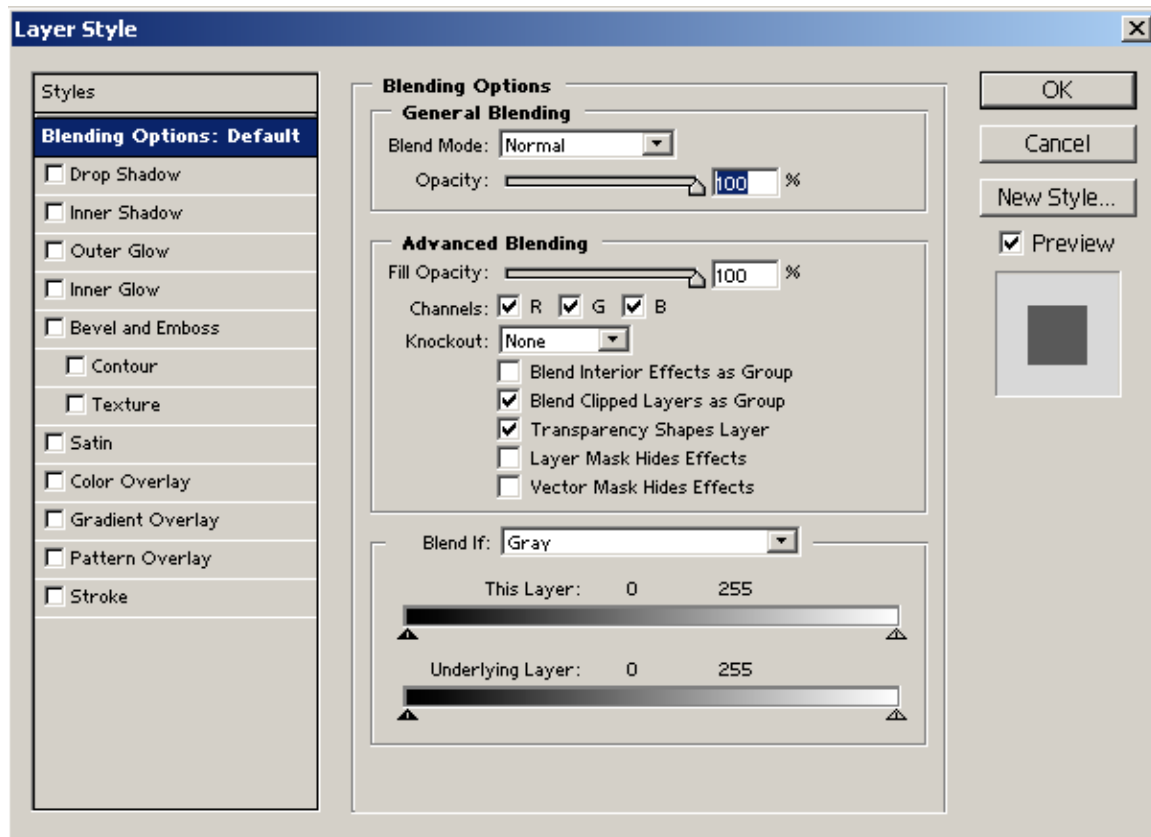


Photoshop, Session 3

Layer Styles (aka Blending Options)


This is a series of options available under Layers in the Taskbar; however they can be modified in detail by right clicking on the layer (either on the image or in the Layer palette) and selecting blending options. This allows a long list of adjustments to be made to the layer from adding shading to text, to applying fills and gradients, and adding strokes or textures. This can be very useful in the creation of buttons and other images for the web.



Vector / Shape Layers


- Photoshop comes pre-installed with vector shapes.
- Vector graphics are made up of mathematically defined lines and curves called vectors. This means that you can move, resize, or change the color of a line without losing the quality of the graphic.

Photoshop, Session 3

- Vector graphics are resolution-independent--that is, they can be scaled to any size and printed at any resolution without losing detail or clarity. As a result, vector graphics are the best choice for representing bold graphics that must retain crisp lines when scaled to various sizes (logos, for example).
- There are other applications, such as Adobe Illustrator, that are used to design vector graphics.
- Even though Photoshop is primarily used for bitmap (raster) images, you can create both vector and raster/bitmap shapes with it.
- Each vector shape in Photoshop needs to occupy its own layer.
- To create a shape, select the Custom Shape Tool  in the toolbox. In the options bar, click the down arrow next to the Shape option to open the Custom Shape Picker. Once you have selected a shape you click and drag in your image to create that shape.

