

COVERS  
PHOTOSHOP

3.0

022

# Photoshop Techniques

*How to*

## **FADE ONE IMAGE INTO ANOTHER.**

Fading between pictures is a common design need for print or multimedia. Many users are at a loss on where to start when they face this challenge their first time. The following technique shows a simple, flexible approach to fading from one photograph into another.

In the process, this issue also introduces Photoshop 3.0's support for Layer Masks. By creating a Layer Mask for one of our two images, we have a tremendous amount of control over how they will blend into each other.

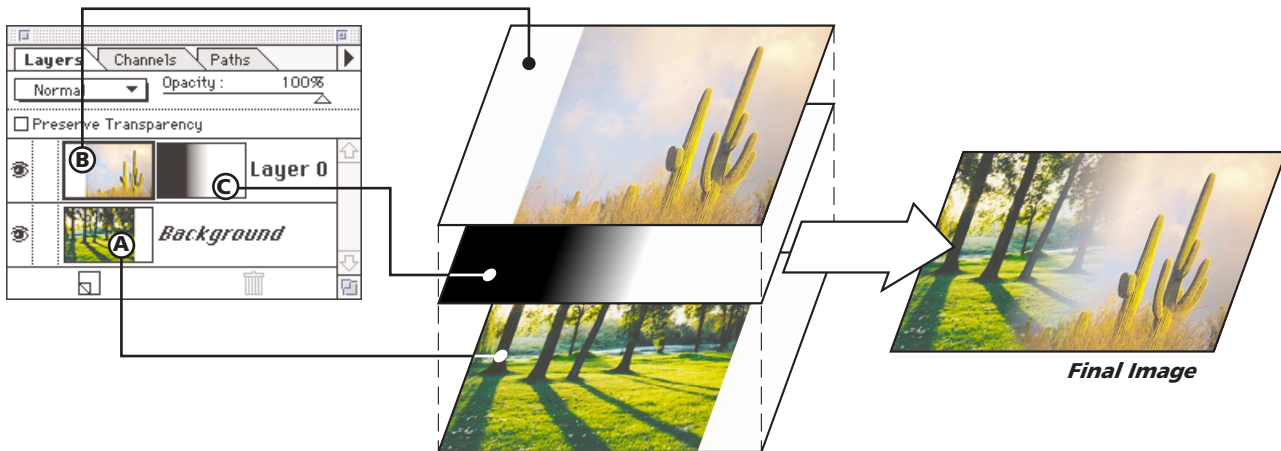
***Note:** This technique is closely related to another issue in this series. For more control over how images blend and fade, read issue #023, "How to create a Montage of Images using Layer Masks."*



## Diagram of a Layer Mask

This diagram may help you visualize how a Layer Mask is used.

- Ⓐ The background layer contains your original image.
- Ⓑ Layer 1 holds the photo you want to fade into the original.
- Ⓒ The Layer Mask controls how the top image blends.

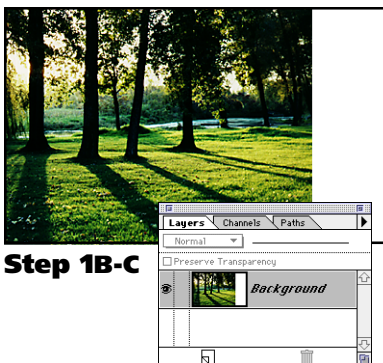


Look at the Layer Mask in this example. Areas in the mask that are black allow the bottom image to show through, while white areas show the top photo.

## Fading images together



**Step 1A**



**Step 1B-C**

### Step 1

#### Prepare your background image.

##### **A:** Open your main background image.

The second photo will be placed on a new layer.

##### **B:** Choose Image Size from the Image menu.

This is the point when you should set the final size and resolution for your image. The remaining photos in your image will be sized to work on this first photo.

*Note: An upcoming issue of Photoshop Techniques will discuss resolution issues in greater detail.*

##### **C:** Choose Canvas Size from the Image menu (optional).

You may need to add space to the edges to make room for the new photo. Use the canvas size dialog box to add the needed space.

*Note: In this case, our original was not wide enough, so we had to add extra space to the right side.*



**Step 2A-B (2ND PHOTO)**



**Step 2C-F**



## Step 2

### Add a second photo to your layout.

**A:** Open the photo you want to fade into.

**B:** Choose Image Size from the Image menu.

In Step 1, you determined the size and resolution for your image. Now, resize this new image to fit with the original image.

