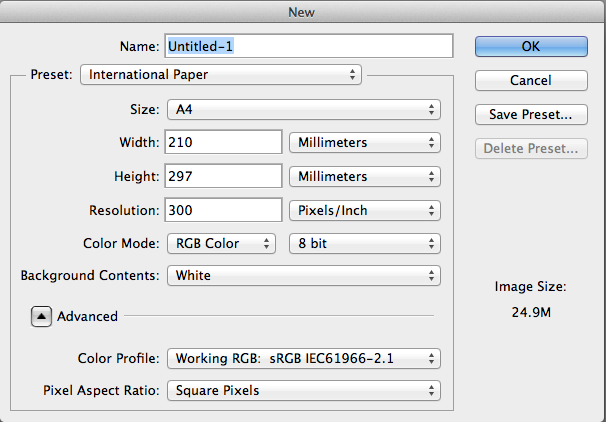
An Introduction Photoshop Montages using Layer Masks

Techniques used

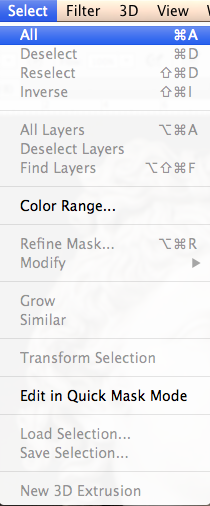
* Basic Layer Masks
* Basic Layer Blending Modes
* Basic Selections Techniques
* Basic Layer Adjustments

