

Basic Tutorials Series: Navigating the Software

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Document #HWPRO0002

1 Opening the Software

Opening the Software

There are two ways to open the program and get started: (A) through your Start Menu or (B) through the Desktop Icon.

If this is your first time opening the software, you will be asked to register. Please enter your Product Activation Key (that you received on a yellow sheet of paper in your software box) and contact information into the registration screen and press “OK”.



NOTE: Please fill in all the required fields when registering your software. This will help us search our database for your registration code should your computer crash or you need to reinstall the program.

Desktop Icon Method

1. Go to your **Desktop**
2. Search for the **Program Icon** (example seen at right - **your icon may vary depending on the brand of software installed**)
3. When you find the icon, please **double-click** on it.



Start Menu Method

1. Click on your “**Start**” button
2. Click on “**All Programs**”
3. Click on the folder of the name of the software you installed.
4. Click on the software’s icon to open it.

2 Software Navigation

Navigation Overview

Our software uses a **tabbed structure**, so that you can easily navigate through the tools and products contained in our software. This is similar to other photo editing software. There are a few main areas in the software interface which I will explain in the following sections. They are the System Button & Quick Access Buttons, the Project Window, the Layer Pallet, the Product Tabs.

Main Menu & Quick Access Buttons

The Main Menu button is where the basic standard features of the software are located. This includes such functions as: new, open, save, save as, print, etc. The complete list of functions can be accessed at one click of the button.

The Quick Access Buttons that are located right next to the Main Menu button also have most of the same features, but in a quicker to access format. This makes managing your projects quicker and easier than using the Main Menu. It helps to perform repetitive tasks like saving quick and easy.

Working Tabs

There are two tabs in this group, the Tools Tab and the Search Tab. The tools tab contains all of the tools necessary to prepare your project to have products applied. The Search Tab allows you to find specific products or colors within our product selection.

Product Tabs

This set of twelve tabs is located on the top right hand side of your software screen. This is where all the manufacturer specific products you can choose from are located. The software comes pre-loaded with a complete selection of products – and as we continue to improve the software, automatic product updates will be available (if you choose)

There are two different types of products contained in these tabs: Product Profiles and Objects. It is important to note this difference because Product Profiles and Objects have different properties, which will be discussed in later tutorials.

The Product Profiles are: Paint, some Walls, Flooring, Countertops, Roofing, Siding, Masonry, some Landscaping & Create-a-Tile.

The Objects are: some Walls, Appliances, Windows, Doors, Add-ons, & some Landscaping.

