **Shift+Command+]** moves the layer to the TOP of the stack
- **Shift+Command+[** moves the layer to the BOTTOM of the stack
- **Command+]** moves the layer UP the stack, one layer at a time
- **Command+[** moves the layer DOWN the stack, one layer at a time

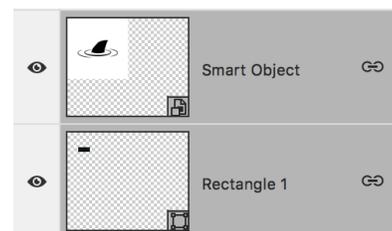
Turn layers on and off

- **Click** on the eye next to the layer thumbnail
- **Click+Slide** over the eye to turn on or off all layers
- **Option+Click** on the eye turns off all BUT the layer selected, option+ click turns them back on



Group Layers

- **Click** on the  at the bottom of the layers panel and then drag the layer icons into the folder. Everything in the folder then acts as a group, transforms as a group and can be masked as a group.
- **SHIFT + CLICK** on the  at the bottom of the layers panel when you have the layers selected and it will put them all into the group
- Select the layers in the Layers Panel you want to group, then choose LAYER>Group Layers or **Command + G**



Link Layers

- **Click** on the  at the bottom of the layers panel when you have 2 or more layers selected. Everything linked can be transformed as a group
- **To temporarily disable a link**, SHIFT + CLICK on the link icon on the layer and a red X will appear on the link icon. This takes the layer out of the link until you shift + click on the link icon again

Align Layers

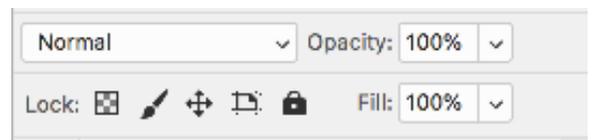
- Select 2 or more layers then choose the type of alignment
- **Auto Align** (icon of peoples heads) allows Photoshop to align layers based on similarities in the layered image



Control Layer Opacity

Layer opacity and the opacity of the content of those layers can be controlled using the Opacity slider in the Layers Panel.

- Use the Layer Opacity drop down menu to set a value
- Click on the word Opacity and slide back and forth
- Have your Move Tool selected and use the number pad on the right side of the keyboard to type in a value. 5=50%, 9=90%, 0=100%



Selecting Items on Layers

With the Move tool selected, **Command+Click** on the layer thumbnail to selected all the items on that layer.

Transforming Items on Layers

In the Move Tool Control Bar, click the **Show Transform Controls** to show the bounding box around the items on the selected layer.

Command +T will bring up the Transform function to manipulate the selected items on the layer.

When you have the transform bounding box active, you can **RIGHT + CLICK** or **CONTROL + CLICK** to access all the transform commands.

To exit the transform, click on the accept or cancel icons in the Control Bar

- OR click **RETURN** to accept

- OR hit **ESC** or **COMMAND + .** to cancel



Shape Layers

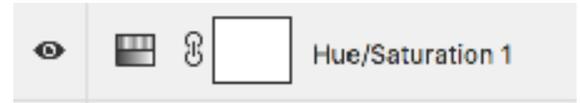
Shape Layers are layers that are filled with solid color and are masked by a VECTOR mask. Shape layers are vector and can be scaled without any degradation in quality. All the shape tools as well as the pen tool can create these vector Shape Layers.



Adjustment Layers

Layers > Adjustment Layer...

Adjustment Layers are layers that allow for non-destructive color correction. These can be masked, turned on and off and can have the opacity set just like normal layers.



Layer Comps

A layer comp is a snapshot of a state of the Layers palette. Layer comps record three types of layer options:

- Layer visibility—whether a layer is showing or hidden.
- Layer position in the document.
- Layer appearance—whether a layer style is applied to the layer and the layer's blending mode.

• Create New Layer Comp

Click the  button at the bottom of the Layer Comps palette. Apply to layers:

Visibility, Position, and Appearance.

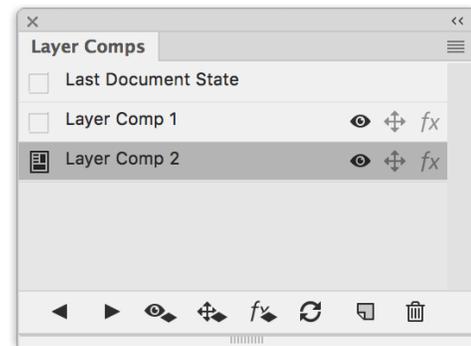
• Export Layer Comps

Choose File > Scripts and then choose one of the following commands:

Layer Comps To Files Exports all layer comps to individual files, one for each comp.

Layer Comps To PDF Exports all layer comps to a PDF file.

Layer Comps To WPG Exports all layer comps to web photo gallery.



Smart Objects

You can transform (scale, skew, or reshape) a Smart Object without directly editing image pixels. Or, you can edit the Smart Object as a separate image even after placing it in a Photoshop image. Smart Objects can also contain smart filter effects, which allow you to apply filters non destructively to images so that you can later tweak or remove the filter effect.

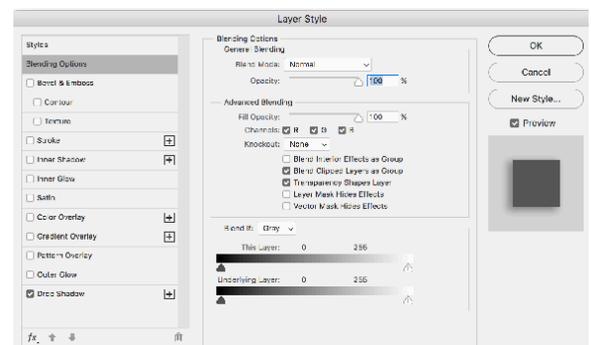
• File > Open as Smart Object

• Layer > Smart Object > Convert to Smart Object



Layer Effects

Photoshop provides a variety of effects—such as shadows, glows,



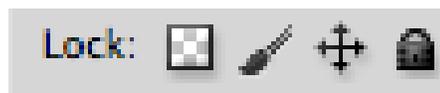
and bevels—that change the appearance of a layer’s contents. Layer effects are linked to the layer contents. When you move or edit the contents of the layer, the same effects are applied to contents.

- Layer effects can be **turned on and off** by clicking the eye next to the layer effect. All effects can be turned off by clicking next to the word Effects on the layer.
- Layer effects can be **copied to another layer** by OPTION + DRAG the effects to another layer
- Double click on the layer effect to edit it.

Layer Lock Options

This is one of the most over looked features of layers that I have seen. Layer locking can be a great help in trying to lock certain aspects of the layer or just locking the layer itself.

- **Transparency lock** - keeps all the transparent pixels locked to prevent editing, painting or erasing.
- **Layer Editing lock** - prevents editing, painting or erasing.
- **Layer Location lock** - prevents the layer from moving but the pixels can be edited, painted or erased
- **Lock All** - prevents editing, painting, erasing or moving that layer



Layer Panel Options

Options for the layers panel can be found under the layer panel drop down menu. Here you can set the size of the thumbnail displays, control thumbnail content options and Masks on Fill Layers.