**Part 1Building the Structure**

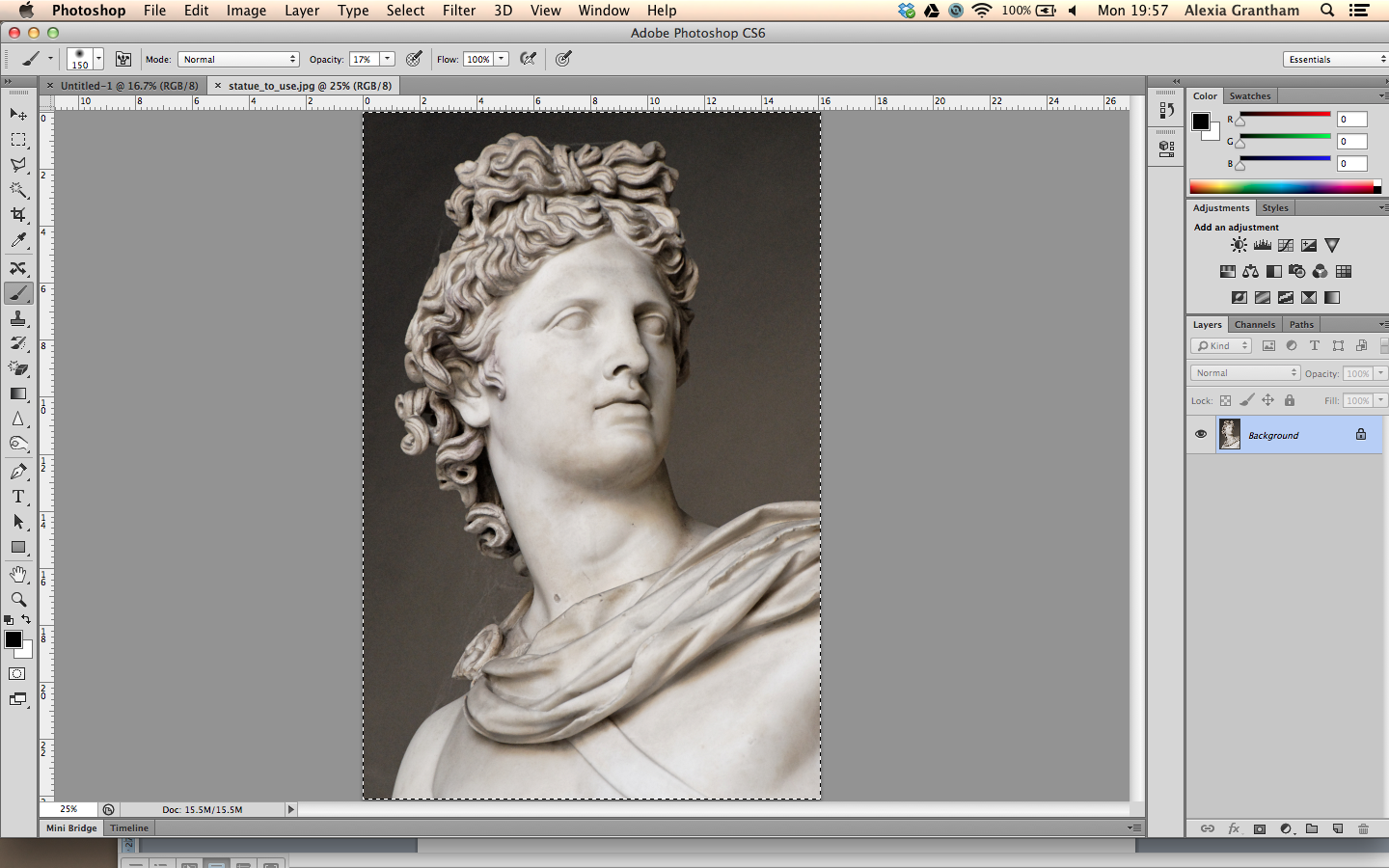
1. File open New Document

Make sure your document is in Portrait mode

2. GO > File open > statue\_to\_use.jpg

3. Select the entire image GO > Select all

You will now see a selection around the image than is called running ants, they look like little flashing dots

