

Layers in Depth – Q & A's

How do I start my layers?

Go to Task Bar. (Above your screen in Elements 8 & 9, and below your screen in 10 & 11) Go to File>Open and choose your photo(s) from whatever file you keep your photos in. Check box over your photo(s) and hit OPEN below. All your photos will appear in the project bin with one open on the screen and in your layers box. If the photo you want for your background photo is in the screen, duplicate it. **Always duplicate your background photo before you make any adjustments or enhancements to your photo.** If the photo you want to be the background photo is in your project bin, click on it and it will move to your screen. Now duplicate this photo to begin.

How do I add layers?

There are several ways to add layers. The most used are:

1. Go to File> Open and choose a photo (see above)
2. To add a layer to your project, go to Project Bin, click and drag photo onto your screen. Now both photos appear on your screen and in your layers folder on the left hand side.
3. Go to a vertical tools and choose Layers>New Layer and hit enter. You now have a new blank layer to work with.

Help – The layer I added is smaller than my background photo. Go to resizing tool on the left, click on a corner box and drag corner(s) until it is the size I want.

Help – The layer I added covers my background photo – Go to your layers box and click on the Opacity tool above your layers. Adjust back and forth until you are happy with how much of your background photo is visible. *Note: This will apply to any new layers you choose or add.*

How do I change the order of my layers?

Click on the layer you want to move and drag up or down. *Note: when you do this you may want/ need to adjust the Opacity on some or all of your layers.*

What if I don't like one of the layers I added?

You can either turn off the "eye" by click it. Or if you are sure you don't want that layer, right click the photo in your layers box and hit delete.

What if I want to change the color of one of my layers?

Go to Task Bar and choose Enhance>Adjust Color>Hue/Saturation. Move the slider to change color. (There are other ways to change/adjust your color, but this is best way to start.)

What if I want to change the brightness or contrast of one of my layers?

Go to Task Bar and choose Enhance>Adjust Lighting.

Remember to play with and use your task bar and tools. You will be amazed at what you can do.