



Photoshop: It's all about layers and masks

A beginners guide to first steps in Photoshop

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What are we
going to do
tonight

- Show you how to create a layer
- Show you how to create basic masks
- Simple edit for Beginners Level Competition Entry

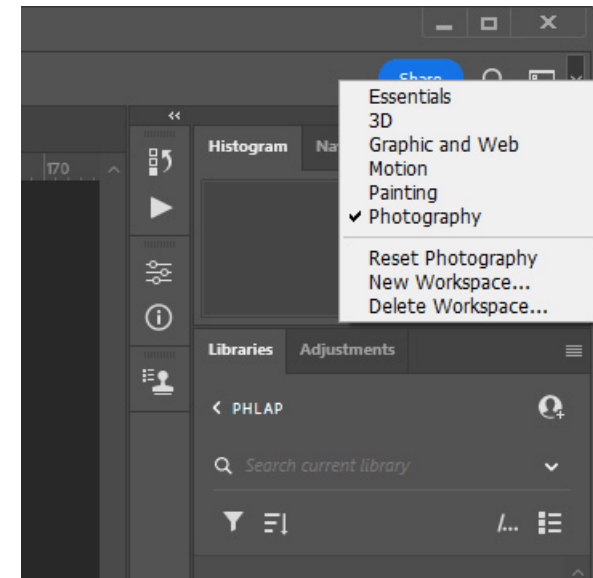
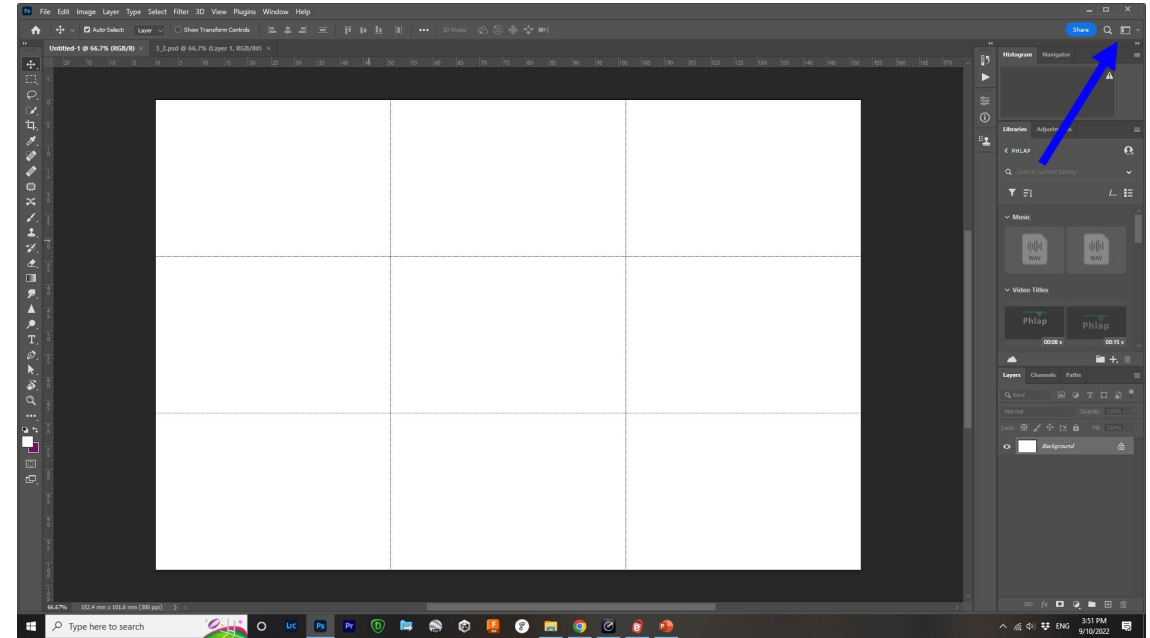
- Targeted at absolute beginners
- The concepts are the same for other NDE software

Non-destructive editing (NDE)

- No changes are made to the photo, the changes are captured in software (.PSD file)
- Layers and masks give you full control over non-destructive editing
 - The eraser tool will remove pixels
 - The mask tool hides pixels
- If you use the Eraser tool and close the image there is no Undo

