Layers

Introduction to Photoshop

Lecture Outline

- Layer basics

- Layer panel

- Blending layers

- Adjustment layers

- Layer styles

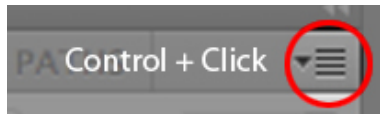- New in PhotoshopCC

Reference

- Scott Kelby How Do I Do That…, Ch 6
- Robin Whalley Photoshop Layers, Ch 1, 2, 3
- … Essential Photoshop, Ch 3

Layer Basics

- Layers: "Photoshop's most powerful feature" (Matt Kloskowski)
- Without layers, can't do anything in Photoshop
  - Layers are the fundamental unit in Photoshop
  - Transparent sheet(s) above image
  - Allows for non-destructive editing of image

Layer Basics

- Commands affecting layers found under "Layer" menu

- Layer menu can also be accessed by control + click (Mac) or right click (PC) on the layer panel menu

- Making a new layer
  - Menu: Layer → New → Layer (Shift + Cmd/Ctrl + n)
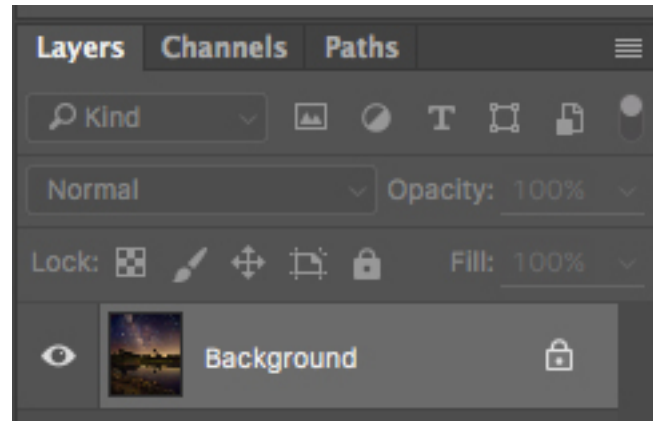 - Layers panel: click on the icon

Layer Basics

- Duplicating a layer
  - Menu: Layer → New → Layer via Copy (Cmd/Ctrl + j)
  - Menu: Layer → New → Layer via Cut (Shift + Cmd/Ctrl +j) ONLY IF THERE IS AN ACTIVE SELETION
  - Menu: Layer → Duplicate Layer…
  - Layer panel: click on layer and then drag it to the "Create a new layer" icon at the bottom of the panel
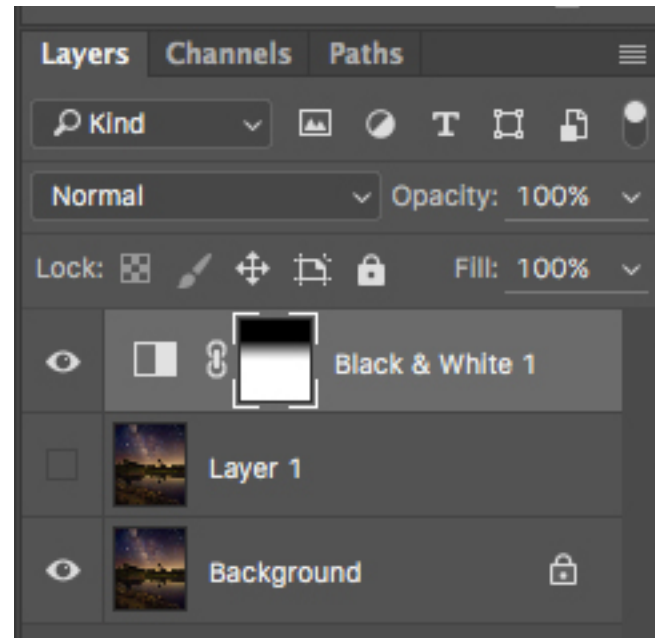
Create a
new layer

Layer Panel

- Background layer
  - Special layer
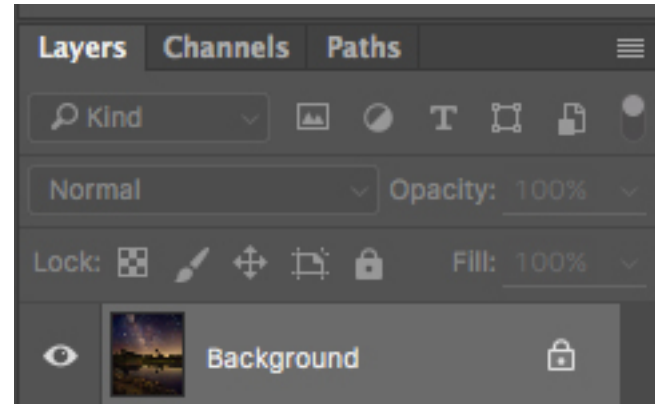 - Partially locked

Layer Panel

- Layer panel with layers
  - Black and White adjustment layer with gradient in layer mask; active layer
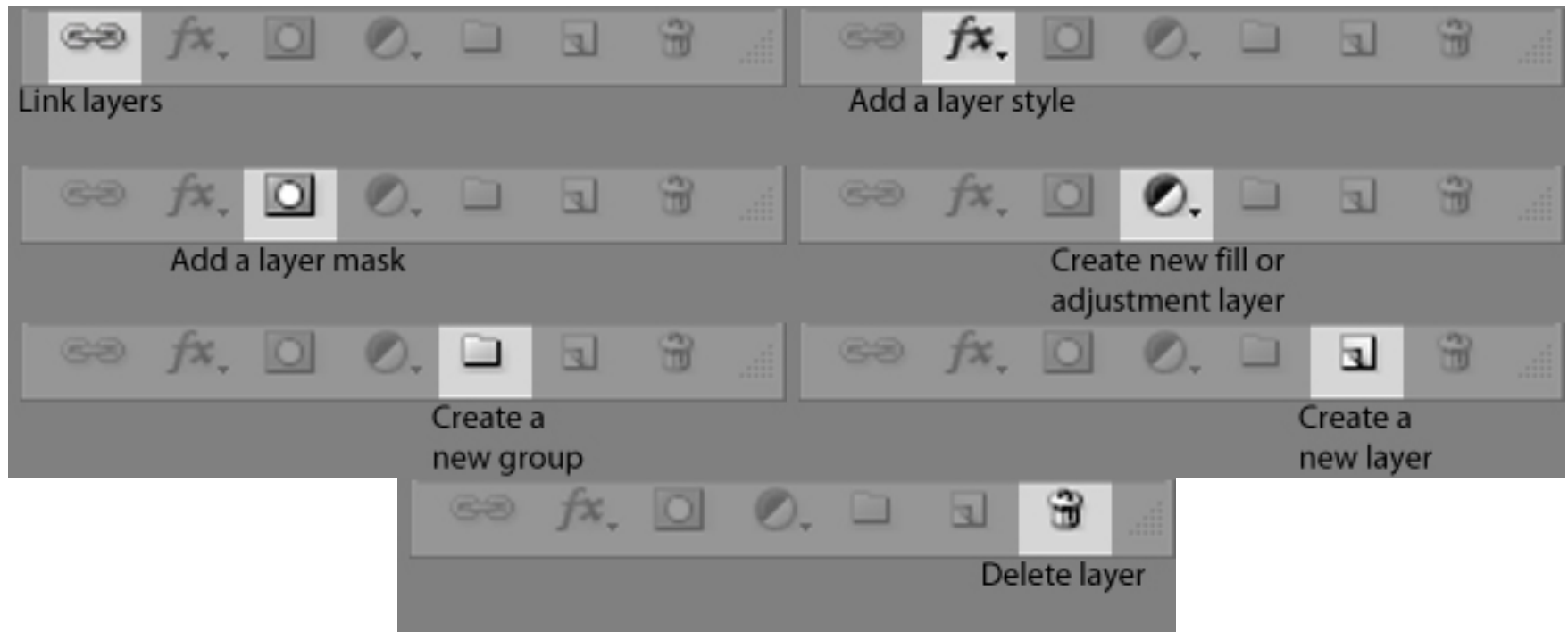 - Copy of background layer, hidden
  - Background layer

