

Lesson no. 12: Working with Layer Menu

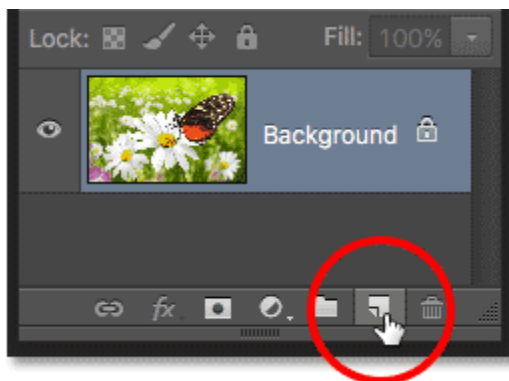
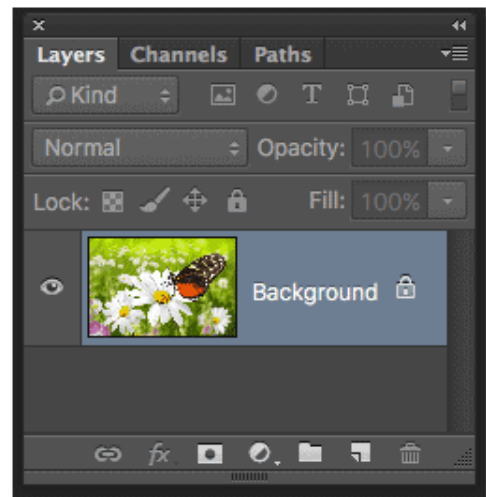
Layer Menu

The Layers panel is where we handle all of our layer-related tasks, from adding and deleting layers to adding layer masks and adjustment layers, changing layer blend modes, turning layers on and off in the document, renaming layers, grouping layers, and anything else that has anything to do with layers. Since it's one of the most commonly-used panels in all of Photoshop, Adobe set things up so that the Layers panel opens automatically for us each time we launch the program.

New layer:- The New Layers panel is not appearing on your screen, you can access it (along with any of Photoshop's other panels) by going up to the **Window** menu in the **Menu Bar** along the top of the screen and choosing **Layers**.

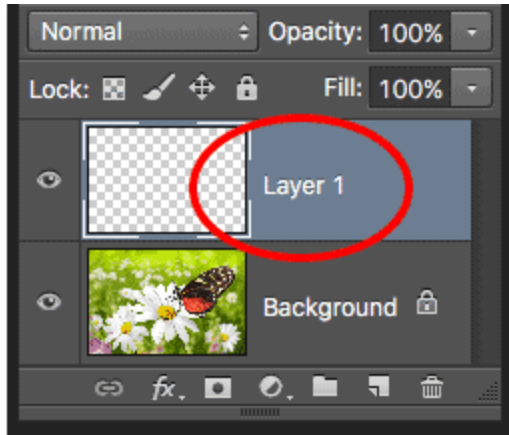
Adding A New Layer

To add a new layer to a document, click the **New Layer** icon at the bottom of the Layers panel:



Clicking the New Layer icon.

A new layer appears in the Layers panel directly above the Background layer. Photoshop automatically names new layers for us. In this case, it named the layer "Layer 1". Notice that we now have two layer rows in the Layers panel, each representing a different layer:



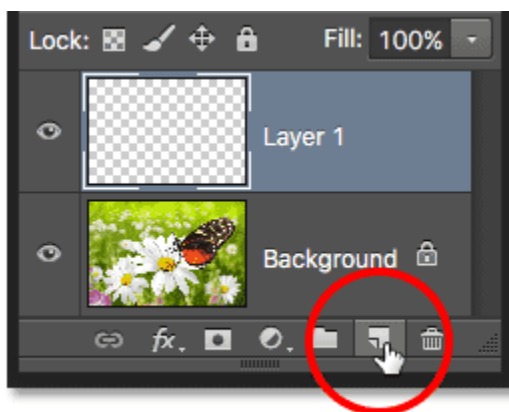
A new layer named Layer 1 appears in the Layers panel.

