



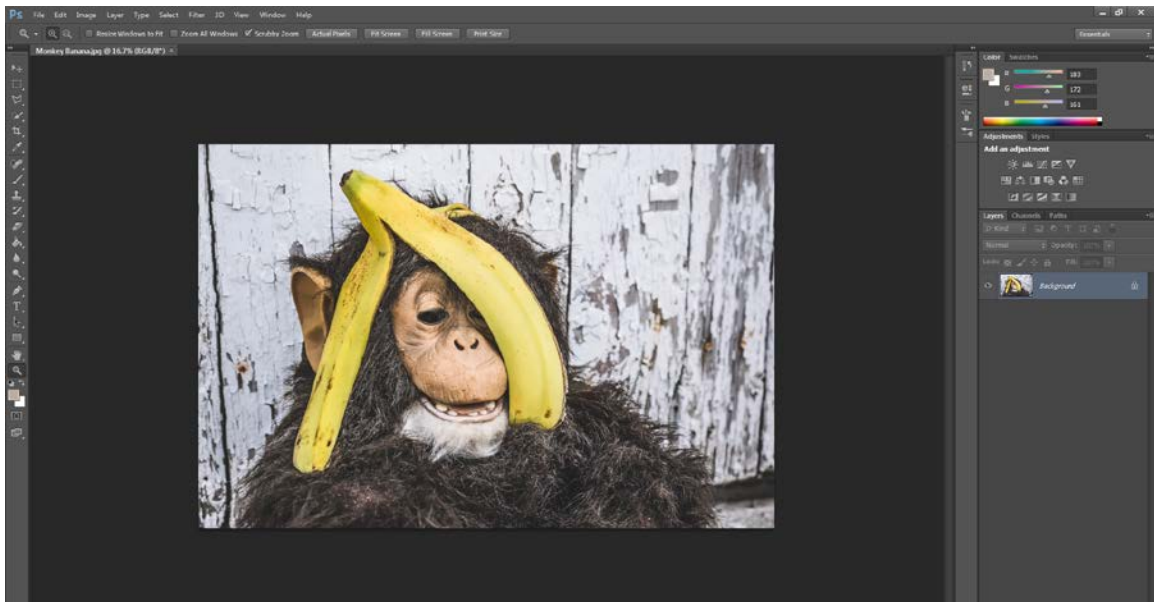
Polaroid Collage in Photoshop



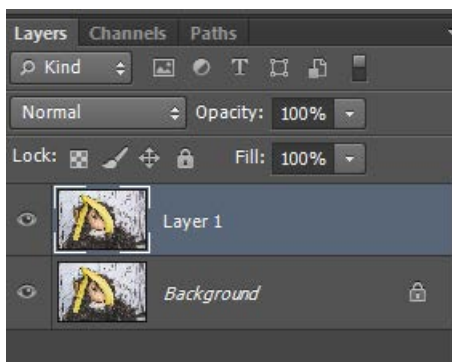
In this project we will introduce the use of "clipping masks" to create a Polaroid collage of a picture. In my example, I created a collage from this monkey picture. (See Below)

Instructions

1. Search the Internet for an image that you would like to use as the basis for your collage. You can use the monkey image if you would like.
2. Open your image from within Photoshop.



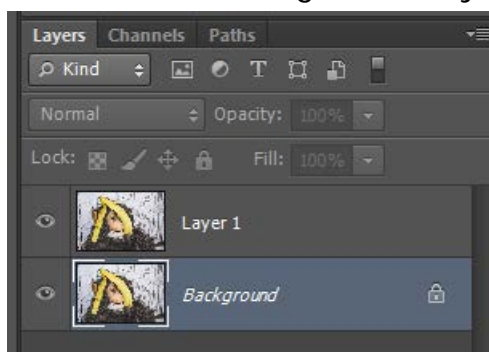
3. Press Ctrl + J on your keyboard. This will duplicate the Background Layer.



