

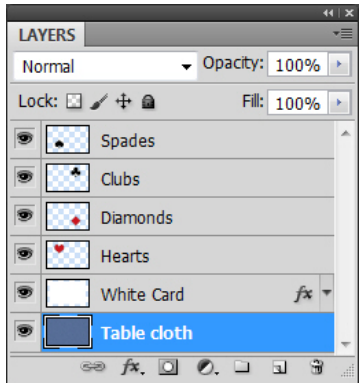


Beckham Digital Tutorials



Photoshop CS-5 Layers Revealed

If you are a user of any version of Photoshop and you are not making use of the Photoshop Layers system, you're allowing the majority of the power of this software to pass you by and that is far too much to give up. Not using Layers is a bit like buying a car and not using tyres, yes you will get the car moving for a little while, but the ride won't be very comfortable and you will soon grind to a stop.



As your creative juices are awakened you will want to do many things with your images, but they may seem impossible to get right at times. Well, in 80% of cases, Layers will be the answer you're looking for. Layers help us in so many ways and that is why we can fill a DVD with techniques that use Layers. Layers are a must know part of any version of Photoshop.

Now we know that newer users of Photoshop often get a little hung up on Layers, we are aware of that from our emails and from questions we get at demonstrations, but you're not alone here.

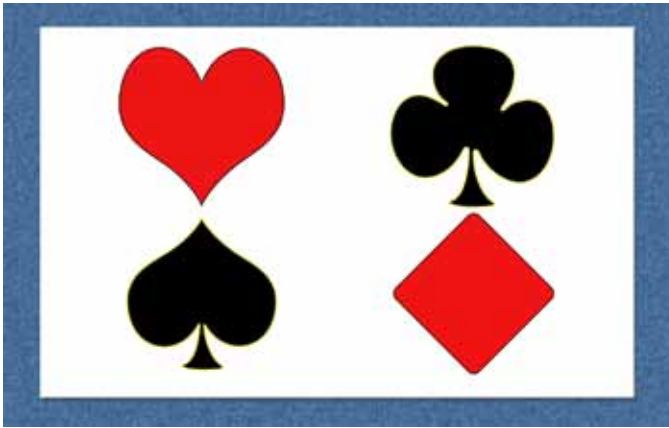
Layers took me a while to get into when I was first introduced to Photoshop and despite what some people perceive, our mental block has nothing to do with age or any lack of intelligence. Photoshop's Layers are something we must persevere with for a while, but it doesn't take too long until the mist starts to clear and things then become a whole lot easier to understand. This DVD is Guaranteed to level the steep learning curve we associate with Photoshop.

The Concept of Layers. - Video Running time 22:53

Once we understand the Concept of Layers we often look back later and wonder why we had any trouble at all. Layers is just another learning curve that this DVD is designed to level out for you. The thing to remember when we are scratching our heads over layers is that the rewards are well worth the effort.

When the penny drops a huge creative world will open up for you and your photography. In this video we use graphics to help us explain the Concept of Layers.

Once we begin to understand that concept, then the mist will start to clear. For the remainder of the DVD we will use real life projects and techniques that require layers to get the results we need.



Patching up the Lion. - Video Running time 10:39

This is a great video to follow the Concept of Layers above as it immediately takes what we saw in theory and applies it in a real life project. This is one of those techniques that we call our bread and butter manipulations. What we mean is that this technique is quick, simple and for the most part foolproof.



It is a technique we can use over and over again in many different circumstances and with many different types of images.

You can see the ugly highlight on the right corner of our thumbnail and how effectively we can repair that without any hint of our work. Remember, all the best

work we do in Photoshop should go unnoticed. If it is noticed we have probably got things wrong.



The Hang Glider. - Video Running time 00:00

One of the problems any demonstrator has with Photoshop is trying to make sure we concentrate on one tool or technique at a time. Unfortunately we can't always do this with Photoshop and that is probably one of the things that make the software more difficult to learn. To be able to use layers for one project we also need to incorporate another technique, like making an effective selection.



