

# MASKS

You can combine images non destructively by using masks.

A mask starts with a selection (Dancing Ants)

Masks control the image, what is revealed, what is hidden, the transition between the two.

white	-reveals
black	-conceals
gray	-allows more or less of the image to be revealed
gradient	-darker gray hides more than a lighter gray
X	-reverses foreground background colors
bracket	-left bracket makes the brush smaller right bracket makes the brush larger
shift bracket	-left bracket makes the brush softer
option bracket	-right bracket makes the brush harder
option click	-on the mask to reveal the mask in black and white
shift click	-disables the mask
command click	-loads mask as a selection
shift command "I"	-inverses a <b>selection</b> (dancing ants)
<b>command "I"</b>	<b>-inverts the mask (making black white and white black)</b>
control click	-brings up contextual menu for the selection
drag and drop	-move the mask from one layer to another
option drag and drop	-copies the mask to another layer
command delete	-fills the mask with the background color
option delete	-fills the mask with the foreground color

## Filter menu

gaussian blur	-makes edges of the mask softer (feather with a preview)
maximum	-makes white area larger
minimum	-makes white area smaller

Masking Exercise:

- 1) open two images
- 2) hold the shift key and drag your one image ontop of the other image
- 3) create a layer mask on the top image layer
- 4) using guides divide your canvas into 4 equal parts
- 5) go to the second from the left segment  
use the marquee tool and select the segment  
fill the segment with black
- 6) go to the third from the left segment  
use the marquee tool and select the segment  
fill the segment with 128,128,128 gray
- 7) go to the fourth from the left segment  
use the marquee tool and select the segment  
using the gradient tool, white to black -lay down a gradient
- 8) using the text tool write the mask color on the appropriate segment
- 9) wow, that was an exercise.

## Layer Mask

You can use the content of a layer to mask the layers above it. The transparent pixels of the bottom or base layer mask the content of layers above it that are part of a clipping mask. The content of the base layer clips (reveals), the content of the layers above it in the clipping mask.

You can use multiple layers in a clipping mask, but they must be successive layers. **The name of the base layer in the mask is underlined, and the thumbnails for the overlying layers are indented.** The overlying layers display a clipping mask icon.

The Blend Clipped Layers As Group option in the Layer Style dialog box determines whether the blending mode of the base affects the whole group or just the base. (See Grouping blend effects.)

To create a clipping mask

- 1) Arrange the layers in the Layers palette so that the base layer with the mask is below the layers that you want to mask.
- 2) Do one of the following:
  - a) Hold down Alt (Windows) or Option (Mac OS), position the pointer over the line dividing two layers in the Layers palette (the pointer changes to two overlapping circles ), and click.
  - b) Select a layer in the Layers palette, and choose Layer > Create Clipping Mask. The clipping mask is assigned the opacity and mode attributes of the bottommost layer in the group.

Exercise:

- 1) Open an image with texture
- 2) Open an image with a selectable object  
Make selection, create layer mask  
Create clipping mask

### Quick change of Blend Modes

- 1) move tool
- 2) shift "+" to advance through modes
- 3) Shift "-" to step back in blend modes

What layer order should your images be in to work?

- 3) Open a few more images and create (explore) a composite
- 4) Save and print your finished composite

- use blend modes
- change opacity
- an adjustment layer can be a clipping mask  
while holding the option key down, create new adjustment layer from the layers palette.  
a dialogue box opens -tic, Use Previous Layer to Create Clipping Mask  
if you miss it use step "a" on previous page

-create a layer Group

- To create a new group using default options, click the New Group button in the Layers palette.
- 5th icon from left bottom of layers palette (the Folder)
- drag layers into folder  
by using a layer group you can group like (support) layers together to reduce the layer palette size, when group is closed
- you can apply a layer mask to a group
  - make a selection, select group layer, create layer mask.
  - the mask will affect everything inside the folder (group)