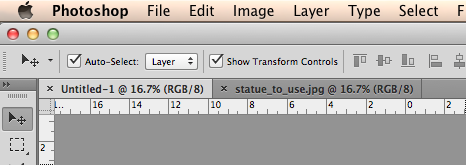


4. Copy the image

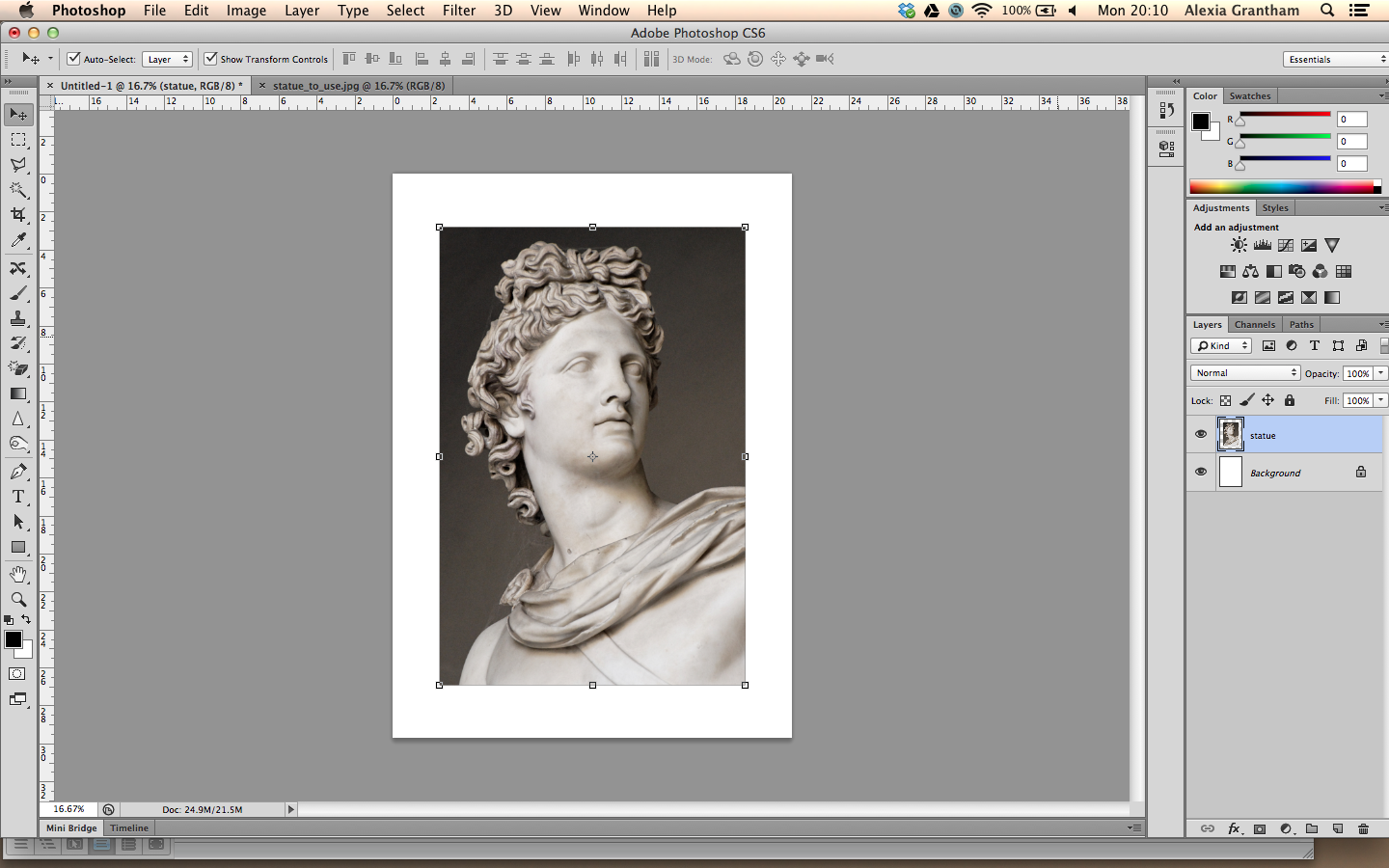
Go > Edit Copy or cmd C

5. Navigate to the new image you created earlier

You will find this by looking for the tab showing Unentitled document on your window bar

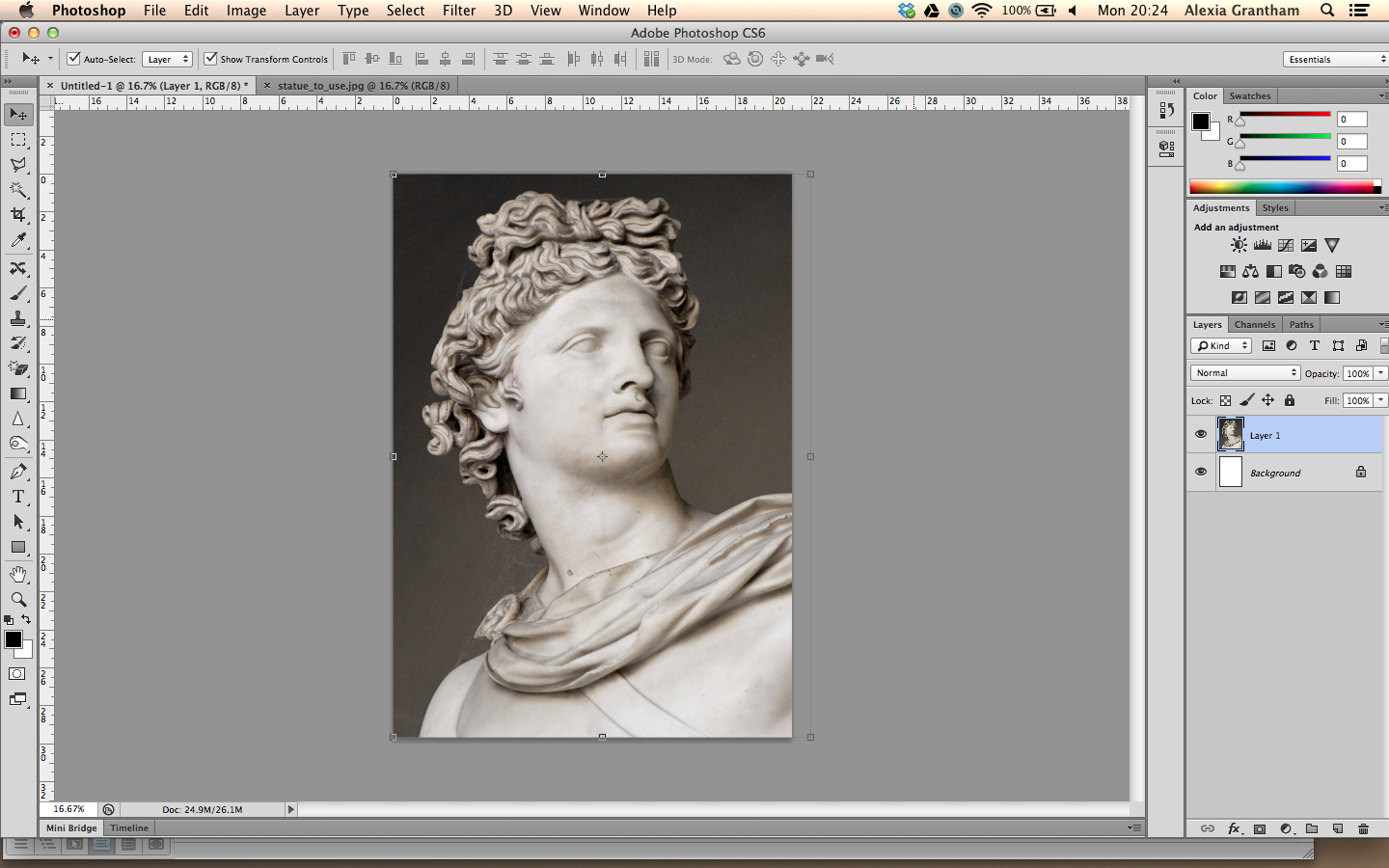
6. Paste the image

Go > Edit Paste or cmd

7. Make sure transform selections are selected

Click and drag the transform handles to resize the image to fit the size of the document maintaining aspect ratio