Layer Panel

- Layer panel options (top)
  - First Row: Layers, Channels, Paths tabs; contextual menu
  - Second Row: Filter
  - Third Row: Layer Blend Mode, Opacity
  - Fourth Row: Layer Locks (left to right: transparent, image pixels, position, artboard auto-nesting, lock all), Fill
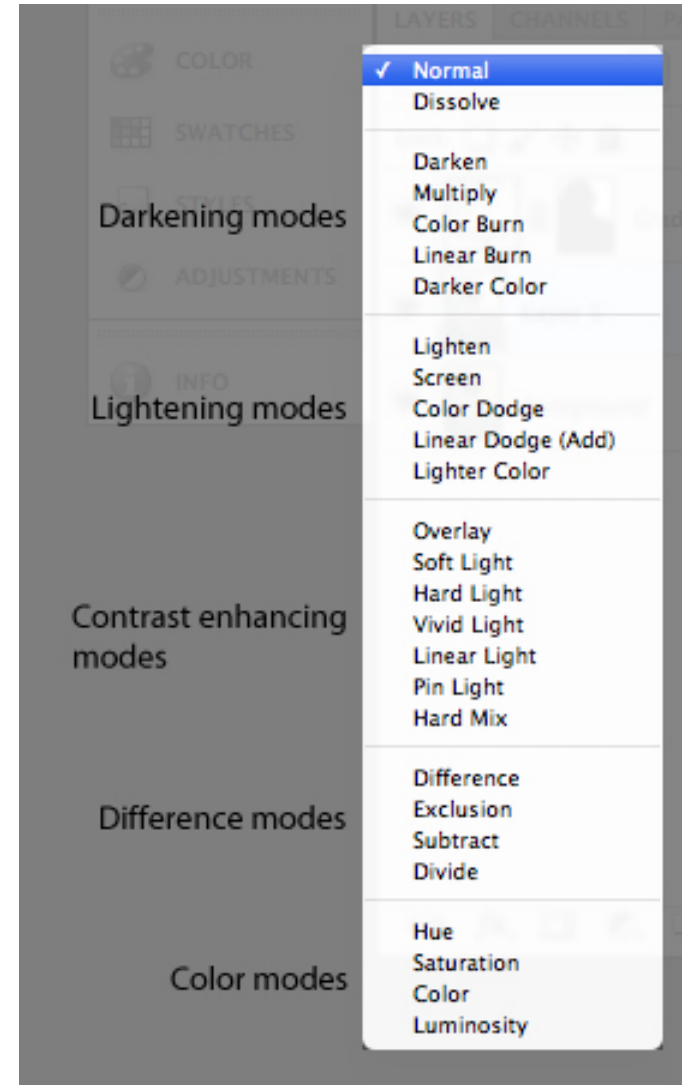
Layer Panel

- Layer panel options (bottom)

Blending Layers

- Layer blending: adjusts how the current layer interacts with the layer directly below
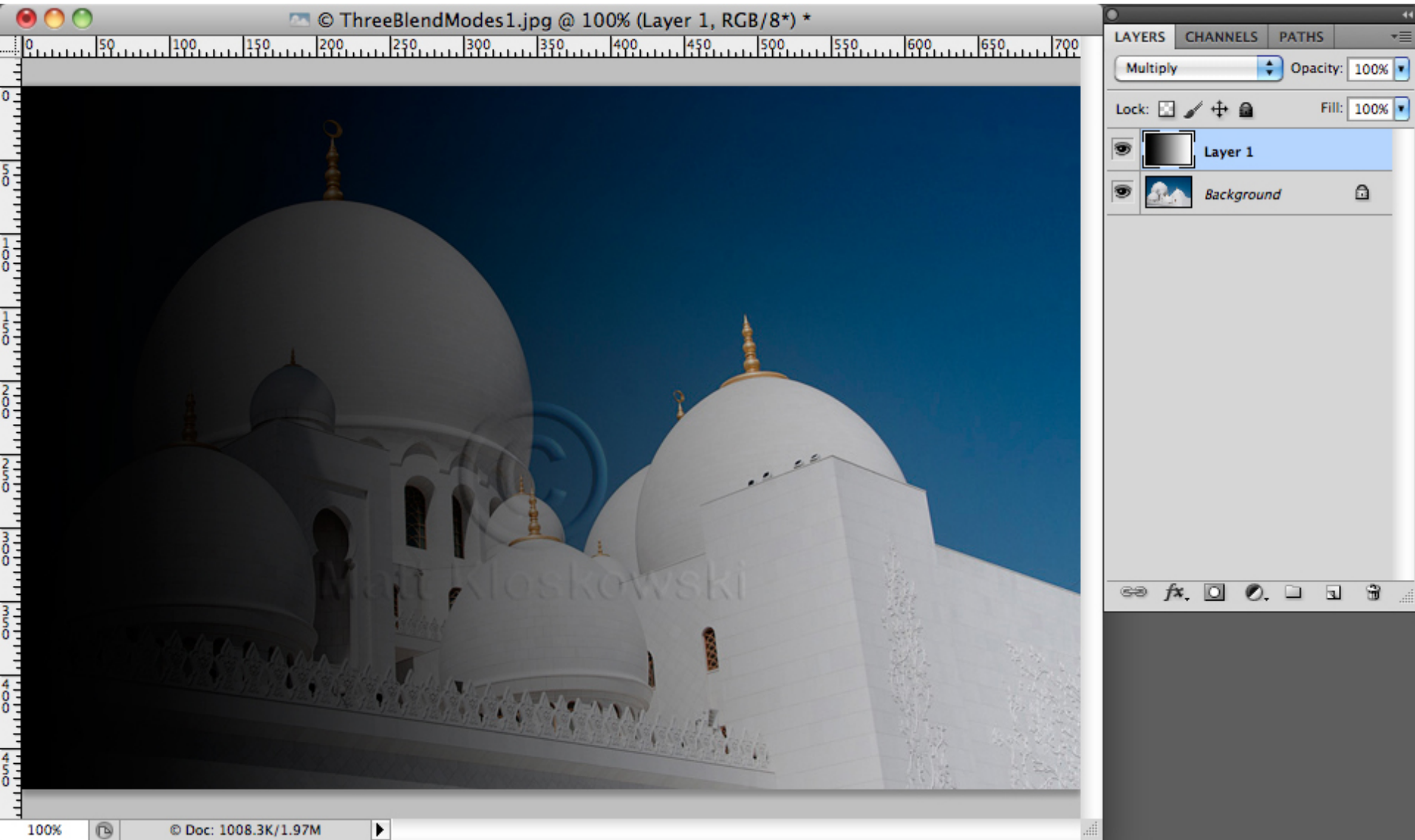
Blending Modes