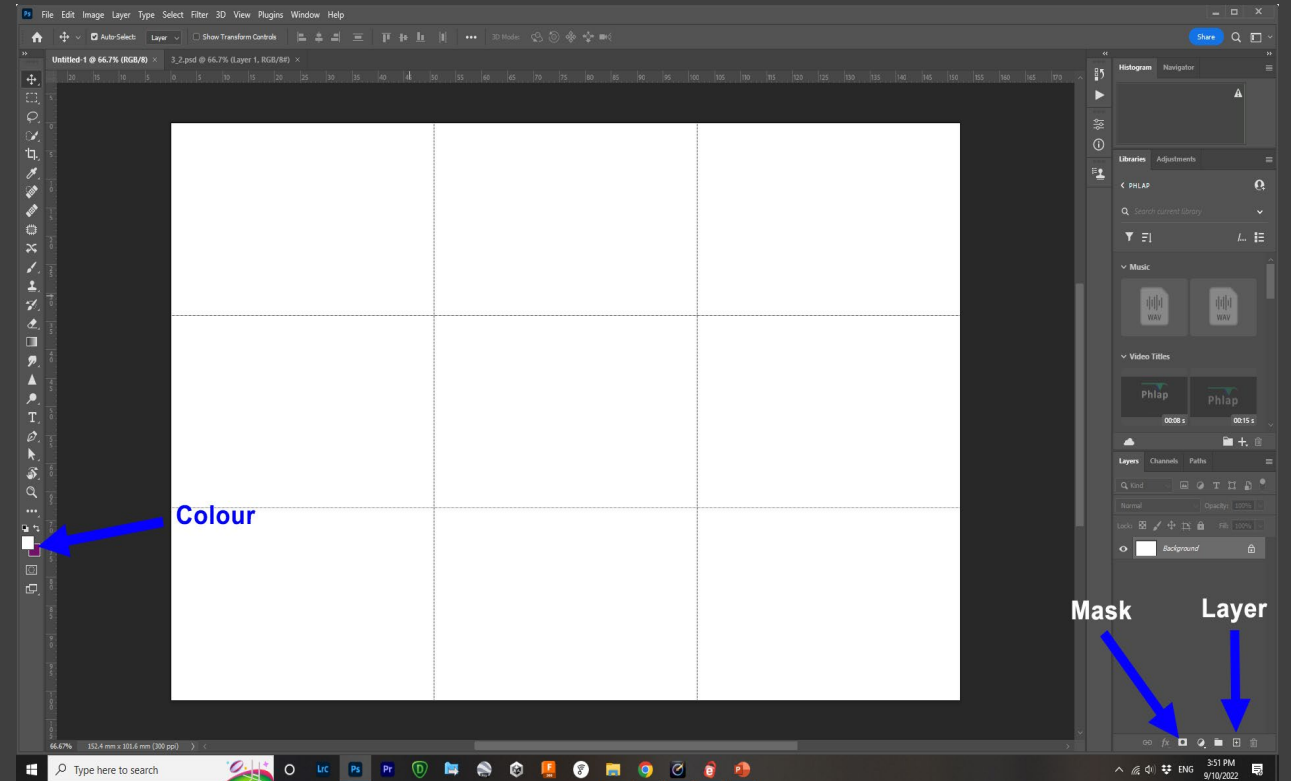
Let's Get Started

- Open Photoshop and let's set it up for Photography
- **Top right corner** click on the **window icon**
- **Select Photography**
 - I find this gives the best selection of tools



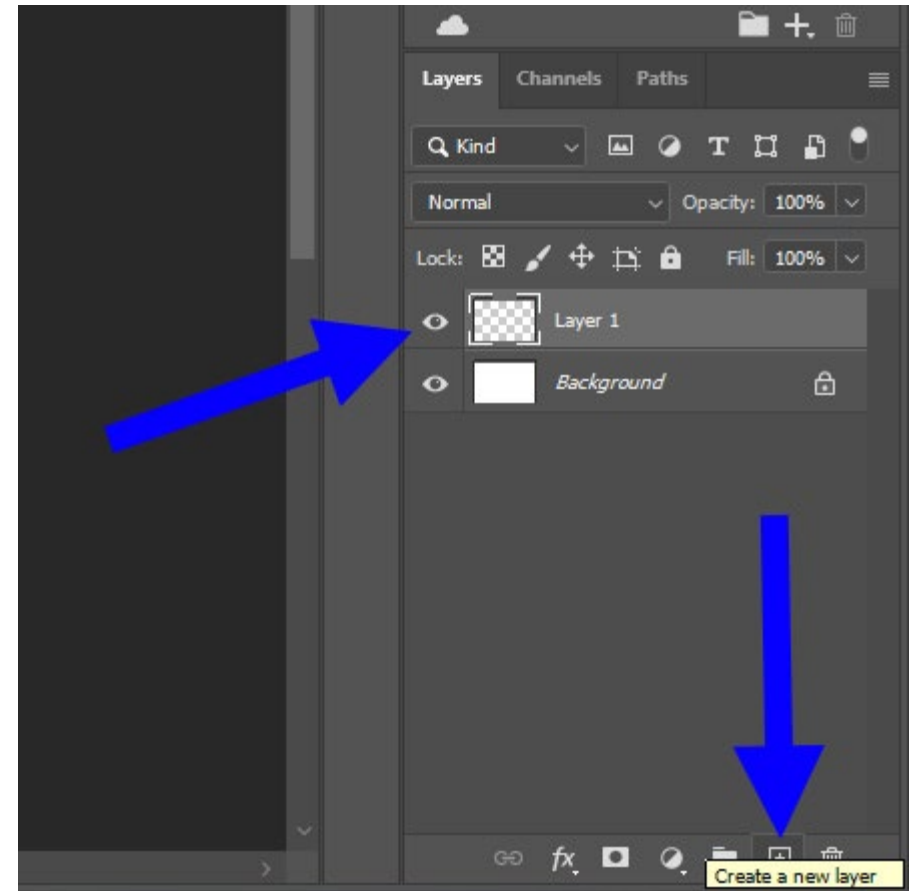
The important parts for tonight

- 3 basic areas to start with
 - The **Layer** icon
 - The **Mask** icon
 - The **Colour Selection** icons
- Let's look at these one at a time