Name the your new layer statue

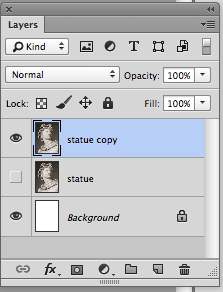
8. Double click to apply the transformation

9. KEEPING A COPY OF A LAYER SAFE

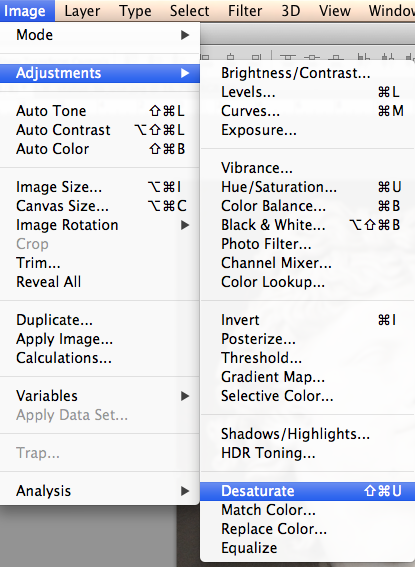
Select the layer Statue

Copy this layer by dragging it  
 down to the new layer icon

ABOVE THIS LAYER YOU NOW GET A NEW LAYER CALLED STATUE COPY



10. Turn of the layer visibility for the layer statue it is not needed yet



9. Making the image black and white

GO > Layer > Adjustments > Desaturate

10. Open the document called white\_paper.png

Repeat previous steps 4 5 6 and 7

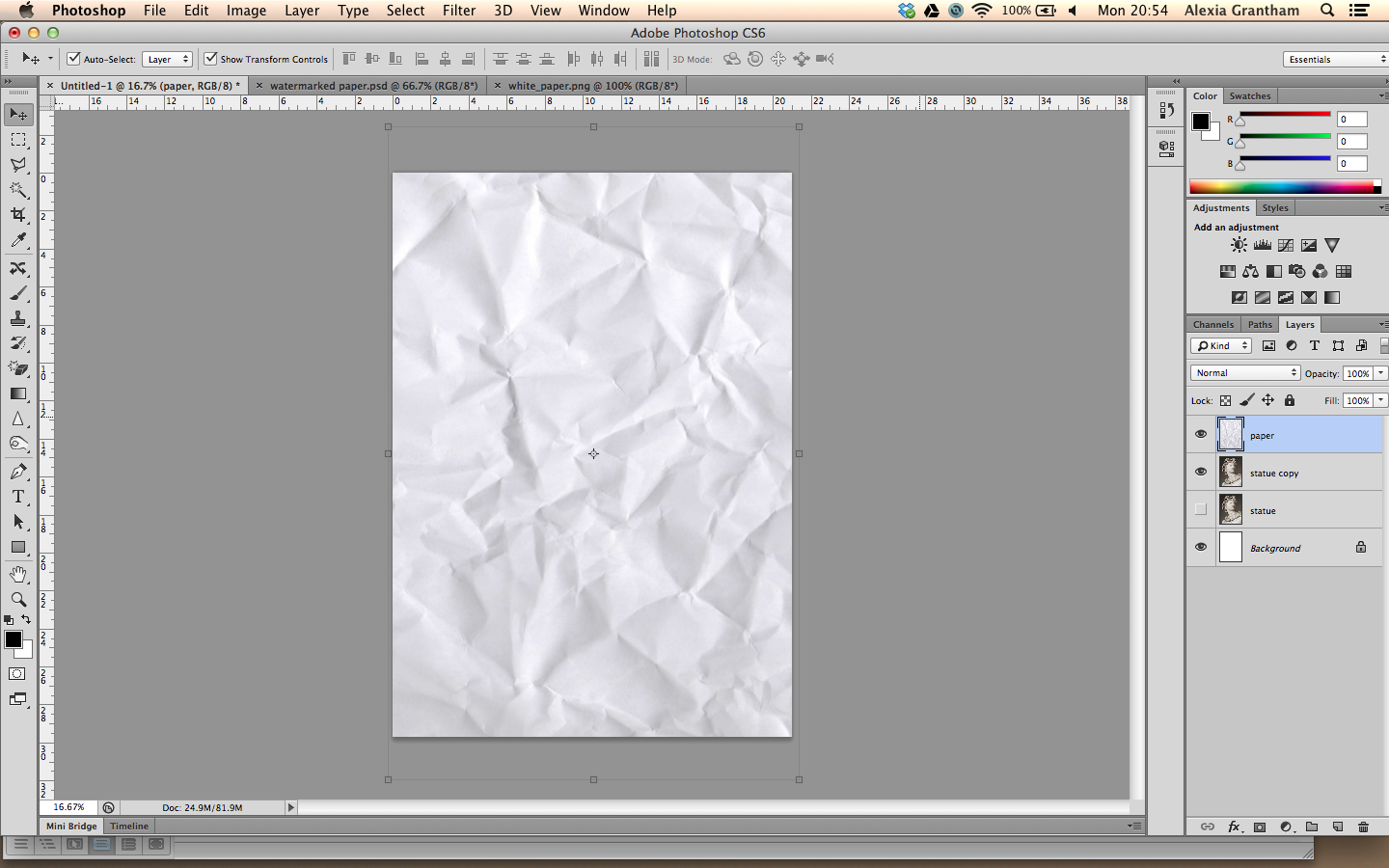
Select > Select All = cmd A

Edit > Copy = cmd C

Edit > Paste = cmd V

Size your image so it covers the whole document

You will need to rotate the paper layer so it’s in portrait



DON’T FORGET NAME YOUR LAYER = PAPER

Move on to Part 2 over leaf

**Part 2 Using Layer Blends**

Please see additional tutorial for using blending modes in

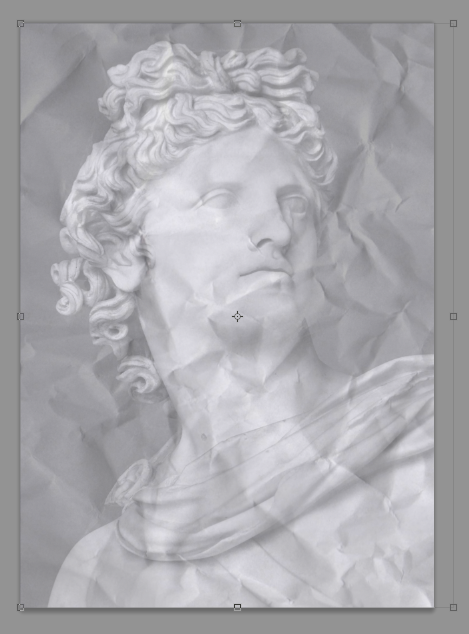
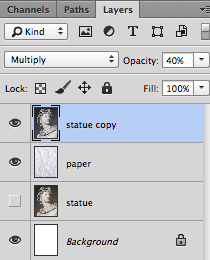
Photoshop essential blends modes for photo editing Stage 1