If we look in the new layer's preview thumbnail, we see a **checkerboard pattern**. The checkerboard pattern is Photoshop's way of representing transparency. Since there's nothing else being displayed in the preview thumbnail, this tells us that at the moment, the new layer is blank:



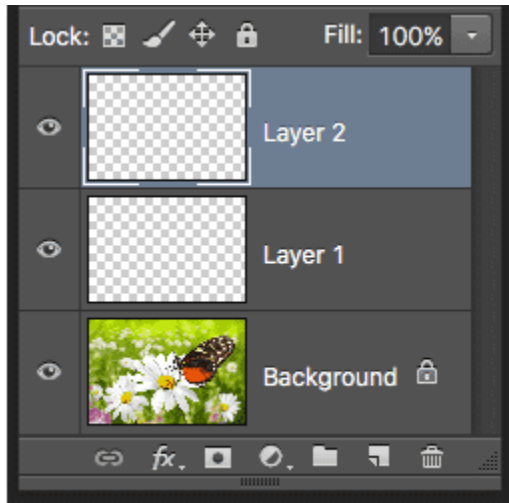
When we add a new layer to a document, it begins life as a blank slate.

If I click again on the New Layer icon:



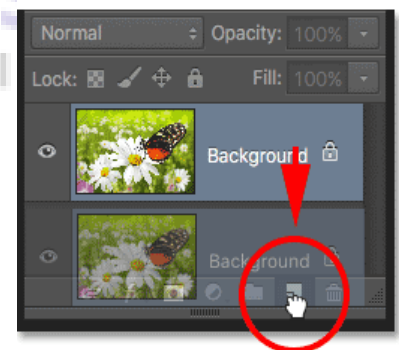
Clicking a second time on the New Layer icon.

Photoshop adds another new layer to my document, this time naming it "Layer 2". We now have three layer rows, each representing one of the three layers in the document:

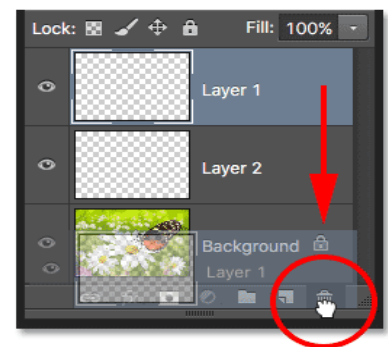


Three layers, each on its own row in the Layers panel.

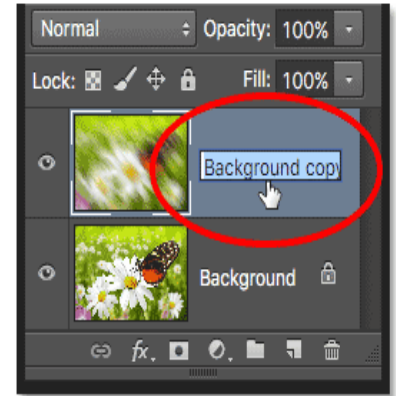
Duplicate Layer:- We've seen how to add a new blank layer to a document, but we can also make a copy of an existing layer using the Layers panel. To copy a layer, click on it and, with your mouse button held down, drag it down onto the **New Layer** icon. I'll make a copy of my Background layer:



