

# INTRODUCTION TO DIGITAL MEDIA [48-120]

Carnegie Mellon University School of Architecture

---

## Assignment 05: Layer Masks

Software: Adobe Photoshop

Make a scene using layer masks. This scene will involve a background made of repeating vertical elements (trees, fence posts, prison bars, window mullions, etc.) and two (2) different horizontal elements (hoagies, reclining figure, submarine, javelin, etc.). Using Layer Masks, “weave” the horizontal elements through the vertical elements.

You will be assessed on both your technical ability (how clean your masks are) and how compelling your scene is. You may bend or break rules of “proper” perspective; an element may weave foreground to back in improbable ways.

Acquire your image(s) by taking digital photos. You may use an image off the web, but it must be at least 1600x1200 pixels.

### PROCEDURE:

1. Open one of your horizontal images.
2. Double-click on the Layer Name (Background) to activate the Layer (Layer 0)
3. Apply a layer mask to separate the object from its background (click on circle-in-the-square icon at the bottom of the Layer Palette)
4. Make sure you have the Layer Mask Thumbnail selected. Use the Marquee/Lasso tool or the Magic Wand tool to select the area outside your object. Fill with black. Alternatively, use the brush tool to paint the background black. You should see the checkerboard pattern appear showing you are seeing transparency (as weird as that sounds).
5. Save this file as a PSD.
6. Duplicate this layer into your background image.
7. Right-click on the Layer Mask Thumbnail and select “Apply Layer Mask”
8. Make a new Layer Mask and use it to make your object appear in front or behind the vertical elements.
9. Selecting/Deselecting the “linking chain” between the Layer Thumbnail and the Layer Mask Thumbnail will free the image from its mask, making it appear as though the image is sliding behind the vertical object.
10. Repeat this process for the second horizontal image.
11. Save the overall image as a PSD file. This will preserve your Layers and Masks.
12. File>Save As... and select the JPG option. This will save another version that is flat (without layers).

### SUBMISSION:

Name your file “Assign05\_ANDREWID.jpg”

Post your final JPG image to Blackboard by the end of class (in class if you wish to continue making edits during class work session)

Thursday (18 Sep 2008) or Friday (19 Sep 2008)