

**Department of Collegiate and
Technical Education**

**UNIT 2
SESSION 3**

MULTIMEDIA AND ANIMATION – 20CS21P

UNIT 2

WORKING WITH LAYERS

2.2 Working with Layers

Like many other Adobe Creative Suite applications, Photoshop utilizes the concept of layers as a method of organizing your work and separating a project into components that can be edited individually. We worked a bit with layers earlier in this class, but in this section, we will discuss additional tactics for manipulating layers within the layers panel.

Organizing Layers

While in the layers panel, you can:

1. **Rename layers:** rename a layer by double clicking the name of the layer.
2. **Show and hide layers:** click the eyeball icon next to each layer to toggle it on and off.
3. **Lock and unlock layers:** to prevent a layer from being edited, select the lock icon at the top of the layers panel while the layer is selected.
4. **Reorder layers:** click and drag the layers within the layers panel to reorder them.

Understand layers

1 .To view and select layers in the Layers panel

- Layers contain the images, text, or objects that make up a layered file. They let you move, edit, and work with content on one layer without affecting content on other layers.
- Layers are arranged in a stack in the *Layers* panel, which is usually located in the bottom right of the work area. If the Layers panel is not visible, choose Window > Layers.
- In the Layers panel, click the eye icon to the left of a layer to hide its content. Click again in the same spot to reveal the content. This is a useful way to remind yourself what's on a particular layer.
- A layer must be selected in order to make changes to it. In the *Layers* panel, click once to the right of a layer name to select that layer. To add more layers to your selection, hold Control (Windows) or Command (macOS) as you click other layers.

2. Learn layer basics

Change layer order, create a new layer, change layer opacity, and delete a layer.

To work with layers in the Layers panel

- Drag a layer up or down in the Layers panel to change the order of layered objects in the image.
- Click the *Create a New Layer* icon at the bottom of the layers panel to make a new layer. This layer is transparent until something is added to it.
- To name a layer, double-click the current layer name. Type a new name for the layer. Press Enter (Windows) or Return (macOS).
- To change a layer's opacity, select a layer in the Layers panel and drag the Opacity slider located near the top of the Layers panel to make the layer more or less transparent.
- To delete a layer, select a layer in the Layers panel and press Backspace (Windows) or Delete (macOS).

3. Resize a layer

Change the size of the content of selected layers.

What you learned: To resize layers

1. In the *Layers* panel, select one or more layers that contain images or objects you want to resize.
2. Choose Edit > Free Transform. A transform border appears around all the content on the selected layers. Hold the Shift key to avoid distorting the content, and drag the corners or edges until it is the desired size. Drag inside the transform border to move the content around the image. Drag outside the transform border to rotate the content.
3. Click the check mark in the options bar or press Enter (Windows) or Return (macOS) to finalize the change.

4. Add images to a layered design

Bring more images into a design, each image on its own layer.

To add images to a design

1. Choose File > Place Embedded, navigate to an image file in File Explorer (Windows) or Finder (macOS), and click Place.
2. Hold the Shift key to avoid distorting the image, and drag the corners of the image border to resize the added image.
3. Drag inside the border to position the added image where you want it.
4. Click the check mark in the options bar to finalize the placement. This automatically creates a new layer containing the added image.