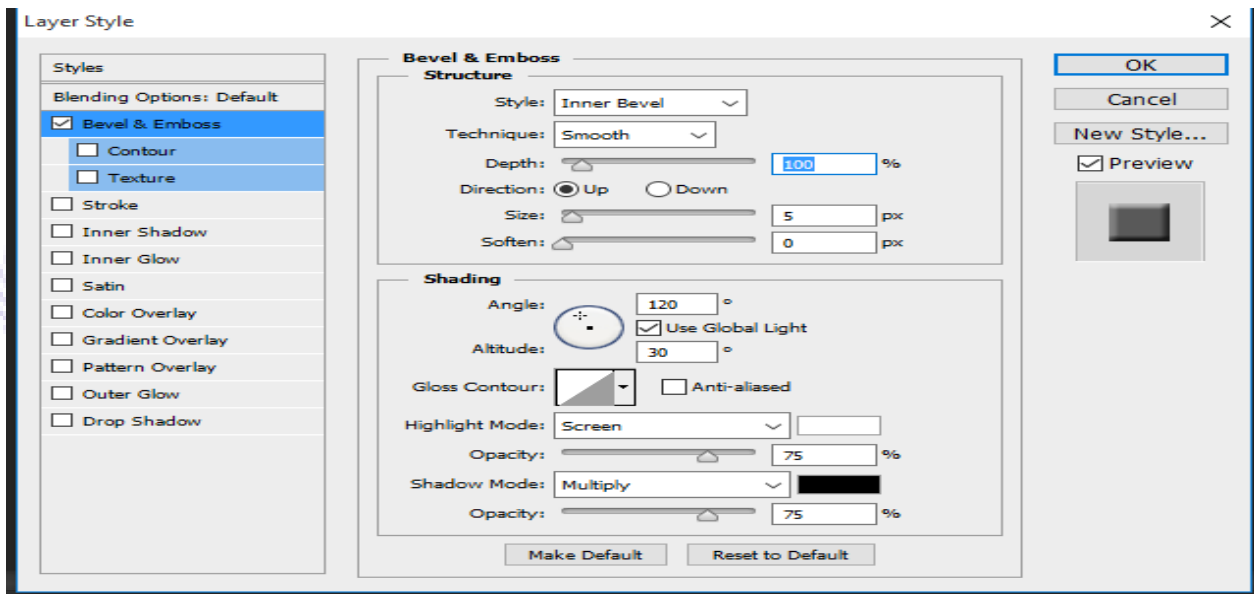
Deleting Layer:- To delete a layer, simply click on it and, with your mouse button still held down, drag it down onto the **Trash Bin** icon at the bottom of the Layers panel. Release your mouse button when you're over the icon. Here, I'm deleting Layer 1:



Rename Layer:- As we've seen, Photoshop automatically names layers for us as we add them, but the names it gives them, like "Layer 1" and "Background copy", are pretty generic and not very helpful. When we only have a couple of layers in a document, the names may not seem very important, but when we find ourselves working with 10, 20 or even 100 or more layers, it's much easier to keep them organized if they have meaningful names. Thankfully, Photoshop makes it easy to rename a layer. Simply **double-click** directly on a layer's name in the Layers panel to highlight it:

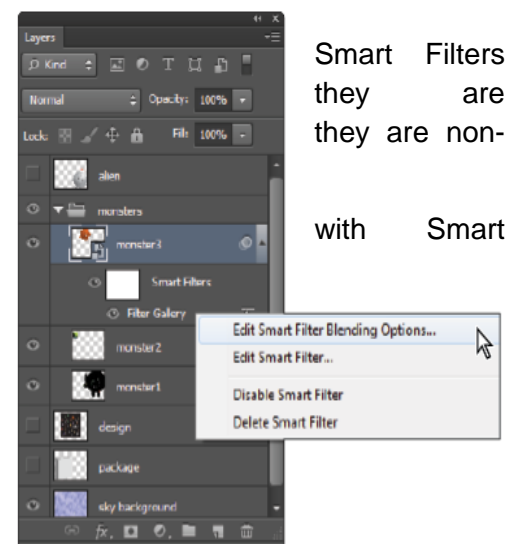


Layer Style:- Adobe Photoshop CS6 makes creating effects using Layer Styles Basics as easy as selecting an option. Back in the day, creating a drop shadow in Photoshop took a concerted effort. And bevelled or embossed type? You really had to have the inside scoop on some Photoshop tricks.



Smart Filter:- Any filter applied to a Smart Object is a Smart Filter. appear in the Layers panel below the Smart Object layer to which applied. Because you can adjust, remove, or hide Smart Filters, destructive.

You can apply any Photoshop filter (that has been enabled to work Filters)—except for Lens Blur, Flame Picture Frame, Trees, and Vanishing Point—as a Smart Filter. In addition, you can apply Shadow/Highlight as Smart Filters. To work with Smart Filters, select a Smart Object layer, choose a filter, and then set filter options. After you apply a Smart Filter, you can adjust, reorder, or delete it.



