

STEP-BY-STEP INSTRUCTIONS FOR MASKING

I suggest watching the video first so you get a general sense for how masking is done.

Universal Tips for Masking

Keep your History Palette open (Window>History), in case you mess up and want to step forward or backward in your history palette.

If you lose track of what step you're on you may just want to remove your mask altogether by selecting only your mask in the layers palette and dragging it into the garbage can icon at the bottom of the layers palette. Then start all over until you get a hang of the masking process.

pen masking

1. Make sure your Layers Palette (Window>Layers) and Paths Palette (Window>Paths> is open (They are usually grouped together in one Palette with different tabs). Make sure your Properties is open also (Window>Properties).
2. Select your Pen Tool.
3. Change the settings in the top options bar making sure that "Paths" and "Exclude Overlapping Shapes" are selected.
4. Begin tracing the area you wish to cut out/mask making sure that you your paths are closed. Tips: Trace around the perimeter areas of the object, as you would if you were cutting with scissors. Make sure the path is closed by clicking your last point and waiting to see that little circle icon next to your pen tool as your draw your path around.
5. A path should appear in your Paths Palette.
6. Use your modifier keys such as the direct selection arrow and convert anchor point tools to clean up the path.
7. In your Paths Palette. Double Click your Path to save it.
8. Name the path and click OK.
9. In Paths Palette, make sure your whole path is selected by selecting on the blank area of your Paths Palette then clicking once on your actual path to select it.
10. You are now Ready to Apply your path to whatever image you want (usually the one you traced it from).
11. Go to your Layers Palette and select the image you wish to affect.
12. Make sure your Pen tool is selected.
13. In the options tool bar above select from the Make option: "Mask". This should punch out the image and put a Vector Mask box next to your image layer. It should also make a new path in your Paths palette that is specific to that layer image.
14. Notice you will now have options to manipulate in your Properties Palette such as the feather radius to make the edge of your mask fussy (feathered). Change your setting as you wish.
15. When you are done modifying your path, go to your Paths Palette and click in the blank area of the palette to deselect the path. So you no longer see outline path on your canvas.

Tips:

• If at a later time you wish to affect the path to clean it up with your modifier tools, then you go to your Paths tool and select the new Vector Mask was created for your image layer. Once you select it, you should see it appear and you can modify it on the canvas.

brush masking

1. In Layers Palette. Select (click on) the layer of the image that you wish add the mask to.
2. Add a new layer mask by clicking the "Add Mask" icon at the bottom of the layers palette. (A little box to the right of your image layer should appear—this is your mask)
3. Change your colors at the bottom of the tools palette to make sure they are black in the foreground (the left color) and white in the background. There should be a black and white preset icon right next to the colors there that you can click on. If they colors are not set in the correct order, use the revers colors icon that is also right next to it.
4. Select your Brush tool.
5. Look at the options above in the options bar. Select the size brush and brush edge you wish by changing the settings. You can also change the opacity if you wish to mask things more gradually.
6. Make sure your mask is selected for your image in the layers palette by clicking on the mask box of that layer.
7. Now on your canvas on your image paint across the area you wish to remove/mask out. Reverse your colors so that white is in the foreground of your colors you wish to add back information in the picture and paint with white on your image.

Tips:

- *If you later wish to change the settings such as the feathering for any given mask, you can select the Mask Box on the image layer you want and change the settings in the Properties box.*
- *If you wish to combine a vector mask with a brush mask or gradient mask, then you will need to leave your current Vector mask and follow the steps to create a Gradient mask or Brush mask.*

gradient masking

1. Select the Move tool and overlap your two images you want to blend.
2. In Layers Palette. Select (click on) the layer of the overlapping image that you wish add the gradient mask to.
3. Add a new layer mask by clicking the “Add Mask” icon at the bottom of the layers palette. (A little box to the right of your image layer should appear—this is your mask)
4. Change your colors at the bottom of the tools palette to make sure they are black in the foreground (the left color) and white in the background. Their should be a black and white preset icon right next to the colors there that you can click on. If they colors are not set in the correct order, use the revers colors icon that is also right next to it.
5. Select your gradient tool.
6. Look at the options above in the options bar and make sure that your gradient is set from “Black to White” (not black to transparent at this point). And make sure to select “Linear” gradient.
7. Make sure your mask is selected for your image in the layers palette by clicking on the mask box of that layer.
8. Now on the canvas with your gradient tool drag across your image where you wish to gradually remove information. The more you drag the more gradual the gradient.
9. Experiment with it until you get the gradient you want.

Tips:

- *If you wish to continue adding more gradient masks to the same image, make sure your mask box is still selected on your image in the layers palette and make sure to select the gradient tool. Then change your options from black to transparent in the top options menu bar and continue creating gradient masks.*

clipping mask

1. On your canvas overlap the two images you wish to combine on the canvas.
2. Tip: Make sure the image texture you want to keep is on top and the text or the cut out image you want to apply it to is on the bottom.
3. In the Layers Palette, make sure the two layers are right next to each other.
4. In the Layers Palette, go Between the two layers and hold down your ALT key (on a PC) or your Option key (on a Mac). You should see a link icon.
5. Click once between the layers.
6. You should have your clipping mask.
7. You should select both images in the Layers Palette (Click on one image layer then hold down Shift key and Click on the other image) and move them with your Move tool.

Tips:

- *If you want the two layers to always move those two layers together, you should select both images in the Layers Palette (Click on one image layer then hold down Shift key and Click on the other image layer) and then click your “Link Layers” icon at the bottom of your layers palette. Then move them with your Move tool.*