(Note: We do this because it is a good habit to not edit the pixels on a background layer. That way we always have a copy of the original to revert back to if needed)

Figure 1: Layer 1 created

4. Click on the Background Layer to highlight it.



5. Create a new layer.



6. Name this layer "black".

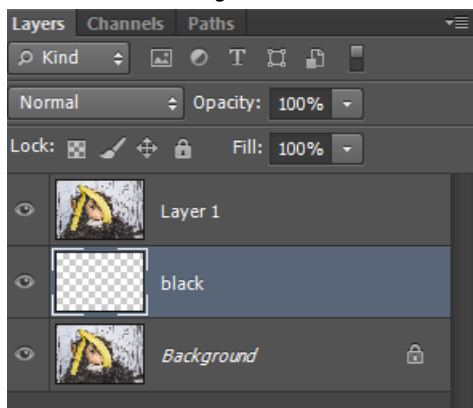
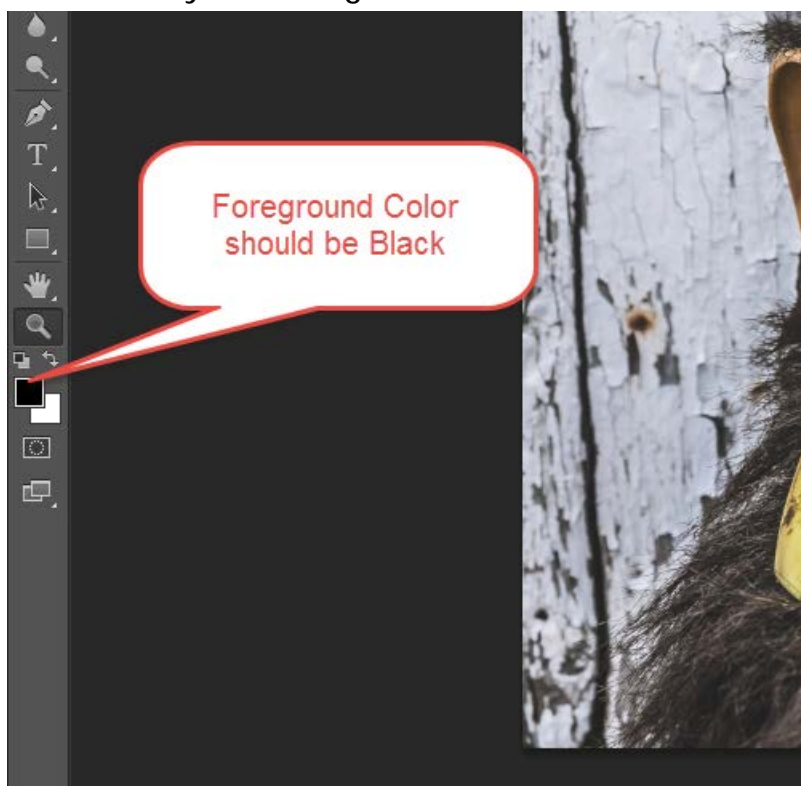


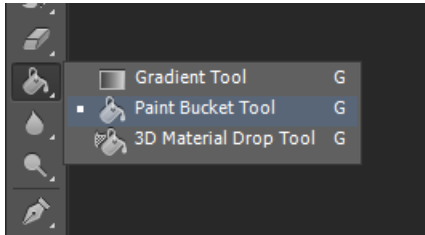
Figure 2: black layer created (between Background and Layer 1)

(Note: This layer will be used later to hide or mask parts of the actual photo)

7. Make sure your Foreground Color is set to black.



8. Select the paint bucket tool (G).



9. Click on the photo (with the black layer still selected).



10. Create a new layer above the black layer and call it "visible".

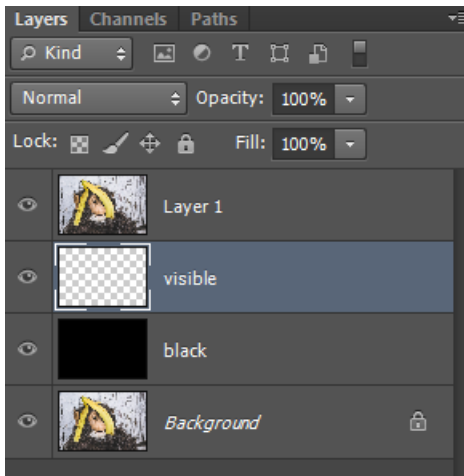




Figure 3: visible layer created

11. Select the Rectangle Marquee Tool (M). 
12. Hold Shift + Drag a rectangle to an area you want to be your first picture.

