

# PHOTOSHOP FOR PHOTOGRAPHERS

## Part 4: Layers:

**Layers** are probably the most useful and safest tools in Photoshop.

If you choose **not** to use **Layers** for quick and simple operations on an original image, then protect the original by doing the following:

1. Open the original image file.
2. Right click on the **blue bar** at the top of the window.
3. Select **Duplicate**.
4. Close the original and work on the duplicate.

## Normal Layers

### TO DARKEN AN UNDEREXPOSURE

1. Open image **15-Lean-to\_035035-03-04031-Appalachian-Trail.jpg**.
2. Keyboard <Ctrl+J> to make a duplicate layer.  
*Notice that active layers are indicated with a **frame** border in the **Layers** panel.*
3. At the word **Normal**, in the **Layers** panel, pull down the menu and do the following:
  - a. Click on **Multiply** to darken the image. *Notice that the image density has doubled.*
  - b. Click on the **Opacity** arrow and move the slider to 50%.
  - c. Some areas still too dark? Then we could select the **Eraser** tool from the **Toolbox**, and erase the parts that we want to make lighter with a 50% opacity eraser. But erasers are final. There is a better way. At the bottom of the layers panel, click on the **Layer Mask** button (3rd icon from the left). Now use the **Paint Brush** tool to paint out whatever you were going to erase.
  - d. First hit the **“D”** key to bring the palette colors to their **B&W** default. Then select the **Paint Brush** tool if you haven't done it already. On the options bar adjust the **Brush** circle to 400, and **Opacity** to 50%, and paint out the areas that you feel are too dark. If you make a mistake, hit the **“X”** key and “white out” the mistake. *Cool huh?!*

### TO LIGHTEN AN OVEREXPOSURE

1. Open **13-Wetlands-10D-CRW\_6064071605.jpg**.
2. Keyboard <Ctrl+J> to make a duplicate layer.
3. At the word **Normal**, in the **Layers** panel, pull down the menu and do the following:
  - a. Click on **Screen** to lighten the image. *Notice that the layer is half the density of the original image.*
  - b. Click on the **Opacity** arrow and move the slider to 50%. This gives a pleasing balance of tones. Good, but not optimal. Go to the next step. **DO NOT CLOSE THE IMAGE OR LAYER.**
5. To control color **Saturation**, make an additional layer with <Ctrl+J>.  
*Note that the image got lighter. The screen is 50% of the previous 50%. That will disappear with the next step.*
  - a. In the upper left pull-down menu of the **Layers** palette, select **Saturation**.  
*Note that the image went back to the previous density, but the color has not changed.*
  - b. Open the **Hue/Saturation** panel with <Ctrl+U>. Slide the **Saturation** slider to 40%.  
*Keep in mind that this is an effective 20% because it is working on a layer that is already set at 50% density.*  
If pleased with the results, then go to Layer/Flatten Image. Then to Filter/Sharpen/Smart Sharpen and sharpen at 50%.  
*This is a low-resolution image, so that is all it will need.*

## SMOOTHER SKIN FOR THAT PROFESSIONAL MODEL LOOK

Rough skin, zits, or wrinkles in a portrait can be minimized or even disappear using a gaussian blur on a layer with a mask. NO, NO, don't tell the model to wear a mask. Do it in Photoshop.

1. Open **09-Shirley-00611-15-04.jpg** again, and make a duplicate layer by keyboarding <Ctrl+J>.
2. In the main menu, go to **Filter/Blur/Gaussian Blur**, and set the **Radius to 2.0**. Click **OK**.
3. At the bottom of the layers panel, click on the **Layer Mask** button (3rd icon from the left) (see Fig. 3-1) **while holding down the** <ALT> key.

*Notice that the gaussian blur disappeared.*

4. Hit the **"D"** and then the **"X"** keys so that your active paint color is **White**. Then select the paint brush tool and set the options bar to **Brush: 40, Mode: Normal, Opacity: 25%, Flow: 100**. Paint out the black mask wherever the skin needs to be smoother. If you make a mistake, hit the **"X"** key to change your color to black and paint over the mistake.

