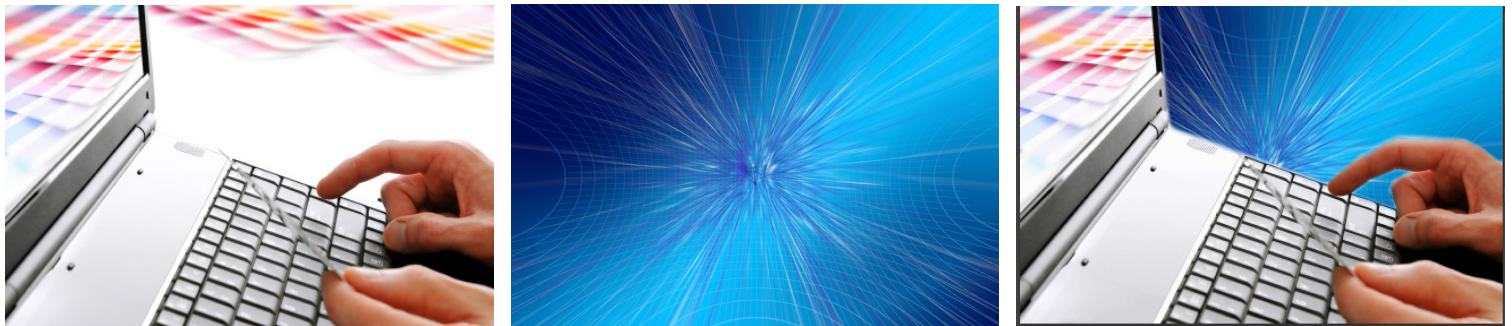


# Replacing a Background

## Using selection tools and masking

One common usage for Photoshop is to replace the background of an image with something more exciting. This involves working with layers, selection tools and creating masks. In this example, we are going to remove the white background from the computer and replace it with a more exciting background shown.

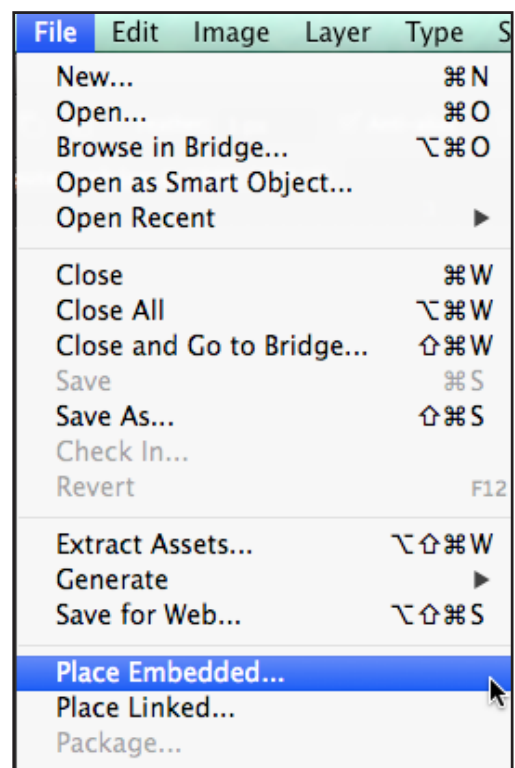
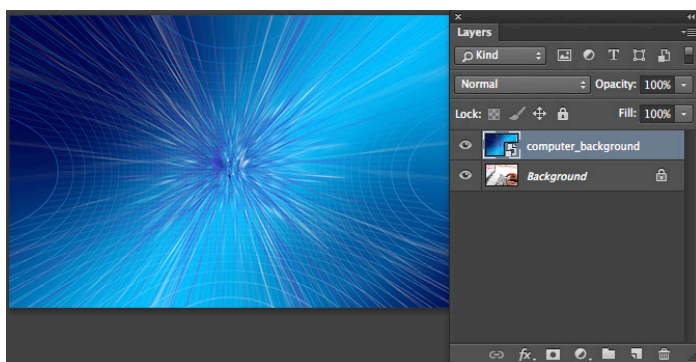


### Step 1: Open the image, Import the background image.

Open the image of choice in Photoshop. Then import the new background image. Because we want the imported image to be part of the file, we want Embedded - not Linked.