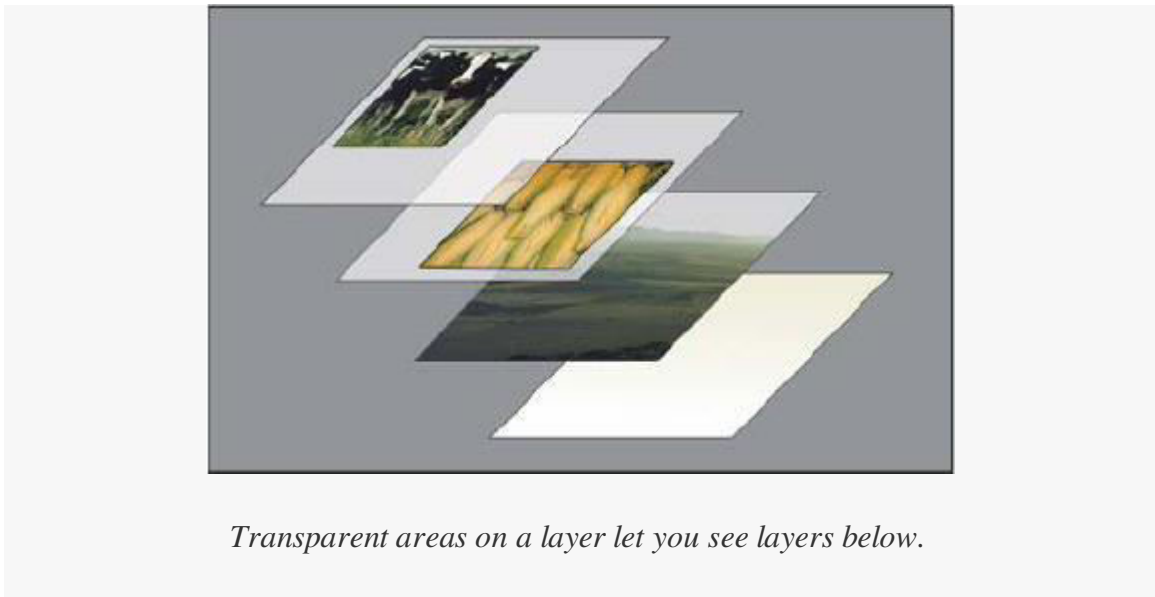
5 Unlock the Background layer

To convert a Background layer into a regular layer

- Because the *Background* layer is locked, it can't be moved in the *Document* window or rearranged in the *Layers* panel, and some editing functions won't work on it.
- To change the *Background* layer into a regular layer, click the lock icon to the right of the layer name in the *Layers* panel.

About Photoshop layers

Photoshop layers are like sheets of stacked acetate. You can see through transparent areas of a layer to the layers below. You move a layer to position the content on the layer, like sliding a sheet of acetate in a stack. You can also change the opacity of a layer to make content partially transparent.



You use layers to perform tasks such as compositing multiple images, adding text to an image, or adding vector graphic shapes. You can apply a layer style to add a special effect such as a drop shadow or a glow.

Organizing Photoshop layers

A new image has a single layer. The number of additional layers, layer effects, and layer sets you can add to an image is limited only by your computer's memory.

You work with layers in the Layers panel. *Layer groups* help you organize and manage layers. You can use groups to arrange your layers in a logical order and to reduce clutter in the Layers panel. You can nest groups within other groups. You can also use groups to apply attributes and masks to multiple layers simultaneously.

Photoshop layers for non-destructive editing

Sometimes layers don't contain any apparent content. For example, an *adjustment* layer holds color or tonal adjustments that affect the layers below it. Rather than edit image

pixels directly, you can edit an adjustment layer and leave the underlying pixels unchanged.