*Please note that multiple operations on a single layer may deteriorate the image quality somewhat. Therefore wherever possible, it may be wiser to use **Adjustment Layers** as described below.*

## Adjustment Layers

Each operation that you perform on an original image, or layer, in Photoshop deteriorates that image to some degree. Adjustment layers allow you to view many trial and error operations without doing anything to the original image. You will want to use this function often.

### MAKE ADJUSTMENT LAYER

1. Open image **16-Cormorant-Face-to-face\_6188.jpg**.
2. Click on the black & white circle at the bottom of the **Layers** panel.  
*Note that a pull-down menu appears. In most cases it is advisable to use Adjustment layers whenever performing one of these functions. In some rare cases, where you need to perform regular tasks such as dodging or burning the layer only, you should use regular layers.*

3. In the pull-down menu select **Solid Color**.
4. In the Color Picker that appears, pull the little circle down to the lower right corner of the color field for solid black.
5. Click **OK**, but don't panic. In the **Opacity** pull-down menu of the **Layers** panel, pull the slider to the left to about **30%**.
6. Now select the **Paint Brush** tool, and paint out the areas that you want lighter. Adjust the opacity slider in the options panel at the top of the screen if you like. If you lightened an area too much, then click on the double-pointed, curved arrow in the **Background/Foreground** color chooser at the bottom of the **Toolbox**, and paint it back in (Same as hitting the "X" key).

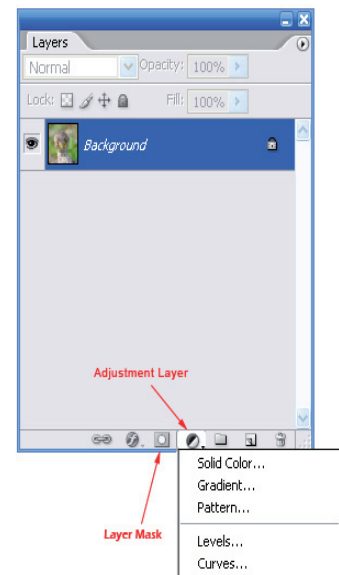


Fig. 3-1

### USING GRADIENT ADJUSTMENT LAYERS

1. Open **17-Burrowing-Owl\_8409.jpg**.
2. In the **Layers** panel, click on the black & white circle at the bottom for an adjustment layer..
3. This time choose **Gradient**.
4. Note the controls: In the Style pull down menu, choose **Radial** (see Fig 3-2).
5. Check the **Reverse** box.
6. Move the **Scale** slider all the way to the left.
7. Place the cursor in the center of the highlight area of the gradient. Click, hold, and drag the highlight up to the center of the owl's face.
8. Move the **Scale** slider to 100%. Click **OK**.
9. In the **Layers** panel move the **Opacity** slider to **60%**.

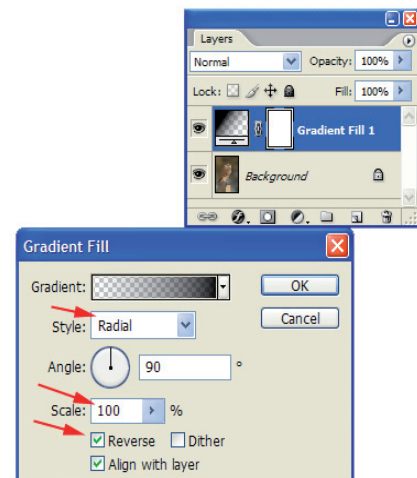


Fig. 3-2

- Choose **Paintbrush** tool from **Toolbox** and lighten parts of the owl's body and legs as described in above in "Normal Layers, step 2-c." Lighten too much? Paint out the mistake with white set to a low opacity.

