

SCRAPPER'S GUIDE

presents

Digital Scrapper® Premier Edition

Layer Mask Workaround

in Adobe® Photoshop® Elements for Windows & Macintosh

Welcome to the November 2010 edition of Digital Scrapper® Premier.

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Thanks, and have fun with this month’s tutorials!

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Note: This tutorial is for intermediate to advanced Photoshop® Elements users. If you aren’t familiar with basic skills, I would highly recommend that you watch [*Learn Digital Scrapbooking with Adobe® Photoshop® Elements*](#) from Scrapper’s Guide.

All our beginning training CDs are available to Premier members at a \$10 off discount in the Premier member’s store. Log into your Premier account, open this month’s issue, and click on the Member’s Only Store link.



Photoshop Elements: Layer Mask Workaround

Please Note: Watch the video first and then use this “recipe card” to jog your memory.

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Photoshop Elements: Layer Mask Workaround

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Layer Mask Workaround

The ability to create a layer mask at the click of a button was introduced to Photoshop Elements in version 9, but prior versions do not have layer masks, other than on adjustment layers. Since we have quite a few tutorials that teach masking techniques, we’ve made this video to show you how to create a layer mask workaround in Photoshop Elements. This is not a tutorial on how to use a layer mask—just how to create one. There are two methods:

The first workaround is to group the layer you want to mask with an Adjustment layer.

- Click on the black and white circle on the Layers panel and choose Levels.
- When the Levels Adjustment panel appears, don’t make any changes. In some versions you’ll need to click OK to close the Levels dialog box. If your version has an adjustment panel, simply close or collapse the panel.
- Click on the new adjustment layer and drag it below the layer you want to mask.
- Press Alt (Mac: Opt) and click between the layer you want to mask and the Levels adjustment layer to form a Clipping Mask that groups the two layers together.
- Click on the white layer mask icon to make it active.
- Get the Brush tool and paint with black to hide the masked layer, or paint with white to reveal it.

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The second workaround is to borrow a layer mask from Photoshop.

- Open the file called layer-mask.psd that came in the folder with this lesson.
- Click on the mask layer in the Layers panel and drag it onto your document.
- Click and drag the mask below the layer you want to mask.
- Right click (Mac: Ctrl click) on the layer you want to mask and choose Merge Down from the menu. When the dialog box appears asking if you want to Apply, Preserve, or Cancel, click “Preserve.” The mask will now be attached to the thumbnail on the same layer.
- Note: If you applied a blend mode to the layer before adding a layer mask, the blend mode will revert to Normal when you use this method, so you will need to apply the blend mode again.
- Click on the white layer mask thumbnail to make it the active thumbnail, and now you’re ready to paint on the layer mask with black to hide the layer or white to reveal the layer.

Creating a layer mask is really pretty easy, but learning when and where to use one takes a little more experience, so enjoy the tutorials we have on this website on how to use a layer mask!