

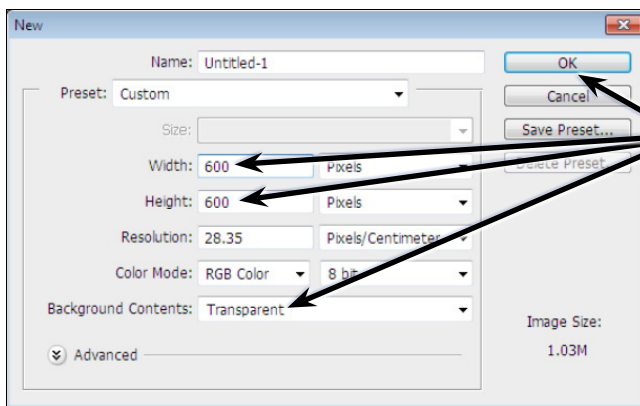
Creating Clipping Masks

Layers are one of the most fundamental aspects of Photoshop. They allow you to break a drawing up into small selections which makes detailed drawings much easier to manage. In this Chapter you will use layers to create masks. Masks are covers that you place over things. In Photoshop you can show parts of photos or images through a clipping mask placed over the image.

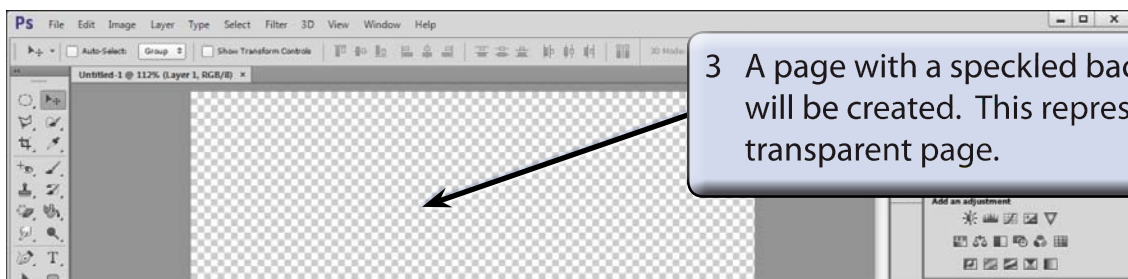
Creating a Transparent Layer

Layers can be set to have different types of backgrounds. One with a white background, one with a coloured background and another with a transparent (or clear) background. In this case a transparent layer will be used.

- 1 Load Photoshop or close the current files and select NEW from the FILE menu.



- 2 Set the WIDTH and HEIGHT to 600 pixels, the BACKGROUND CONTENTS to TRANSPARENT and select OK.

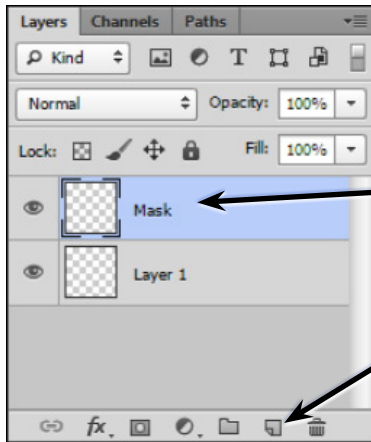


- 3 A page with a speckled background will be created. This represents a transparent page.

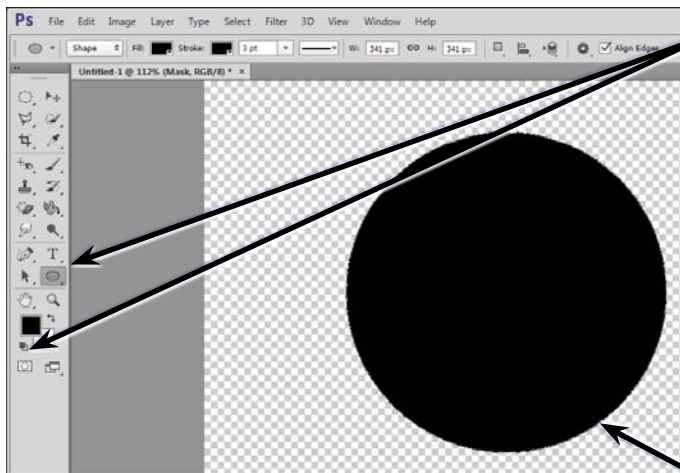
- 4 Press CTRL+0 or COMMAND+0 to set the view to FIT ON SCREEN.

Drawing the Mask Shape

The ELLIPSE TOOL will be used to draw a circle on the canvas. This will be filled and become a window (or mask) to view other pictures.



