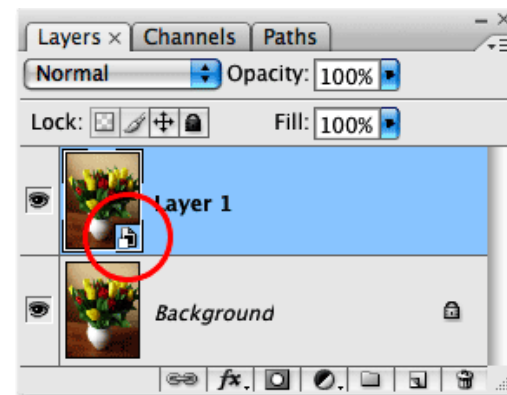


Double click on  
the thumbnail for editing →



## Understand Smart Objects

*Smart Objects are layers that contain image data from raster or vector images, such as Photoshop or Illustrator files. Smart Objects preserve an image's source content with all its original characteristics, enabling you to perform nondestructive editing to the layer.*

*In Photoshop CC and CS6, you can embed the contents of an image into a Photoshop document. In Photoshop CC, you can also create Linked Smart Objects whose contents are referenced from external image files. The contents of a Linked Smart Object are updated when its source image file changes.*

*Linked Smart Objects are distinct from duplicated instances of a Smart Object within a Photoshop document. With Linked Smart Objects, you can use a shared source file across multiple Photoshop documents which is a familiar and welcome concept for web designers.*

***In your document, select the Smart Object layer in the Layers panel.***

***Choose Layer → Smart Objects → Edit Contents.***

*Or you can simply double-click the Smart Objects layer thumbnail in the Layers panel. A dialog box appears, telling you to save your changes and save the file in the same location.*

***Click OK to close the dialog box.***

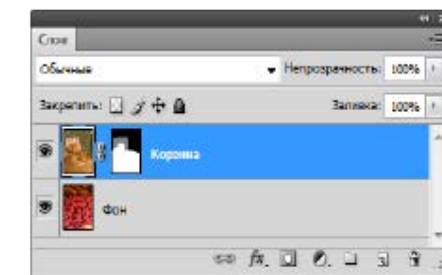
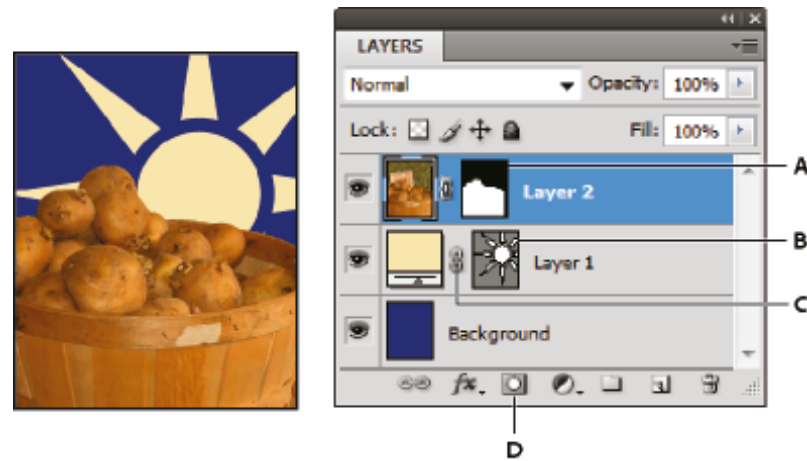
*The Smart Object opens in the program in which it was created, either Illustrator or Photoshop.*

***Choose File → Save to incorporate the edits.***

***Close your source file.***

***Return to your Photoshop document, which contains your Smart Object.***

*If all goes as expected, all instances of the Smart Object are updated.*



The background image is drawn in black, the objects are gray, and the open areas are in white.

## About layer and vector masks

You can use masks to hide portions of a layer and reveal portions of the layers below. You can create two types of masks:

- **Layer masks** are resolution-dependent bitmap images that are edited with the painting or selection tools.
- **Vector masks** are resolution independent and are created with a pen or shape tool.

Layer and vector masks are nondestructive, which means you can go back and re-edit the masks later without losing the pixels they hide.

In the Layers panel, both the layer and vector masks appear as an additional thumbnail to the right of the layer thumbnail. For the layer mask, this thumbnail represents the grayscale channel that is created when you add the layer mask. The vector mask thumbnail represents a path that clips out the contents of the layer.

A vector mask creates a sharp-edged shape on a layer and is useful anytime you want to add a design element with clean, defined edges. After you create a layer with a vector mask, you can apply one or more layer styles to it, edit them if needed, and instantly have a usable button, panel, or other web-design element.

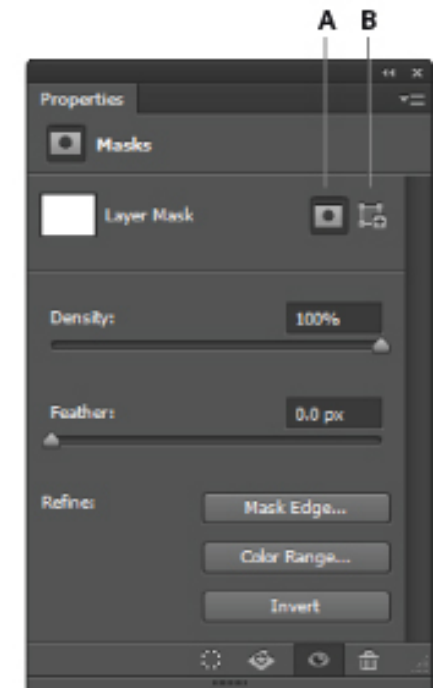
The Properties panel provides additional controls to adjust a mask. You can change the opacity of a mask to let more or less of the masked content show through, invert the mask, or refine the mask borders, as with a selection area.

### Change the layer mask opacity or opacity

1. Double-click the layer mask channel in the Channels panel.
2. To choose a new mask color, in the Layer Mask Display Options dialog box, click the color swatch and choose a new color.
3. To change the opacity, enter a value between 0% and 100%.

Both the color and opacity settings affect only the appearance of the mask and have no effect on how underlying areas are protected. For example, you may want to change these settings to make the mask more easily visible against the colors in the image.

4. Click OK.



A. Layer mask

B. Vector mask