ADOBE INDESIGN TUTORIAL

When you're creating and editing visuals in Adobe Photoshop, the image areas you hide make as important a contribution to the work you create as do the image areas you present. Experienced Photoshop artists know that rather than delete pixel information they don't want visible, it's better to use a mask, giving yourself the option to reveal parts of your image you first decided to hide. Photoshop's masks come in various types, each suited to a different image-creation task.

Layer Mask

Artists could create composite images with discrete graphic elements, applying layer masks to hide or show all or parts of them. A layer mask consists of a grayscale bitmap. You can paint a mask by hand or use a selection to define its shape, and turn its visibility on and off by Shift-clicking on its icon in the Layers panel to view your image layer with or without its effect.

Vector Mask

Along with or instead of a layer mask, each Adobe Photoshop pixel-based layer can carry a vector mask that limits the visible parts of the layer through a vector clipping path. which can be soft, blurred or partially transparent, vector masks always define a fully opaque visible area bounded by a hard edge. You can turn vector masks' visibility on and off in the Layers panel the same way you turn off layer masks. If you turn a vector mask into a layer mask, it replaces an existing layer mask or adds one to a layer that doesn't include one.

Clipping Mask

Any Adobe Photoshop mask can serve as a clipping mask. The technology allows a layer mask or vector mask to apply not only to the base layer on which it's saved, but to any layer above the base in the image's layer stack. Designate a mask as a clipping mask by holding down the "Alt" key, and clicking on the dividing line between the base layer and the one above it in the Layers panel.