Layer Styles

There are many layer styles that can be added to layers – drop shadow, outer glow, stroke, etc.

Select the layer style icon  at the bottom of the layers palette and select which type of style you wish to add.

There are also pre-defined styles which you can select from in the Styles palette. If this palette isn't already open select Window > Styles.

To apply a pre-defined style:

Select the layer you want the style applied to

Click the layer style you want from the Styles palette.

Layer styles are harmless in that they don't permanently change the contents of the layer that they are attached to.

Layer styles can be hidden or deleted just like regular layers.

When a layer has a style applied to it, an "f" icon appears to the right of the layer's name in the Layers palette.

To copy a layer style, select the layer containing the style and choose Layer > Layer Style > Copy Layer Style or right click on the layer and select Copy Layer Style. To paste a layer style to another layer, select the layer and choose Layer > Layer Style > Paste Layer Style or right click on the layer and select Paste

Photoshop, Session 3

Layer Style.

Filters

Filters let you apply special effects to your images. Unlike layer styles, filters will alter your original image. To use a filter, choose the appropriate submenu from the Filter menu.

The Filter Gallery is useful if you wish to apply multiple filters; go to Filter > Filter Gallery.

Working with Text

Text is one of the best things about Photoshop. Photoshop has hundreds of font options and you should play with them all. These fonts are especially useful for the web since fonts online can be hard to get and difficult to use universally. Text is also much less flexible when written in a web page than when created as an image and inserted. So here are a few things to help.

Blending Options

The Layer Styles that we discussed above can be applied especially well to text. By right clicking and selecting 'Blending Options', the user can apply shadows, fading, colors, patterns, and beveling to existing text.

Text for the Web

When you click on the text tool, drag the mouse button rather than clicking on the background. This will display a type bounding box which allows you to set the area and will then constrain paragraph type in this area.

Anti- Aliasing

Anti-aliasing, which can be adjusted by going to Layers- Text, allows greater numbers of colors to be applied to text which in turn, makes it appear more to merge into the background. Without anti-aliasing, your text will be much more sharply defined against the background. Anti- aliasing will limit your ability to save the image as a smaller file, since it will require more color information. It can also be a problem with smaller text because this will make the text appear fuzzy and less defined. Larger text should not have this problem.

Saving Options

The basic saving option in Photoshop is, like all other applications, 'Save As...'. This will allow you to save the file in one of dozens of different possible file types including:

Photoshop, Session 3

Photoshop (PSD)	Bitmap (BMP)	TIFF
Photoshop (EPS)	CompuServe GIF	PNG (Fireworks)
Photoshop (PDF)	Jpeg (JPG)	

The Photoshop options all work with Adobe products. “PSD” is the primary Photoshop file type. “EPS” is an Adobe Illustrator file type and of course, “PDF” is for opening in Adobe Acrobat.

Bitmaps are the original Windows image format. They are raster images and support only RGB color. They are not supported by web browsers and also do not store detailed information, so they are not good for printed images. They are best used for simple Windows based images.

GIF’s are a very basic and standard image file format. Like Bitmaps they are limited in what they can save, but unlike bitmaps they are viewable in web browsers. GIF’s may be in RGB or grayscale format but can only store up to 256 colors, which keeps the file size of most GIF’s considerably lower than other formats. GIFs also have the special ability to allow transparency in the image. All this makes them ideal for the web, but again is less viable for printing.

JPEG’s are the best of both worlds. They can use RGB, CMYK or grayscale colors, and are not limited by the number of colors available. JPEG’s save with an adjustable “lossy compression” approach. This means that if there is a concern about the size of your image you can choose to “loose” some details in return for a lower file size. Alternately, if you plan to print an item and need all details you can save everything at the cost of a much higher file size.

TIFF’s are primarily used in Desktop Printing so we will not spend much time discussing them. They are large files that support virtually any color mode and store large amounts of details. Naturally the files are generally very large.

PNG is a raster or vector based file type that is the default file type for Macromedia’s Fireworks application. Its flexibility allows it to be great for print use. Unfortunately is not supported on older versions of some web browsers, so depending on your audience you may want to avoid using it.