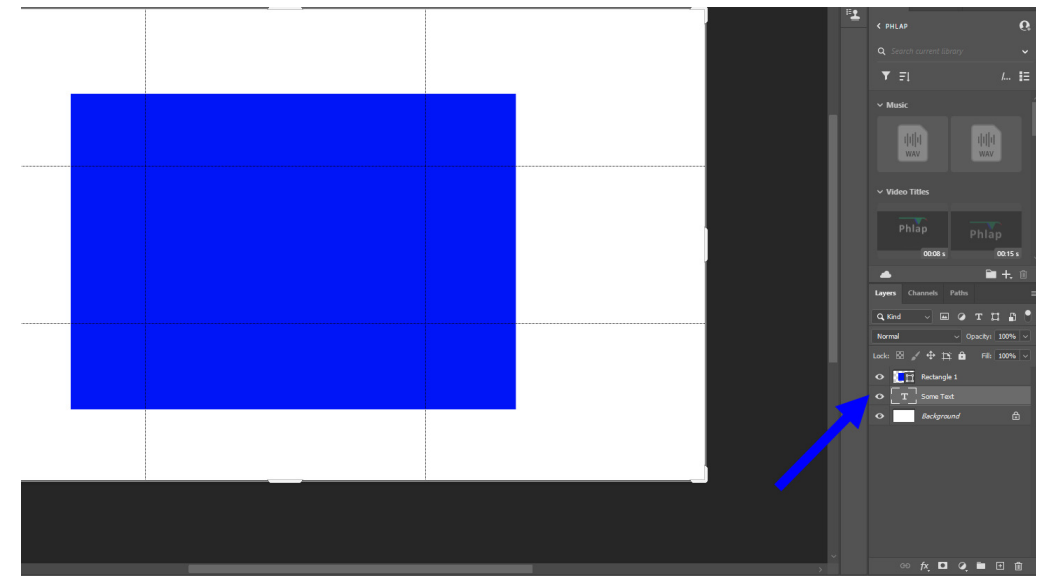
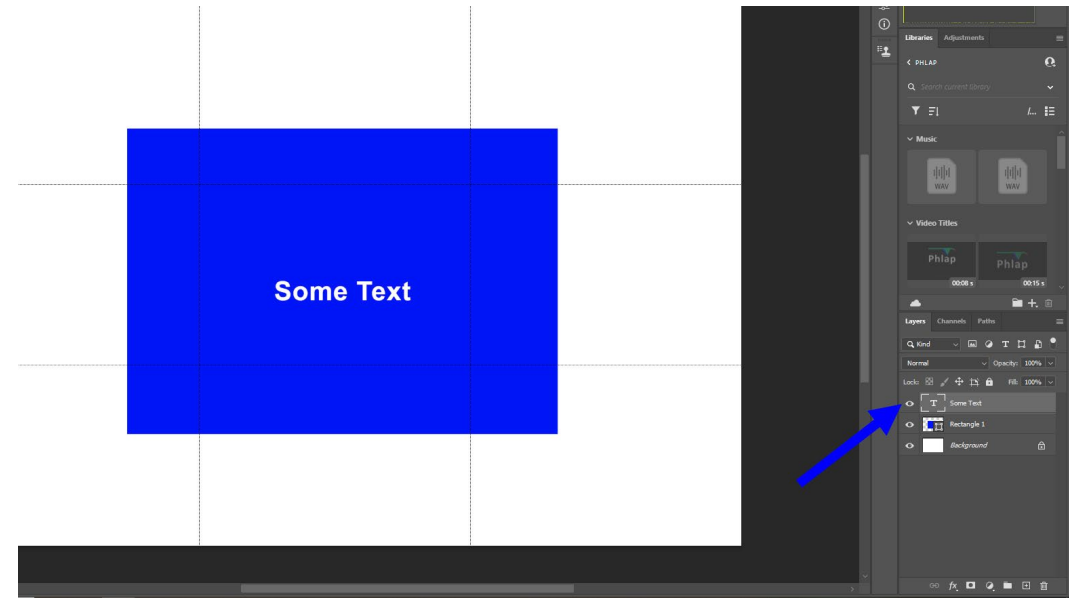
The Layer Tool

- All new actions should be done on a new layer
- Create a new layer
 - Click the **plus icon**
 - A new layer will appear in the **Layers Panel**
- All layers appear in this panel....



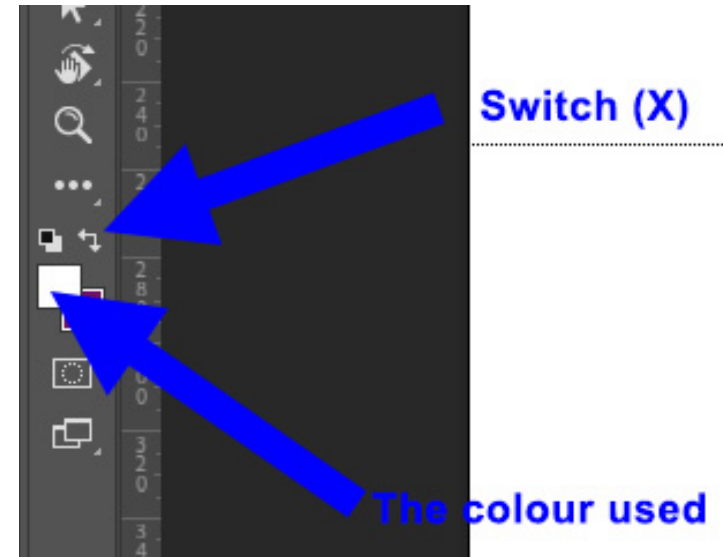
The Layer Tool

- All new actions should be done on a new layer
- Create a new layer
 - Click the **plus icon**
 - A new layer will appear in the **Layers Panel**
- All layers appear in this panel
- It is top-down; the layer higher up will take precedence over the layers below
- You can move a layer by left click and hold and then dragging up or down