(Note: The picture part of a Polaroid is a perfect square. We hold Shift to make a perfect square.)

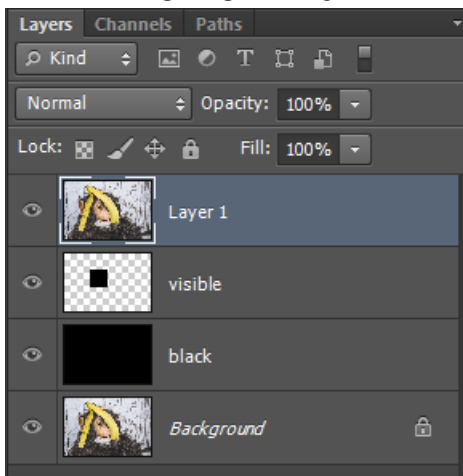


13. Select the Paint Bucket Tool (G)  and paint the rectangle black.

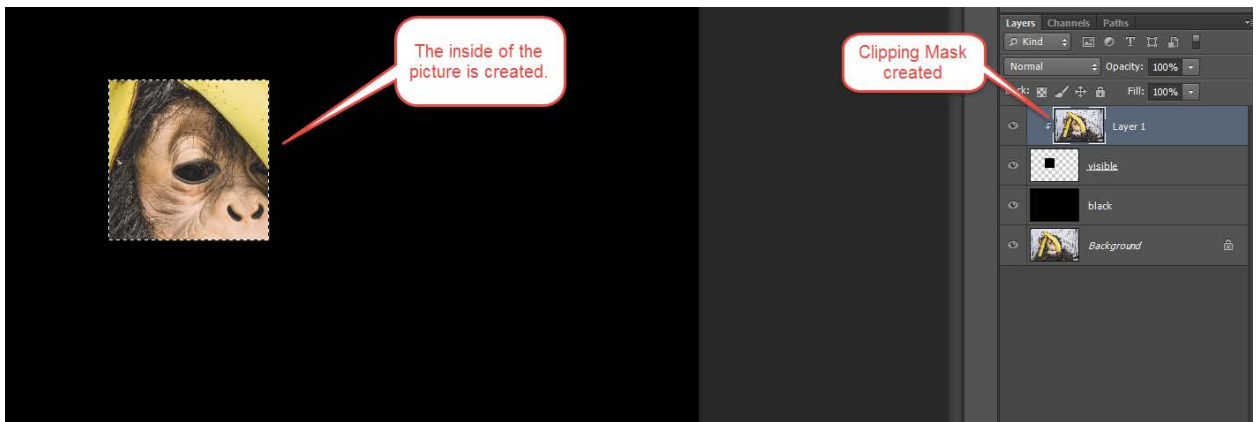
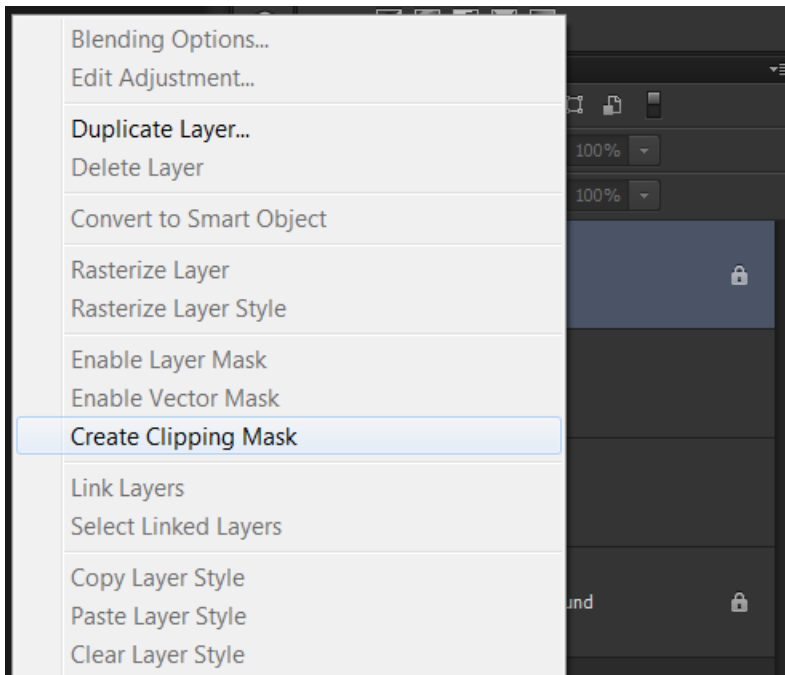


