

Digital Tips

BECOME A PHOTOSHOP GURU... AUTOMATICALLY

The Castle Press

1222 North Fair Oaks Avenue
Pasadena, CA 91103
800-794-0858
www.castlepress.com

GLOSSARY

Auto blend layers When stitching or combining images to create a composite image, exposure differences between the source images may create seams or inconsistencies in the combined image. Use the Auto-Blend Layers command to create the appearance of smooth transitions in the final images.

Change the canvas size

The canvas size is the full editable area of an image. The Canvas Size command lets you increase or decrease an image's canvas size. Increasing the canvas size adds space around an existing image. Decreasing an image's canvas size crops into the image. If you increase the canvas size of an image with a transparent background, the added canvas is transparent. If the image doesn't have a transparent background, there are several options for determining the color of the added canvas.

Convert background and layers When you create a new image with a white background or a colored background, the bottommost image in the Layers palette 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. However, you can convert a background into a regular layer, and then change any of these attributes.

We are all aware of how the masters of Photoshop can take two images, blend them together and color-correct with spot-on realism. But not everybody can do all that selecting, masking and adjustment. That is until now. Auto-Blend Layers has arrived.

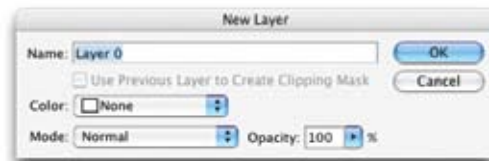
For this example, we will blend an image of a grassy field with a cloudy sky. NOTE: images must be RGB. See example 01

Example-01



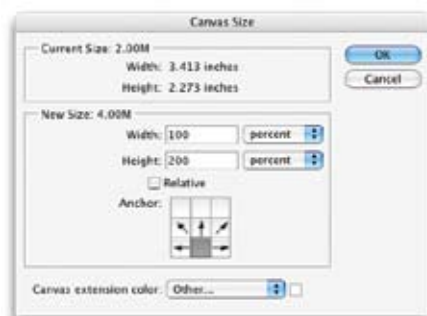
In the sky image, double click the Background layer and click OK to unlock it. See example 02

Example-02



To give ourselves plenty of room, go to Image>Canvas Size to increase the canvas from the bottom up by 200%. See example 03

Example-03



We only need a little bit of the sky so select most of the top portion and Delete.

Now open the sky image and drag it on to the field image. Position the sky so it overlaps (decrease layer transparency to 70% to help you). See example 04

Example-04



With the sky layer back to 100%, select both layers in the Layers pallet. We are now ready to make magic. Go to Edit>Auto-Blend Layers. Crop any extra canvas from the top and here is the result. See example 05

Example-05



As you can see Photoshop not only blended the two images together seamlessly, but also corrected the color cast between them.

So now you are ready to thrill your friends and family with your new found Photoshop chops. But remember. You must only use these powers for good.