Layer Pallet

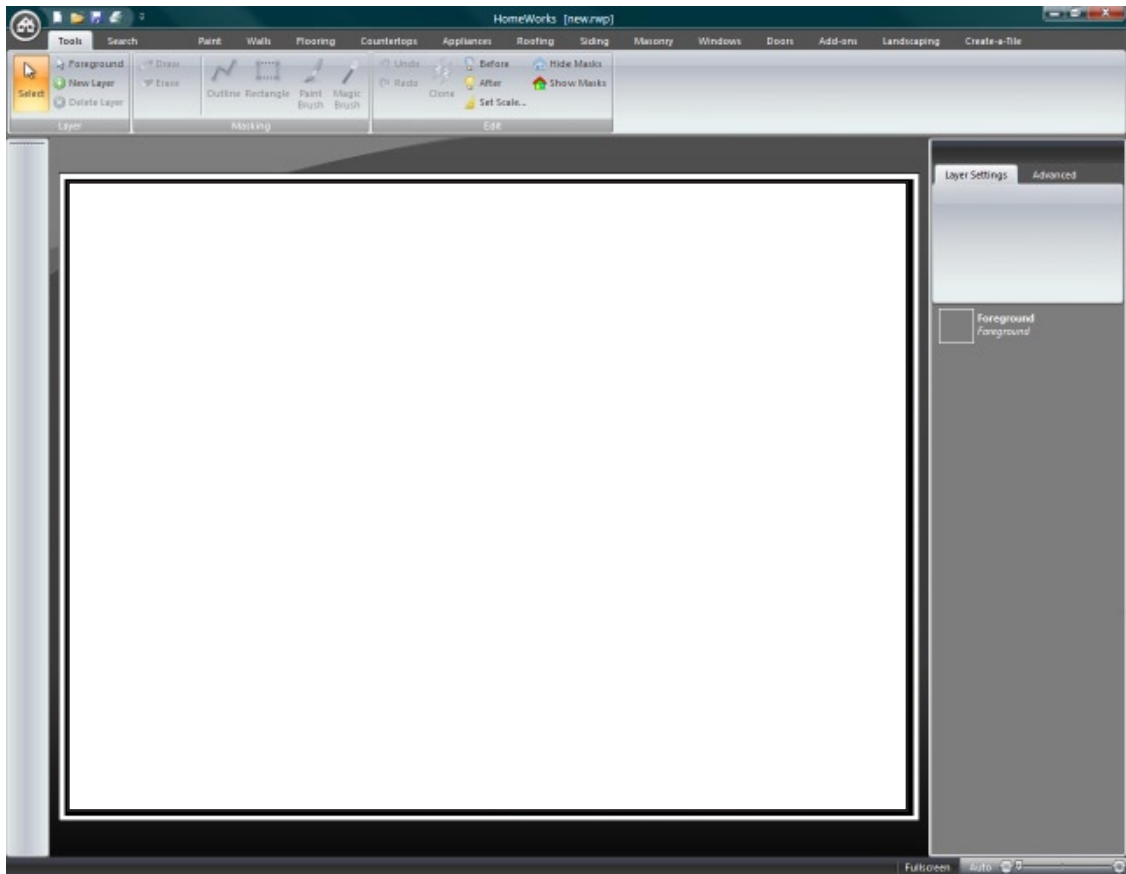
This Pallet is located on the right hand side of your screen, and contains the tools you need to manage the settings of each layer in your project. It shows you each layer in your layers stack, and contains all the perspective and shading options you can set for each layer.

