

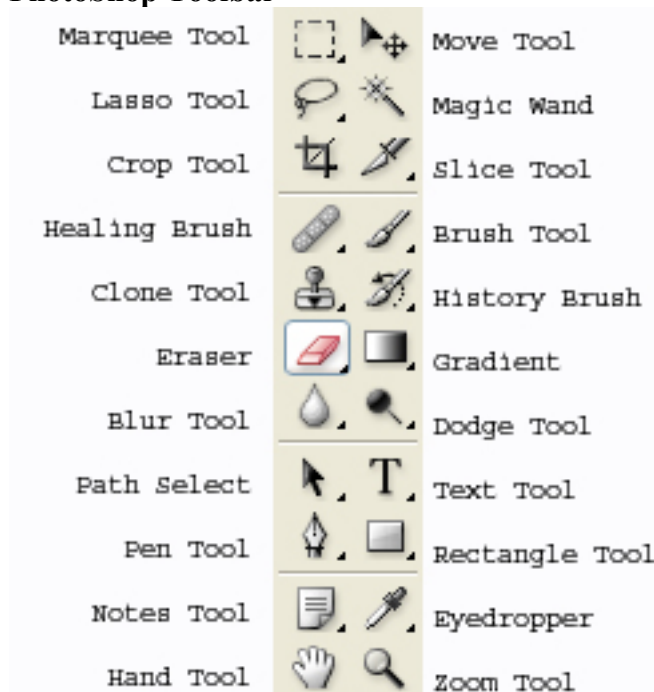


PhotoShop Masks

This workshop will examine the use of Photoshop masks to manipulate images. Masking has multiple benefits. A major benefit is the ability to alter an image without changing the original. Upon completion of this workshop, participants will be able to:

1. Create a layer mask.
2. Hide and Reveal portions of the mask
3. Use masks to blend layers of several photos.
4. Use masks to manipulate selections of images.

PhotoShop Toolbar



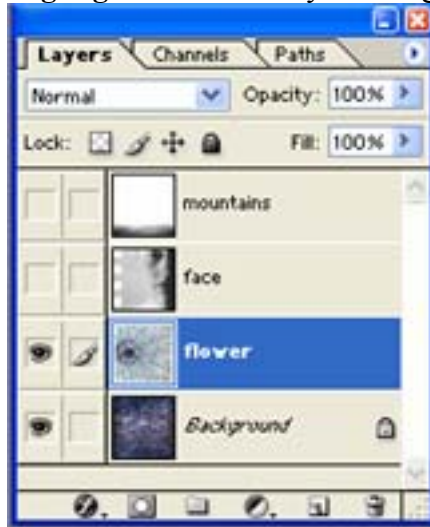
Open Photoshop. Click **File, Open** and select the image named “masking”. This image is available on your desktop.

Brush selection. Brushes are preset. Click on the drop down menu next to the brush icon in the menu bar. Select the brush size, Alternately, select from the brushes palate under window. This window contains preset attributes and provides a preview of the stroke if you use that brush in your image. Look at different brush strokes. Can create a custom brush.

Today, we will use the default brushes from the drop down menu.

Difference in erasing and masking is that information erased cannot be retrieved.

1. **Highlight** the flower layer to target that layer and make it visible.



2. **Select the eraser** from the tool bar. Click and drag cursor to erase information from the flower. This information is erased and if you save the file now, you can't get the information back.
3. Using a **mask** hides or reveals parts of the image.
4. Select **Layer**, then **Add Layer Mask**.

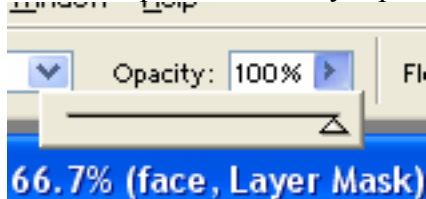


5. Then the options include **Reveal All** or **Hide All**.
6. Select **Reveal All**.
7. Notice the new icon in the layers palate. Indicates a mask is present on the layer.
8. Be sure the **mask** is selected in the **layer palate**. If the image is selected, the icon on the layer palate changes to a brush.
9. Select the **mask** icon.
10. Select the **brush**.

11. Paint with black to hide anything on that layer. Paint with white to reveal anything on that layer.
12. Notice the thumbnail is white and the entire image is visible.
13. Now **swap** the foreground and background color with the double arrow.



14. With black on the foreground, paint in the mask to hide flower and see background underneath.
15. When you let go of the paint brush, the mask thumbnail is updated in the layers palate.
16. Where the mask is black, it is hiding information on the image in that layer.
17. Where the mask is white it is showing information on that layer.
18. Although the image looks erased it is only hidden.
19. If I swap foreground and background colors and paint with white, it will reveal information on that layer.
20. Edge of mask is soft, because the brush used is large with a soft edge.
21. Look at the mask by holding down the **alt** key and clicking on the **mask thumbnail**.
22. Click on the **image icon** in the layer palate to return to the image.
23. Paint the image with white to reveal the flower layer.
24. Select the **gradient** tool.
25. **Drag** a gradient from black to white, which are foreground and background colors in toolbar.
26. Start in upper left corner and drag to the upper right.
27. This slowly reveals image.
28. To change, just **redraw**.
29. Multiple gradient options in top menu bar.
30. For the opposite effect, **swap** the foreground and background colors and drag again.
31. Click on the **face** layer.
32. Click on **mask** icon at the bottom of layers palate.
33. Select the **paint brush**, and paint with black to hide information on the face layer.
34. Decrease **opacity** of paint brush in top menu bar, or decrease opacity of layer from the options in the layer palate.