(Note: Don't worry if there is no change to the picture right away, it has changed but we can't see it because the "visible" layer is under "Layer 1".)

14. Highlight Layer 1.

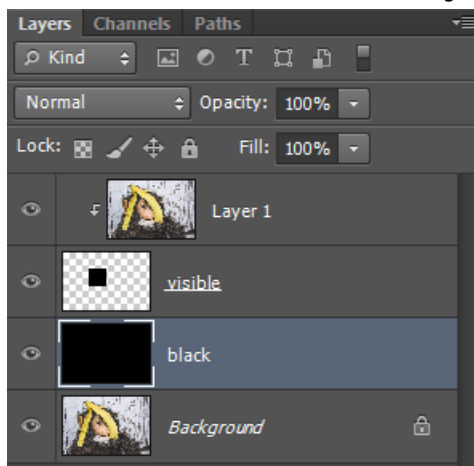


15. Right click on Layer 1 and choose "Create Clipping Mask"

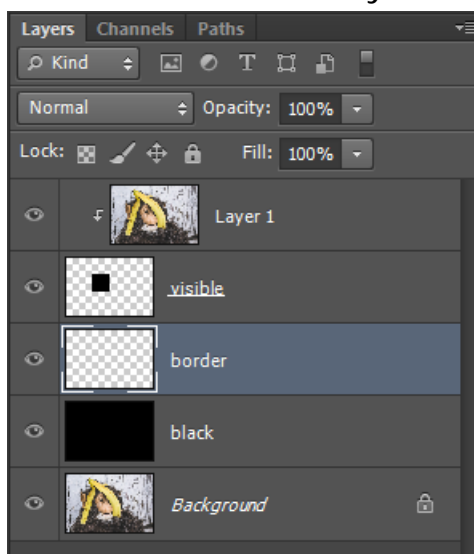


16. Press Ctrl + D to deselect the Marquee, otherwise known as the "marching ants".

17. Click on the black layer to highlight it.



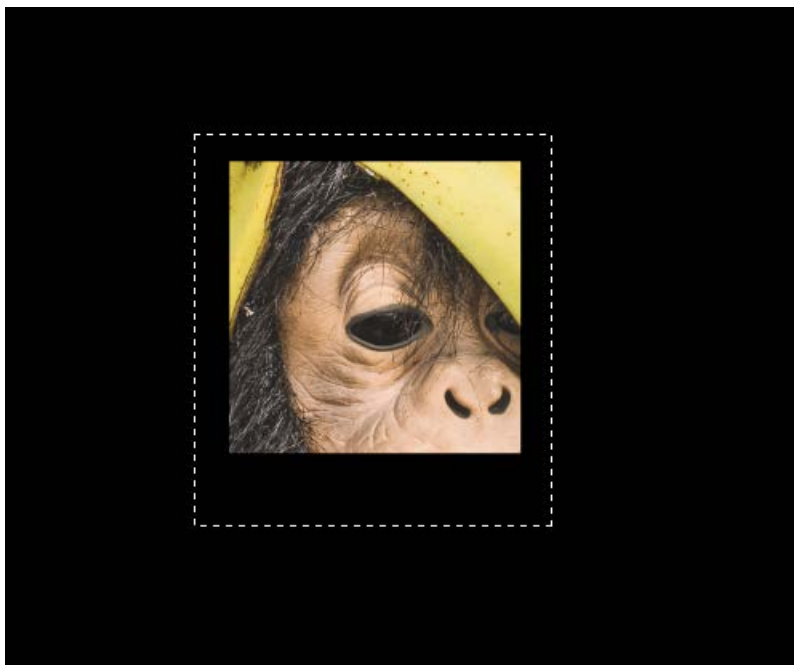
18. Create a new layer and name it "border".