- Three most commonly used blend modes other than Normal:
  - Multiply
  - Screen
  - Overlay
- Other modes you might use
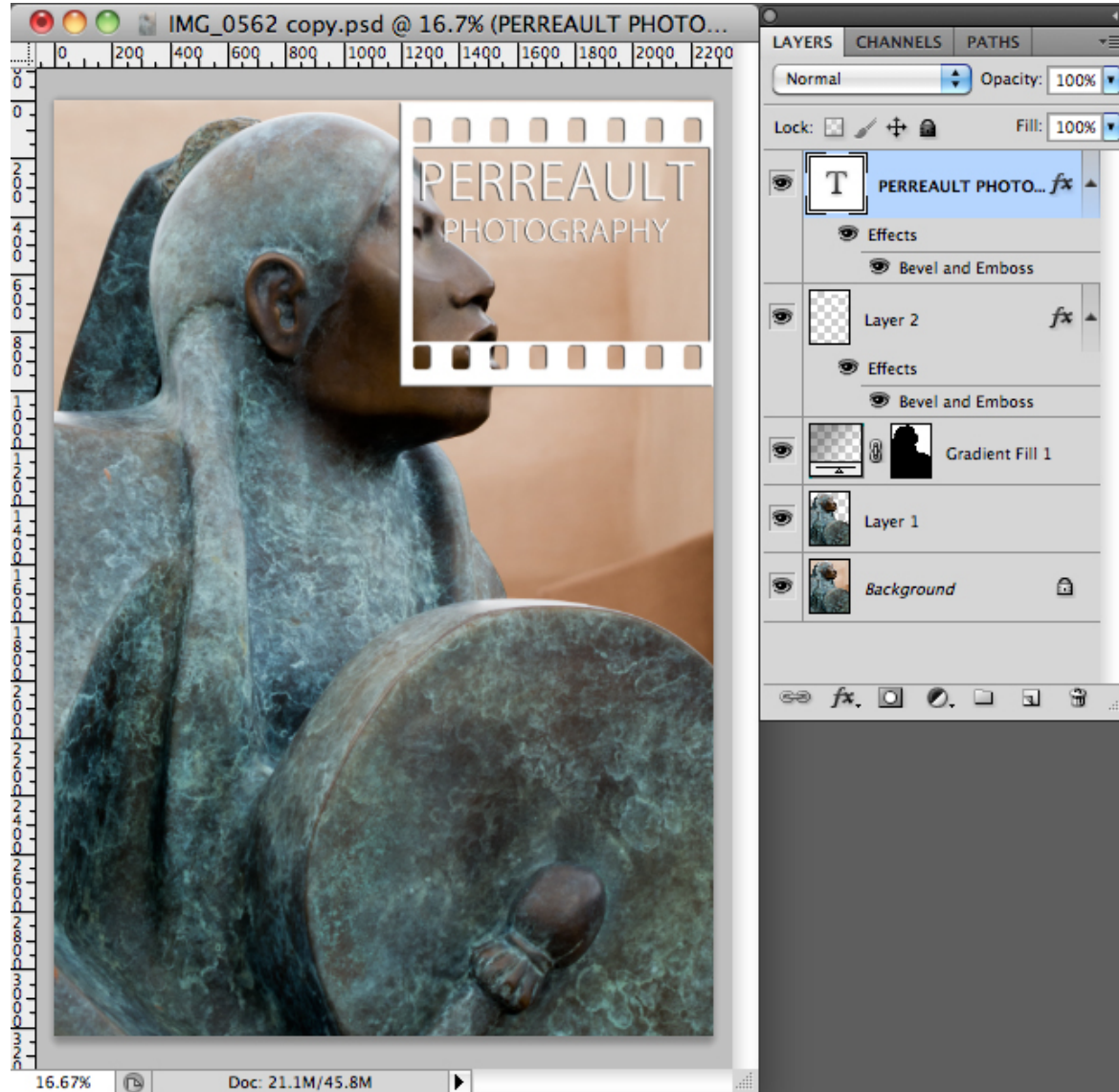 - Color
  - Luminosity
  - Difference

Blending Modes: Multiply

- Multiply: multiplies pixel value across the layers – darkens colors
  - Black + color = Black
  - Gray + color = Darker color
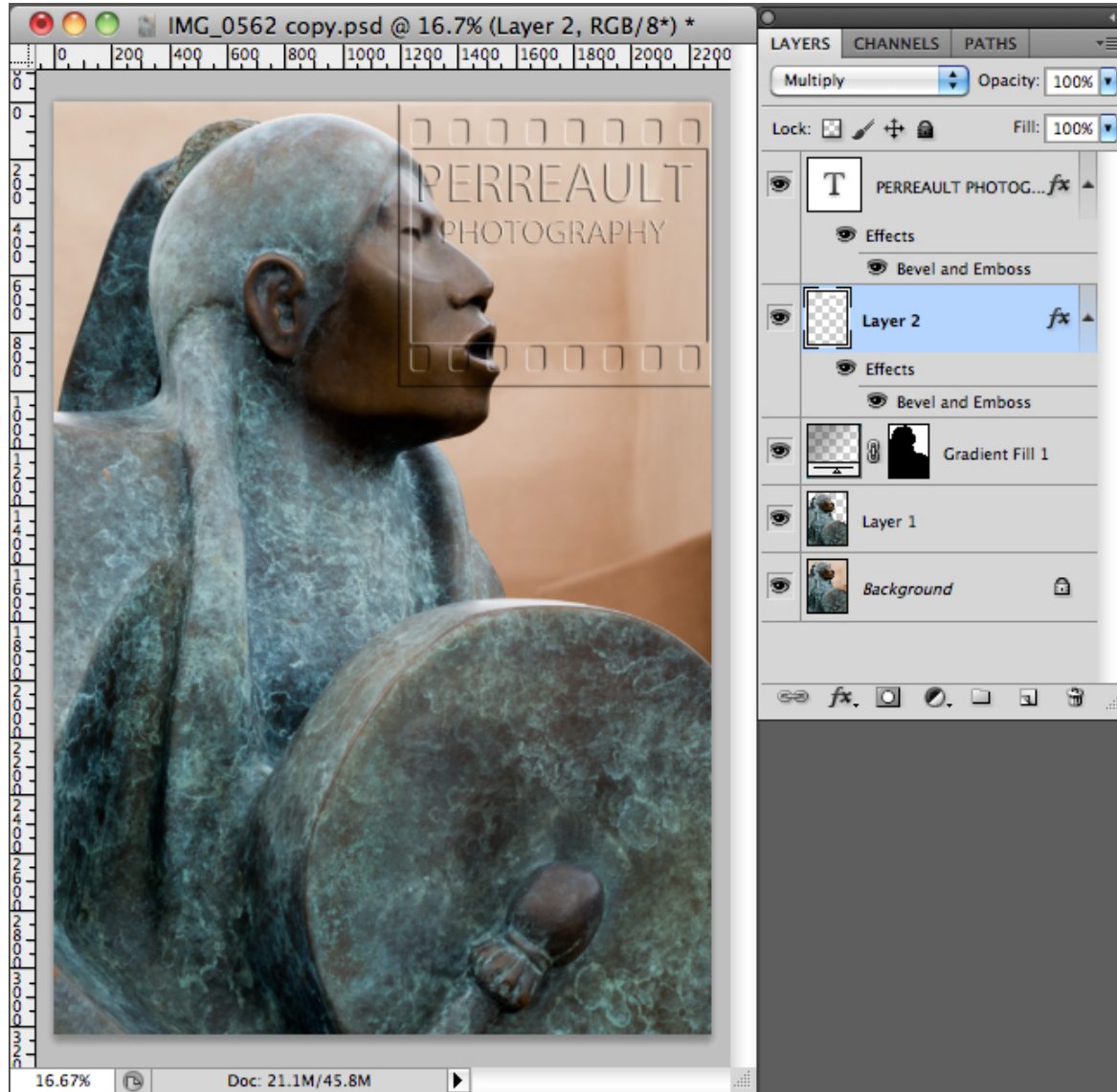 - White + color = Color (white = transparent)

