



Editing Software: Layers



Layers: Why

- Most photo and graphic editing software packages have layers.
- Layers allow you to change your photo without destroying the original.
- Layers allow you merge multiple photos in creative ways
- Layers let you adjust, play and be creative.



Layers: Where

In most software programs, the layers panel is viewed on the side panel.

Photoshop:

- Choose Window > Layers (F7)

Elements:

- Layer menu on the menu bar
- Layers panel menu connected to the Layers panel.



Layers: How

Layers work much like stacking transparent papers.



The base layer is called the background and is always locked.



The Parts of the Layers Panel

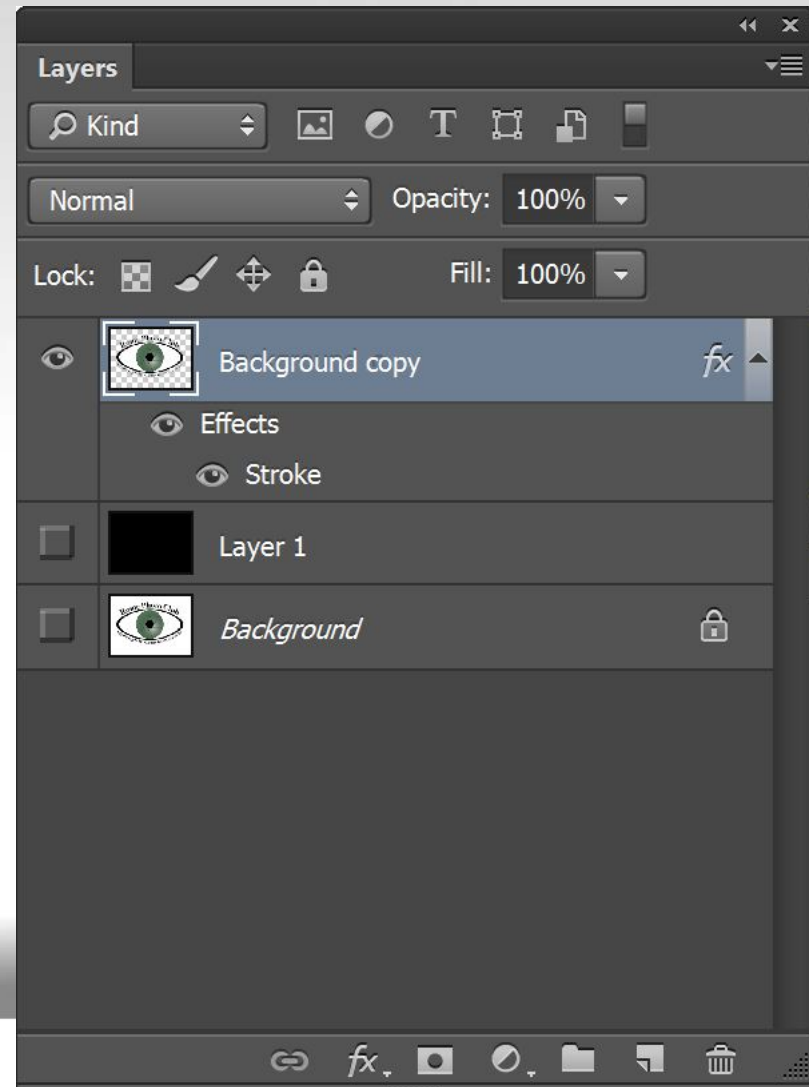
A. Layers panel menu

B. Filter

D. Layer

F. Layer effect

G. Layer thumbnail



The Parts of the Layers Panel

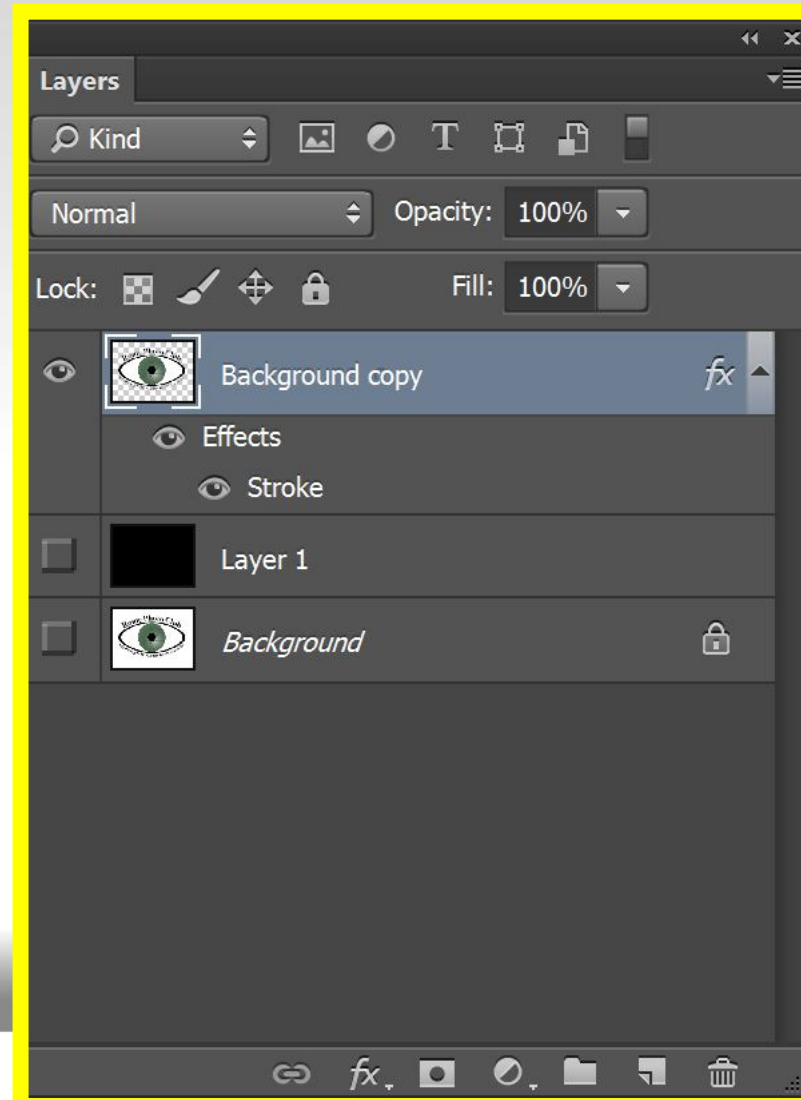
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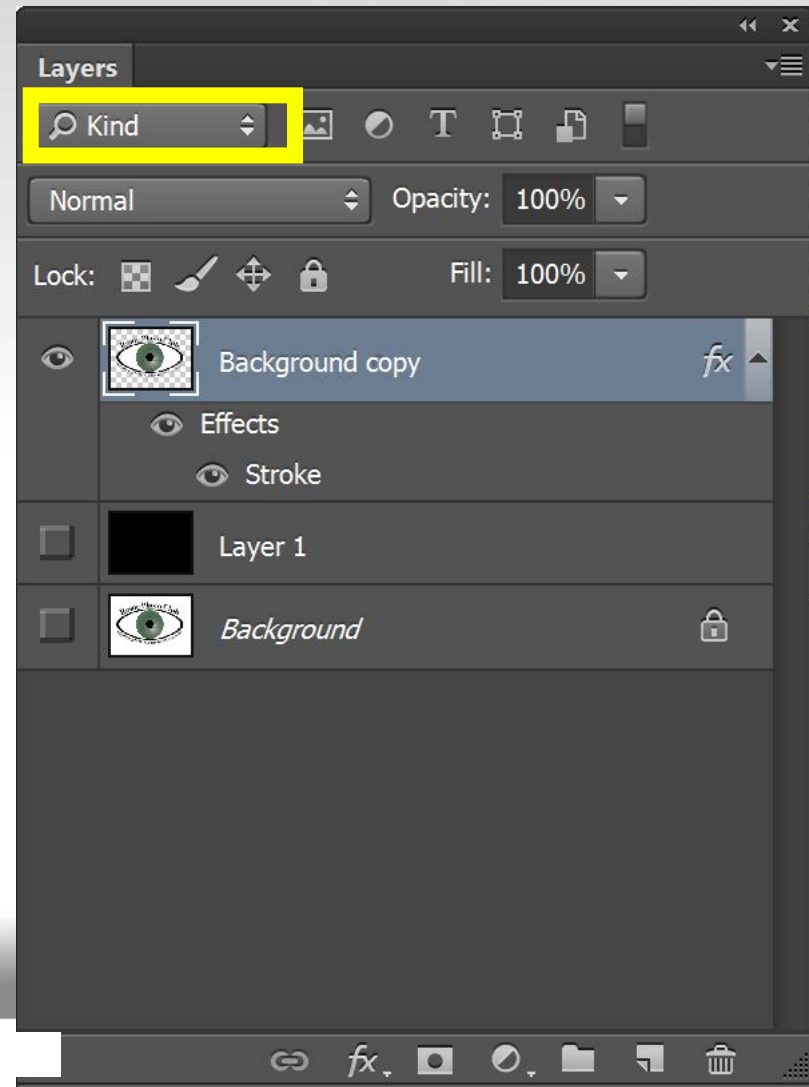
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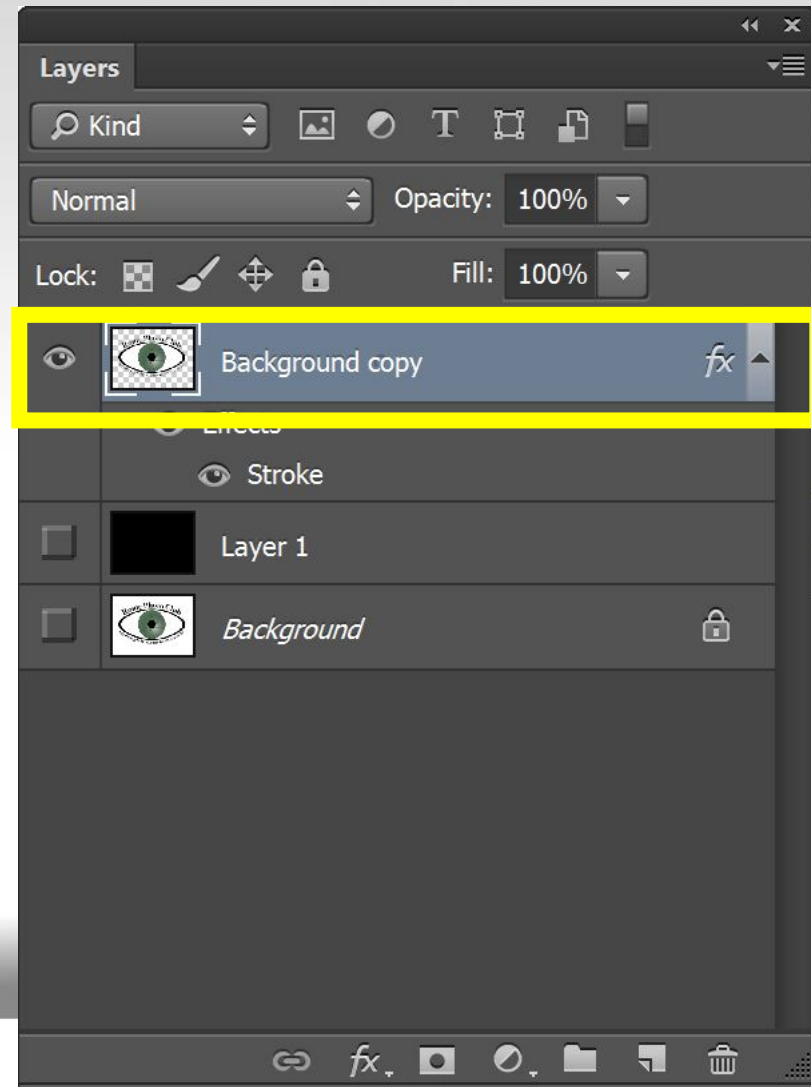
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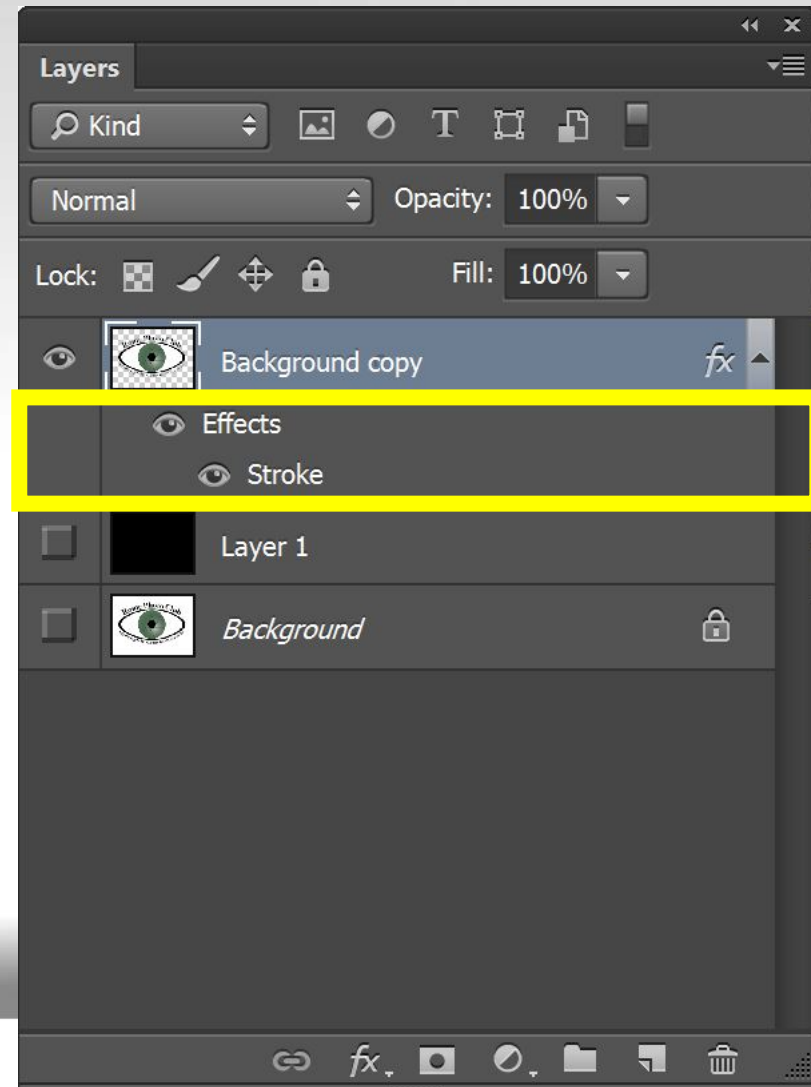