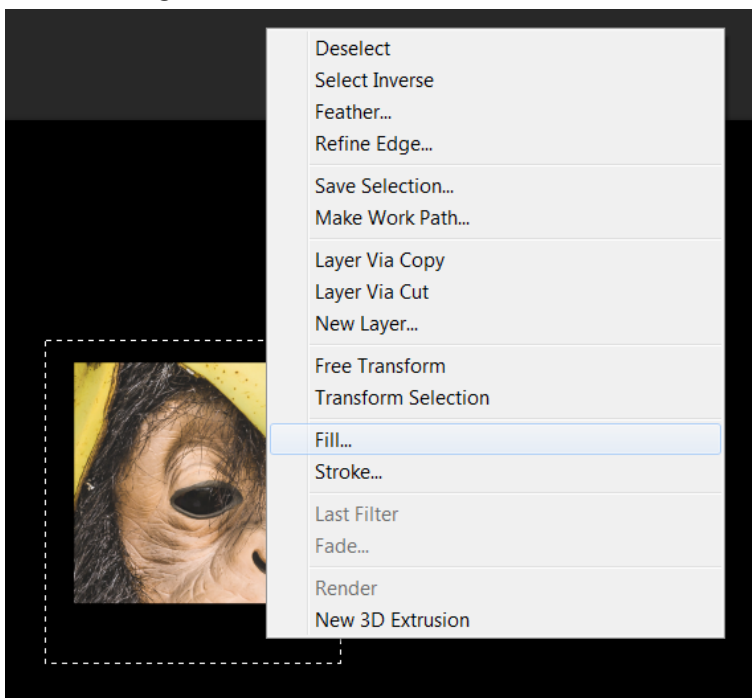
19. Select the Rectangle Marquee Tool (M).



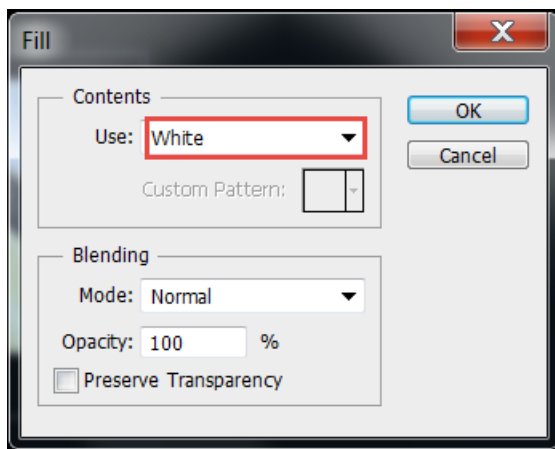
20. Draw a rectangle that surrounds the picture.
(Note: Polaroid borders are bigger at the bottom)