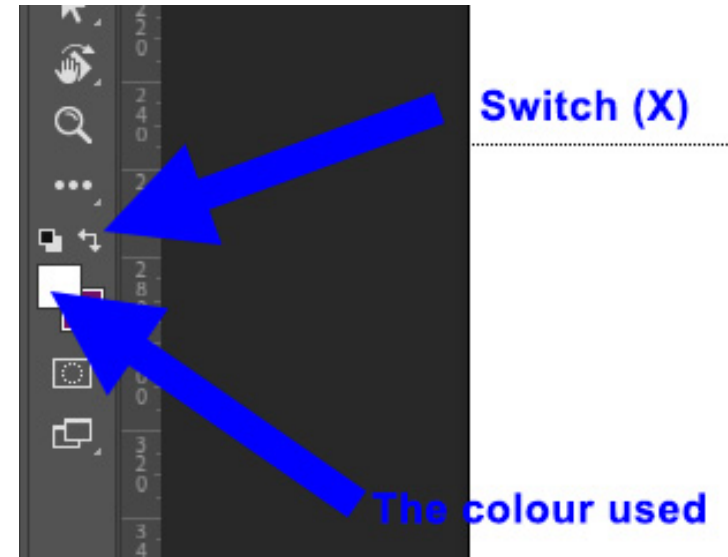
The Colour Icon

- Masks use black and white to hide and show parts of your image
- You use the colour icon to select black or white
- If a different colour is showing Press the **D** key.....



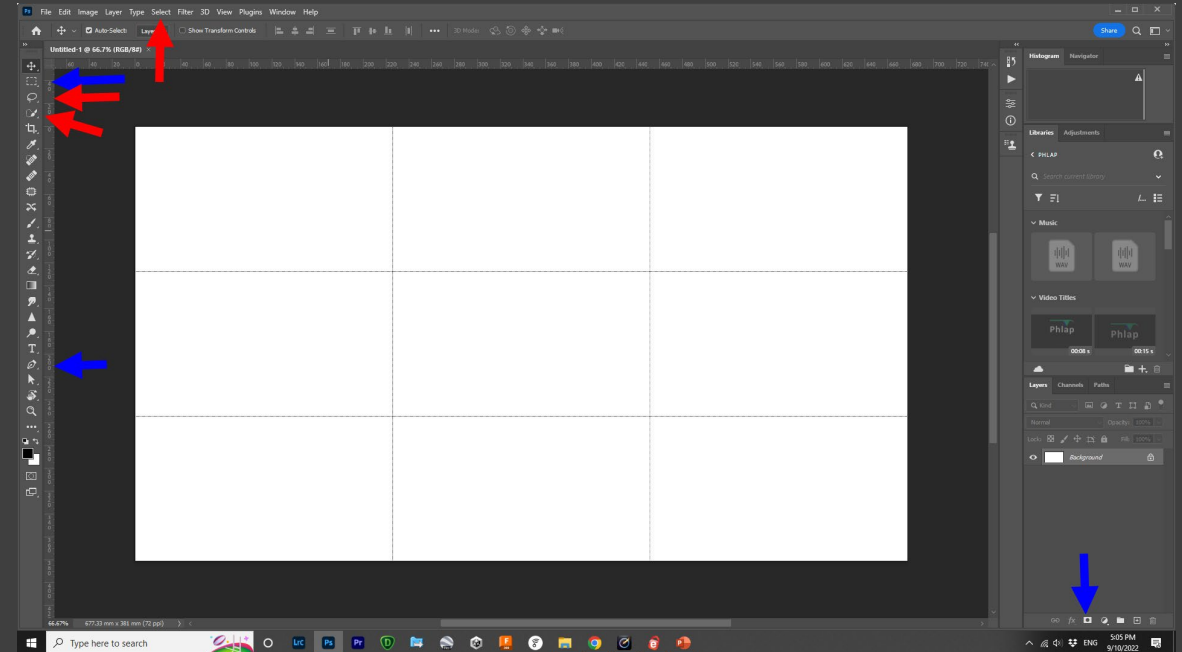
The Colour Icon

- Masks use black and white to hide and show parts of your image
- You use the colour icon to select black or white
- If a different colour is showing Press the **D** key
- The Foreground Colour (top left) is the colour used
- To switch Foreground and Background colour
 - Click the **Arrow Icon** or
 - Use the **shortcut key X**



