

OVER 'N' UNDER

– *weaving* PHOTOS AND PAPERS!

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This tutorial includes instructions/screen shots for PSE7, if you have other versions of PS or PSE it should work for you too. If you use another program, read carefully and you should be able to figure out which tools do the same thing in your program!



Sometimes you want only PART of a layer on top of another. As always with PS/PSE there are many ways to accomplish this, and they are all correct! Which method you choose to use will depend on your photos and papers, the tools you are comfortable using, and how much time you have!

Here are the 3 most common ways to accomplish a “weave” or putting part of one layer over another:

ERASE METHOD

1. I placed the photo on top of the circle; then lowered the opacity so I can see the circle where it's under the photo (use the slider at the top of the layers palette to lower opacity).
2. Choose your eraser, and set a hard edged brush, smaller in diameter than the width of the circle.
3. Carefully erase the photo layer where it overlaps the circle.
4. Raise the opacity of the photo back to 100%.



While this will make it look like the circle is on top of the photo, it is VERY hard to get nice edges on the curve. There is another way to accomplish this!

SELECT and DELETE METHOD

- 1) Again, place the photo on top of the circle.
- 2) Select the circle by holding your CTRL key and clicking on the thumbnail of the circle in the layers palette.
- 3) DE-select the parts of the selection for the corners you want the photo to be on TOP. Our goal here is to leave the selection only where we want the circle to be on top of the photo.



- a) Choose your Lasso tool, hold the ALT key down, and draw around the area you DON'T want selected (the three corners that will remain under the photo)
- b) When you let off the mouse button, all the 'marching ants' inside that area will disappear, and you will be left with a selection that follows the curves of the circle perfectly!

- 4) Make sure the photo layer is active by clicking on it in the layers palette, then press the DELETE key. The portion of the photo inside the selection is gone, letting the circle show through, just as if we'd erased, but more accurate.

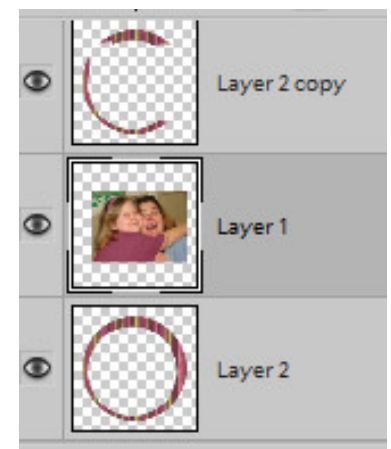


This method lets us make a very accurate deletion, better than erasing by hand! But there's one more method that doesn't require you to think quite so hard...

COPY LAYER METHOD

- 1) Copy the circle layer by right clicking on the layer in the layers palette, and choosing Duplicate Layer.
- 2) Move the new circle so it is on TOP of the photo. You should now have three layers: circle, photo, circle.
- 3) Click on the top circle to make that layer active.
- 4) Choose your eraser tool, and erase everywhere you don't want the circle to be on top of the photo.

Now you have three layers, on circle on top and one underneath the photo, but they look like one circle. Be careful you don't nudge one or the other out of line though. You can



link them together by selecting both circles and clicking on the little chain at the top of the layers palette.

BUT WAIT – WHAT ABOUT SHADOWS??

Yes, here's where each of these methods has a problem. If you go to apply drop shadows now, the program will apply the shadow to every edge of every layer. This can lead to some unattractive looks:

Here you can see where the shadow applied to the circle shows outside the photo, but not inside the edges of the photo using the first two methods:



Here you can see where I erased the top layer (the last method), once I applied a drop shadow to it :



Here's how to avoid this problem:

YOU MUST DO THIS FIRST! BEFORE you do any of the methods above!

- 1) Apply the drop shadow of your choice using your Effects palette. (See our blog post [here](#) to get our custom set of drop shadows)

2) Right click on the layer in the layers palette, and choose Simplify Layer. This makes the layer style part of the layer. It is no longer editable, but now if you delete or erase a portion of the layer, the shadow won't show on the erased edge.

***note** if you have an older version of PS/PSE and don't have the Simplify Layer menu option, here's a quick workaround: create a new, blank, layer beneath the layer you want to simplify. Now select both layers by clicking on both layers while holding the CTRL key. Keep holding the CTRL key and press E to merge the two layers into one, simplifying the drop shadow in the process!*

Good luck with your weaving! You can make your weaves as simple as tucking a corner in like we did here, or as complex as weaving a basket. Play around, see which method works best for you, and be creative!

Happy Scrapping! *Jenn*