21. Right click the Selected area and choose fill.

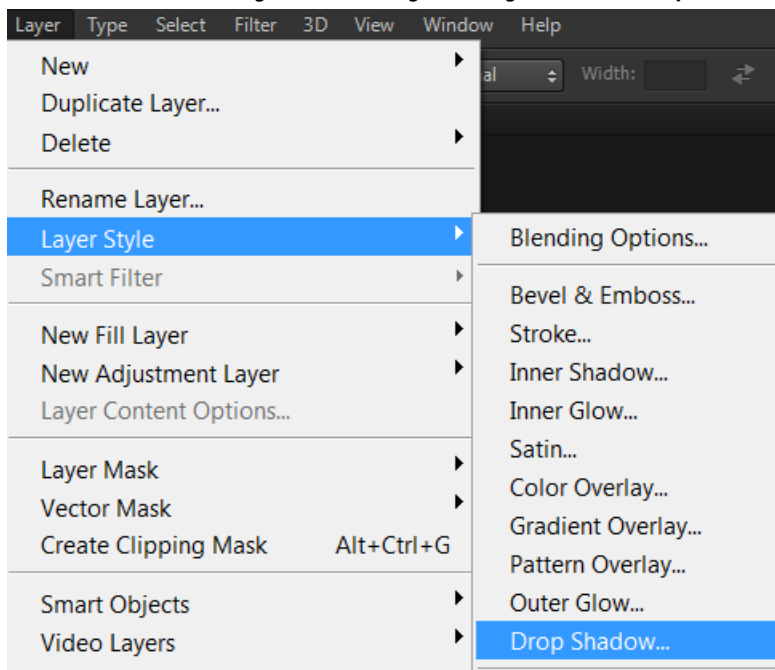


22. Choose white as a fill color and press OK.

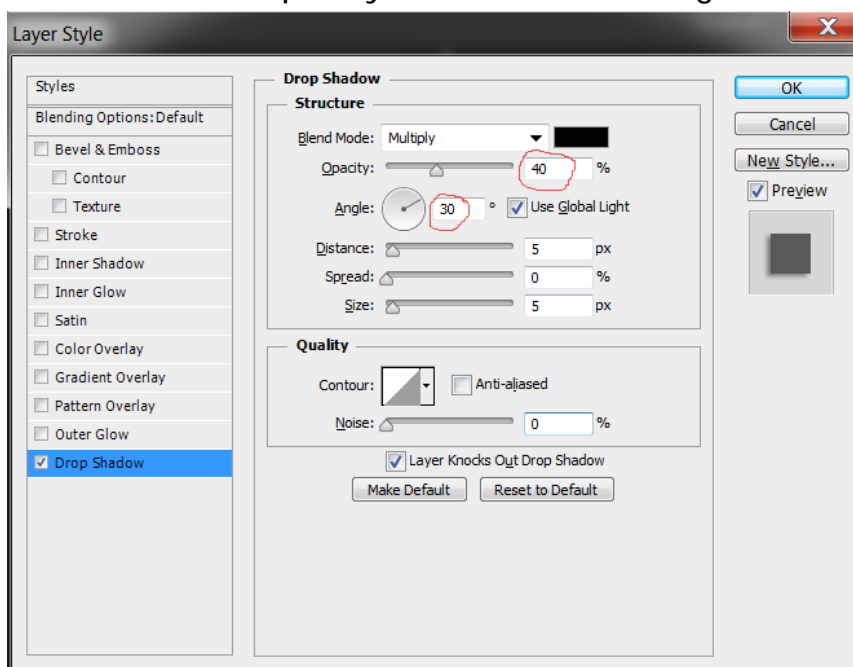


23. Deselect the marquee (CTRL + D).

24. Go to Layer >> Layer Style >> Drop Shadow.



25. Set the Opacity to 40% and the Angle to 30.



26. Click OK. (Note: Don't worry if you can't see a change, you will not see this shadow until later on).

27. CTRL + click on the visible and border layers to select both of them.

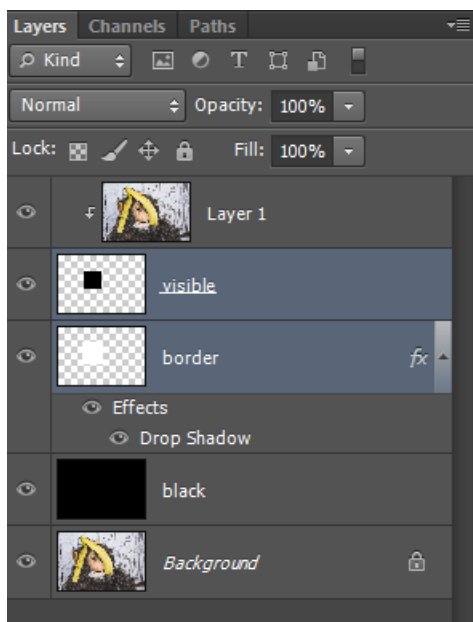
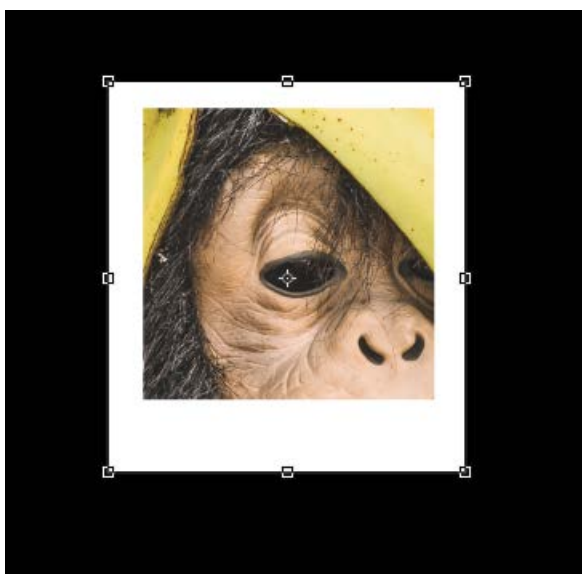


Figure 4: visible and border layers selected and ready to be rotated