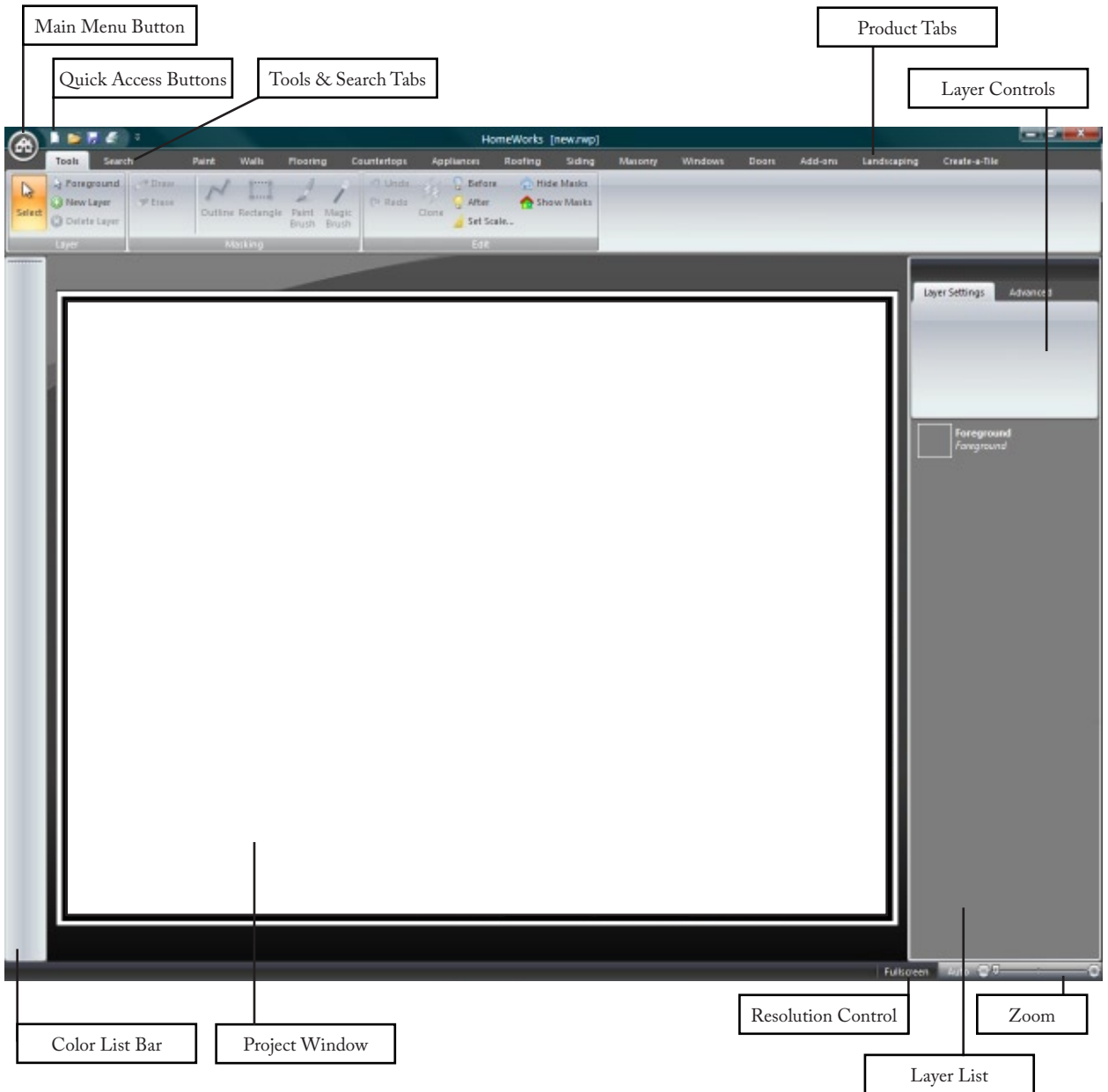
Project Window

This area is the largest, and is where you can view the progress of your project. This is also the area where you mask your project, and add products and objects. It is important to note that the Project Window only gives you a rough preview of what your project will look like. It enables you to work fast, because the graphics are not fully rendered on your screen. To view a better quality images of your project, you must view the picture in high resolution, which will be explained in later tutorials.

Customize Your Workspace

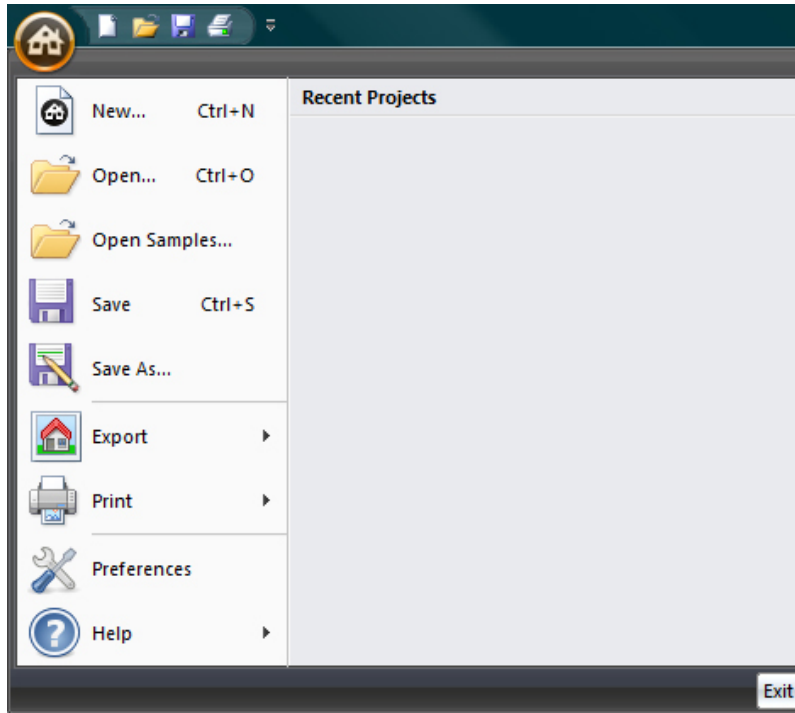
To make the program easier to use, the product color bar that displays all colors available for a product is moveable. The bar can be docked to any part of the workspace, or it can float above the workspace for your convenience.