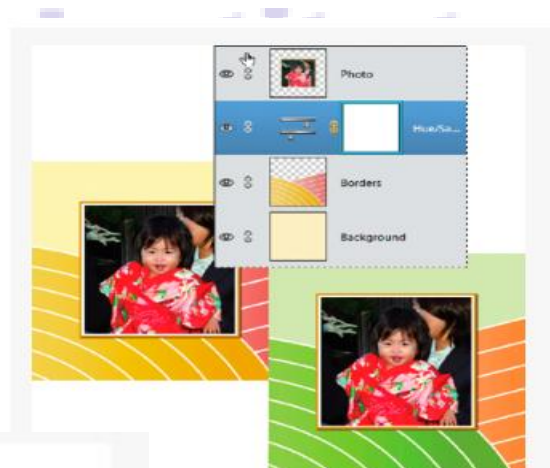
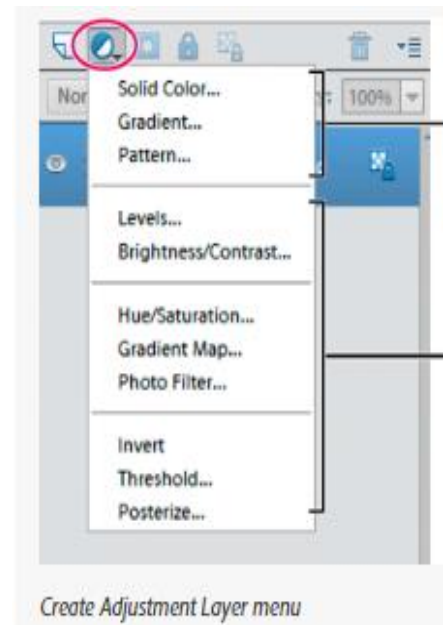
Smart Filters they are non-destructive with Smart

New Fill Layer and Adjustment Layer:- Adjustment layers let you experiment with color and make tonal adjustments without permanently modifying the pixels in an image. You can think of an adjustment layer as a veil coloring the underlying layers. By default, an adjustment layer affects all layers below it, although you can change this behavior. When you create an adjustment layer, the Layers panel displays a white box representing the adjustment for that layer.

Fill layers let you fill a layer with a solid color, gradient, or pattern. Unlike adjustment layers, fill layers do not affect the layers below them. To paint on a fill layer, you must first convert it (simplify it) into a regular layer.

Adjustment and fill layers have the same opacity and blending mode options as image layers, and you can move and reposition them just as you do image layers. By default, adjustment and fill layers are named for their type (for example, Solid Color fill layer and Invert adjustment layer).

Layer Mask:- A layer mask prevents sections of a layer, or an entire layer, from being visible. You use the mask to show or hide sections of an image or an effect. When the layer mask (right thumbnail) attached to an adjustment layer is completely white, the adjustment effect is applied to all underlying layers. If you don't want to apply the effect to certain portions of the underlying layers, paint the corresponding area of the mask with black. When attached to a fill layer, the mask defines the filled-in area in the fill layer.



Clipping Mask:- A clipping mask is created in Photoshop when you use the content of one layer to mask the layers above it. You are basically clipping around the artwork to fit to the shape of the object on the layer. In this tutorial, we're going to use some text as a clipping mask and the image from another layer will appear through those letters. This is a popular effect both on the web and in graphic design.

1. In Photoshop, open up an image that you want to use. I'm using a snowy scene. (Note the screengrabs here are from Photoshop CS2, but you can do this with versions of Photoshop 7 (possibly before) onwards.)
2. Select the Horizontal Type Tool and choose the font properties you want on the tool options bar. Below you can see the options I chose.



Font Family – pussycat, Size 250 (you will need to type this into the Size field and press Enter (Windows) or Return (Mac)), Text aligned Centre and Anti-aliasing set to Strong.

3. Click on the document window and type the word Snowfall.



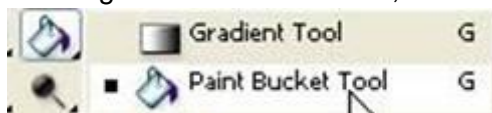
Use the Move Tool, to centre the word in the middle of the image.

