

Create and Erase on a Transparent Layer

This simple illustration applies to all Transparent Layers you may create.

Open a new file. Select the Lasso tool and draw an irregular shape (1). Turn this into a floater. Fill the floater with a dark orange color and paint in some lines to add to the shape (2).



Normally when you create a Transparent Layer it automatically becomes the same size as your painting background. To create a Transparent Layer the same size as an existing floater (2), select it, then select **Floater/Transparent Layer** in the **Objects:Floater List** palette. You now have a T-layer the same size as your floater. The selection marquee defines the total area of any floater or T-layer.

In the example below (3) I filled the T-Layer with black. In the **Brush:** palette I chose the **Airbrush** tool, with a **Feather Tip** variant. Next I chose **Plug-in** for the **Method** and **Transparent Layer Brush** as the **Subcategory**. Then I painted the interior with flames and let a diagonal line run from one corner to another to show the total area of the T-Layer.



I decided I no longer wanted the diagonal line in the picture so it must be erased. To do this, I select the **Transparent Layer** in the **Objects:Floater List**. Next, I click on the **Mask** icon to open the **Objects:Mask List**, and select **Transparent Layer Mask** (the bar will turn blue). If I open the **EYE**, I see a black & white version of the mask (4). I can erase the lines in either mode. It is not necessary to switch to the eraser or any other tool to do this. BUT...it is necessary to change the **Method** to anything but **Plug-in** or **Wet**. I chose 100% White (removes & Black adds to) as the **Primary Color** in the **Art Materials** palette and painted over the lines to remove them.



Next I want to add a few curly vines. I can paint only in the current mask, which is behind the pumpkin. I could paint here but I won't have much control over what I am doing. In order to accomplish what I want to do, I must switch back to **Plugin** for the **Method** and **Transparent Layer Brush** as the **Subcategory** and re-select the T-Layer in the **Objects:Floater List**. Now I can see the vines in color as I add them to the T-Layer. Add a few strokes to create the illusion of depth and you're finished. Try applying some lights. It is amazing what can be done with the click of a button.