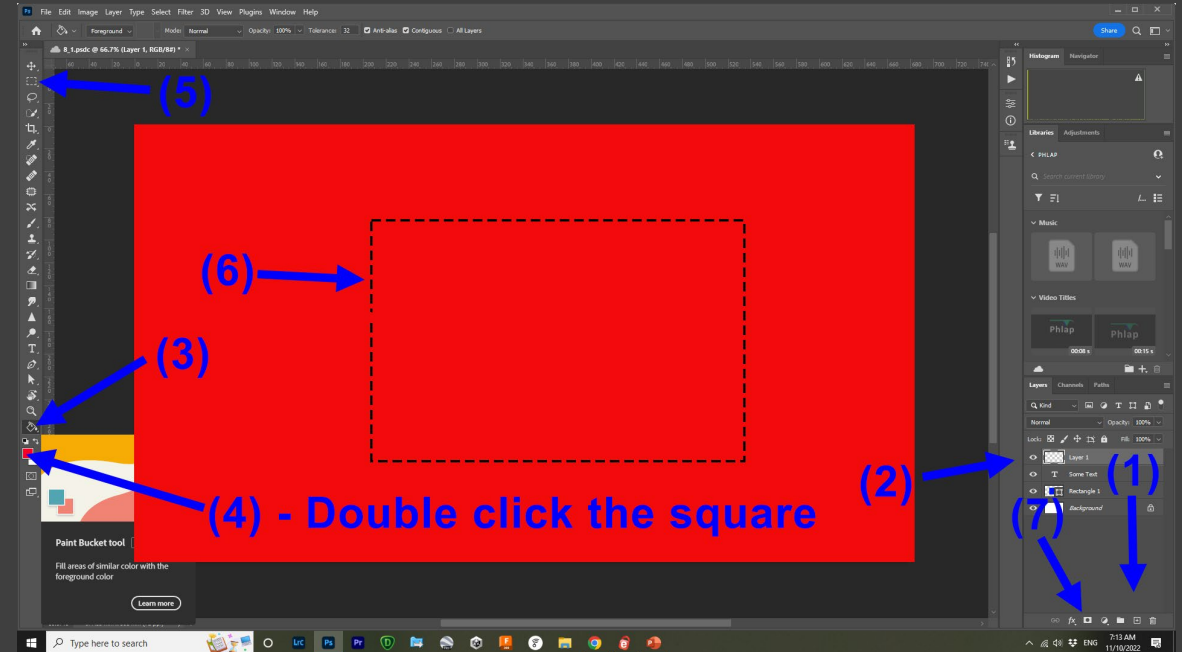
Masks

- There are multiple ways to make masks
 - **Manually** where you use a selection tool and then click the mask button (Blue Arrows)
 - **Automatically**, where Photoshop does the initial selection (Red Arrows)
- Masks can be further refined by painting on black or white.
- Let's have a look at a simple manual example



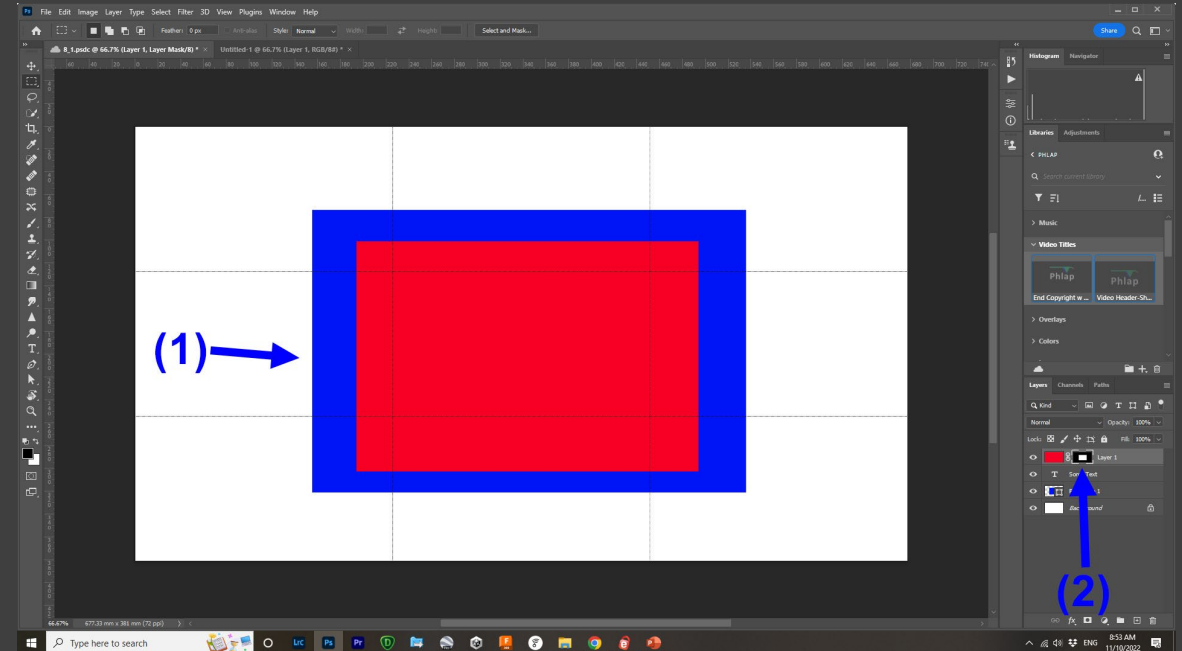
Creating a mask manually

- Create a new layer by **clicking** on the **Layer icon** (1)
- The new layer (2) appears in the layer panel
- Get the **Paint Bucket Tool** (3) and fill the layer with a **colour** (4) by clicking on the drawing board
- Select the **Rectangular Marquee** tool (5) and **draw a rectangle** anywhere in the image (6). You will see the marching ants.
- **Click on the Mask button** (7)
- Several things happen...