4. Click on the background layer in the Layers Palette to select it and then click on the Create A New Layer button.



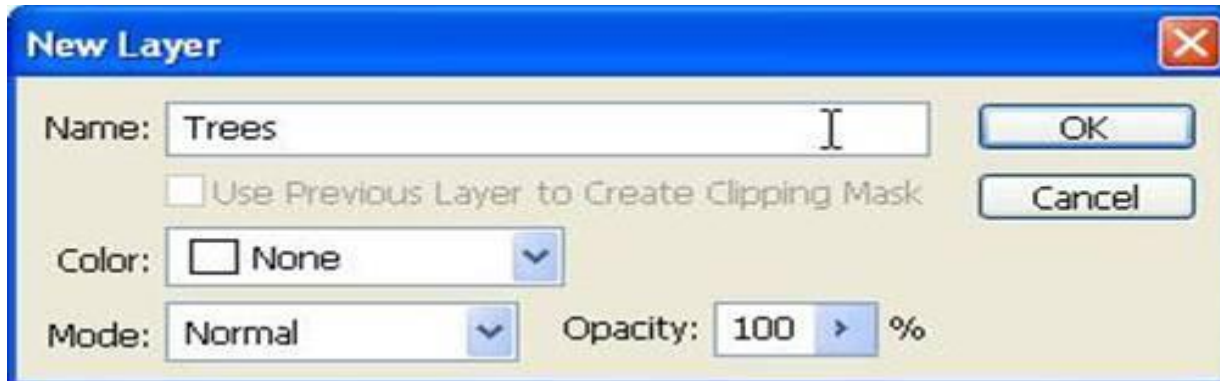
A new empty layer will appear in the Layers Palette.

5. Using the Paint Bucket tool, fill the new layer with white.

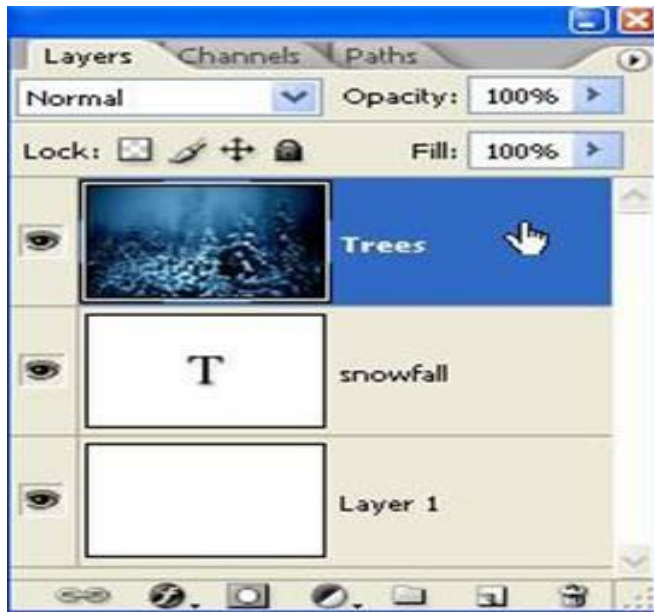


You now need to rearrange the stacking order of the layers to create your clipping mask. At the moment the background layer is locked.