Blending Modes: Multiply

Blending Modes: Multiply Example
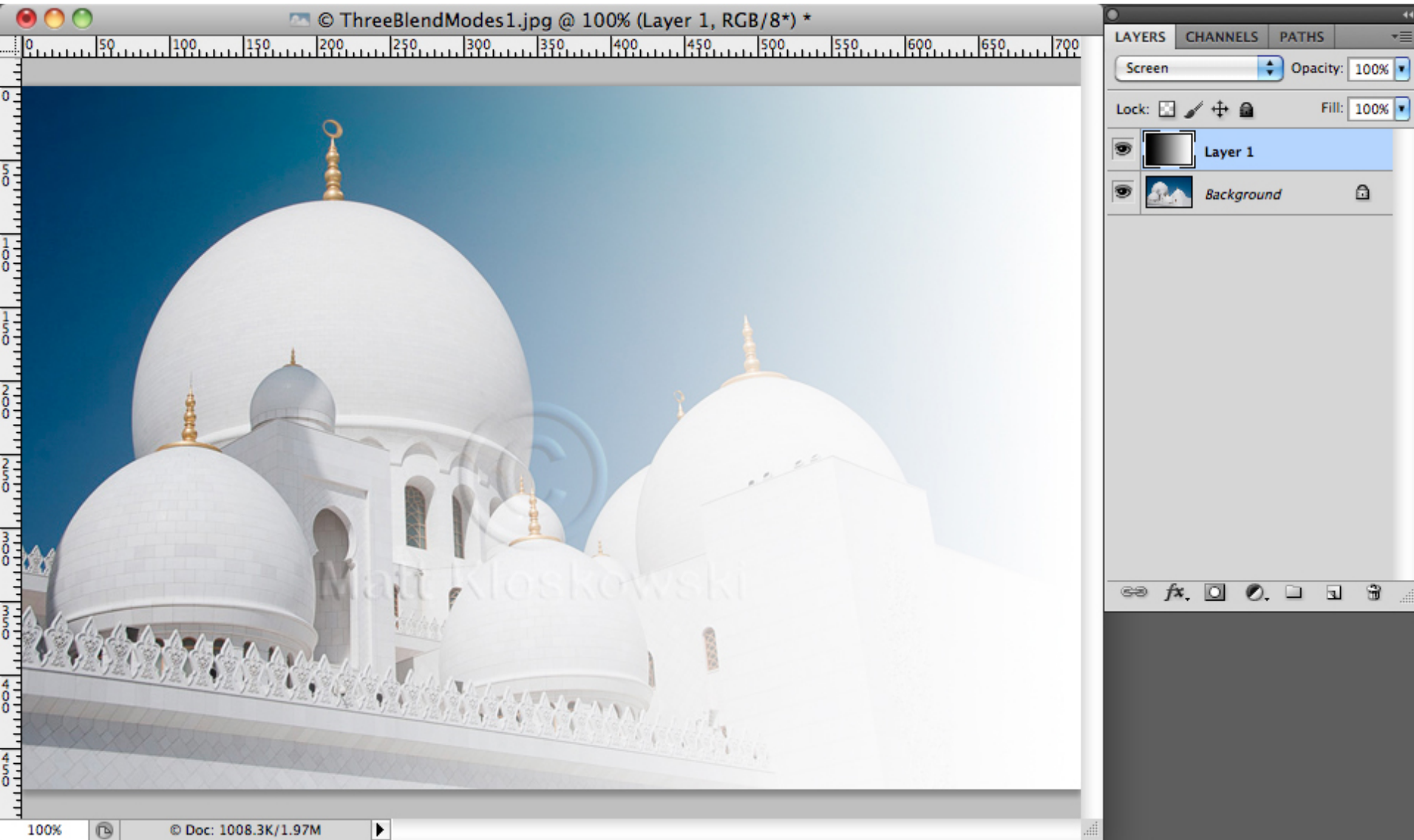
Blending Modes: Multiply Example

Blending Modes: Screen

- Screen: divides pixel value across the layers – lightens colors
  - Black + color = Color (black = transparent)
  - Gray + color = Lighter color color
  - White + color = White
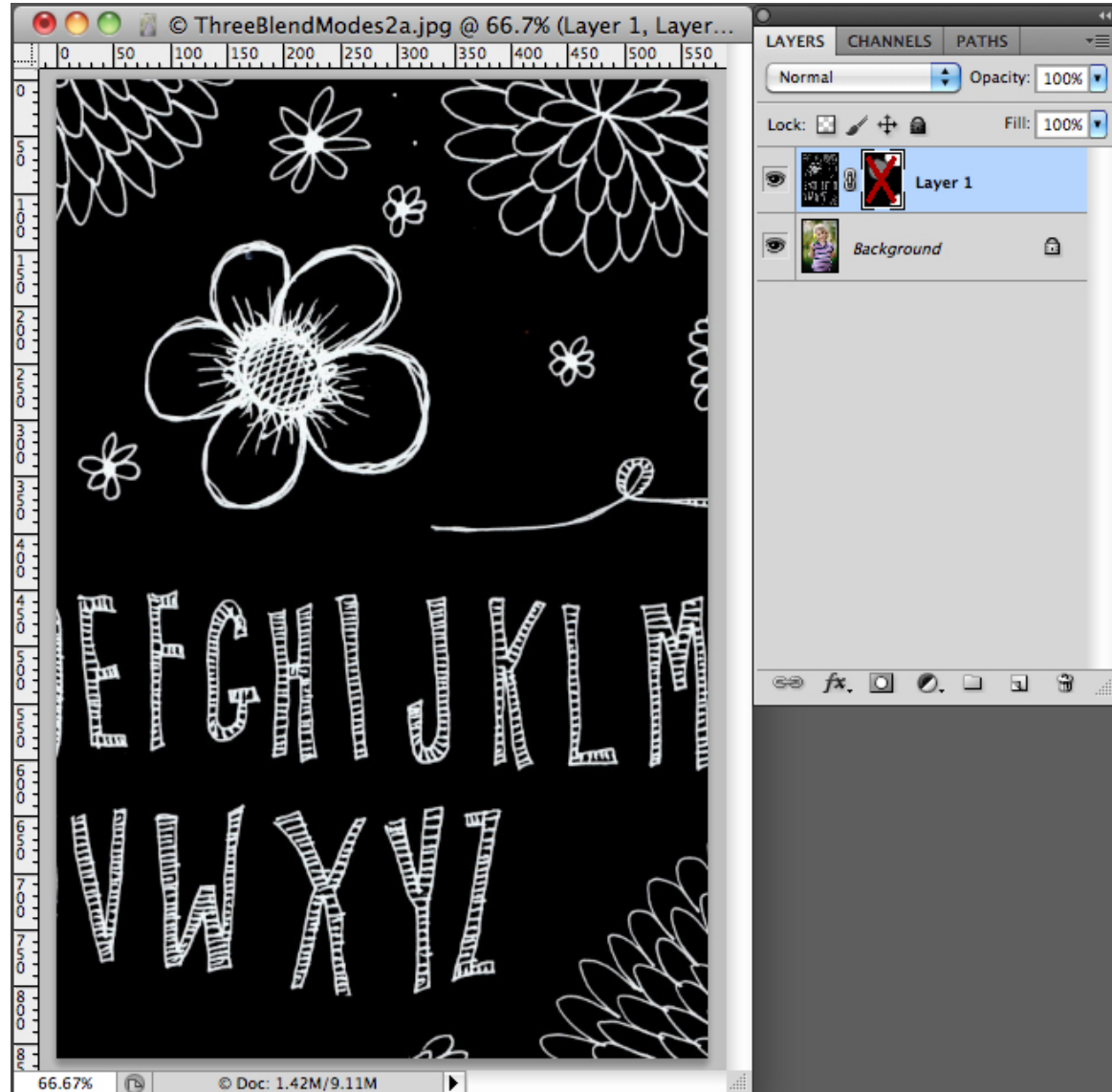
Blending Modes: Screen

