

Tip Sheet #2: Layer Mask for Elements

Downloading Layer Masks

One of the most useful things in Photoshop is the ability to use a layer mask. This is not in any Elements prior to version 9, but is easily added, as described below:

- Go to www.about.com and in the search area type "Photoshop Elements Layer Mask", then look down the list for "Improved Layer Mask Tool for Photoshop Elements 7" and download it and the instructions. (If you are not using 7 download the one for any version)

To be able to insert the file you will need to be able to have Show Hidden Files enabled.

Installing the Layer Mask

In XP:

Go to Control Panel > Folder Options > View and switch on the Show Hidden Files option (you can leave this switched on if you wish or put it back as it was after installing the mask).

In Vista:

Normal view: Appearance and Personalization > Folder options > Show Hidden Files and Folders and switch on.

Classic View: Folder Options > Show Hidden Files and Folders and switch on.

The mask shows as a black and white rectangle in the show all styles area. Select the layer that you want to use the mask on and double click on the mask to load it to the layer. Note you may have to restart either elements or your computer to install the mask, it seems to depend on the computer.

This is the mask that I added to my computer and the clubs lap top and Graham to his version 6 elements, and is used by quite a lot of other Elements users in other clubs

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