

Diploma in
Photoshop 



Summary Notes
Lesson 4



shawacademy

Photoshop Layers

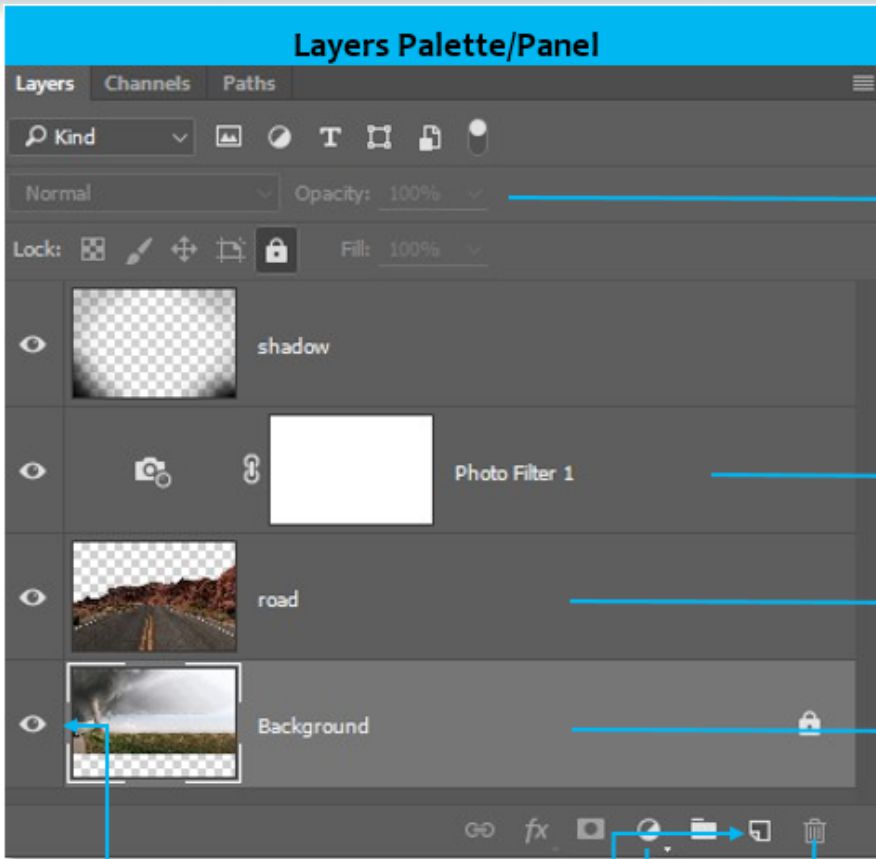
Photoshop layers are like sheets of stacked glass. You can see through transparent areas of a layer to the layers below. Transparency is represented by a chequered board pattern. A fully transparent area is missing colour in each square pixel.

You can also change the opacity of a layer to make content partially transparent. these pixels are filled with colour but have a low value of transparency.

Layers are non-destructive and completely reversible. They allow for safer and more professional editing.



Layer Panel



Opacity Slider

Adjustment Layer

Pixel Layer – made of pixels

Background Layer – locked.
To unlock, double click on
layer and change the name.
Click OK.

Delete Layer

Eyeball icon toggles layer
on and off.

New Layer. Drag layer
here to duplicate it.

New Adjustment Layer



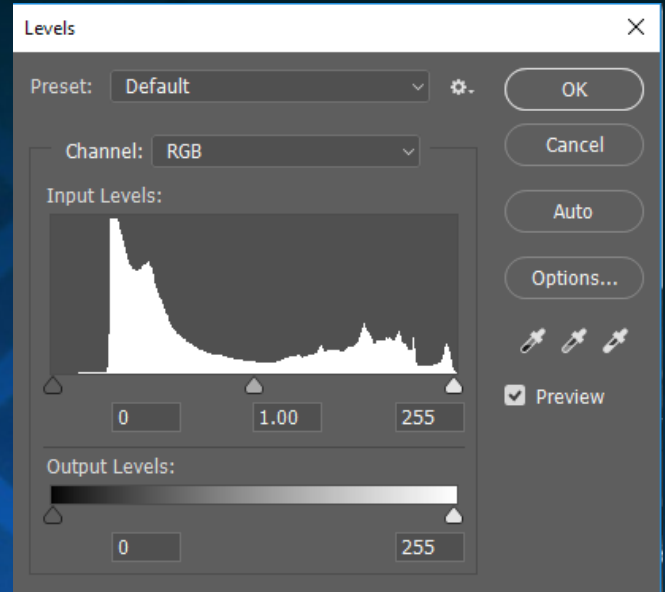
Useful Tip! To make the thumbnails of each layer located on the layer panel larger, simply right click the grey area in the layer panel, select 'Large Thumbnail' or any of the other size options.

Layer Types

Adjustment Layer

An adjustment layer applies colour and tonal adjustments to your image without permanently changing pixel values, therefore they are considered non-destructive. The adjustments are stored in the adjustment layer and apply to all the layers below it.

There are many advantages to using adjustment layers. As they are non-destructive, you can try different settings and re-edit the adjustment layer at any time. You can also reduce the effect of the adjustment by lowering the opacity of the layer or delete the adjustment entirely. Because adjustment layers contain adjustment data rather than pixels, they increase file size far less than standard pixel layers.



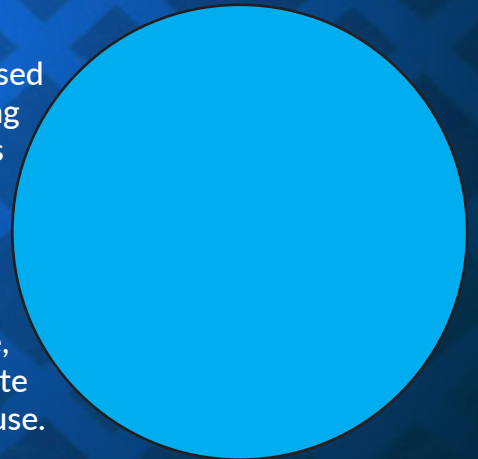
Text Layer

A text layer works just like a word document. You can change the type of font, the size and the colour. Each use of the text tool will create a new text layer to be edited and moved on the document stage. The text layer can be rasterised into pixels for further editing.

Shape Layer

A Shape layer is a vector based design within the largely raster based photoshop. a shape layer is not pixel based but a vector meaning it can scale up and down without any loss to the image. This is like Adobe Illustrator, a vector based editor. The shape layer can be added and subtracted from using the various other shape layer types.

The shape layers consist of a rectangle, rounded rectangle, ellipse, polygon and custom shape options based on icons. You can create your own custom shapes and save them in photoshop for further use.





Masking

Masking can be explained as hiding certain pixels to let the image below be seen. Masks are applied to a layer and can be used on every type of layer.

Layer masks use values of grey to assign levels of transparency to specific portions of a layer or group of layers.



Masking! A good way to remember the values of masking is to say "Black to Conceal, White to Reveal". White will show your layer while black will hide or mask the layer.