*Linked creates a link to the original image file.*

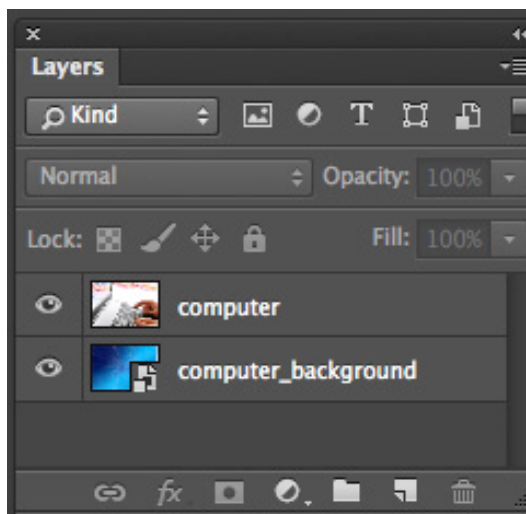
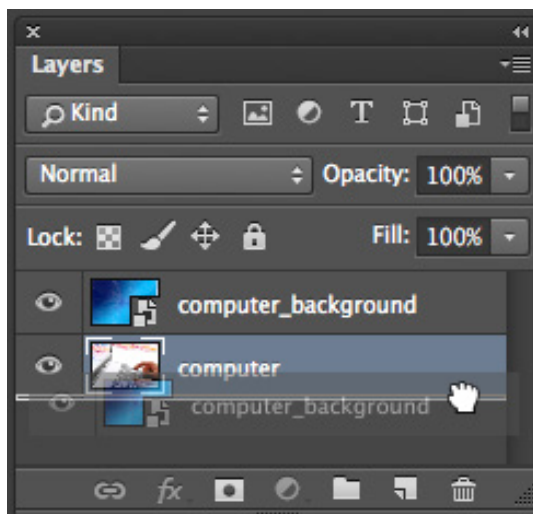
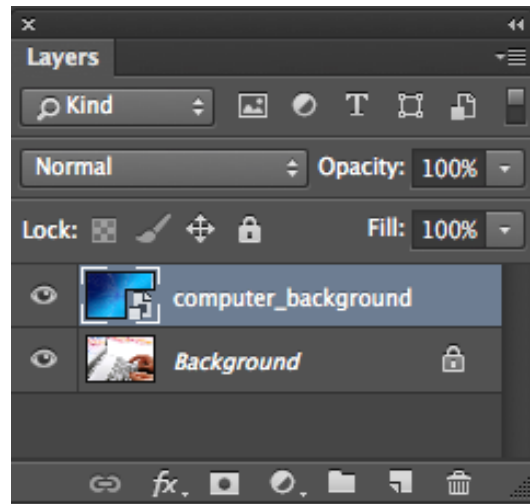
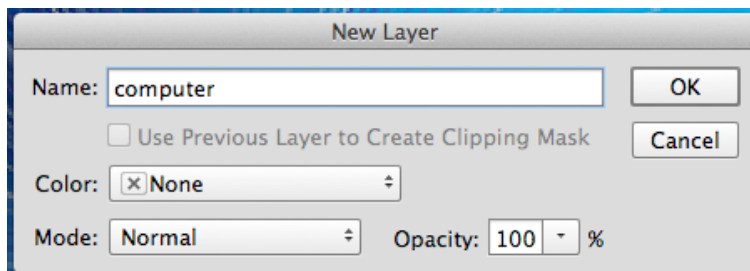
Double click on the image to complete the import.



## Step 2: Position Layers.

The first image that you opened in Photoshop is displayed as Background in the Layers palette. A Background layer cannot be moved. We need to change this. Double-click on the Background layer.

You can leave the default name of the new layer as Layer 0, OR name the layer as desired.



