

This information is provided to assist you in learning more about an “Introduction to Masks.”

The saying “**Black conceals and White reveals**” applies to how a layer mask controls the visibility of the layer to which it is added. You can edit a layer mask to add or subtract from the masked region without losing the layer pixels. A real powerful and non-destructive way to enhance your photos.

This is a list of a few videos and other information that should be helpful to you in learning more about working with masks and those all important Keyboard Shortcuts.

Here's a few Keyboard Shortcuts for you to start with:

To make a duplicate layer with **Ctrl + J**.

For a "regular" layer mask, simply click on the Add Layer Mask icon (the circle within a square, at the bottom of the Layers palette).

Inverse layer mask: hold down the Alt key while clicking on the Add Layer Mask icon.

Click **B** for the Brush tool, the left “[” and right “]” bracket keys make it smaller or larger.

Click **D** for the default Black foreground over White Background

Click **X** to change/reverse the foreground/background colors.

Click **Ctrl + Z** (Undo) — Back up one step.

Some websites to find them:

Photoshop > Keyboard Shortcuts for each version back to Photoshop 5

<http://morris-photographics.com/photoshop/shortcuts/index.html>

At Adobe Support you can find the Default keyboard shortcuts for Photoshop that include Keys for selecting, Keys for viewing and Keys for just about everything. 38 sections of Keys for almost everything and for those that are missing or that you might want to change, you can create your own custom keyboard shortcuts, there's instructions for that to.

<https://helpx.adobe.com/photoshop/using/default-keyboard-shortcuts.html>

Do a search for “Photoshop Keyboard Shortcuts” and you'll get tons of results. Add CS5, CC or what ever version you're using and get the results narrowed down.

Lets move on to Using Masks. There are many Photoshop tutorial videos on most of what you want to learn. However sometimes you have to wade through some bad ones to find the ones you like. I pick the shorter ones first before moving on to the longer ones. I don't hesitate to move on to another one if I find them going off in to many directions, hard to understand, etc.

Here's some I found useful, starting with one that is mainly straight foreword and explains the basics of working with masks. Some are more involved as you'll see. I've included the Titles and length. These have been checked and the links were all working as of this morning, if for some reason they don't work, high-lite the title and do a search for it. Some have websites with more information or tutorials:

Larry Lourcey

Photoshop: Understanding Layer Masks 8:44

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PrKR07ofRRE>

This next one show working with masks and adjustment layers.

my3boybarians

Introduction to Photoshop Layer Masks for Beginners 9:15

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1_2bwpputQw

Michelle Kane Actions

How to Use Photoshop Layer Masks 13:41

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a7J4GEKpgds>

Post Processing Mastery

Photoshop Tutorial: Layers & Layer Masks For Beginners 19:02

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZBKHeU8rWFs>

photoshopCAFE

How to combine photos in Photoshop with Layer Masks, seamless blending technique 10:29

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iA4SIF0KsDc>

*** I haven't forgotten you Photoshop Elements users. Although geared to Elements, both of these videos have some neat stuff and will be interesting to all no matter what you are using.

Anthony Morganti

Learn Adobe Photoshop Elements - Episode 7: Layers and Layer Masks 11:39

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ml13ZCHrvs4>

Anthony Morganti

Learn Photoshop Elements - Episode 11: Swap a Sky 13:24

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PnEAeXxPtbw>

Okay, those should get you started. Look at the other videos on the pages to find more. You may want to go to some of the websites and check out what else they offer, more tutorials, PDF's, information, etc.

Most of the time I'm available for a question or two, 269-983-5986.

Have a great day, don't forget to help me out by sending in your Votes for the Photo of the Month. Thanks ever so much.

Keep those shutters clicking,

Tom

Tom McCall, Editor and Webmaster

Twin City Camera Club

<https://www.twincitycameraclub.com>