**C:** Copy the new photo to memory.

*Macintosh:* Select All (⌘-A); Copy (⌘-C).

*PC Users:* Select All (CNTL -A); Copy (CNTL -C).

**D:** Switch back to the original image.

In Photoshop, switch back to the photo you opened in Step 1.

**E:** Choose Paste Layer... from the Edit menu.

A box will appear that allows you to name your new layer. Click OK.

**F:** Position the new photo with the move tool.

Use the Move tool to drag the photo where you want it.

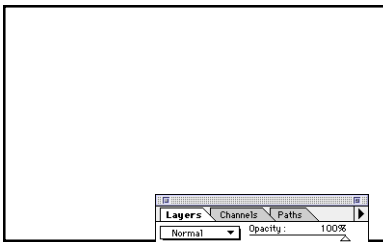
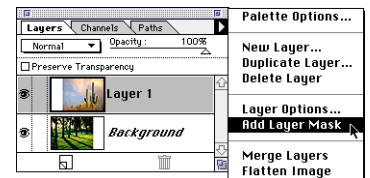


## Step 3

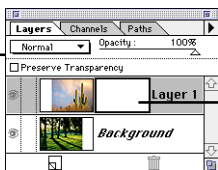
### Add a Layer Mask to the new layer.

**A:** Choose Add Layer Mask from the Layers menu.

A white box should appear to the right of the layer's thumbnail. This is the Layer Mask for this layer.



**Step 3A-B**



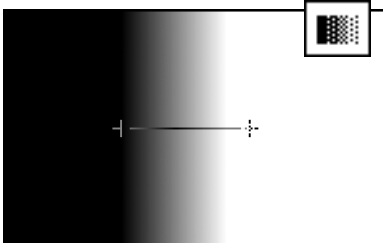
**B:** Option-Click on the Mask thumbnail.

*PC Users:* ALT-Click.

This will switch to a view of the Layer Mask. You have not drawn anything on this yet, so the window should be white.

**C:** Add a gradation to the mask.

Choose the gradient fill tool (Press G). Using the tool, click and drag left to right in the middle of your mask. This will create a vignette from black to white on the mask.



**Step 3C**

## Step 4

### View the results.

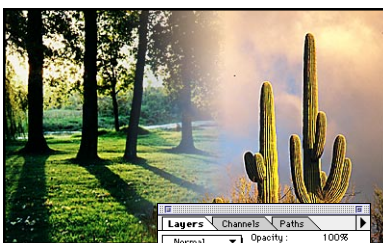
**A:** Option-Click on the Mask thumbnail again.

*PC Users:* ALT-Click.

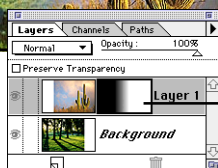
This hides the mask again and returns you to your original images. If everything has worked up to this point, your two images should softly blend into each other.

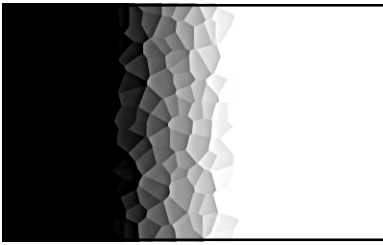
**B:** Adjust the blend if necessary.

Repeat from Step 3b if necessary to create the desired fading effect. Feel free to experiment.



**Step 4**





**Layer Mask (Crystallize)**

**Option: Run a filter on the mask**

You can add some additional texture to the fade by running a filter or two on your Layer Mask. Feel free to play and explore. The variety of effects you can create is astounding.

This option may help reinforce your understanding of how Layer Masks work. Remember that it is this mask that controls the fade between our images.



**Result**

**Add after Step 3**

**Apply a filter(s) to the Layer Mask.**

*Note: Filters that add noise, or roughen edges tend to work best here. But, by all means, do play with what you have. Our example to the left uses the Pixelate → Crystallize filter.*

**3rd Party Filters**

The basic filters that come with Photoshop are fairly basic. Adding 3rd party filters can add a lot more variety. Shown to the right are this same effect with two such filters.



**Gallery Effects: Graphic Pen**



**KPT: Pixelstorm**



[www.swansontech.com](http://www.swansontech.com)