In this video we have such a problem, in that we need to make a good selection of an object to be able to demonstrate how you can use that object in another image. Well, there are no short cuts to what we need to do here so we include some great tips in making selections too.

Here we need to make a selection to enables us to make a transparency. What we mean by a transparency is an image/object that is floating on a transparent background and therefore able to be placed within other images.



Soldiers on Parade. - Video Running time 6:00

We have used this life size wooden soldier to demonstrate layers for some years and so far we haven't found any better. Like the video before we do need to cut out the soldier from the background, but we show you how we did that at the start of the video. We then use layers to create our parade of soldiers and as we do so, we begin to see how we can create layers and how those layers interact with each other and at times create a completely new image.



Above all, this video demonstrates the power and flexibility of layers and how those layers can be used in a creative way.

This is the power of layers, that allows us to put right a problem in a single image making it stronger and more interesting as a result, or we can use layers to create something from nothing almost.



Using Layer Masks. - Video Running time 23:27



If we were to look for a partner to Photoshop's Layers, then Layer Masks has to be it.

Masks and Layers go hand in hand and they are what we will need to use in our basic and advanced manipulations.

Masks are used right across all aspects of our photography from the simple manipulations to the more complex. From simple repairs to multi-image montages. Here we use this image as an introduction to how we apply Layer Masks and how we can start making use of them.

We use a mask in practically every image we produce, because they are so versatile. They are another must know part of Photoshop.



Adjustment Layers - Video Running time 33:29



Adjustment Layers are a non destructive way for us to make adjustments to our images and we can use them in a wide variety of ways.

In this section we include 3 video tutorials. Two where we make necessary adjustments to our images and one creative colour demonstration too.



The Jigsaw Puzzle - Video Running time 24:28



The Jigsaw Puzzle effect is generally well known these days and we would be surprised if you have not seen this before. However, it is a very effective technique and a great way to build up our familiarity with layers. Here, as is often the case with Photoshop, we need to use a number of techniques strung together to create the effect.

We need layers of course and some selection skills, but we also need to apply some layer styles. Layer styles are very versatile effects that we can apply to any object. An object is an image, or in this case some jigsaw puzzle pieces. Objects generally require part of the object to be transparent for the layer styles to be effective.

As you can see from a small sample of our image, the technique is very effective and when printed we have seen viewers of our prints feeling with their fingers for the indentations that are not really there.

Text and Disk Art - Video Running time 34:51



Text is one area of Photoshop where we could spend all day working through tutorials and never do the same thing twice.

Text is created on its own layer automatically for us and that builds in all the creative options we need. Rather than just demonstrate text effects, we have included the design of our disk art in Photoshop Layers. We have included the disk template we need in the extras section of the DVD.

Many of our ink-jet printers have the ability to print directly onto printable disk surfaces and those disks are freely available and do a really good job too.

So, here we look at designing disk art using layers and that allows us to show you a little more of the power of Photoshop's layers.

We demonstrate how we can work better using layer Groups and we add some of those nice layer styles to our text to give it some impact and appeal in our project.

Montage Techniques - Video Running time 27:27

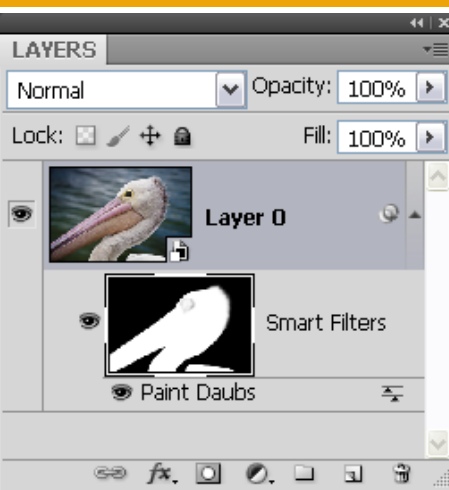
Montage techniques in Photoshop can open up a whole new world of Photography and/or Art. Our photography doesn't have to be bogged down as medium just used to record exactly what was there at the time, but sadly there are many who believe this. Photography is an Art and the montage can take our photography to a different level.