Blending Modes: Screen Example

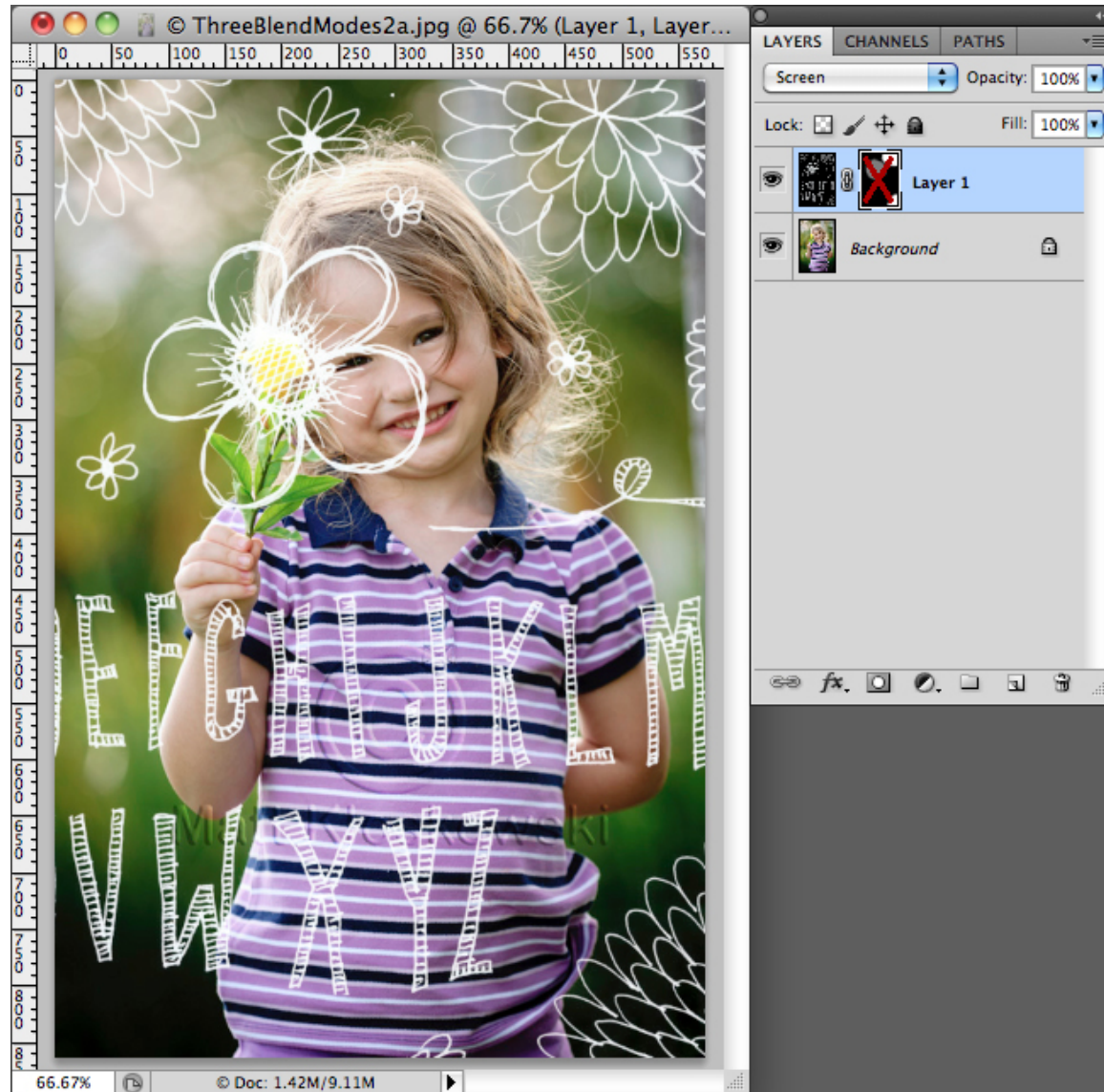- Open image and place layer to be screened on its own layer

Blending modes: Screen example

- Layer to be in screen mode; black will become transparent

Blending modes: Screen example

- Layer in screen mode, some elements will have to be cleaned up
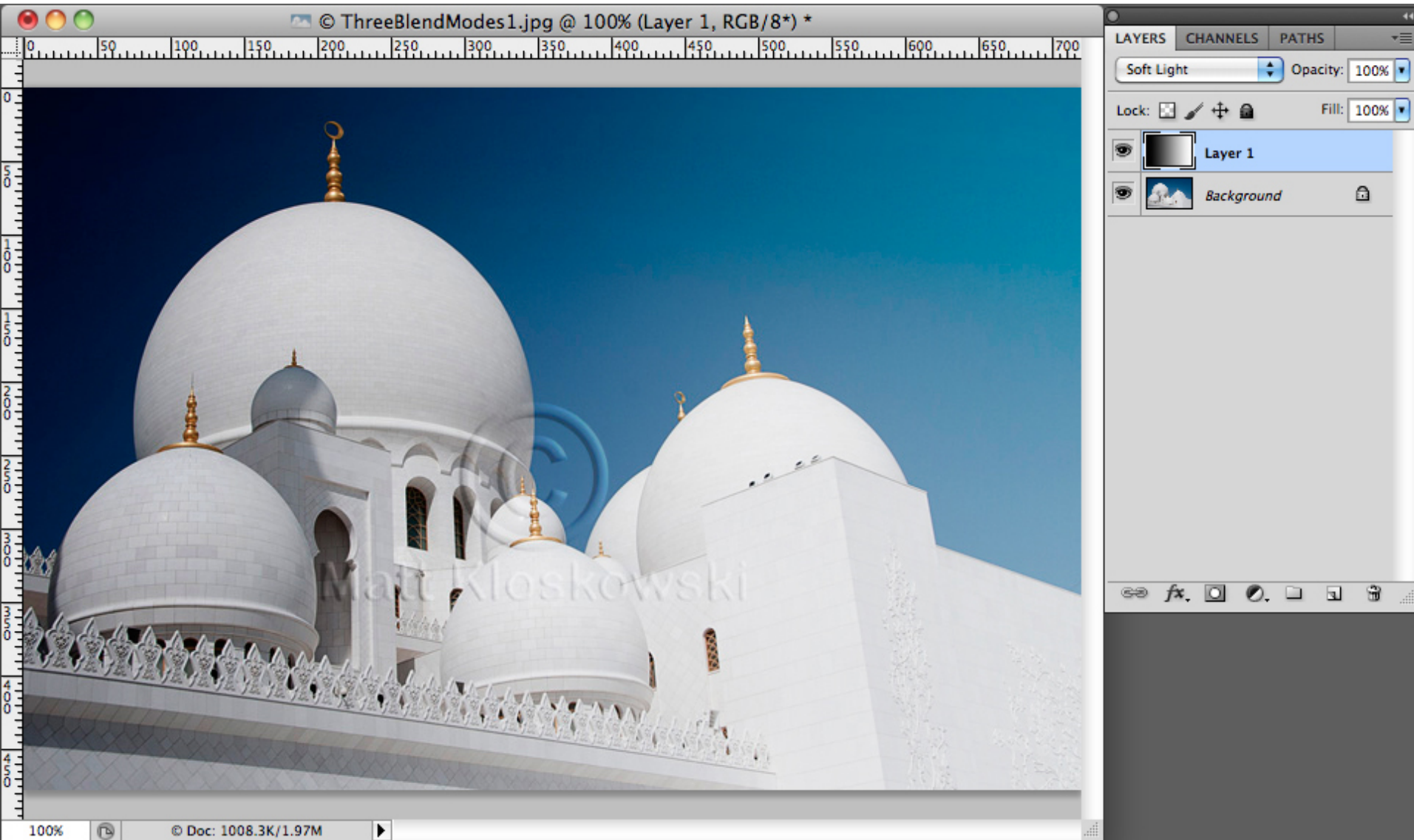
Blending modes: Screen example