Quite simply, layer blend modes give us different ways for a layer to interact with, or "blend" with, the layer or layers below it. Without layer blend modes, the only real way we have of blending layers together is by reducing the opacity (or fill) of a layer, which usually doesn't give us very interesting results. But with blend modes, not only do they unlock a world of creative possibilities, especially when we combine them with layer masks, they can also be extremely helpful when it comes to editing, retouching and restoring photos, and they can save us a whole lot of time!

Adjust the layer opacity of statue copy to 40%

either drag the slider or highlight the number and input the value

11. Press and hold down the   
 the layer blending mode   
 drop down box and   
 select Multiply for the  
 layer Statue copy



Observe your background layer the paper is now partially visible

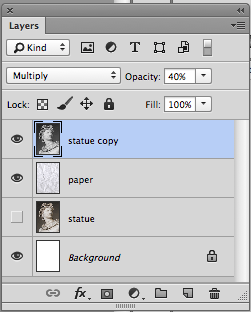
NOTICE YOUR IMAGE LOOKS ALL RATHER GREY

This is remedied in the next section

**Part 3 Using None Destructive Technique Masks**

A layer mask is something that you apply to a given layer to control the transparency of that layer. Where **layer opacity** controls the transparency of the entire layer at once, a **mask** gives you more precise controls over very specific areas. If you want the entire layer to be at 30%, you would lower the opacity, if you want just the left side of a layer to be at 30%, you would use a mask.

