

## How to: Smart Objects

### OLD WAY

Transform your object by scaling it down. Then press Enter to set the transformation. Then re-scale it to the original size. You end up with a blurry, pixelated object.

### NEW WAY

Convert your layer into a Smart Object Layer.

Menu: Layer - Smart Object - Group into New Smart Object

Now scale the object down. Press Enter to set the transformation. Then, we re-scale the object back to the original size. No blurry, pixelated image.

You can size down, then back up to the original size...  
you CANNOT size up and up past the original size. You will still get pixelization.

<http://www.adobe.com/products/photoshop/newfeatures.html>  
click on the smart objects video

[http://www.photoshopuser.com/pscs2/smart\\_objects.html](http://www.photoshopuser.com/pscs2/smart_objects.html)  
video

[http://media.studio.adobe.com/linked\\_content/en/phscs2ttsorez/phscs2ttsorez.pdf](http://media.studio.adobe.com/linked_content/en/phscs2ttsorez/phscs2ttsorez.pdf)  
video and PDF

## Don't open that huge layered file!

Adapted from "Photoshop CS Down & Dirty Tricks" by Scott Kelby, © 2004. Used with permission of Pearson Education, Inc.

Sometimes you just need a quick look at a file, but if your layered file is 200 MB, 300 MB, etc. in total size, it's not going to be a quick look. That is, unless you know this little trick that lets you open a flattened version of that very same file, which will be dramatically smaller in file size (which means it will open much faster). Just hold Shift-Option (PC: Shift-Alt) before you open the file (using the Open command in Adobe® Photoshop® CS2) and it will bring up a dialog asking you if you want to open just "the composite data." Click OK and a flattened version will open instead (leaving your layered version untouched).

When using this feature, be careful to start with a 300 dpi scan or higher. If you start with a 72 dpi scan, and choose 133 line with Best quality, it'll jump you up to 266 ppi; but it doesn't warn you that your image will look so pixelated when printed that it will trash your whole project, because you can't add resolution that's not really there to begin with.

## How can I merge layers, but not lose them in the process?

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You can merge layers in Adobe® Photoshop® CS2 (U.S.) without losing them in the process by stamping them. Stamping allows you to merge the contents of more than one layer into a target layer while leaving the other layers intact. Typically, the selected layer is stamped down to the layer below it.

To stamp multiple selected layers or linked layers, first select the layers. Next, press Ctrl+Alt+E (Windows) or Command+Option+E (Mac OS). Photoshop creates a new layer containing the merged content.