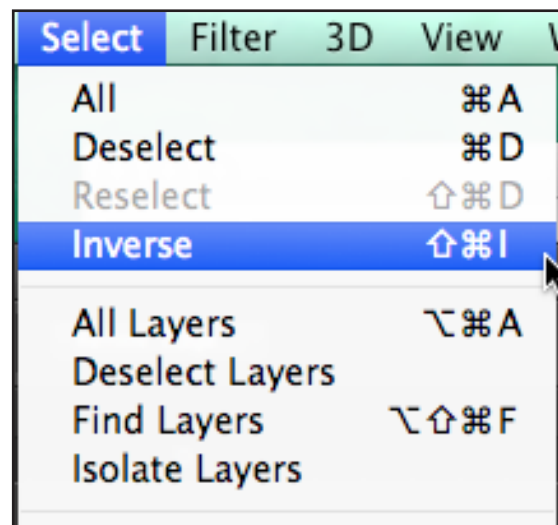
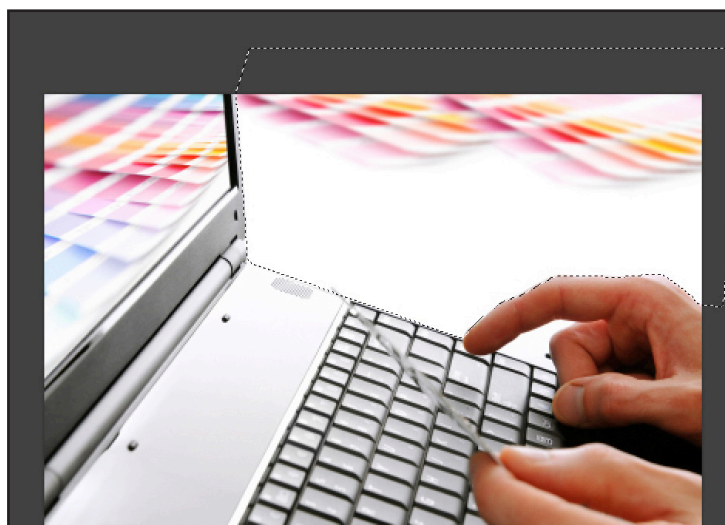
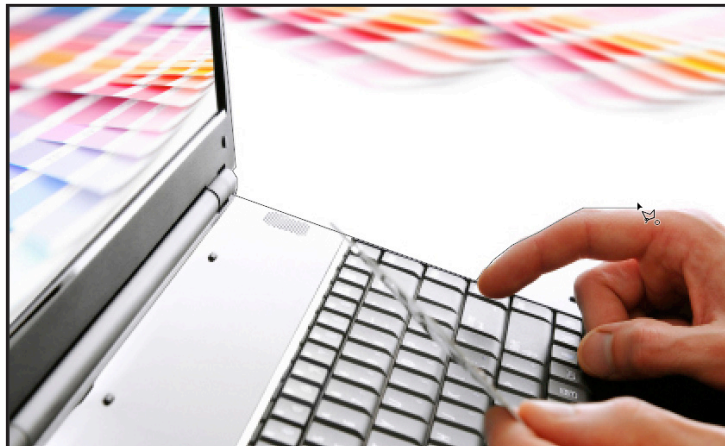
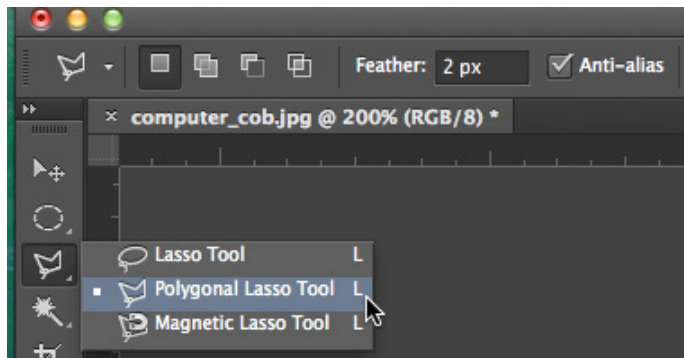
Now you can move the layers around by clicking on the layer and dragging it up or down to the proper position. We want the new background image to be on the bottom.

### Step 3: Use the Selection tool to select an area.

*First, make sure you have the top layer selected in the Layers Palette.*

Now we need to select the area that we want to display the new background. You may use any selection tool to do this. Remember, some selection tools work better than others depending on the image with which you are working.

In this example we chose the Polygonal Lasso with a 2 pixel feather.

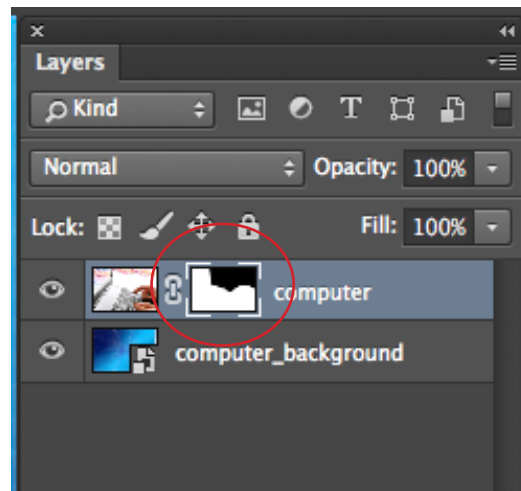
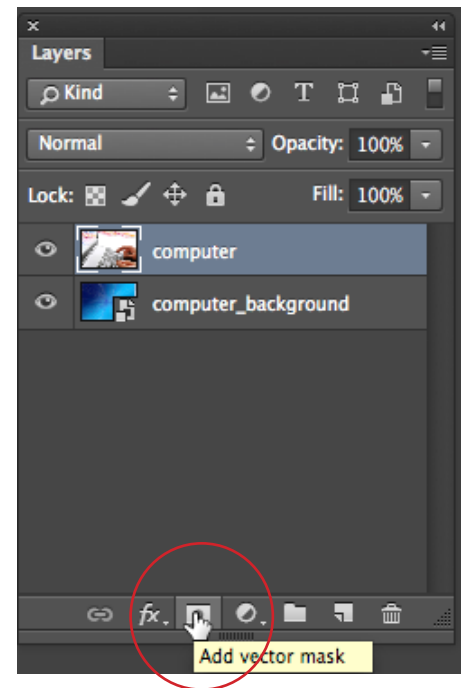


When the selection is complete (you will see the Marching Ants)  
Inverse the selection.



## Step 4: Make and Refine the Image Mask

With your selection active, click on the Add Vector Mask icon at the bottom of the Layers palette. This will reveal the new background image that is below the object image.



To add to and/or refine the image we can work with the existing mask. Remember that what is black in the mask hides the pixels in the top image and reveals the image below. You can modify with the paint brush or other selection tools.

In this example we made a second selection, then filled that selection with black. Be sure you have the Image mask selected and not the image.