- Layer mask added for non-destructive edits

- Can alter opacity and fill

Blending Modes: Soft Light

- Soft Light: increases contrast; mix of Multiply & Screen blend modes
  - Black + Color = Darker Color
  - Gray + Color = Color (gray = transparent)
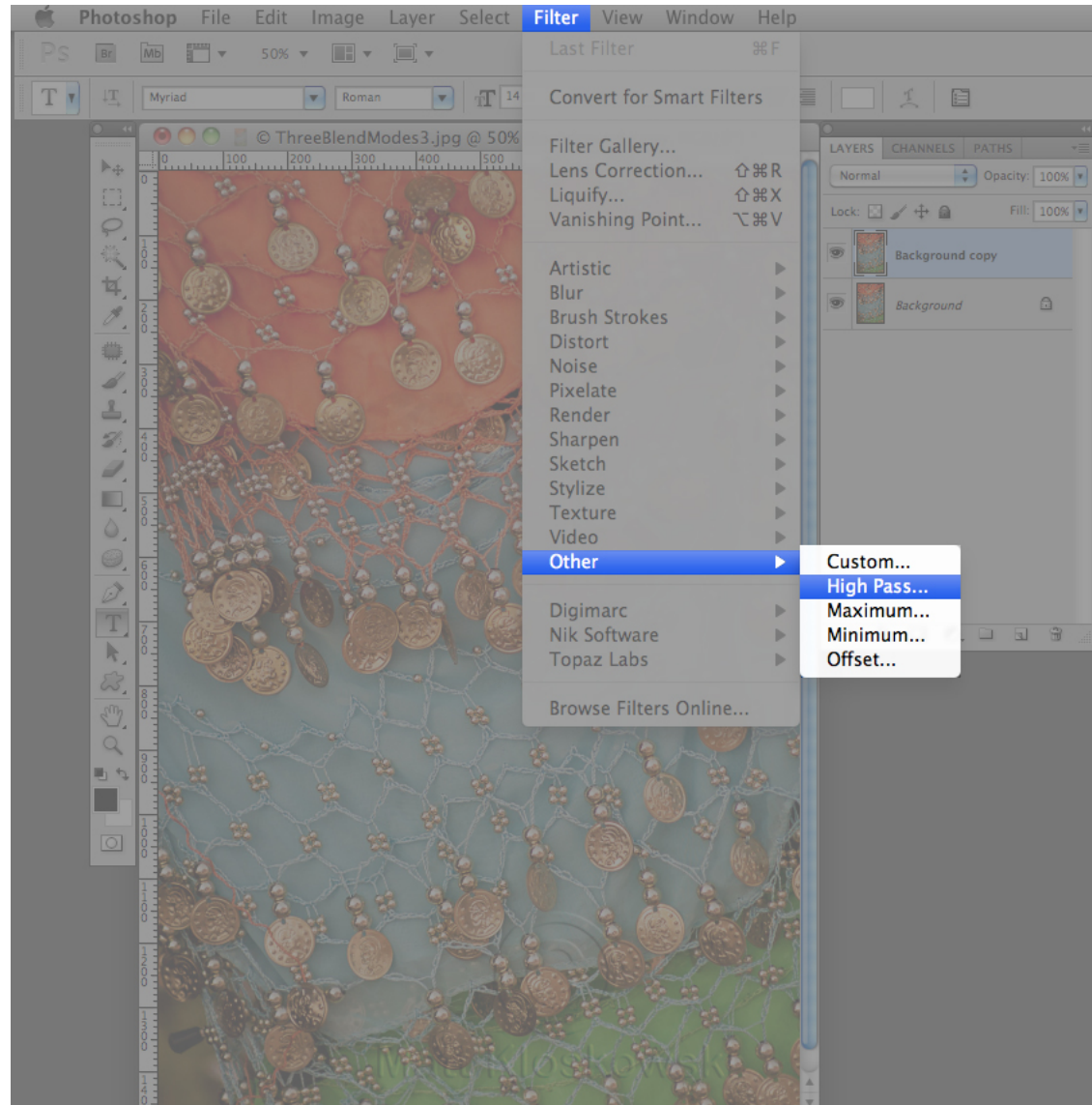 - White + Color = Lighter Color

