

## ASSIGNMENT 2001-01 SUBJECT: LAYERS

background, plus potentially transparent layers

manage layers using layers palette and layers menu  
create and delete layers

name, lock, color-code, and organize layers into sets

convert background into layer, or vice-versa

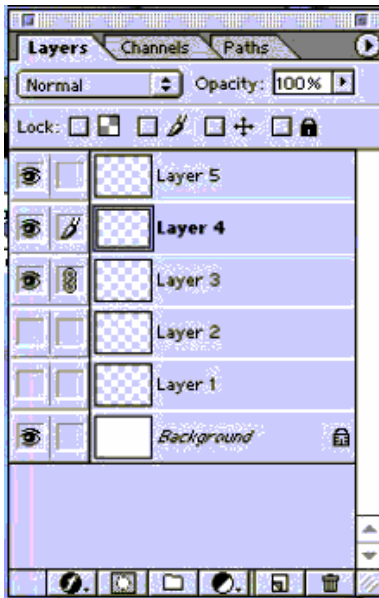
change the stacking order of layers

turn visibility of each layer on or off

(also set opacity of a layer from 0 to 100%)

select one layer as active (changes affect active layer)

(note: some tools optionally sample either active layer or all visible)



creating new layers:

new blank (transparent) layer

duplicate layer

convert selection to layer via copy or via cut

import layer (or selection) from another document using cut and paste or

drag and drop

merge layers

merge down

merge visible

flatten image

**move** active layer with **move tool**  
(also **transform**, **align**, **distribute**, or **liquify**)  
**link** multiple layers to move them together

Special kinds of layers:

**Adjustment layer:** affects how lower layers appear  
e.g. **color balance**, **contrast**, **saturation**, **curves**, **levels**, etc.  
applies to all lower layers unless limited by **group** or **set** of layers

**Type layer:** contains editable text

**Shape layer:** contains <sup>3</sup>vector drawings<sup>2</sup>  
(mathematically-defined geometric lines and curves)

both **type** and **shape** layers can be edited or resized without losing  
crispness, and are converted to pixels only for printing, or for merging  
layers, or by the **rasterize** command.

**Fill Layer:** contains solid color, gradient, or pattern

Any layer can be partially concealed by a **layer mask** or a **clipping path**

**layer mask:** gray-scale image (white=revealed, black=hidden)

**clipping path:** mathematically-defined outline shape

Any layer can be used as a mask for others by putting them in a **clipping group**

*Example:* use a **brightness/contrast adjustment layer** with a **gradient layer mask** to correct uneven lighting, like a graduated neutral-density filter.

*Example:* use a **type layer** as a mask for an image to reveal the image only in the outline shapes of the letters, for an interesting title slide.

More choices:

**blending mode**

**normal** = non-transparent upper layer completely obscures lower layers;  
other choices include **lighten**, **color**, etc.

**effects** such as **shadow**, **bevel**, **glow**, etc.  
(often used for 3-D effects in text for titles, etc.)

**styles:** combinations of **effects**, **blending modes**, etc.  
can be saved and used in other documents

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