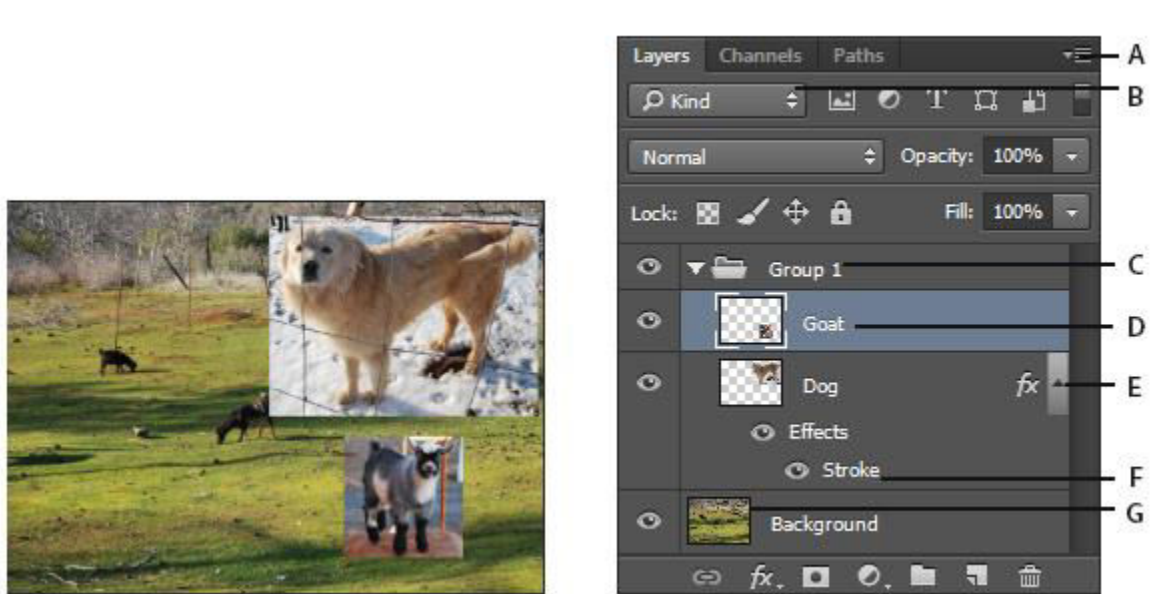
A special type of layer, called a *Smart Object*, contains one or more layers of content. You can transform (scale, skew, or reshape) a Smart Object without directly editing image pixels. Or, you can edit the Smart Object as a separate image even after placing it in a Photoshop image. Smart Objects can also contain smart filter effects, which allow you to apply filters non-destructively to images so that you can later tweak or remove the filter effect.

Video layers

You can use video layers to add video to an image. After importing a video clip into an image as a video layer, you can mask the layer, transform it, apply layer effects, paint on individual frames, or rasterize an individual frame and convert it to a standard layer. Use the Timeline panel to play the video within the image or to access individual frames.

Photoshop Layers panel overview

The Layers panel in Photoshop lists all layers, layer groups, and layer effects in an image. You can use the Layers panel to show and hide layers, create new layers, and work with groups of layers. You can access additional commands and options in the Layers panel menu.



Photoshop Layers panel

A. Layers panel menu B. Filter C. Layer Group D. Layer E. Expand/Collapse Layer effects F. Layer effect G. Layer thumbnail

Display the Photoshop Layers panel

1. Choose Window > Layers.
2. **Choose a command from the Photoshop Layers panel menu**
Click the triangle in the upper-right corner of the panel.
3. **Change the size of Photoshop layer thumbnails**
Choose Panel Options from the Layers panel menu, and select a thumbnail size.
4. **Change thumbnail contents**

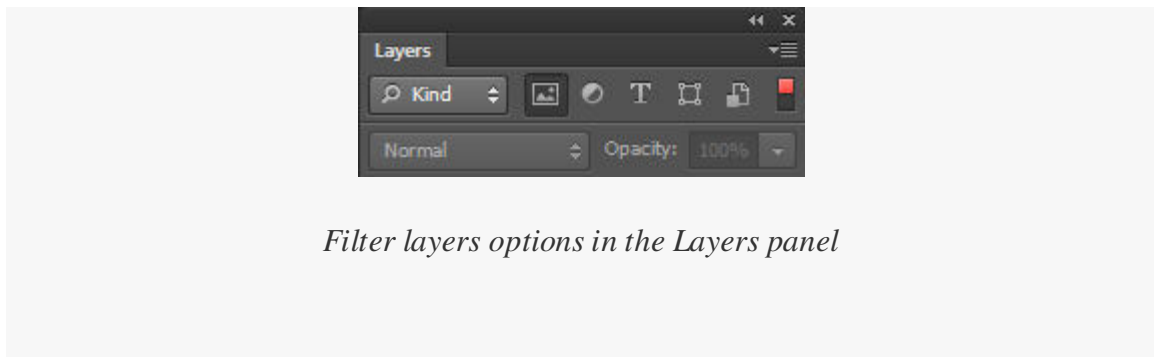
5. Choose Panel Options from the Layers panel menu, and select Entire Document to display the contents of the entire document. Select Layer Bounds to restrict the thumbnail to the object's pixels on the layer.