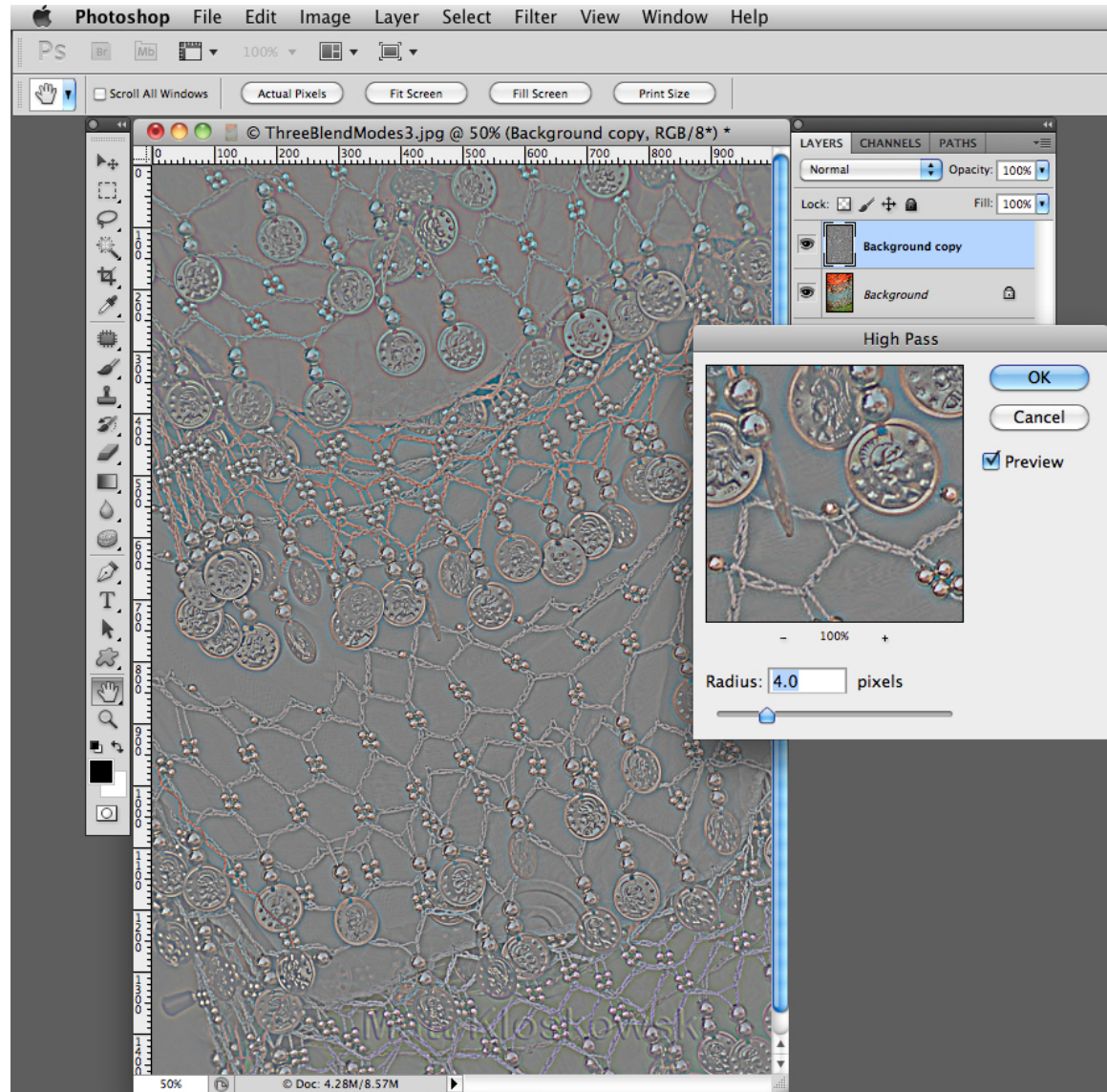# Blending Modes: Soft Light

Blending modes: Soft light example

- Open image and duplicate background layer

- Menu →

   Filter →
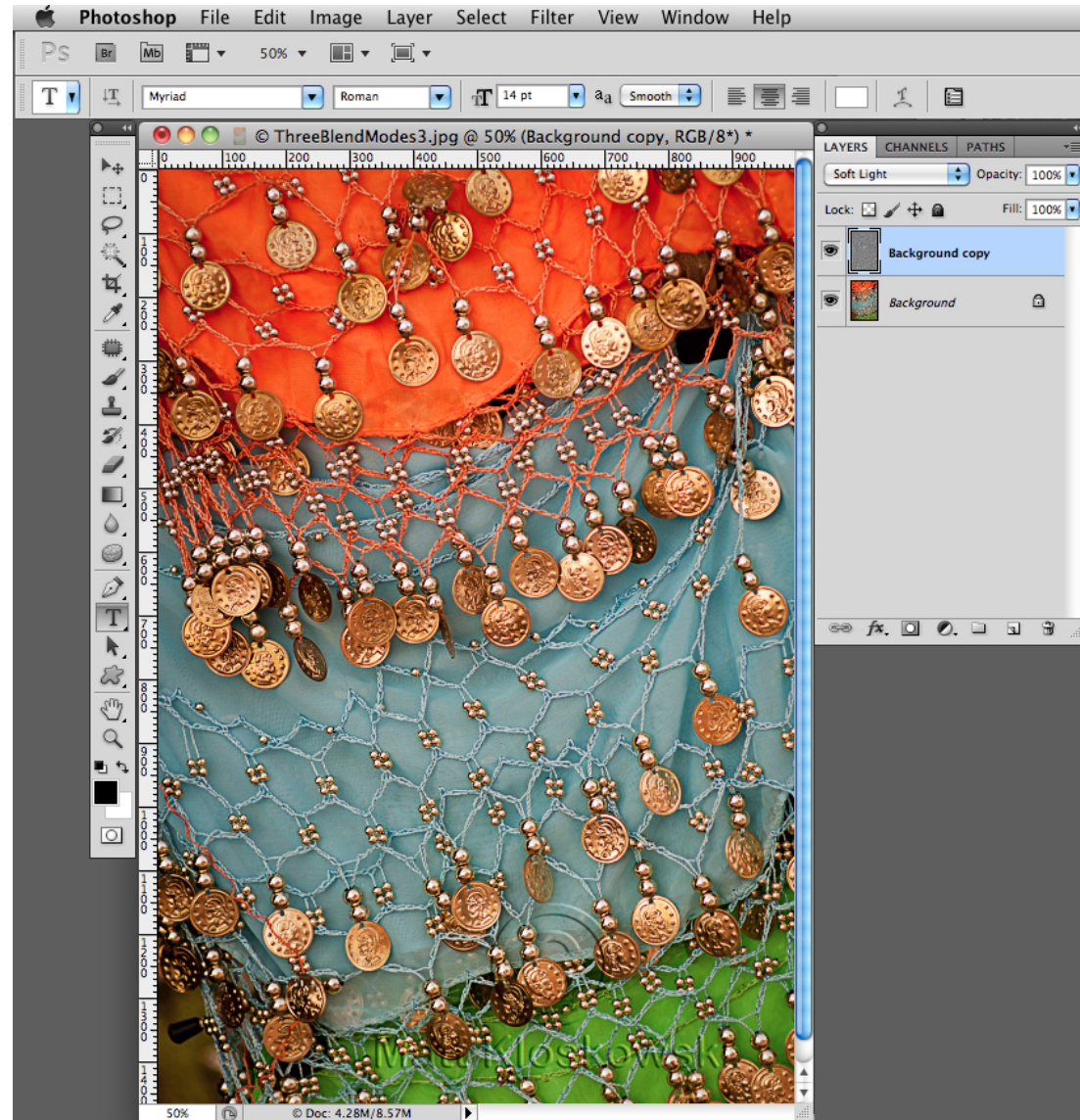
   Other →

   High Pass

Blending Modes: Soft Light Example

- Set radius to 4.0 pixels

Blending Modes: Soft Light Example

- Set blend mode to Soft Light

- 50% gray is transparent, effect of sharpening edges (increased contrast)
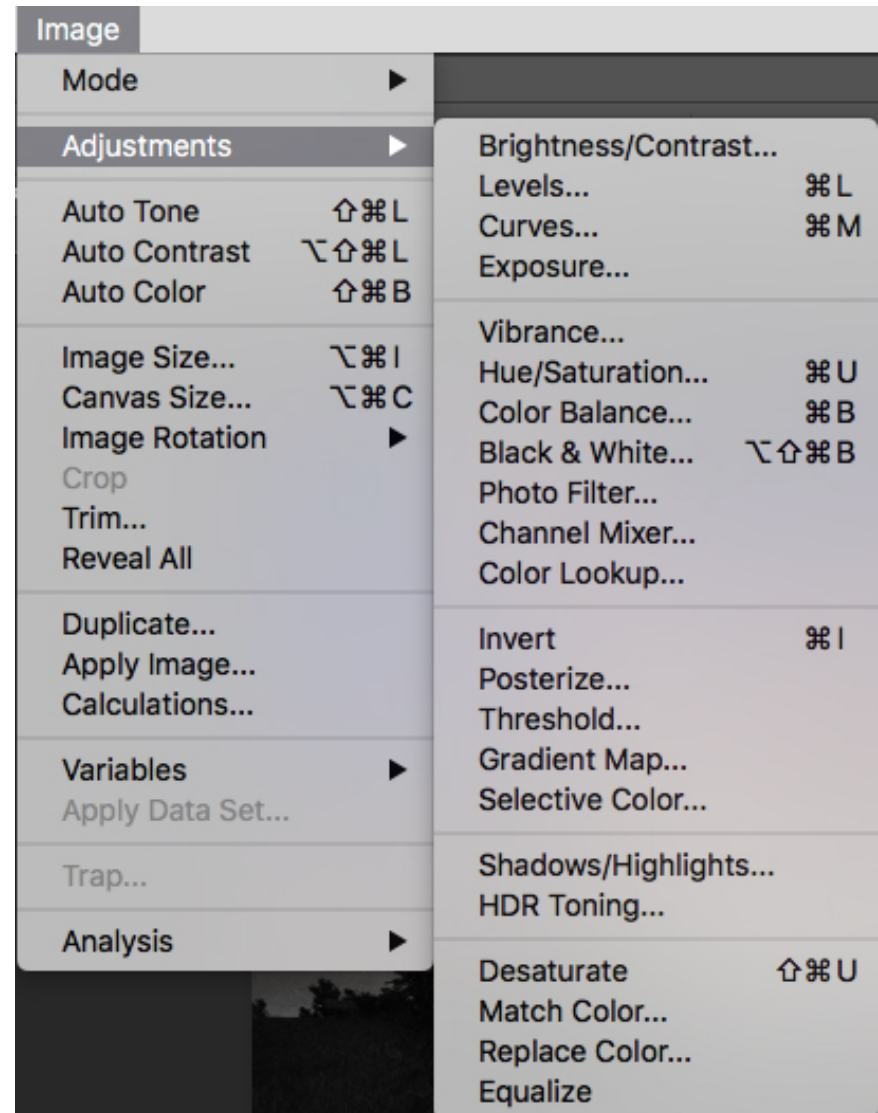
Adjustment Layers

- Grouped into three types
  - Layers that affect tonal range
  - Layers that affect color
  - Layers that affect appearance
- Adjustment layers come with layer masks
- Adjustment layers are non-destructive
  - No changes made to pixel information on layer
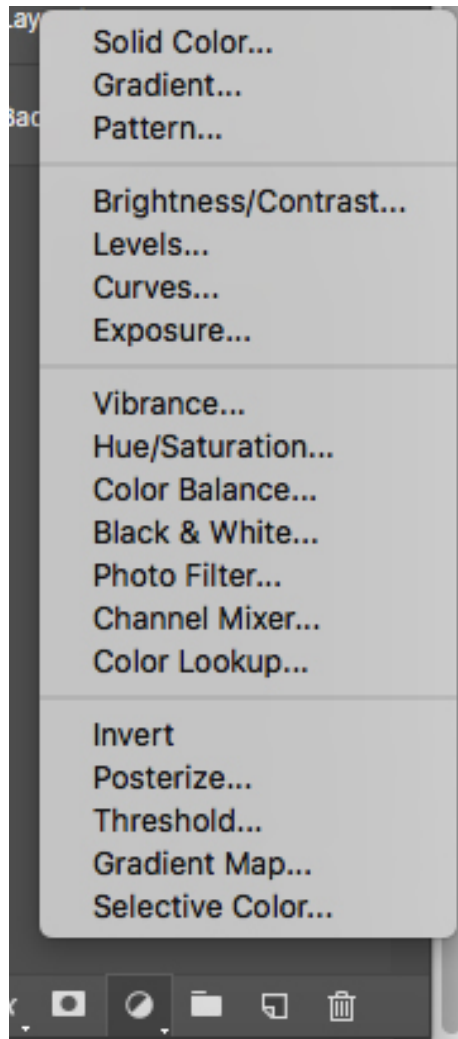
Adjustment Layers

- Layer Adjustment
  - Menu → Image → Adjustments → *option*
  - **Layer Adjustment does *DESTRUCTIVE* edits!**
- Adjustment Layer
  - Menu → Window → Adjustments panel OR
  - Menu → Layer → New Adjustment Layer → *option*

