

## **BLEND TWO PHOTOS TOGETHER**

### **with an automatic layer mask**

Layer masks open a world of imaging possibilities that you just cannot create with traditional tools. Using a layer mask to hide parts of an image, you can easily blend one photograph into another and create designs that are sure to grab a viewer's attention. For example, you can blend a photograph of a wedding couple into a photo of the bride's bouquet or blend a photo of a potato with a photo of a person lying on a couch. Generally, to blend a photo on one layer into the photo on the layer below, you add a layer mask to the top layer and paint with black on the layer mask to blend the images. To hide some of the area you just revealed, simply reverse the colors and paint with white. You can also have Photoshop create the layer mask for you automatically. By copying one photo to the clipboard and creating a selection on the other photo, you can use Photoshop's Paste Into command. You can then use the Brush tool to add or remove areas if necessary. You can also adjust the way the images blend using the opacity slider on the Layers panel.

1. With the two photographs you want to blend open, click the Move tool.
2. Click the photo that will be blended into the other to target it.
3. Click Select- Click All.
5. Click Edit and click Copy.
6. Click the close button on this photo.
7. Click the main photo to target it
8. Click the Quick Selection tool or any other selection tool.
9. Click and drag on the areas to select them. Note: You can adjust any selection with the current tool by pressing (Ctrl+Alt) as you click and drag to remove from a selection and pressing Shift as you click and drag to add to a selection.
10. Click Edit- Click Paste Special- Click Paste Into.

The first photo appears in the active selection.

11. Click the Move tool. Click and drag in the area to reposition it.

Note: You can optionally resize the photo in the selection to fit better by clicking Edit and selecting Free Transform. Press and hold Shift as you move the corner handles of the bounding box.

12. Click Opacity and drag to the left to reduce the Layer Opacity to blend the images more naturally

## **Add a design with a CUSTOM SHAPE LAYER**

1. Press (Ctrl+J) to duplicate the Background layer of an image.
2. Click the Shape tool.
3. Click the Custom Shape tool in the Options bar.
4. Click shape selection and double-click a shape in the menu and change your style.
5. Click and drag in your image to draw the shape.
6. (Ctrl+click) the shape thumbnail. The shape changes to a selection.
9. Click the layer thumbnail and drag it to the trash. The selection remains on the image. Press D to reset the foreground and background colors. Press X to make the foreground color white.
10. (Ctrl+J) to duplicate the selection onto its own layer. Click Layer 0 (the duplicated layer) to select it. Click the Adjustment Layer button in the Layers panel. Click Gradient.

The base image is covered with a white-to-transparent gradient fill. Click OK in the Gradient Fill dialog box or change the attributes. The shape highlights the subject of the photo.