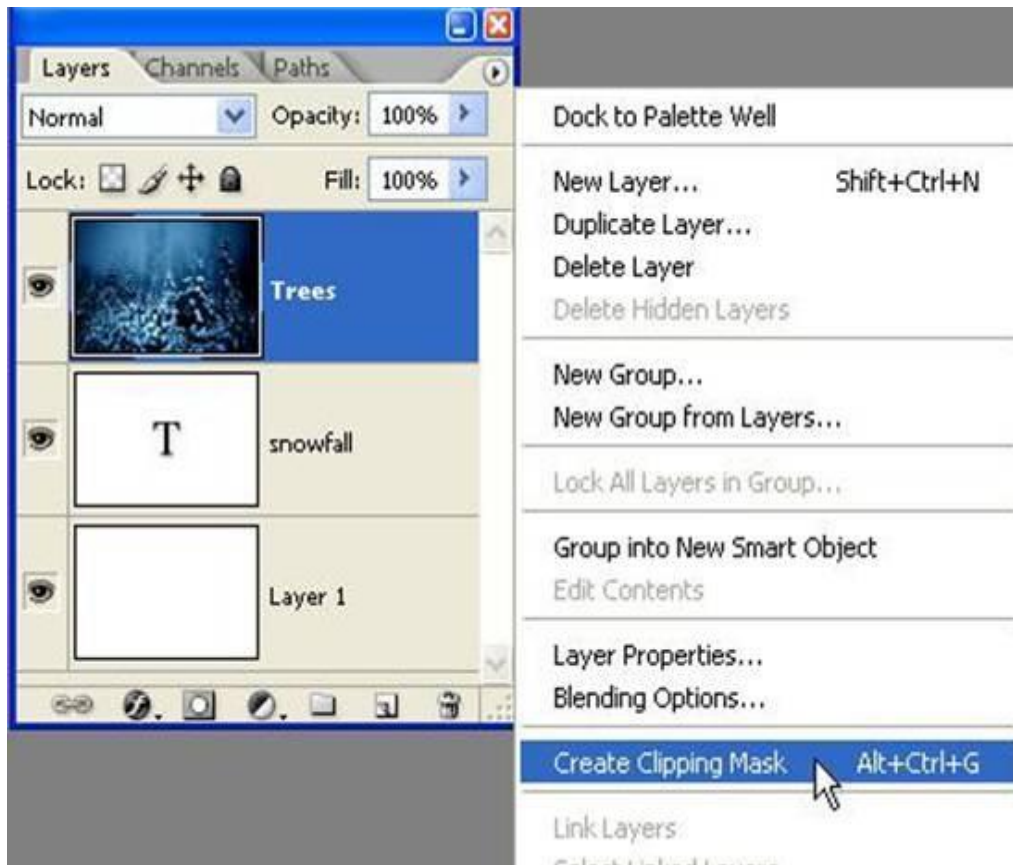
1. Double-click anywhere on the background layer to open up the New Layer dialog box. Rename the layer as Trees and click OK.



7. Click on the Trees layer in the Layers Palette and drag it to the top of the layers so that Trees are hiding the words Snowfall.



8. Click on the Layers Palette menu (the little triangle in the upper right corner) and choose Create Clipping Mask.



The clipping mask, kicks into action and you will see the letters forming the word Snowfall are filled with the image of the snowy trees.

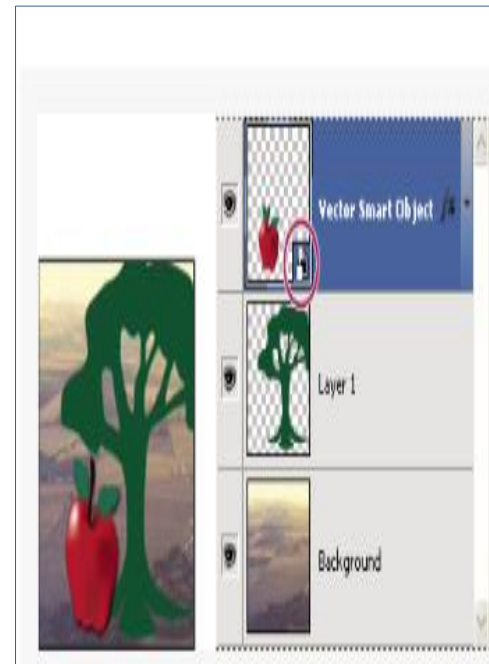
The nice thing here is that you can move your text around and the image coming through varies.

The word 'SNOWFALL' is displayed in a large, bold, blue font. The letters are filled with the same snowy forest image seen in the screenshot above, demonstrating the effect of a clipping mask.

Smart Objects:- Smart Objects are layers that contain image data from raster or vector images, such as Photoshop or Illustrator files. Smart Objects preserve an image's source content with all its original characteristics, enabling you to perform non-destructive editing to the layer.