- Remember: layer adjustments are destructive, adjustment layers non-destructive

Layer Adjustment

- Menu
  - Image → Adjustment → option
- More options available than adjustment layers such as Shadows / Highlights and HDR Toning
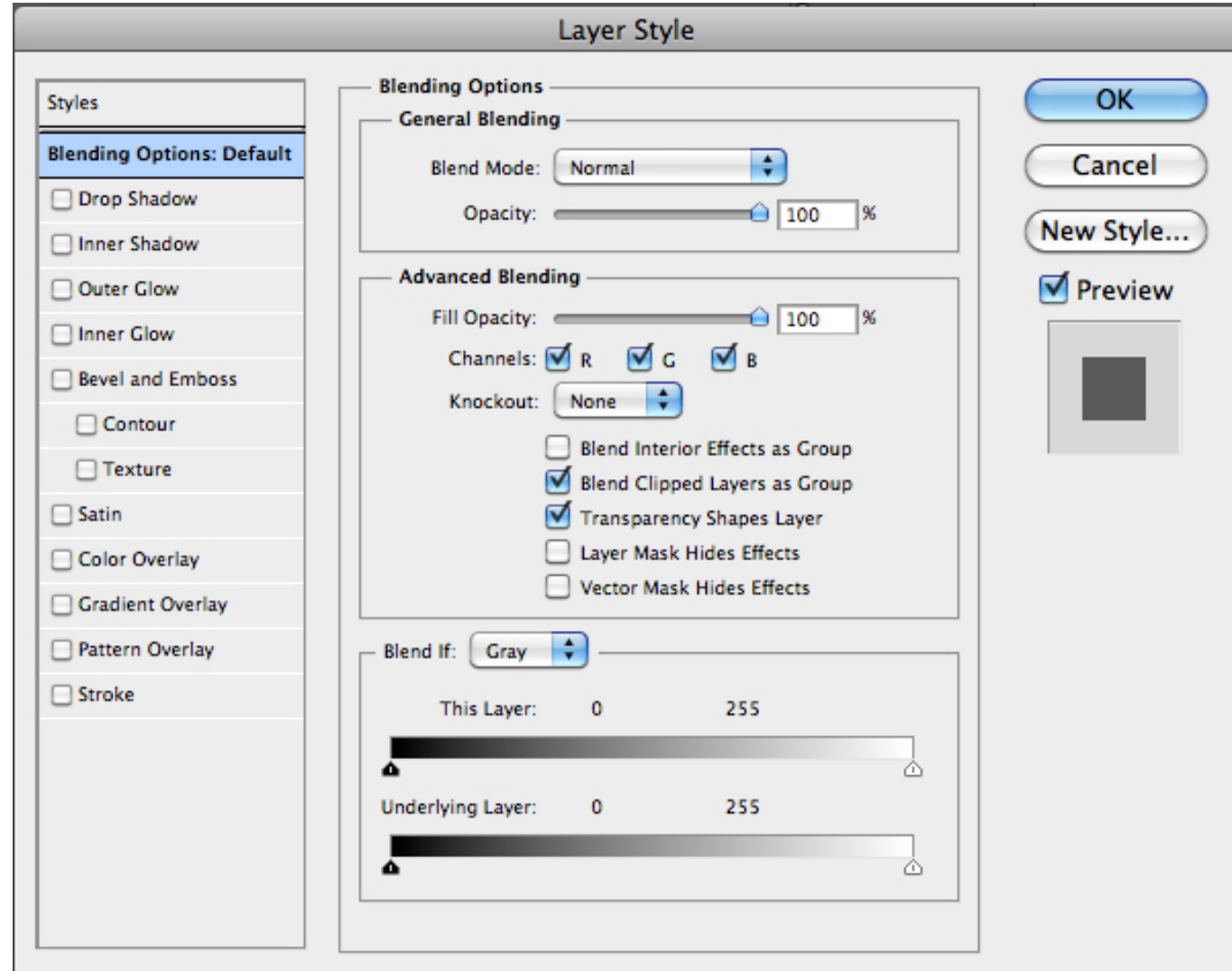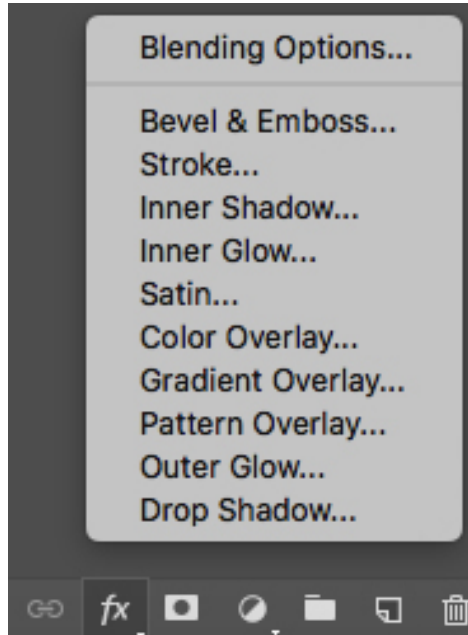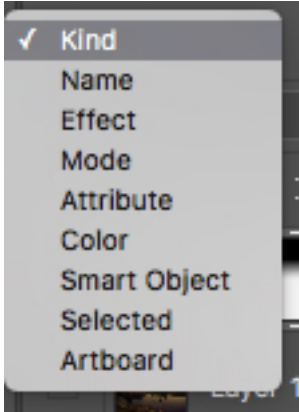
Adjustment Layers

Layer Styles

- Grouped into two types
  - Blend options – powerful, not commonly used
  - Pixel effects – alter pixel information on layer
- **Layer styles are destructive! Alter layer pixel information!**
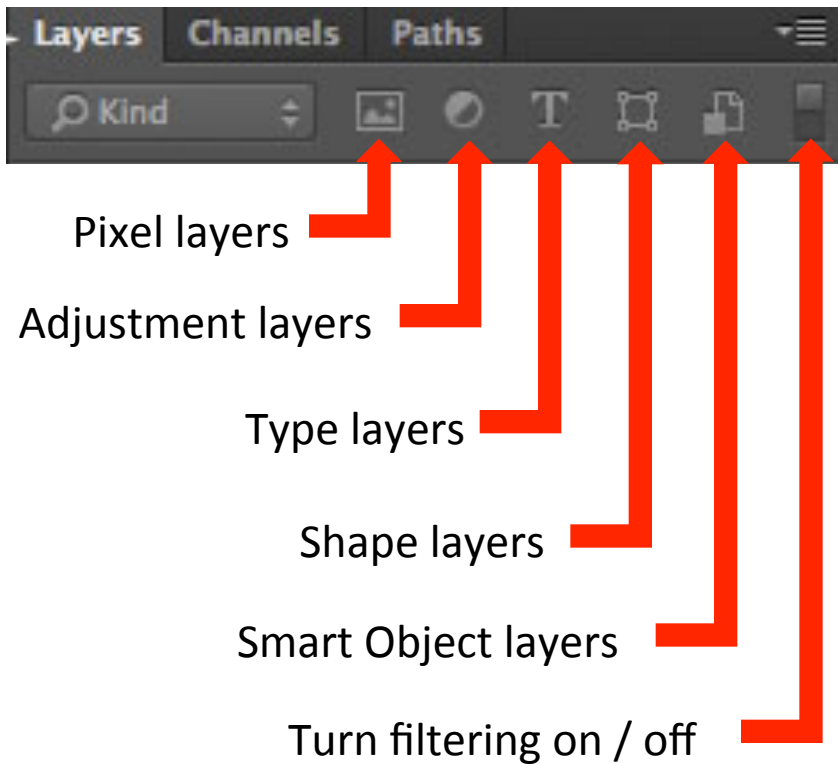
Layer Styles

Layer Filtering

- Ability to filter layers in the Layers Panel by criteria

- Useful if you have many layers and layers hidden in groups

- Drop down items
  - Name
    - Filter layers by name
  - Effect
    - Filter layers by layer style
  - Mode
    - Filter layers by blend mode
  - Attribute
    - Filter by layer attribute
  - Color
    - Filter layer by color

Layer Filtering

Layers | Channels | Paths

🔍 Kind

Pixel layers

Adjustment layers

Type layers

Shape layers

Smart Object layers

Turn filtering on / off

- Other filtering options
  - Pixel Layers
    - Filter by image layers
  - Adjustment Layers
    - Filter by adjustment layers
  - Type Layers
    - Filter by type layers
  - Shape Layers
    - Filter by shape layers
  - Smart Objects Layers
    - Filter by smart objects
  - Turn filtering on/off