

1. Could you show how to Load Mask again? My Load Mask from Disk only comes up with 1 choice?

By default, there are only 5 masks. The rest are from the Creative Content that can be downloaded from the Get More tab in the Welcome Book.

2. How to use masks to cut out a part of an image and then use that same mask to cut it into a different image?

If you are using the same image and want to have a mask/unmask area using the same mask layer, then you would need to paint/select another area on that layer and fill it with black or white, depending on whether you want to show or remove part of the image. If you want to apply this to different images, you can then apply a mask to each one separately and it will create a mask group for each area. This is the same principle used in the Corel Templates, where you can have different photos shown through different masks.

3. Can you explain the reasoning behind the placement of the mask layer and the photo layer?

If you are using a ready-made mask, the placement will always be in the center of the image or the layer. If one needs to move the mask, it would need to be created for that particular photo in mind.

4. I was hoping to see how to use masking to do large area dodge and burn effects, ie. mask off a skyline to preserve the foreground but adjust the brightness of the sky, or background.

You can use a mask to block the area you want to remove from the photo (ex: the sky) and show the sky from another layer underneath. Both layers can still be manipulated separately, even if you want to add an adjustment layer. Just remember that, by default, an adjustment layer does not create a group so if you want it to apply only on one layer, create a group for that adjustment layer with the photo layer. At this point, you can manipulate the settings as much as you want, and you can even delete the adjustment layer if you want to start from scratch.

5. Can you use a mask to create text filled with a picture?

Yes, you can. If you apply your text as a selection (not a vector), you will end up with a selection and then, it is up to you to fill it with white (if you want to show the image through)

6. Do I use two gradient masks to fade two images into each other from side to side?

No, you can have the mask block one photo partially, and the area that will become transparent or translucent, will let the layer below show. It will give the impression that both are masked, but in fact, you only have to do it on the top image.

7. What is the difference between the layers?

To learn more about layers, you can watch our webinar [An Introduction to Working with Layers in PaintShop Pro](#). We also have a [series of tutorials on layers](#) that will be helpful.

8. Where masks are kept on our computer in case we want to add more that show in load from disc?

When you install PaintShop Pro, it will create a set of empty folders, typically something like this: C:\Users\YourName\Documents\Corel PaintShop Pro\2018. One of those will be called Masks. By default, that is where you are expected to save them. However, you can save them anywhere you

want, as long as you point PaintShop Pro to retrieve them where you save them in File > Preferences > File location > Masks.

9. What keystroke are you using to "undo"?

CTRL + Z - That is the first shortcut to learn in PaintShop Pro, and the most often used!

10. When you put an image into a template, it looks like you can resize the image, but you didn't say you could. Can you grab the corner handle and resize it?

Yes, as long as you are using the Pick tool, you can move the image but also manipulate it as in resizing it, or rotating it.

11. Will these masks work with Corel PaintShop Pro 2018?

Yes

12. How many images can you add to a mask group?

You can add as many as you want, but since the mask will affect what is just under it, typically, you will only see the top most layer that is under the mask. However, if you have several layers that are not covering the whole surface, you can have as many as you want. It is like using Masking tape for painting a wall, typically you will use a color all over but if you wanted to have multiple splashes of different colors, you can do it too.

13. If one needs to remove a background from an image, such as making the background of a product transparent for placement on a Web site, is it best to use a mask, or simply erase the background from the main image?

Both will end up with the same result and the same amount of work: you will have to brush off on the image itself or on a mask layer to achieve the same effect.

14. I wanted to know more about masking people and objects, and also painting in and out masks... Like removing skies or extracting from a shoot.

Working on a mask would be just about the same as erasing from the actual image. You can select the subject, and on a black mask layer (where everything would be blocked or hidden), you would paint the selected area in white (to let it show through).

15. Can we convert a layer to a mask?

Yes, there is a way but just not obvious. Here are the steps starting with a greyscale layer:

- 1- Select all (Ctrl-A)
- 2- Selection > Modify > Select color Range and choose white as a reference color and Subtract color
- 3- Float that selection (Ctrl-F)
- 4- activate the layer just below
- 5- Layers > New mask layer > Show all (it will place a white mask layer)
- 6- activate the layer that is floating (just above the group)
- 7- drag it down just above the white mask layer
- 8- Defloat (Ctrl-Shift-F)

9- Deselect (Ctrl-D)

16. What do the selections - Source Luminance, Any Non-Zero Value, Source Opacity - do when creating a mask?

Typically, a mask will have white and black. Sometimes, you might have a mask that has a transparent area, so this setting will allow you to use such a mask without having to fill the empty area with white since you tell PSP to use the non-transparent pixels. If you use the Any Non-Zero value, it will average each grey pixel to become either black or white, but no grey.

17. How do you create Masks and then save them for use on later occasions?

Once you have created a mask, you can go to Layers > Load/Save mask > Save mask to disk. After you give it a meaningful name, it will be saved in your supplies and you can retrieve it later by loading it from the same menu.

18. When you use "Hide All" can you lower the opacity of the mask layer to see what you want to paint back in?

Yes, you can definitely do that. That is a great way to know where to paint. Notice that whatever you paint in white will also have a lower transparency so don't reduce it too much or you won't see the change between the black and white areas

19. How do I request a different tutorial, specifically on selections (wand)?

When you register for a webinar, you have the option to tell us which topics you would like to see for webinars (right on the registration page). This is the best way as we check the answers regularly for new webinar ideas.

You can also watch our tutorial on [Using the Selection Tools](#).

20. Suggestion on how to combine photos into a collage?

Why not start with one of the collage templates in File>New from Template? Or, check out [this tutorial](#) to create your own from scratch.

21. Can we select just the fisherman and put him on a new background with masks?

Yes, you can select any part of the photo and paste it as a new layer. That is what I was doing with the Corel template where I would just take sections of another image to paste as a new layer inside a mask group

22. Can you explain why to choose vector or raster while using masks?

You can choose either one. It will just depend on the type of image or element you want to mask. Either way, the mask will work exactly the same way, by hiding or showing part of that layer.

23. Can I save my created masks with the supplied masks?

Once you have created a mask, you can go to Layers > Load/Save mask > Save mask to disk. After you give it a meaningful name, it will be saved in your supplies and you can retrieve it later by loading it from the same menu.

24. How can you use a mask to replace the sky easily?

It would be the same process as using the Eraser tool to remove the "bad" sky and replace with a "good" sky. Using a mask, you can block (in black) the sky area you want to remove, and it will show another layer of "good" sky underneath.

25. For in-progress work, how do you save your masking work so you can pick it up later to complete?

Simply save your work in a .pspimage format, and all the layers will be kept as is. When you reopen the file later, all the layers, masks, groups will be ready to continue.

26. What is the Alpha Layer?

The alpha channel is a color component that represents the degree of transparency (or opacity) of a color (i.e., the red, green and blue channels). It is used to determine how a pixel is rendered when blended with another.

27. Can you build a mask using color values just like as is in PhotoPaint?

If you want to use a color, PaintShop Pro will turn the mask into a greyscale.

28. How do I trace an object in a photo then mask out anything else?

You can use any selection tool available to trace around the object, then once you add a mask, you make sure that the area you want to keep will be white on the mask and the rest will be black.