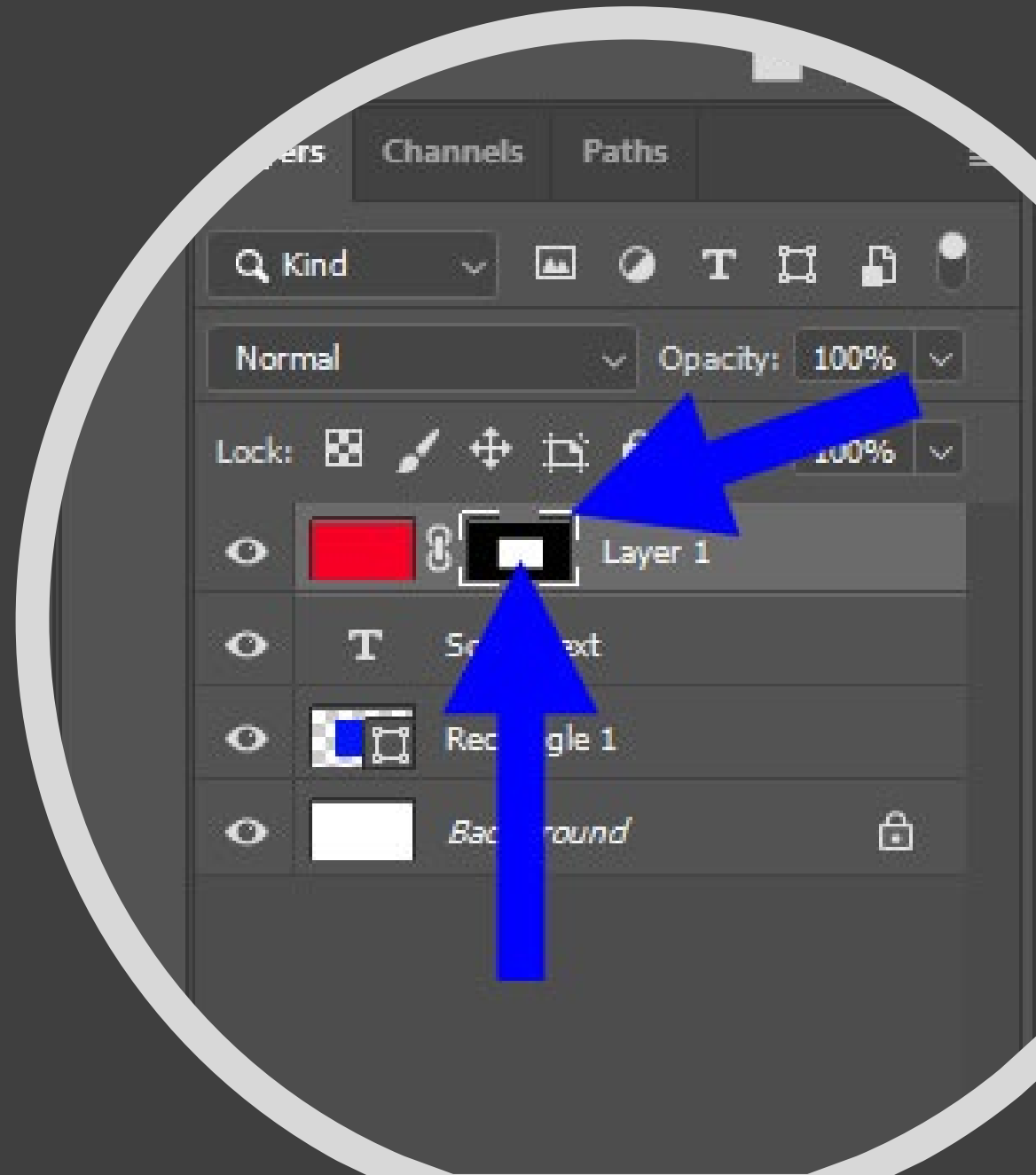
Creating a mask manually

- (1) The red disappears and just shows up where you drew the rectangle (mask)
- A new icon (2) appears in the layer panel
- This icon is your mask



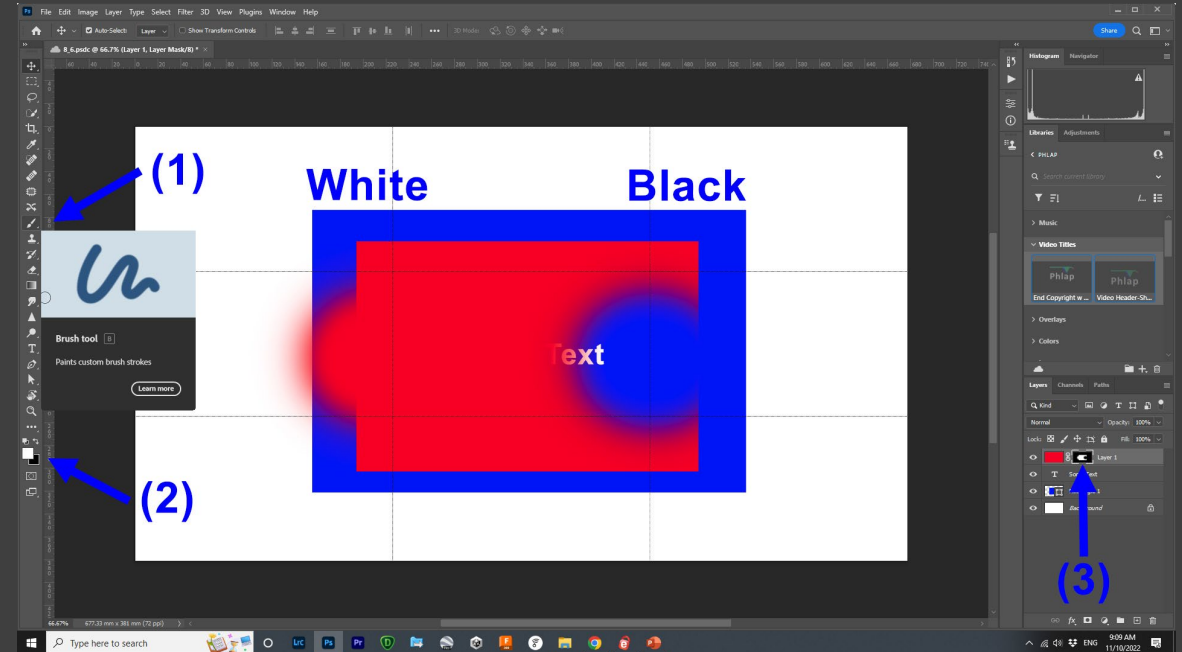
Creating a mask manually

- The light grey highlight for this level shows it is the selected level, the one we are going to work on
- The white line around the mask icon shows it is selected and any changes we make are to the mask
- The white portion is what we can see, the black hides everything else on that layer
- **Ctrl I** will **invert** the mask