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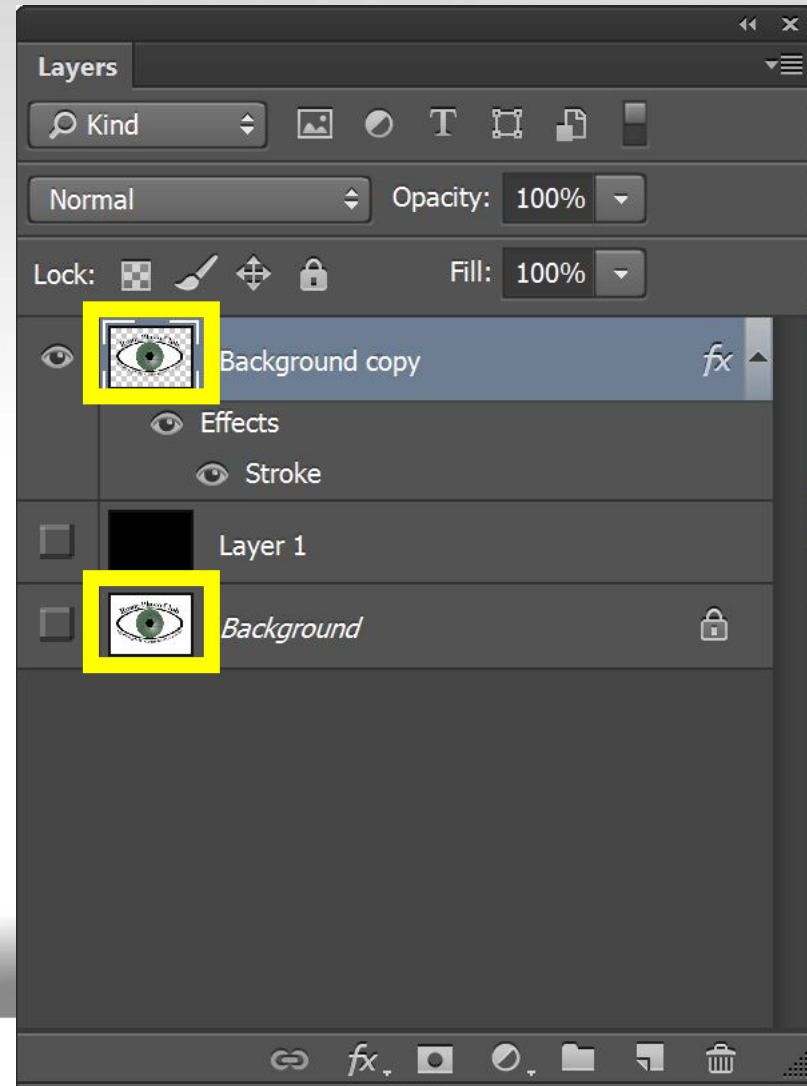
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Background Layer

- The bottommost image is called *Background*.
- An image can have only one background layer.
- You cannot change the stacking order of a background layer, its blending mode, or its opacity.


You can convert the background into a regular layer and then change it but that does defeat the purpose of “non-destructive editing”.

Layers in Adobe Elements

 The layer is visible. Click the eye to show or hide a layer. When the layer is hidden, the icon is . Hidden layers are not printed.

 The layer is locked.

You use the buttons in the panel to perform actions:

 Create a new layer.

 Create a new fill or adjustment layer.

 Delete a layer.

 Lock transparent pixels.

Also at the top are the panel Blending Mode menu (Normal, Dissolve, Darken, and so on), an Opacity text box, and a More button displaying a menu of layer commands and panel options.

Layers in Adobe Photoshop

We will now change this logo so the background of the logo doesn't hide or interfere with the text or the camera below.



Layers in Adobe Photoshop

So the background disappears...