Main Menu & Quick Access Buttons

Contains the basic program features, such as New Project, Save, Preferences, Help, and Print.



New: Allows you to start a new project by bringing up the Photo Import Wizard. Please ensure you save your work before you start a new project.

Open: Allows you to open a project that you have already started, so that you can continue your work.

Open Samples: Allows you to open one of the sample projects in the program.

Save: Saves your project under the same file name as it has currently

Save As: Allows you to save a file under a different file name, so that you can have several versions of the same project

Export: Allows you to export a JPG of your project, so that you may email a picture of your project to friends & family

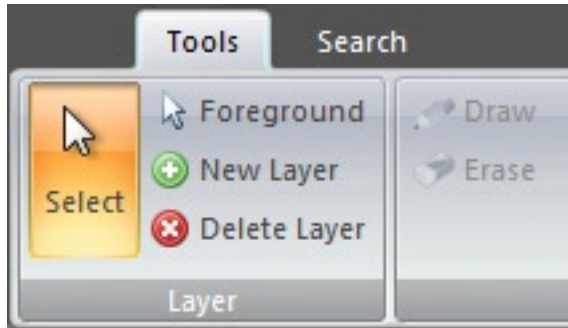
Print: Allows you to print a hardcopy of your project, to show to friends and family

Preferences: Allows you to update your contact information, and adjust your settings for the program. You can turn on or off the pop-up dialogue boxes here.

Help: Allows you to select from several help options to learn the software, or assist you if you are having an issue.

Tools Tab

Shows you all the masking tools available for you to use. This tab also contains one of your most important tools – the Selector Arrow.



Layer Tools

Select: This tool allows you to activate layers/objects that are in your workspace and modify them. You **MUST** activate layers and objects before you modify them. You **CANNOT** apply a product if there is no layer on your workspace activated. You must tell the software what you want to work on.

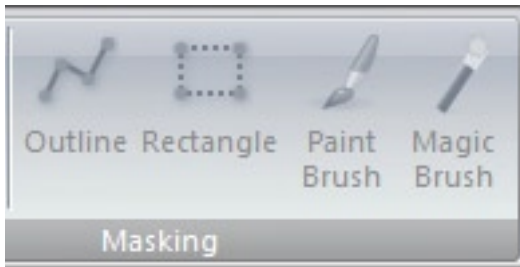
Foreground: Foreground is any object in your photograph that is in front of the house you are trying to mask. Pressing this button will allow you to mask any trees, cars, or other items that are in your photo, so that you may apply products behind these objects. After you finish masking the foreground, the red coloring will disappear. This is normal, and it happens because it gives a more realistic view of your project.

New Layer: This button puts a new layer in your layer stack. Each time you want to have a new area in your project that has different product, shading and perspective settings from other regions, you must press this button. New layers are always added to the bottom of your region stack. Objects on the other hand are always added to the top of your layer stack.

Delete Layer: This button permanently deletes the selected layer from your layer stack. Please make sure you have the correct layer selected before pressing this button.

Draw: When this option is selected, the program will draw or add to the layer you are working on.

Erase: When this option is selected, the program will erase or subtract from the layer you are working on.



Masking Tools

Outline Tool: Allows you to follow curved or uneven edges for easy masking. Good for triangular and odd shaped regions. Makes masking gables easier.

To use: Left click once in one corner of a planned region. Now left click on each major corner point of the region until you are back at the point which you started. Now close the outline, by clicking once on the red square. If you clicked on a wrong area press escape on your keyboard. This will clear the outline tool.

Rectangle Tool: Used for square or rectangular regions. Makes perfectly straight edges.

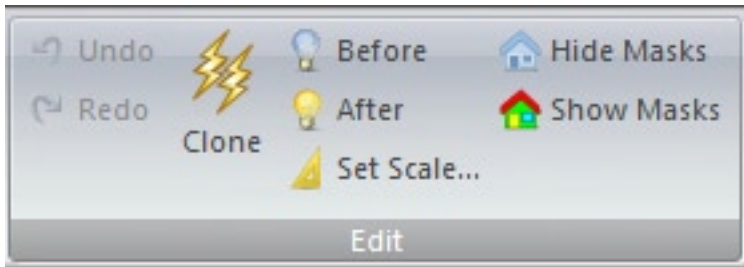
To use: Left click once on your workspace, and keep pressure on your mouse button. Drag the rectangle to the desired size. Release the mouse button.