## The Typography Layer

### GENERAL TYPOGRAPHY

- With the Owl image still open, click the **Type "T"** icon in the **Toolbox**.
- Select a font and size from the **Options** bar.
- Click the upper-left color box (**Foreground color**) near the bottom of the **Toolbox**, and select the typography color.
- Click and drag the cursor across the image area where you want to place the type.
- Begin typing.
- What? Type too small? This may be a large image file. So make the type much larger. Try keyboarding "190" in the **Option bar's** point size box.

*Note: Be sure that the rulers are showing. If they are not, then keyboard <Ctrl+R>. Keep in mind that 72pts = 1 inch of the typeface height. Then figure your type size according to the rulers.*

### ENHANCING TYPE

- Go to **Layer/Layer style/Blending Options**, and check the **Drop Shadow** and **Bevel and Emboss** boxes.
- Now click on the words "Drop Shadow." In the new "Structure" area, click-and-drag the line inside the circle, turning it to the angle you want for the shadow.
- What? Background too dark for the drop shadow? First set the **Blend Mode** pull-down menu to "Normal." Just to the right of the pull-down menu is a solid rectangle. Double click on it and choose a color for the shadow in the color palette that popped up. Then work the sliders below and watch the results in the square to the left. Click **OK**.
- Re-select the type and right click on it. Choose **Warp Text** at the bottom. Choose a shape and play with the controls.

*Have fun.*

## Transform and Free Transform:

### ENHANCING BY ADDITION

- Open **11b-Rainbow-WORKED-FLATTENED\_MG\_6141.jpg**
- Using the rectangle tool, select an area of the rainbow's right end. Then copy it <Ctrl+C> and paste it <Ctrl+V> where it is standing.
- Keyboard <Ctrl+T> to put it into the "Transform" mode. Now the pasted copy of your selection can be moved, twisted, and shaped into any position you like.
- Right click the selected area and choose **Flip Horizontal** from the menu that appears. Then click and drag it over to the left side to fill in the short side of the rainbow.

*Note: If you grab and drag any of the handles of the rectangle in this mode you will change its shape. If you click and drag the center-point handle to a place in or out of the selection you will change the center-point of the rotation. Leave the handles alone for now.*

- Click and twist anywhere outside of the selection to line it up with the main portion of the rainbow. Click within the selection and drag it into perfect position. When finished, double-click within the selection to end the "**Free Transform**" mode.
- Go to the **Layers** palette and click the circle-in-a-square icon at the bottom of the palette to create a layer mask (see Fig 3-3).
- Keyboard the "**D**" to bring the color palette to default, and select the paint brush from the **Toolbox**. Set the option bar to 100% opacity and paint out the small area of hard edge around the selection. Then change the opacity to 50% and soften the cloud area—but NOT THE RAINBOW.

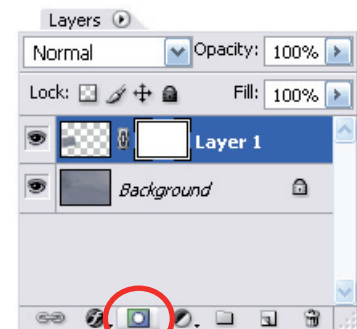


Fig. 3-3

8. Go to the **Layers** palette and bring the opacity down to a pleasing tone that matches the main rainbow.
9. Flatten.

## CHANGING SHAPES

1. With **11b-Rainbow . . .** still open and flattened, make a “Background” layer with **<Ctrl+J>**, and then select all with **<Ctrl+A>**.
2. Go to **Edit/Transform/Warp** and grab the third handle down on the left side and drag it clockwise to form a tighter curve on the left side of the rainbow. Do the same on the right side, but counterclockwise, until you have a pleasing symmetrical curve in the rainbow.
3. To finish, keyboard **Enter**, then **<Ctrl+D>** to deselect. Flatten.
4. Use the Bandaid and clone tools to cover and smooth out the hard lines and second image rainbow.
5. Save as [Newfilename.ext] to keep.

*As always, if you have any problems working with these lessons, please call me at 407-658-4869.  
Best times are Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday between 7:30 and 9:30 PM.*