**12. RECAP  
 Name and move your  
 layers as shown if they have moved**



Statue copy

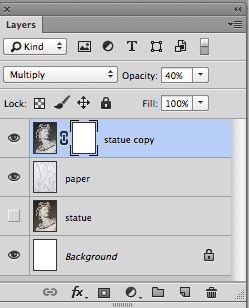
Is at the top

Paper

Is in the middle

Statue

Is at the bottom and the layer visibility is turned of

13.Click on the icon at   
 the bottom of the layer  
 panel called add layer  
 mask

There now is a separate window next to the layer window showing the fire

14. Press D on the  
 keyboard to make the

foreground and  
 background colour

default to black and

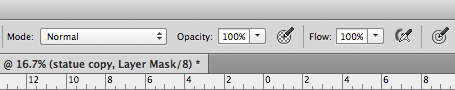
white

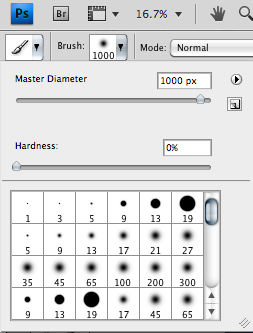


Click the small rounded arrow to reverse the colours arrow and make sure foreground is set to black and background is set to white

Getting the effect right of the next stage is personal but the feel of the image is to generally show less of the sculpture and generally take out the intensity of the hair

15. Select the brush tool and roughly follow the setting below



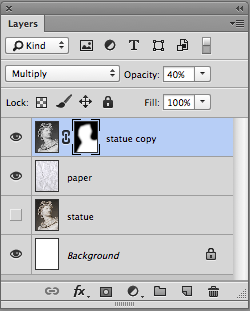


Soft Brush size 1000 px

Opacity 100 %

**16. Using a Mask**

With the brush selected as shown gently brush over the darkest part of the image, you will see black appearing on your layer mask window

When brushing with black selected you are masking out the layer you are applying the brush too

You are applying transparency to your layer

BUT in a none destructive way

Try now switching the colours in your tool panel to Black

The image is being revealed

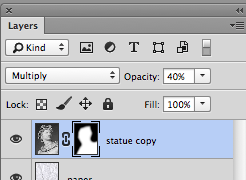
This is the power of a none destructive technique

PAINT WITH BLACK TO BRUSH OFF THE IMAGE

PAINT WITH WHITE TO BRUSH ON THE IMAGE

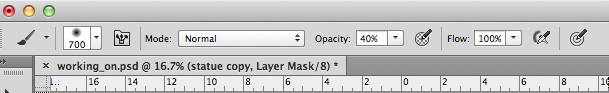
Reveal the background of the paper

Note what is happening to the mask on the layer, there is a solid black silhouette of a the statue showing how you have revealed the paper background



17. It is now time to blend the face in a little it is too prominent

input 40 % into the opacity box, this will soften the brush making   
 it less opaque

 It is like using a rubber gently to erase a small amount of   
 pigment (pixels) instead of using it harshly and removing all the  
 pigment (pixels)

Before After



Continue gently revealing the paper background until you have a nice impression of the statue on the paper