Paint Brush: Allows you to get detailed edges. You can outline edges perfectly with the paintbrush, and then fill them in using the outline tool.

To use: On your workspace, left click your mouse button to apply the brush shape. If you left click and hold, the brush will continuously flow as you move your mouse.

Magic Brush: Used for masking foreground areas. This tool picks up on the color differences between pixels on your screen to make masking easier.

To use: On your workspace, left click your mouse button to apply the brush shape. The brush shape of this tool will change continuously as you move your mouse over the photo. If you left click and hold, the brush will continuously flow as you move your mouse.



Editing Tools

Undo: Undoes the last action you performed

Redo: Redoes the last action you undid

Clone: Used to copy objects already applied to your project. This can be used for objects only, and not for layers.

Before: Clears all of the products, regions and objects applied to your project so you can see your unaltered before photo.

After: Re-applies all of the products, regions and objects applied to your project so you can see your composite after image.

Set Scale: Allows you to change the scale of your project that you set while importing your photo. Use this button if your projects look too large or small.

Hide Masks: Hides all of your masks so you can see a clear view of your photograph.

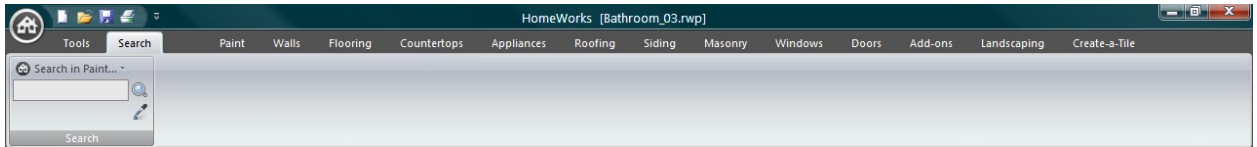
Show Masks: Shows you all of your masked regions at once



Note: What is selected on your project window (layer or object) will determine what buttons will be available to select on the Tools Tab. If the button you require is not available, please ensure the correct item is selected on your workspace.

Search Tab

This tab allows you to search all installed products and objects in your products tabs to easily find product profiles or colors. It also allows you to sample colors from your Project Window and come up with the closest possible product match.



Search In: Tells the program what category you want to search for products in. A category must be selected for the search feature to work.

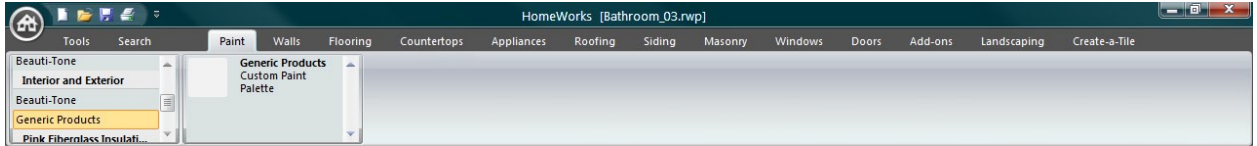
Eyeglass: Activates the search function

Eyedropper: A tool to select a colors on your project window, and then search for products that are that shade.

To Use: Select a product category to search. Then select the eyedropper tool, and move your mouse over your Project Window. Click on an area of color you would like to match. The eyedropper tool will take an average of the pixels in the area and show you if there are any colors that match your selection. For best results zoom in to the spot you are choosing so the color is more accurate.

Product Tabs

Shows you all the products available for use in the software. The products within these tabs are kept up-to-date with automatic software updates.