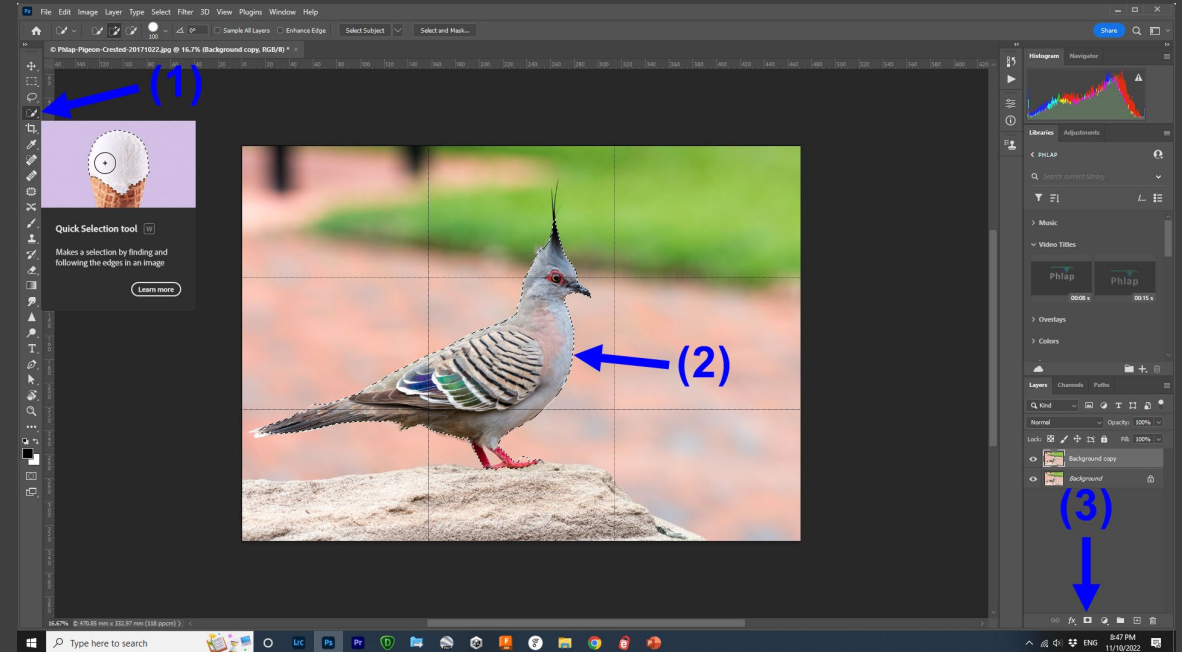
Creating a mask manually

- (1) Select the **brush tool**
- (2) ensure you have black and white colours (Shortcut Key D)
- Paint over your image.
- Swap colours (Shortcut Key X)
- Notice how the Mask Icon (3) changes to reflect where you have painted



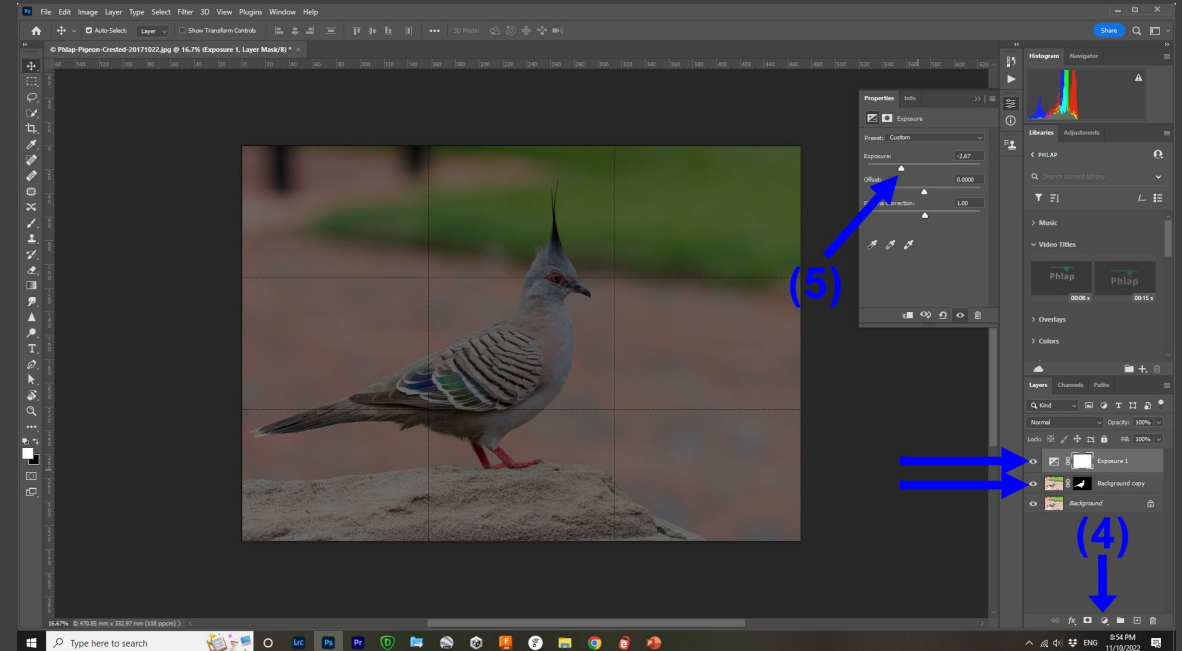
Creating an “automatic” mask

- Select the **Quick Selection** tool (1)
- (2) **Drag** it over your image to outline the focus
- Click the **Mask** icon (3)....