Expand and collapse groups

1. Click the triangle to the left of a group folder.

Filter Photoshop layers

At the top of the Layers panel, the filtering options help you find key layers in complex documents quickly. You can display a subset of layers based on name, kind, effect, mode, attribute, or color label.



Filter layers options in the Layers panel

1. Choose a filter type from the pop-up menu.
2. Select or enter the filter criteria.
3. Click the toggle switch to switch layer filtering on or off.

Convert background and Photoshop layers

When you create a new image with a white background or a colored background, the bottommost image in the Layers panel is called *Background*. An image can have only one background layer. You cannot change the stacking order of a background layer, its blending mode, or its opacity. However, you can convert a background into a regular layer, and then change any of these attributes.

When you create a new image with transparent content, the image does not have a background layer. The bottommost layer is not constrained like the background layer; you can move it anywhere in the Layers panel and change its opacity and blending mode.

Convert a background into a Photoshop layer

1. Double-click Background in the Layers panel, or choose Layer > New > Layer From Background.
2. Set layer options. (See [Create layers and groups.](#))
3. Click OK.

Convert a Photoshop layer into a background


1. Select a Photoshop layer in the Layers panel.
2. Choose Layer > New > Background From Layer.

Any transparent pixels in the layer are converted to the background color, and the layer drops to the bottom of the layer stack.

Duplicate Photoshop layers


You can duplicate layers within an image or into another or a new image.

Duplicate a Photoshop layer or group within an image

1. Select a layer or group in the Layers panel.
2. Do one of the following:
 - Drag the layer or group to the Create a New Layer button .
 - Choose Duplicate Layer or Duplicate Group from the Layers menu or the Layers panel menu. Enter a name for the layer or group, and click OK.

Duplicate a Photoshop layer or group in another image

1. Open the source and destination images.

2. From the Layers panel of the source image, select one or more layers or a layer group.
3. Do one of the following:
 - Drag the layer or group from the Layers panel to the destination image.
 - Select the Move tool , and drag from the source image to the destination image. The duplicate layer or group appears above the active layer in the Layers panel of the destination image. Shift-drag to move the image content to the same location it occupied in the source image (if the source and destination images have the same pixel dimensions) or to the center of the document window (if the source and destination images have different pixel dimensions).
 - Choose Duplicate Layer or Duplicate Group from the Layers menu or the Layers panel menu. Choose the destination document from the Document pop-up menu, and click OK.
 - Choose Select > All to select all the pixels on the layer, and choose Edit > Copy. Then choose Edit > Paste in the destination image. (This method copies only pixels, excluding layer properties such as blending mode.)

Create a new document from a Photoshop layer or group

1. Select a layer or group from the Layers panel.
2. Choose Duplicate Layer or Duplicate Group from the Layers menu or the Layers panel menu.
3. Choose New from the Document pop-up menu, and click OK.

Sample from all visible Photoshop layers

The default behavior of the Mixer Brush, Magic Wand, Smudge, Blur, Sharpen, Paint Bucket, Clone Stamp, and Healing Brush tools is to sample color only from pixels on the active layer. This means you can smudge or sample in a single layer.

1. To smudge or sample pixels from all visible layers with these tools, select Sample All Layers from the options bar.
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Change transparency preferences

1. In Windows, choose Edit > Preferences > Transparency & Gamut; in Mac OS, choose Photoshop > Preferences > Transparency & Gamut.
2. Choose a size and color for the transparency checkerboard, or choose None for Grid Size to hide the transparency checkerboard.
3. Click OK.

You can separate and work independently on different parts of the same image by using layers even though it still appears to be one whole image. Layers allow us to edit images without destroying them as we can undo the changes made. One of the most common tasks in Photoshop includes improving the quality of images.

The basic steps towards better image quality:

1. Adjust contrast and brightness levels
2. Vary the color
3. Crop and trim Image Size and Canvas Size