18. Open the document called old\_paper.jpg



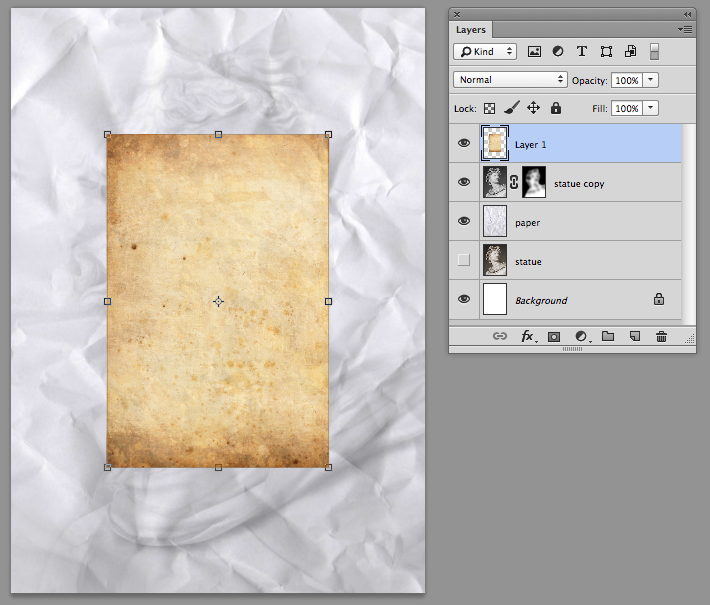
GO > Select all = cmd A

GO > Edit Copy = cmd B

GO > Edit Paste = cmd V

Into the other document with the statue on

PHOTOSHOP PASTES THE NEW ITEM ABOVE WHICH EVER LAYER YOU HAD SELECTED

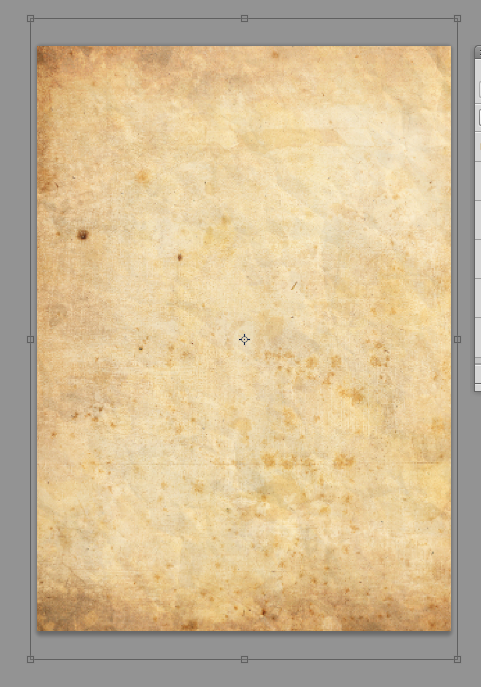


Notice the old\_paper is smaller and needs its size adjusting

19. Adjust the size of the old paper

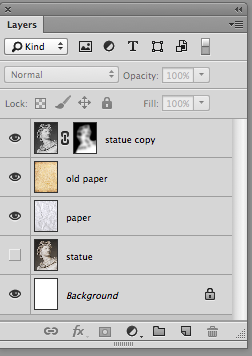
Using the move tool drag out the corner of the transform handle whilst holding down alt and shift, this drags out the image from the centre

