Docker images are created in the Docker image format, which consists of a series of layers. These layers represent incremental changes made to the image, such as adding files, installing software, or modifying configurations. The Docker image format is usually represented as a compressed tarball file with a .tar extension.

Here's a breakdown of the Docker image format:

1. **Layers**: Each layer is a filesystem change. Layers are stacked on top of each other to form the final image.
2. **Image Manifest**: This file describes the layers that make up the image, their order, and metadata about the image.
3. **Configuration File**: This JSON file contains metadata about the image, such as environment variables, default commands, and exposed ports.

When you save a Docker image using the docker save command, it outputs a .tar file that includes all the layers and metadata required to reconstruct the image.

Refer: <https://docs.docker.com/reference/cli/docker/image/save/>