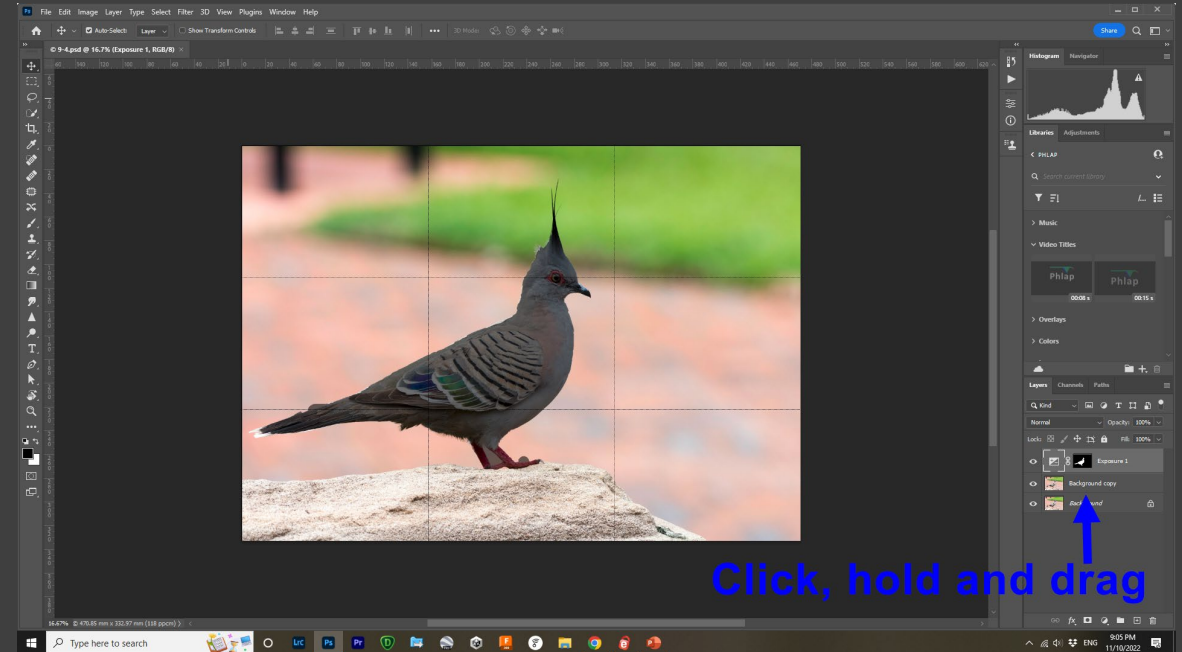
Creating an “automatic” mask

- Select the **Quick Selection** tool (1)
- (2) **Drag** it over your image to outline the focus
- Click the **Mask** icon (3). You will see the Mask icon appear on the layer
- **Click** on the **Adjustment Layer** Icon (4) and select Exposure. Notice the new Exposure layer and Mask in the Layers Panel
- Adjust the Exposure (5)



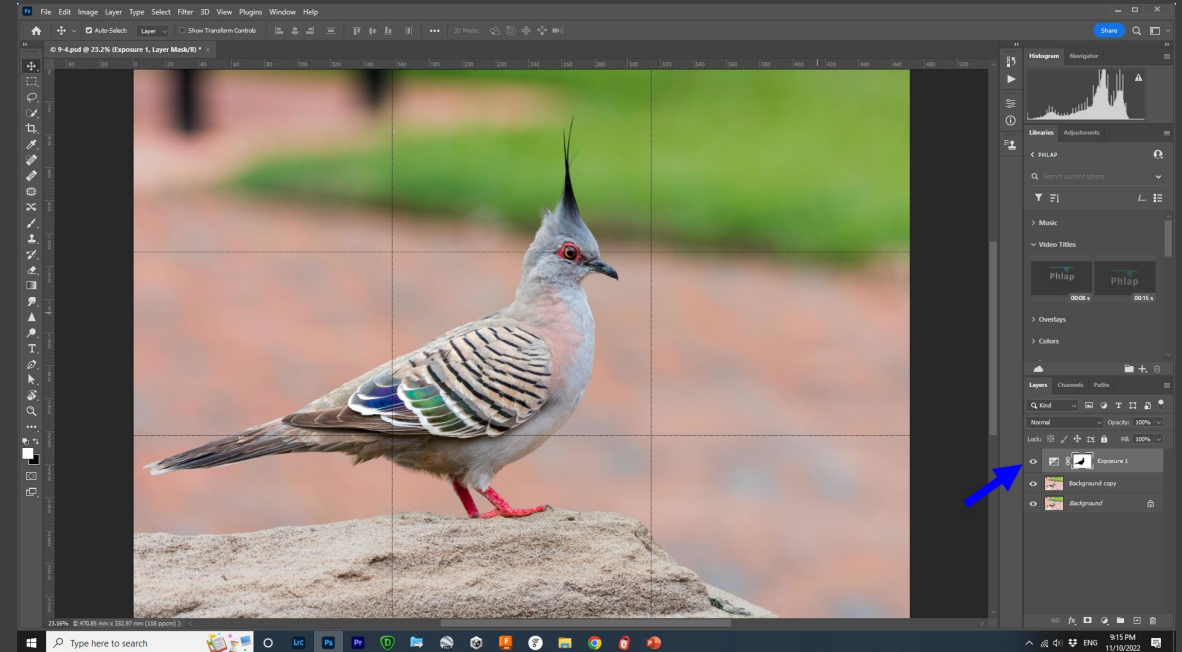
Creating an “automatic” mask

- **Left click and hold on the Layer Mask** you created and **drag it onto the Exposure layer** (Alt-Left click and hold will copy the mask)
- Click on “Yes”
- But the bird is dark not the background???



Creating an “automatic” mask

- We masked the bird for simplicity
- Simply Invert The Mask
 - **Select the Layer Mask**
 - **Shortcut Key Ctrl-I**
- **Done**
- Click on the layer eye to turn off and on the effect
- Click on the Exposure Icon to change the exposure level
- You can add as many layers as you want



Thank you

Any Questions?