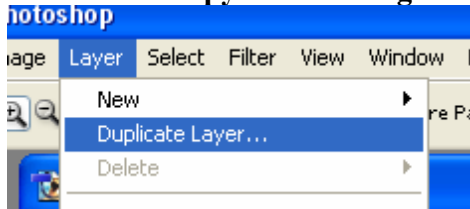
35. Select **Layer**, then disable layer mask to temporarily turn off the mask. Note the red X on the mask. Click the **mask thumbnail** to turn on the mask.
36. Can also edit or paint in the mask view.
37. **Show** mountain layer.
38. Create a big selection with **lasso** tool.
39. Select **Layer**, **Add Layer Mask**, now have two additional options. Select **Hide Selection**.

40. To delete a layer mask, click on the **mask** and drag to trash.
41. **Discard, if you choose apply it will erase the information on the image.**
42. Change the blend mode in the **Layers Window** from normal to **multiply**.
Multiply removes all the white areas from the layer and leaves us with mountains at the bottom of the photo.

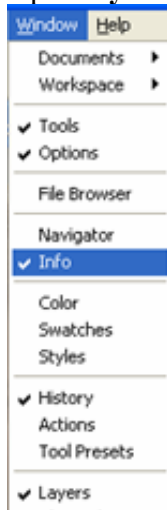


Next, we will see how masks can improve photograph quality.

1. Go to **File, Open**, and select the “portrait” file from the folder on the desktop.
2. First make a **copy of the background layer**.

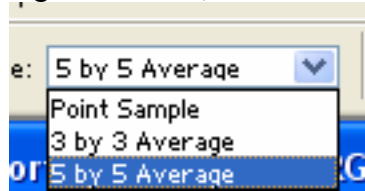


3. Now we are going to remove the color cast.
4. Open **layers** palate and the **info** palate.

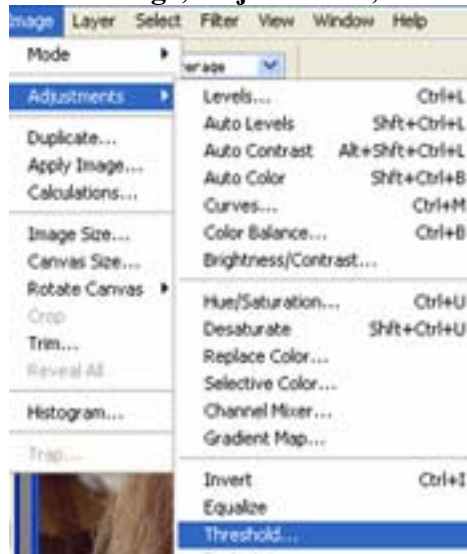


5. We are looking for the black and white point in the image.
6. Select the **Color Sampler Tool**.

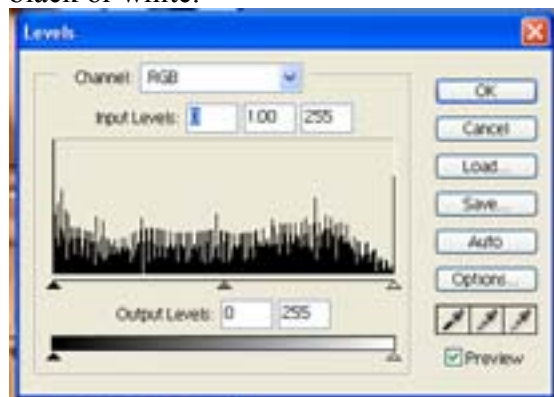
- Set option in the top menu bar to 3 x 3 for medium size image, if the image is a high resolution, use the 5x5 option.



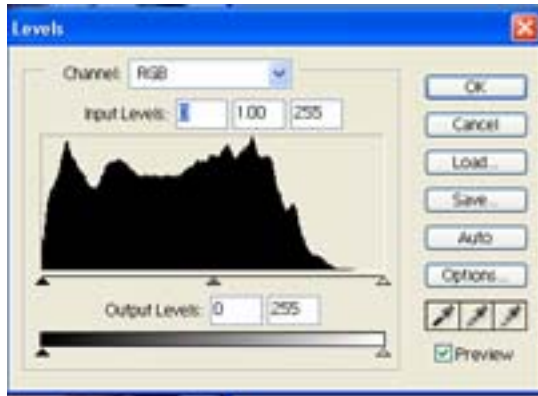
- Position cursor over the lightest part of the image to select the first color sample.
- Move the cursor over the darkest area to select the second color sample.
- Now we must check to see if the black and white point are accurate.
- Select **Image, Adjustments, then Threshold.**



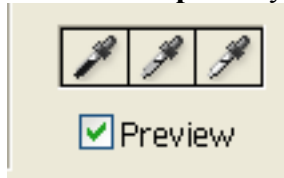
- Brings up the threshold dialogue box, which converts all colors in the image to black or white.



