

## Digital Imaging 1

### Practice Creating Clipping Masks

#### Practice skills

- Create shape clipping masks.
- Create text clipping masks.
- Use shape layers as a clipping mask.

#### Resource Files:

Use images “Porthole” and “Mallorca” from Photoshop Samples folder. Save copies of the images with your name/initials in your work folder.

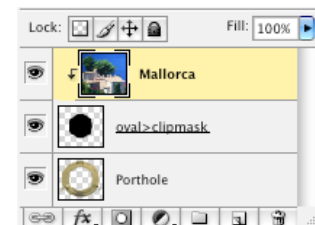
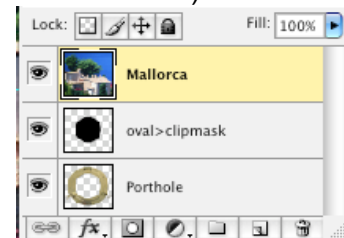
#### Basic Information:

When the content of a layer acts as a mask to the layer above it is called a “Clipping Mask”. In past versions “Clipping Masks” (v 8) were called “Clipping Groups”. The content area of the base layer, mask the content of the layer above it.

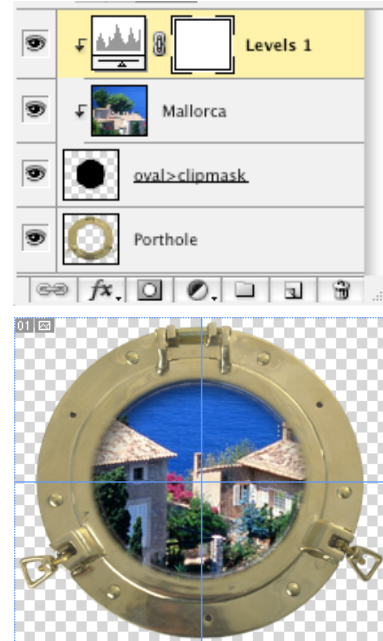
#### Procedure:

##### Version 1–Clipping Mask with Shapes

1. Open Photoshop resetting the default preferences. Open the “Porthole” image. Save file in your work folder with your name.
2. Turn on Rulers (Command+R Mac; Control+ R Windows). Determine the center by dragging guidelines from the horizontal ruler to the 1 3/4 inch mark. Drag the vertical guideline to the 2 inch mark. The center point of the file is at this intersection.
3. Turn off View>Snap.
4. Click paper icon on the bottom of the layers palette. This adds a new layer “Layer 1” above the Porthole. (Name this Layer “Oval Clip Mask”.)
5. Choose the elliptical marquee selection tool.
6. On the new layer, draw an oval shape from the center (intersection of guides) of the porthole as follows: Click at the cross point, hold down option (Mac) or alt (Windows) key, then click and drag out the selection to fill the porthole frame. (The shape will start from the center point as long as the Option/Alt key is held down.) Without letting go of the mouse, hold down space bar to move the shape until it is in position.
7. While the selection is active, save it. (Select>Save selection. Name it “oval”.)
8. With the oval selection still active, choose the oval layer. Then choose Edit>Fill>Foreground color to fill the oval shape with a color. The color should fill the opening of the porthole. Deselect the active selection.
9. Open the Mallorca Image. Drag “Mallorca” to the “Porthole” image. The “Mallorca” image should be the top layer and will cover the oval and porthole layers below. Select the “Mallorca” layer. Name the layer “Mallorca”.
10. With the Mallorca layer selected choose Layer> ”Create Clipping Mask”. The “Mallorca” image appears in the oval mask. It is “clipped” to this layer. Note: *A clipping mask may also be made by moving the mouse pointer between the Mallorca Layer and oval mask layer, and when the icon changes to a double circle, “click”.*



11. Move the “Mallorca” layer to show the desired part of the image in the “port window”.
12. Layer transparency may be varied on the “Mallorca” layer, (the color underneath will be exposed). Experiment and see what it looks like.
13. With the “Mallorca” layer selected, select an Adjustment Layer by clicking on the black/white circle at the bottom of the Layers palette. Choose Levels from the pop up menu. Drag the left triangle to image data to adjust contrast.
14. With the new Adjustment Layer selected, choose Layer>“Create Clipping Mask”. The Levels Adjustment Layer is clipped to the “Mallorca” layer. The tonal adjustment affects only the Mallorca layer.
15. Double click on the Levels icon on the adjustment layer to reopen it and make further adjustments as necessary.
16. Select the oval>Mask layer to add effects.
17. Select the “Layer styles” icon (*f*) at the bottom of the Layers palette. Choose inner shadow. Change the distance (to 8?) and size (to 16?). You might change the angle. Make your own choices. This adds a shadow to Mallorca in such a way it appears to be viewed through the porthole window.
18. Save the file with your name/ in your work folder for check off. *continue*.



### Version 2–Clipping Mask using Letters

1. Select Image>Canvas size. Select bottom center box in order to add to the top of the canvas size. *Be sure “Relative” is not checked*. Change 3 inch height box to 4 inches. Click “OK. This adds height to the canvas size.”.
  2. With the top layer selected, choose the T, type tool. Choose a plain, sans serif font. (example: Arial Bold). In Type Options, make the type size larger (36 point?) Type “Mallorca”. Move the type so that it is centered above the porthole, but not on top.
  3. Go back to original Mallorca image. Make a selection around the top part of the image (water or blue sky?) and “copy it”.
  4. Go back to the Porthole composite. With the type layer selected, Edit>paste. The Mallorca copy will appear on a new layer above the type layer.
  5. Move this image so it covers the type on the layer below. Name layer Mallorca copy.
  7. With the Mallorca copy layer selected, choose Layer>Create Clipping Mask. (Or use the short cut with Option/alt and click between the two layers.)
  8. Select the Mallorca type layer and add layer styles to the type. Try a drop shadow; bevel and emboss.
- Save file with your name for check off.

