

Masking: Using Photomerge to create a cool twin/triplet effect!

TASK: Combine Photos and Mask

Though you could use the clone tool to achieve a similar effect, this project will show you how to align layers with Photomerge and utilize masks to show people in different positions on multiple layers.

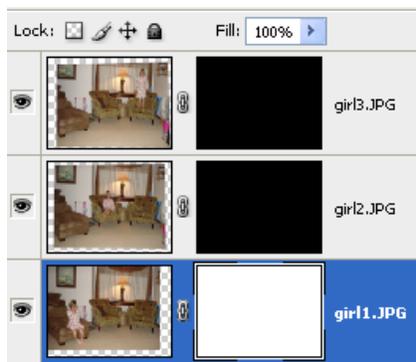


1. Create a Photomerge using the photos girl1.jpg, girl2.jpg, and girl3.jpg in the Merge3 folder. Click File> Automate> PhotoMerge to begin.
 - a. Click browse to select the photos. Set Layout to Auto and be sure to NOT check Blend Images Together (we don't want Photoshop creating masks for us)
2. All three photos should be combined, so you should have three layers.

Now, to add masks. 

3. Click the top layer. If there is not already one, add a mask by clicking the icon at the bottom of the layers palette. By default, a mask is white. We only want the bottom layer to stay white; White means SHOW. Black in a mask means to HIDE, so add black masks to all other layers so we can't see them until we want to. (NOTE: Reset

 so white is on top and then **Ctrl** + **←Back** or **Shift** + **←Back** and select black to fill with black—be sure you are clicked on the mask icon)



TIP

If taking photographs with intent to do this feature, you should be sure to shoot roughly the same area (from chair to wall or whatever) and same distance. Also, have your subject move to new positions that avoid overlap.

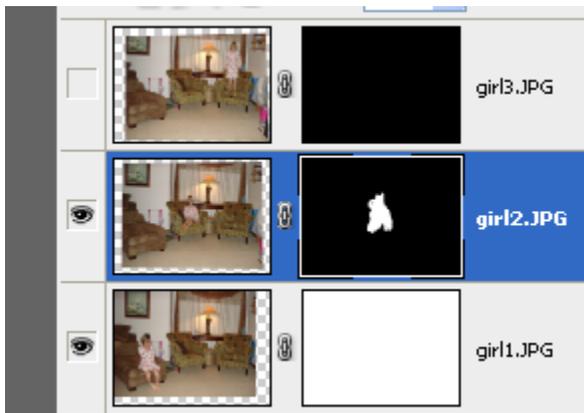


- Turn the visibility off on all layers except the bottom for a moment (click the eyeball). Work your way up, starting from the bottom (rather, next to bottom) layer. Click the eyeball on, disable the mask (hold **Shift** and click the mask thumbnail) and look and see where the subject is. Then, click the mask again to enable it and paint in white on the mask in that general region. Remember, you can touch it up with black if you mess up.



NOTE: Be sure you are clicked on the mask (the big white box) when you do this. Do not paint on the picture!

- Remember that you need white on the bottom layer to fill in gaps and then on each layer where the person is standing, you paint white only in the area of the person. Use a fairly hard brush so that you don't have fuzzy edges.



- Now, move up to the next layer and turn visibility back on. Press **Shift** and click the mask icon to disable it. This will allow you to see what was hiding. Then, enable the mask and paint over what you need to see in white. NOTE: If something on a higher layer is covering an object up, paint on that layer with black (hopefully this won't happen if you start from bottom up!). Again, be sure you are clicked on the mask!!



- Touch up as needed with a black brush. When totally finished, crop  any excess off the image, and you're done!
- ON YOUR OWN:** See what you can do with the files in the folder Merge2 (it's not a simple one!).