1 In the LAYERS panel click on the CREATE A NEW LAYER icon and call the new layer:
Mask



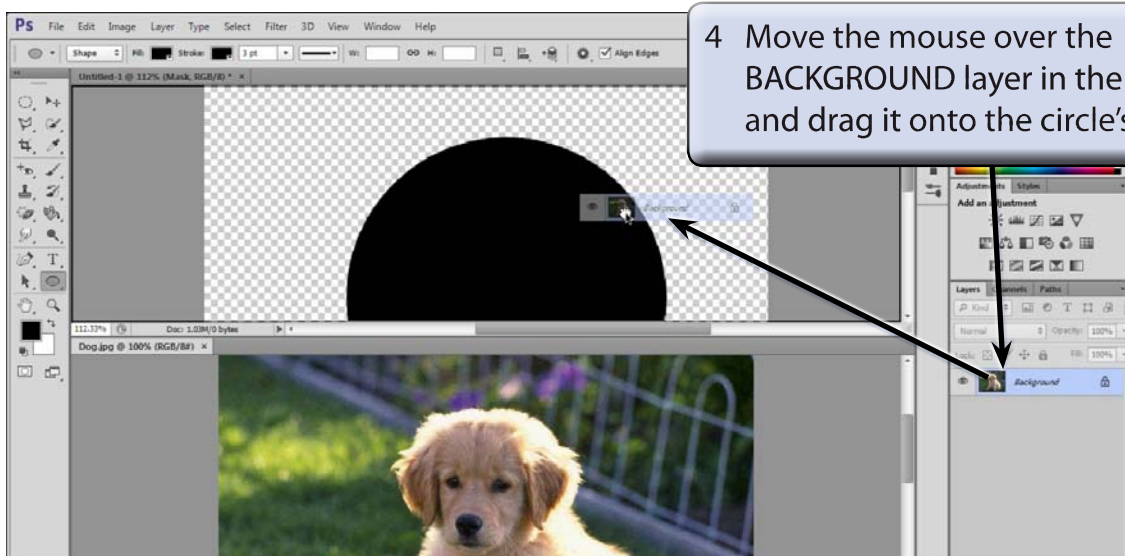
2 Set the SHAPES TOOL in the TOOLS panel to the ELLIPSE TOOL and click on the DEFAULT FOREGROUND AND BACKGROUND COLOURS button to set the FOREGROUND COLOUR to BLACK.

3 Hold down the SHIFT key and drag a circle on the canvas.

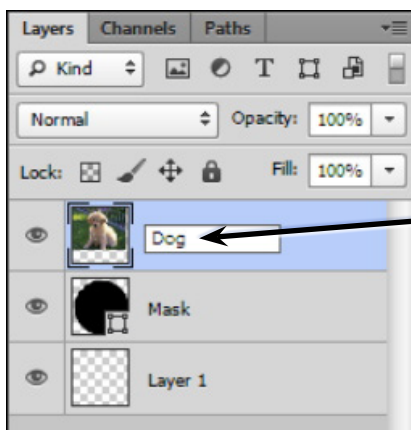
Adding a Background File

We will use a picture of a dog to act as the background image.

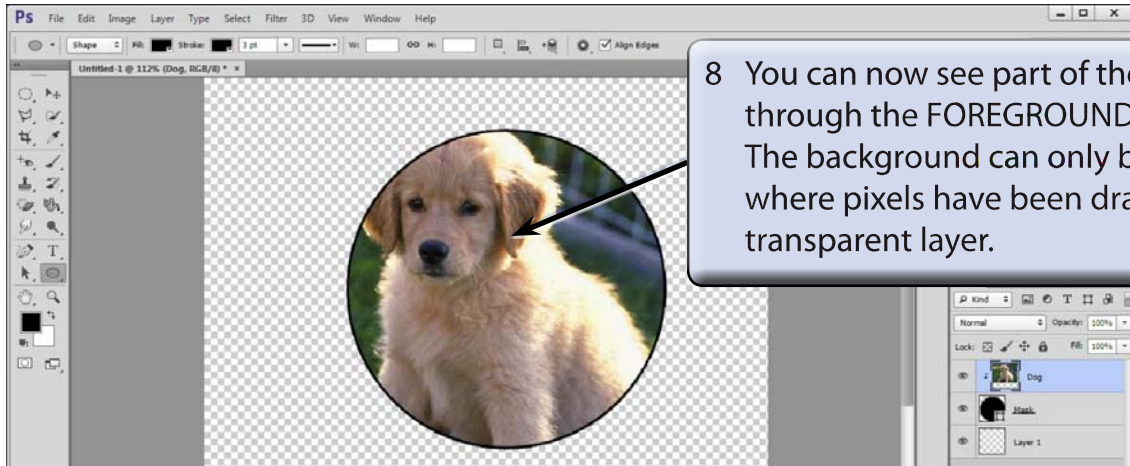
- 1 Display the FILE menu and select OPEN.
- 2 Access the PSCS6 SUPPORT FILES, open the CHAPTER 10 folder and open the DOG file.
- 3 Display the WINDOW menu, highlight ARRANGE and select the TILE ALL HORIZONTALLY icon to place the files above and below each other.



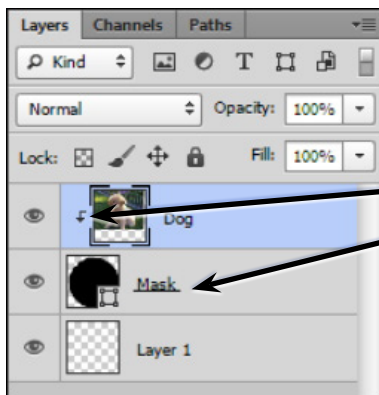
- 5 Close the DOG file by clicking on its CLOSE BOX or by selecting CLOSE from the FILE menu.



- 7 With the DOG layer selected in the LAYERS panel, display the LAYER menu and select CREATE CLIPPING MASK to combine the DOG layer with the MASK layer.



NOTE: You can also hold down the ALT or OPTION key and click on the border between the DOG and MASK layers to create the mask.



9 An arrow is added to the DOG layer and it is indented to indicate that it is combined with the MASK layer. The MASK layer label is underlined to indicate that it is the host layer.