28. Press CTRL + T to select the free transform tool.



29. Rotate the Polaroid by:
- hovering outside one of the corner handles until you see an arc with arrows
 - dragging



30. Press ENTER to confirm the rotation.
31. Select the following 3 layers: "Layer 1", "visible" and "border". (CTRL + Click on unselected layers)

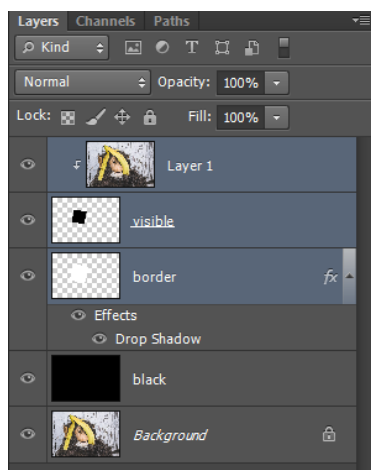


Figure 5: "Layer 1", "visible" and "border" layers all selected

32. Press CTRL + G. This will organize these 3 layers into one collapsible group (called "Group 1")

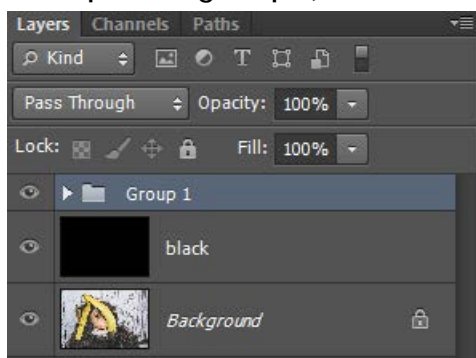
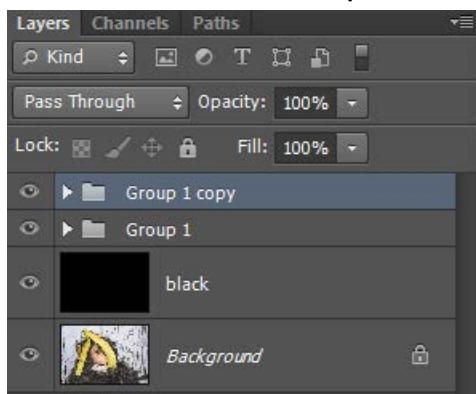
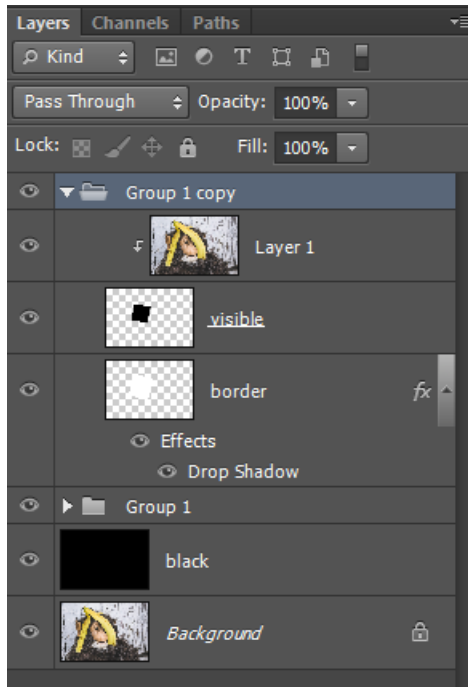


