

Masks:**Good Shortcuts to know:**

Enter / Exit Quick mask – Q
View layer mask – Alt and click on Layer Mask
Turn off layer mask – Shift and click on layer Mask
Load layer mask as selection – Ctrl/Cmd and click on Layer Mask

Switching the foreground/background colors – X
Resetting Colors to default – D
Fill with foreground color – Alt/Opt Backspace/Delete
Fill with background color – Ctrl/Cmd Backspace/Delete


Invert – Ctrl/Cmd I

Inverse Selection – Ctrl/Cmd Shift I

1) Quick mask Quick Key: Q


- Quick mask: a screen display mode in which a translucent colored mask covers selected or unselected areas of an image. Painting tools can be used to reshape a Quick Mask.
 - Double click on the Quick Mask icon to bring up “Color Indicates” option
 - Adding/subtracting mask
- Painting in black adds
Painting in white subtracts

To use Quick Mask mode, start with a selection and then add to or subtract from it to make the mask. You can also create the mask entirely in Quick Mask mode. Color differentiates the protected and unprotected areas. When you leave Quick Mask mode, the unprotected areas become a selection.

Click the Quick Mask mode button  in the toolbox. A color overlay covers and protects the area outside the selection. Selected areas are left unprotected by this mask. By default, Quick Mask mode colors the protected area using a red, 50% opaque overlay.

To edit the mask, select a painting tool from the toolbox. The swatches in the toolbox automatically become black and white.

Paint with white to select more of an image (the color overlay is removed from areas painted with white). To deselect areas, paint over them with black (the color overlay covers areas painted with black). Painting with gray or another color creates a semitransparent area, useful for feathering or anti-aliased effects. (Semitransparent areas may not appear to be selected when you exit Quick Mask Mode, but they are.)

Click the Standard Mode button  in the toolbox to turn off the quick mask and return to your original image. A selection border now surrounds the unprotected area of the quick mask. If a feathered mask is converted to a selection, the boundary line runs halfway between the black pixels and the white pixels of the mask gradient. The selection boundary indicates the transition between pixels that are less than 50% selected and those that are more than 50% selected

2) Saving Selections

Select > Save Selection
Select > Load Selection

3) Channels

Found hidden under Layers Pallet

Color channel: an image component that contains the pixel information for an individual color: a grayscale image has one channel, an RGB has three channels, a CMYK has four channels

Alpha channel: a special type of channel that stores selections; alphas channels are created when you save a selection (Select > Save Selection)

4) Layer masks

You can add a layer mask to a layer or layer group and use the mask to hide portions of the layer and reveal the layers below. Masking layers is a valuable compositing technique for combining multiple photos into a single image or for making local color and tonal corrections.

- Black masks pixels; White shows pixels; gray areas partially mask pixels.
- Control exactly where that layer is transparent and where it's opaque
- Used to create high-end images
- Separates the beginners from the pros

Techniques on creating and using layer masks

- To create a layer mask, select layer and use Layer > Layer Mask or click on Add Layer Mask button.
- If a selection is made, Photoshop will automatically mask out everything else.
- The layer must be unlocked before you can add a layer mask.

Tips:

- To view only the layer mask, use Alt and click on Layer Mask (toggles)
- To turn off layer mask, use Shift and click on layer Mask (toggles)
- To Load layer mask as selection, use Ctrl/Cmd and click on Layer Mask
- Layer masks are by default linked so it moves with the artwork. To move one without the other, unlink.
- When editing a layer with a layer mask, watch whether you are editing the image or the layer mask

Gradients on layer masks can be used to fade images in and out

Mask Pallet

Found hidden under Adjustment Pallet in the pallet windows directly above the Layers Pallet

Density

Feather

Refine:

Mask Edge

Color Range

Invert

Load Selection from Mask

Apply Mask

Disable / Enable Mask