When we think of a montage image we generally think of 2 or more images, usually blended together smoothly. We think that is as good a description as any, but montage image can take on all sorts of techniques from soft blends to complex cut-outs. When a cutout becomes a montage it may be difficult to tell.

In our demonstration we choose just two images, because the techniques we use are the same for 2 images as they are for 22.



Smart Objects - Video Running time 22:00



Here we use Smart Objects in conjunction with filter effects and they are a way that we can work in a non destructive way very similar to how we would work with Adjustment Layers, Text or even Layer Styles.

We can change a layer into a Smart Object and from there add filters that we can change in a number of ways. We can apply one filter effect and then easily adjust that filters parameters or change to another filter entirely.

In addition we are provided with a layer mask so we can mask our filter effect in strategic places and this opens up a lot of possibilities for creative work.

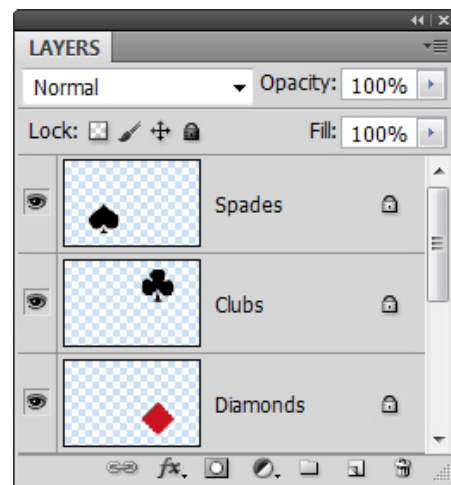


In this section of the DVD we return to our Concept of Layers artwork to demonstrate some of the other layer controls we have at our disposal.

While these controls will not directly change our images in any way, they are essential aids to how we work in layers, especially when we have a large number of layers in our project.

We can lock and protect our layers in a number of ways and also link layers together not only

in groups but also directly in the layers palette.



Preparing images for Printing - Video Running time 26:22



Here we demonstrate how we used layers recently to prepare images for a Canvas Wrap print process. We used layers to prepare the images to send to the printers, but we also used our layers to make a mock up of what we had in mind. You can see one example of that to the left.

Canvas Wrap prints are not cheap and before we committed our money to have three images printed we wanted to make sure they would look good against the wall colour of our home and that we were perfectly happy with our image choices.

The way we chose to do this was to make a mock up of exactly what we would see on the wall of our home. In this section we demonstrate how we can use layers in this way and this section also allows us to demonstrate the exporting of layers to files. An option within Photoshop that we find is a great time saver.

Canvas wrap prints also require us to allow an overlap of the image, usually around 40mm and we use our layers, rulers and guides to achieve this

The Breakout Technique - Video Running time 19:26

This breakout technique is now fairly well known among digital photographers, but we often see examples of the technique where the results are less than perfect. If we are going to use the breakout technique, it must be good technique and layers are what we need to achieve that.



Once we use these techniques for the first time, we can easily see how they could be applied in a similar way in many other images.



More Information

So, there we have it, dedicated videos on the subject of Layers that will run in total approximately 5 hours. We have included many of the images we used in the recording of this DVD, but the copyright remains with Beckham Digital. The images are included because we know some people like to follow the tutorials with our images. They are intended for that use only and for evaluation in your version of Photoshop.

In addition to this DVD, downloadable videos will be created for CS-5 and in fact we already have a few created already and they can be found at www.beckhamdigital.com.au in our menus.

As usual we have included a couple of Slide Shows on this DVD and one uses the same Montage techniques that we used in our video.

If you are an AV enthusiast, you will know that finding the right music Copyright Free can be difficult. Look on the menus of this DVD and you will find samples of around 36 Copyright Free albums that are available from our web site, even for your commercial projects. Remember, that the music samples we have placed on this DVD are low quality web samples and do not accurately reflect the high quality music you will receive. Music is available on CD already created as Mp3 files, or you can download the entire album or even just one track. At current prices a copyright track will set you back \$5 Australian and an album \$22. Great savings can be made with multiple purchases.

Enjoy the DVD