- Move slider to the left and everything except the darkest black point turns white.
- Hold down **space bar and control key to zoom in**
- Hold shift key and move color sampler to darkest area.
- Control plus the minus key to zoom out.**
- Move slider to other side to get the whitest area.
- Hold shift key** and move color sampler to whitest spot.
- Don't need to apply threshold, so cancel this. Color samples will remain.**
- Now we have the black and white point chosen.
- Select **Layer, New Adjustment Layer, and Select Levels**, click OK.
- See dialogue box.



23. Select **black point** eyedropper.



24. Click on the darkest color sample in image.

25. Select **white color** sampler.

26. Click on the lightest color sampler.

27. Now we have removed any color cast.

28. Click ok.

29. Now you will see another layer in the layers palate.

30. Can go back and make adjustments.

31. **Double click** icon in the layers palate.

32. Click **gray balance** eyedropper.

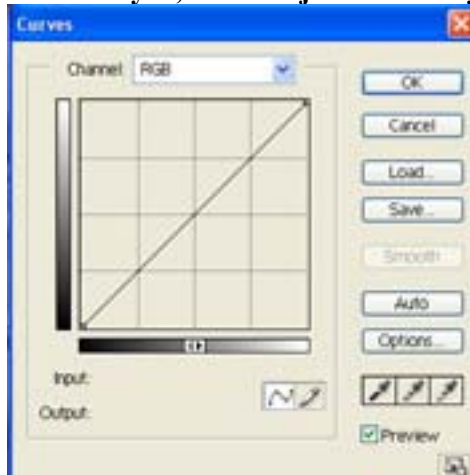
33. Choose a **dense gray area**.

34. Click ok.

Now that color cast is removed, there are other areas in the photo that need adjustments.

1. Select the **Lasso Tool** and drag a selection around the dark area of the face.

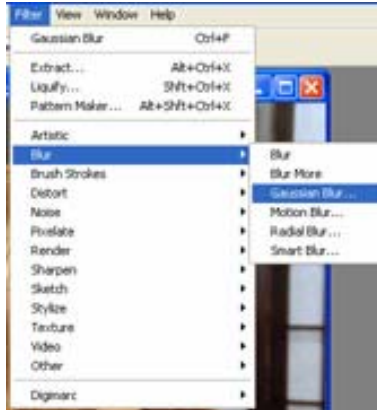
2. Select **Layer, New Adjustment Layer**, then **Curves**, click OK.



3. Pull the curve up until the area becomes lighter.

4. Click ok.

5. To remove the hard edge, click on **Filter, Blur, Gaussian Blur**.

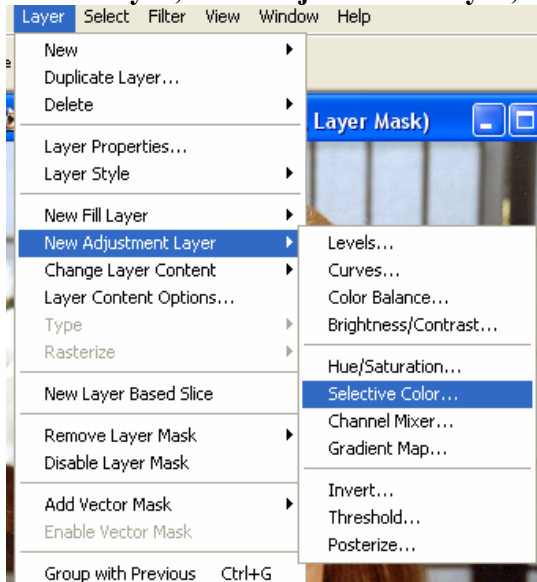


6. Set to about 9 pixels to blur the edge of the selection.



7. To remove some of the red and yellow tones, select the **Lasso Tool** again and select the areas to remove some color.

8. Select **Layer, New Adjustment Layer, then Selective Color.**



9. Remove yellow and any other colors that you want.

10. Click ok.

11. You can again blur the edges if desired.

12. **Repeat** on any areas that have a color cast that is undesirable.

Now let's lighten her teeth a little with the curves tool.

1. **Zoom in** around the mouth. **Space bar plus control key**
2. Select the **Lasso Tool** and drag a selection around the teeth.
3. **Select Layer, New Adjustment Layer, then Curves.**
4. Bring the curve up slightly.
5. Click ok.

Now we can smooth out the skin tones, but using masks to hide and reveal information in the photo.

1. Click on the **background copy layer.**
2. Select **Filter, Blur, Gaussian Blur.**
3. Select about **2 pixels.**
4. Click ok,
5. Now click on the **mask icon** at the bottom of the layers palate.
6. Select the **Brush Tool.**
7. Be sure black is the foreground color.
8. Paint with black to hide information on the mask layer.
9. This reveals sharp areas in eyes, mouth, etc while leaving skin tones slightly blurred and softer.