Figure 6: Layers organized into a group

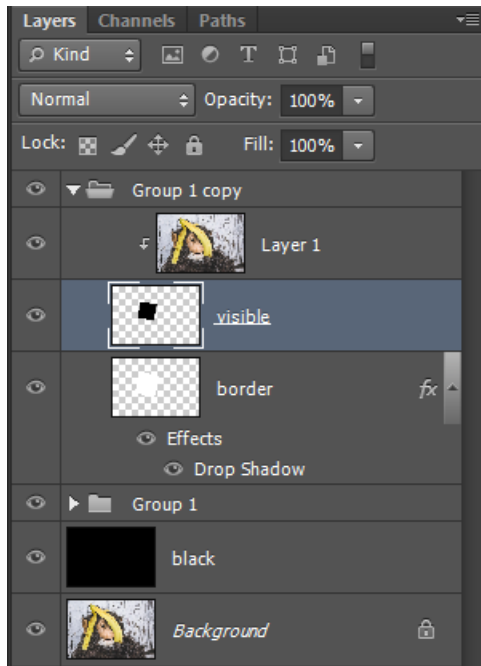
33. Ctrl + J to duplicate Group 1.



34. Open the new group by clicking the little arrow.



35. Select the "visible" layer.



36. CTRL + click on the "border" layer. (Now both layers should be selected).

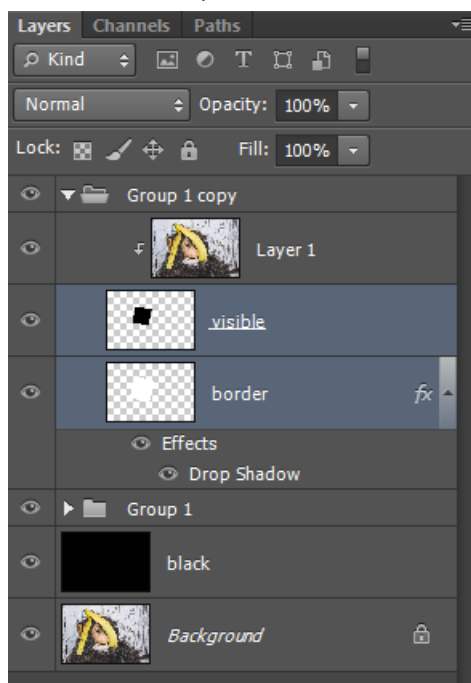



Figure 7: Both layers selected

37. Select the Move Tool (V) 
38. Drag the new Polaroid to a different location. (Now we can see the drop shadow where the photos overlap)



39. Press CTRL + T to get at the Free Transform tool.
40. Rotate the new photo until you are happy with its new position.



Figure 8: New polaroid is created!!!

41. Press Enter to confirm the rotation.

42. Repeat steps 33 - 41 to create as many Polaroids as you want!



43. Don't forget to save a Photoshop version of the file so you can edit it later if you want.