Paint: Shows interior and exterior paints, as well as decorative finishes

Walls: Contains glass tiles, pebbles, textured paint, wall decals, & wallpaper

Flooring: Carpet, cork, hardwood, laminate, tile, & vinyl

Countertops: Contains acrylic & quartz surfaces

Appliances: Dishwashers, dryers, freezers, microwaves, ranges, refrigerators, trash compactors, wall ovens, washers, dryers, & wine coolers

Roofing: Asphalt & steel

Siding: Vinyl siding, fibre cement siding, stucco, & wood siding

Masonry: Brick & stone

Windows: Exterior windows

Doors: Entry doors, interior doors, patio doors, screen doors & garage doors

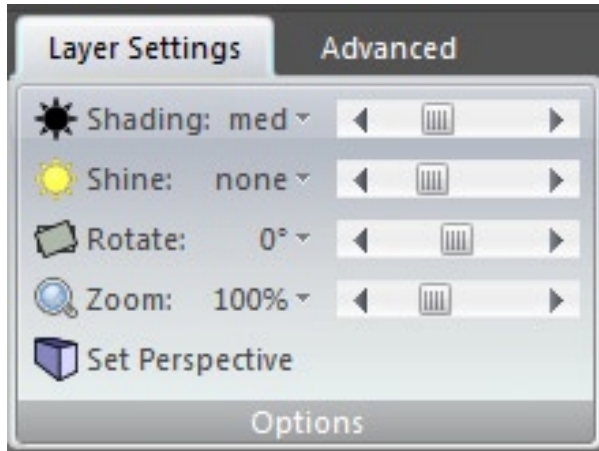
Add-ons: Fencing, railing, ceiling tiles, columns, decking, mouldings, vents & shutters

Landscaping: Deck tiles, outdoor decorations, various trees & plants

Create-a-Tile: Custom tiles

Layers Pallet

Has two subcategories, the layer control box and the layer list.



Layer Controls Box - Layer Settings

Shading: This tells the software how much of your original background image should show through the region you have selected. Click on one of the settings to apply and then adjust with the shading arrows above.

Shine: This allows the highlights of the original photo to show through. Works in the same way as shading.

Rotate: Toggles the rotate function. When selected, moving the slider rotates the product applied to the layer. Useful for flooring.

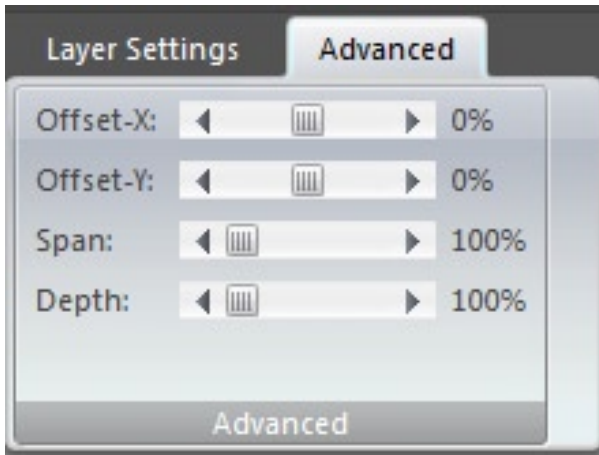
Zoom: Moving the slider allows for adjustment of product size on that specific layer.

Set Perspective: Sets the orientation of your layer so that products appear more realistic. Please see the perspective tutorial for how to use this feature.

Apply: When you are finished adjusting the perspective, you must click the Apply button to complete the changes.

Reset: Removes any perspective that may have been applied to the layer.

Cancel: Removes the current changes to perspective, and restores the previous settings.



Layer Controls Box - Advanced

Offset-X: Allows horizontal adjustment of a product on a layer. Overall product profile can be moved left or right for more precise product placement

Offset-Y: Allows vertical adjustment of a product on a layer. Overall product profile can be moved up or down for more precise product placement. Useful for roofing.

Span: Allows insertion of more columns of a tile into a masked region. Basically, makes the product narrower

Depth: Allows insertion of more rows of a tile into a masked region. Basically, makes the product shorter



Layer List

The Layer List Pallet on the right hand side of your screen shows you all layers and objects that are currently in your project, and the order that they are in. By default, the foreground layer will always be at the top of the layer stack. It is important to have the layers with the most precise masking at the top of the layer stack, so that the edges of your masking will be neat and tidy. If you are ever “missing” a layer, trying looking to see where it is in the stack, it could just be located behind other items.



