

Photoshop for Photographers Class 3, Layers

Section One: Layers

I. Layers are two-dimensional segments of a picture used to separate different elements of the picture. They have no thickness, are utterly transparent, and harken back to the storyboards used in pre-digital stop-motion animation.

A. Background Layer-The base image

The background is where the image starts. It can be:

1. Blank
 - a. Transparent-Called “Layer 0” and can be moved or renamed
 - b. Black-Called “Background” and can not be moved or renamed
 - c. White-Called “Background” and can not be moved or renamed
 - d. Any solid color-Called “Background” and can not be moved or renamed
2. Any existing image- Labeled by the image’s file name and can be moved or renamed
3. No other layer can be placed below the background
4. Background layer can be converted to moveable layer
 - a. From the Layers Pallet
 - i. Right-Click Background layer
 - ii. Select “Layer From Background”
 - iii. Set the options as preferred and name the layer
 - b. From the Layers Menu
 - i. Choose Layer>New>Layer from Background
 - ii. Set the options as preferred and name the layer
5. Any art layer can be converted to the background
 - i. Select the layer in the Layers Pallet
 - ii. Choose Layer>New>Background from Layer from the Layers Menu

B. Fill Layer

1. Solid Color
2. Gradient
3. Pattern

C. Art Layer-Anything added to the base image

D. Adjustment Layer-Layers used to affect color balance, exposure, hue, etc.

Can affect just one, or all subsequent layers. Masks come later

There are fifteen different adjustment layers; we will be dealing with only nine.

1. Brightness/Contrast
2. Levels
3. Curves
4. Exposure
5. Vibrance
6. Hue/Saturation
7. Color Balance
8. Black & White

9. Photo Filters

E. Text Layer-Text

II. Layers Palette- Used to create, copy, hide, view, move, delete, rename, and merge layers

Using drop-down menu at top right of palette:

- A. Create new layer
- B. Duplicate layer
- C. Delete layer
- D. Delete hidden layers
- E. Groups
- F. Smart Objects
- G. Edit Contents-Refers to Smart Objects
- H. Layer Properties
- I. Blending Properties-See list
- J. Edit Adjustment
- K. Create Clipping Mask-Wait for masks
- L. Link Layers
- M. Select Linked Layers
- N. Merge...
 - 1. ...Down
 - 2. ...Visible
 - 3. Flatten
- O. Close

III. Hiding and viewing layers

- A. Click on the Eye Icon
- B. Adjust opacity from Opacity field in the Layers Palette.

IV. Moving layers

- A. From the Layers Menu-Choose: Layer>Arrange>...
- B. Drag & Drop

V. Deleting layers

- A. Drag to trash can at bottom of Layers Palette
- B. From the Layer Menu-Layer>Delete>...
- C. Right-Click on the layer, select "Delete"

VI. Rename-Double-Click on layer name, key in new name, press "Enter"

VII. Merge Layers

- A. Using the layer menu
 - 1. Layer> Merge Down: merges selected layer into layer below
 - 2. Layer> Merge Visible: merges all (or selected layers) into one layer
 - 3. Layer>Flatten: merges all layers into one
- B. Same options available with Right-Click

VIII. Layer Styles-Accessible through the Layer Menu or by double-clicking the layer.

- A. Drop Shadow
- B. Inner Shadow
- C. Outer Glow
- D. Inner Glow
- E. Bevel and Emboss
 - a. Contour
 - b. Texture
- F. Satin
- G. Color Overlay
- H. Gradient Overlay
- I. Pattern Overlay
- J. Stroke

Section Two: Layer Masks and Selections

- I. Quick mask
 - A. Quick Select tool or Magic Wand
 - B. Brush
- II. Using Selections to create masks
- III. Using the Brush tool to edit a mask.
- IV. Gradient Masks
- V. Clipping Masks