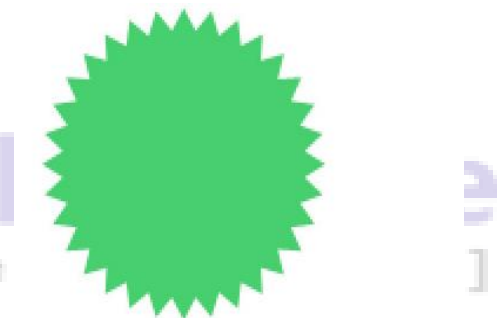
In Photoshop CC and CS6, you can embed the contents of an image into a Photoshop document. In Photoshop CC, you can also create Linked Smart Objects whose contents are referenced from external image files. The contents of a Linked Smart Object are updated when its source image file changes.

Linked Smart Objects are distinct from duplicated *instances* of a Smart Object within a Photoshop document. With Linked Smart Objects, you can use a shared source file across multiple Photoshop documents which is a familiar and welcome concept for web designers.



Combine Shapes:- The best way to combine 2 shape layers in Photoshop is to keep both shapes in a vector format so they will still be editable. However, there is a quicker option available if you are happy for the finished product to become a raster layer.

The 2 separate shapes Shape 1 Shape 2 2 separate shape layers



The raster option

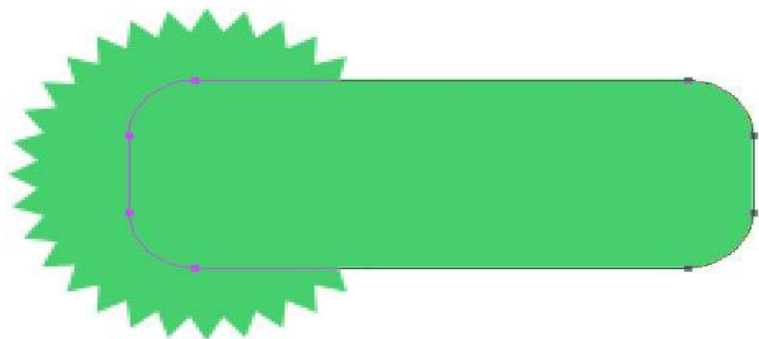
The easiest way to combine 2 shape layers in Photoshop is to select the 2 layers in the layers palette (press shift to select more than one layer at a time) and right click on one of the layers in the layers palette and choose merge layers. This will combine both your shapes into one raster layer but the individual Shapes will no longer be editable or scalable.

Select both shape layers
Right click & choose merge layers
Combined in 1 raster layer



The vector option

The best way to join 2 shape layers is to select all the path points on one shape layer. To do this, use the direct selection tool and press shift to select multiple points.





Use the direct selection tool to select all the points in one of the shapes

Once all the points are selected you can press Apple C / Ctrl C or Edit > Copy. Apple X / Ctrl X or Edit > Cut to delete the layer.

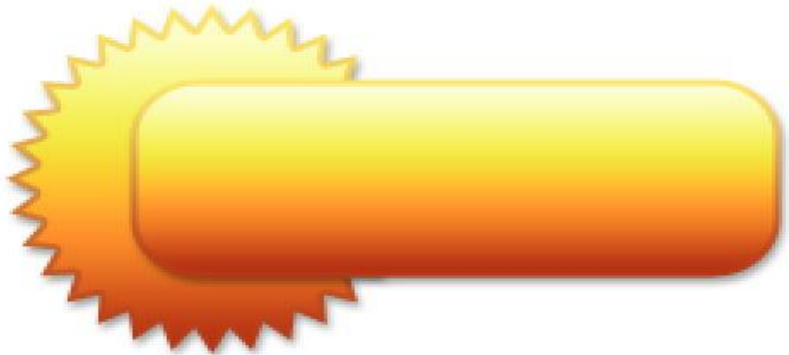
Select the other vector shape which you want to combine it with and select the shape area in the layers palette.

Select the vector mask thumbnail

With the pen tool selected choose 'Add to Shape area' from the shape option tool bar.



Pen Tool Add to shape area



Apple V / Ctrl V or Edit Paste. Your 2 shapes will now be combined within one shape layer.

Combined Shapes Combined within 1 shape layer

To combine shapes whilst drawing new shapes

To combine shapes whilst drawing with the shape tools, make sure the 'Add to Shape area' option is pressed as you start drawing each new shape.