Selected Layer in the Layer List

When a layer in the layer list is selected, it will highlight in the layer list, and activate the top tool-panel which contains layer specific functions.

Eye: Layer visible/invisible toggle. When a layer is visible the eye will be shown, when invisible, the eye will have a red x through it.

Eraser: Clears product from a masked region, so that you may start fresh

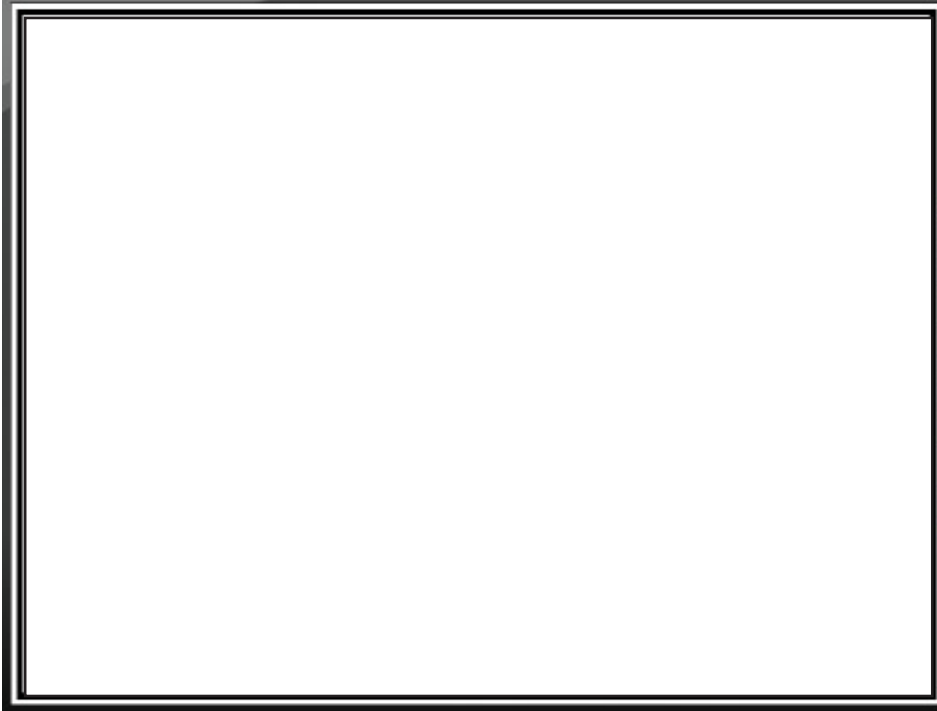
Up/Down Arrows : Moves layers forward or backward in the layer stack. This will cause objects/layers to appear in front of or behind other layers.

Bold Text: The name of the product currently applied to that layer

Italic Text: The product type of the layer

Project Window

This is the space where you work on your project, as well as choose its viewing options.



*The Project Window.
Your project window may
vary depending on your
brand of software.*

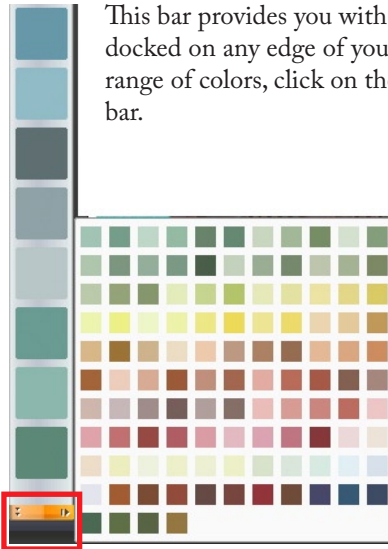
Zoom: Allows you to alter the way products are displayed on the layer. More about that in section.

Fullscreen: Allows horizontal adjustment of a product on a layer. Overall product profile can be moved left or right for more precise product placement

Product Colors Bar: Allows you to alter the way products are displayed on the layer. This bar can be moved and docked anywhere on the screen.

Product Color Bar

This bar provides you with one option to change your colors. The bar is customizable, and can be docked on any edge of your software, or can float above your project window. To see the complete range of colors, click on the expander arrow at the bottom of the color bar to see the expanded color bar.



Click here to expand your product color bar