

About 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 non-destructive editing to the layer.

You can create Smart objects using several methods:

- Select one or more layers in the **Layers Menu**. Right-click, or use the layer palette menu, and choose "Convert to Smart Object"
- By using the "Open As Smart Object" command in the **File Menu**
- By using "Convert for Smart Filters" in the **Filter Menu**
- By using the "Place" command in **Adobe Bridge**
- By pasting data from **Adobe Illustrator**

With Smart Objects, you can:

- **Perform non-destructive transforms.** You can scale, rotate, skew, distort, perspective transform, or warp a layer without losing original image data or quality because the transforms don't affect the original data.
- **Apply Smart Filters.** Smart Filters can be adjusted, switched on and off, and given layer interaction settings. (Note: When you transform a Smart Object that has a Smart Filter applied to it, Photoshop turns off filter effects temporarily while the transform is being performed).
- **Work with vector data**, such as vector artwork from Illustrator, that otherwise would have to be rasterized in Photoshop.
- **Edit one Smart Object** and automatically update all its linked instances.
- **Apply a layer mask** that's either linked or unlinked to the Smart Object layer

Editing and copying.

You can't perform **operations that alter pixel data**—such as painting, dodging, burning, or cloning—**directly** to a Smart Object layer.

To perform operations that alter pixel data, you must **edit the contents** of a Smart Object by clicking on the Smart Object **icon** in the layer thumbnail to open it as an **independent** document with the suffix **`.psb'**.

Smart Objects that are **duplicated** by using "Duplicate Layer" will be **clones** of each other – i.e. edit one and they will both change. To make a **copy** of a Smart

Object that can be **edited independently** of its original, right-click and choose **"New Smart Object Via Copy"**.