Before After





20. Using layer order and layer blending modes

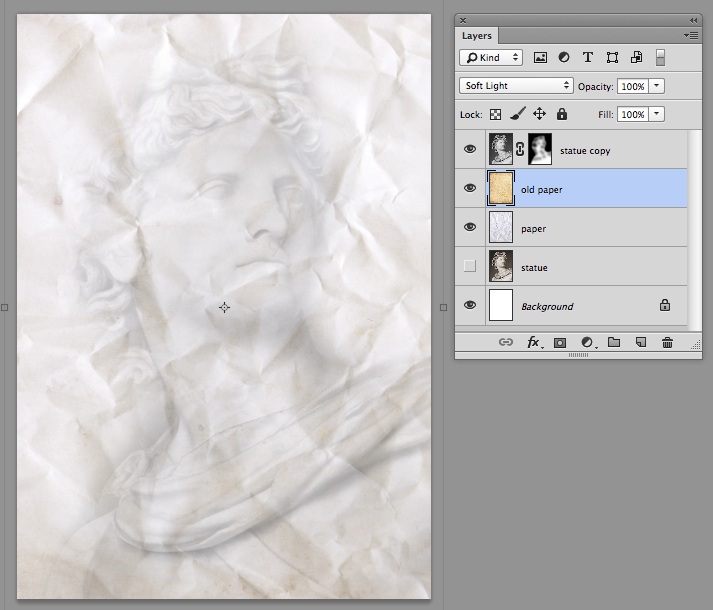


Move the layer old paper to below the statue copy layer

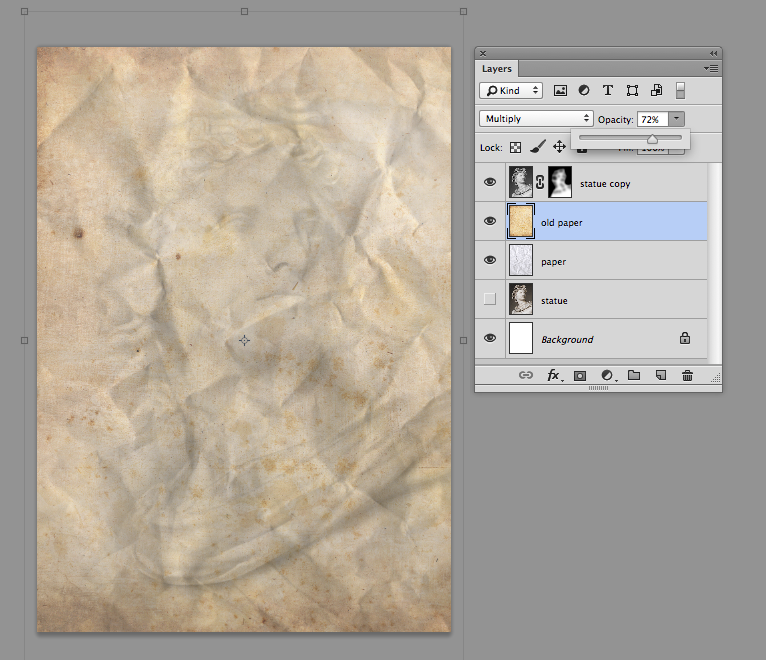
Make sure your layer panel resembles the one as shown

21. Adjusting the layer blending mode of the old paper

This is a matter of personal choice there is an example of two below



A. First example old paper set with a blending mode of soft light

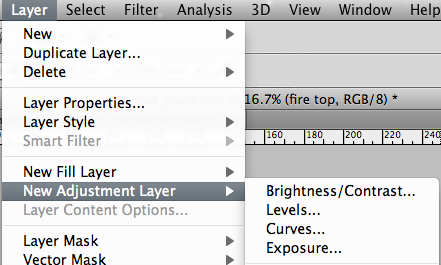


B. Second example old paper set with a blending mode of multiply BUT the opacity of that layer turned down to about 70%

NOTE FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS TUTORIAL EXAMPLE A WAS CHOSEN

**Part 4 Using Basic Layer Adjustments**

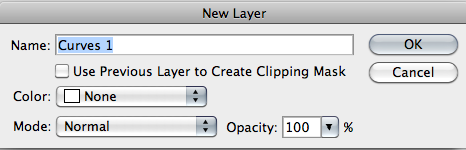
Simply put, an adjustment layer is a layer we can adjust either on the specific layer it is clipped to or the document as a whole. This is a none destructive technique which is editable once the file has been closed and saved as a .psd



22. Make sure the layer   
 statue copy is   
 highlighted

> Click layer

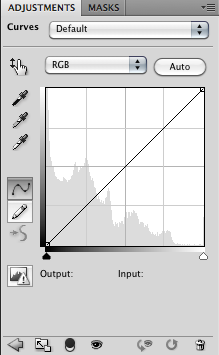
> New Adjustment layer > Curves



23. A new layer pop up  
 box is displayed

Click ok

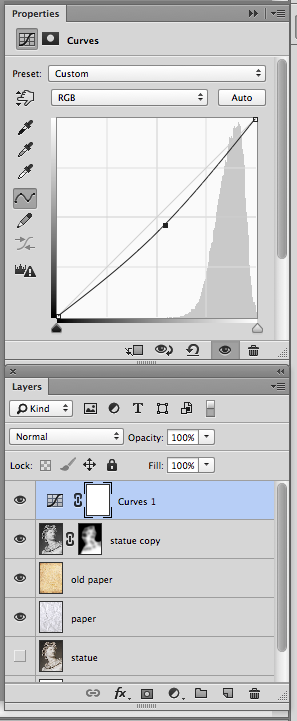
We will not click use previous layer to crate clipping mask at the moment because we want our adjustment layer to affect all the layers underneath it.

24. A new layer panel will be seen

This is the panel which allows the image to be brightened up without permanently destroying the layers beneath it.

In the future you can select the layer adjustment window on the layer and alter this to personal preference

25. Drag the curve downward (depending on your image and layer blending mode you chose)



Notice your image appears Darker

Now have a look what the layer panel looks like

Notice this adjustment layer over the statue copy layer?

THIS IS A NONE DESTRUCTIVE TECHNIQUE

Which at any time allows you to alter the tone of your picture say if you change your mind

**Experimentation with the finished image using differing layer blending modes and opacities**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Layer = Old paper  Layer blending mode = soft light  Opacity = 100% | Layer = Old paper  Layer blending mode = Multiply  Opacity = 40% |
|  |  |
|  |  |
| Layer = statue copy  Layer blending mode = multiply  Opacity = 70% | Layer = statue copy  Layer blending mode = Luminosity  Opacity = 50% |
|  |  |