Layers in Photoshop

Lymm Photographic Society
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Create a copy layer

- Layer - Duplicate Layer

    or

- Ctrl+J

Note that any adjustments now to the top layer leave the bottom layer untouched.

Use the eye to show each layer separately.

Adjustment Layers

Available via:

- Image - Adjustments (*don't use!*)

- Layer - new Adjustment Layer *(note addition of layer mask)*

- Half white/black circle at foot of layers panel *(note addition of layer mask)*

- Proper use of Adjustment Layers is non-destructive and effect can be changed at any time

- Use Opacity slider to taste

- Blank Layers for cloning ('sample all layers')

Layer Masks

- White reveals and black conceals

- Paint with black brush to hide current layer and reveal underlying layer

- Ctrl+i on layer mask inverts it.

- Swap between black and white brushes to amend as necessary.

- Create a layer mask:

  - Layer - Layer Mask

  - Click white square with black hole in Layers panel. Alt click for black mask

Clipping Masks

For when you only want the adjustment to affect the layer immediately below.

- Hover mouse between layers and when you see the arrow, Alt+click.

  Or….

- Right click and Create Clipping Mask. Or….

- Layer - Create Clipping Mask. Or….

- Alt+Ctrl+G

Deleting Layers

Click on the relevant layer then

- Hit Delete key

  or

- Click & drag to bin at bottom of layer panel

Smart Objects

Could be a topic in itself!

- Right click 'Convert to Smart Object'. Or….

- Layer - Smart Objects - Convert to Smart Object. Or….

- Filter - Convert for Smart Filters

This allows for non-destructive amendments. Essentially the file then remains unaltered but the instructions present the image as changed; the instructions can then be amended at any time.