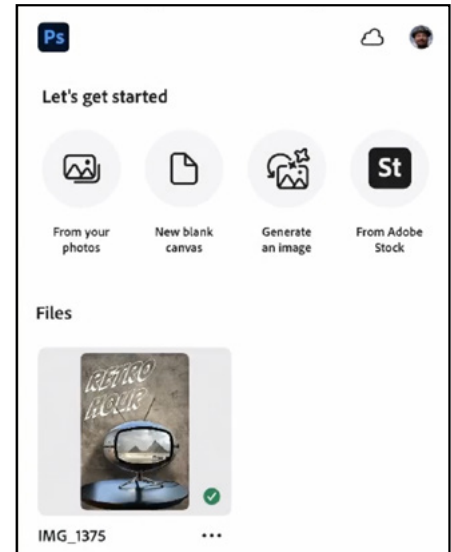Photoshop for iPhone II

Photoshop for iPhone II

In a previous lesson, we covered the basic features of Photoshop for the iPhone. If you missed that lesson, you can find it here:

www.digitalmastery.com/lessons/photoshop-for-iphone

In this lesson, we're going to cover additions tips and tricks, as well as some more advanced features. We'll work on the same multi-layered project that we created in the last lesson. In the Home Screen, your previous projects will be listed under the Files section and you can open one simply by tapping on it.
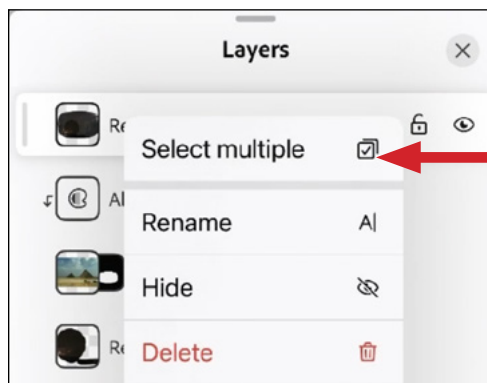
Organize the Layers Panel (Timestamp 00:42)

In the last lesson on Photoshop for the iPhone, we talked about creating different kinds of layers, but we didn't talk about how to organize them. We'll do that inside the Layers Panel. Tap on the arrow icon to the left of the layer thumbnails to access the full Layers Panel and then tap on the gray bar at the top of the panel in order to expand it.

**Group Layers** The top three layers all work together to create the image that's on the TV screen in this document. We'll place these in a group, so we need to be able to first select all three layers. To do so, click on the three dot icon to the right of the top layer. In the pop-up menu, choose Select Multiple.

This will cause check boxes to appear to the left of each layer thumbnail. Tap the check boxes for all of the layers you want to select and then tap the Group icon at the bottom of the panel. That's what we'll do for the three layers that make up the TV screen. After layers have been grouped, you can expand or collapse the group by toggling the little arrow to the left of the group icon. To rename the group, double tap on the name (it's called Group 1 by default) and a text field will appear, in which you can type a more appropriate name.
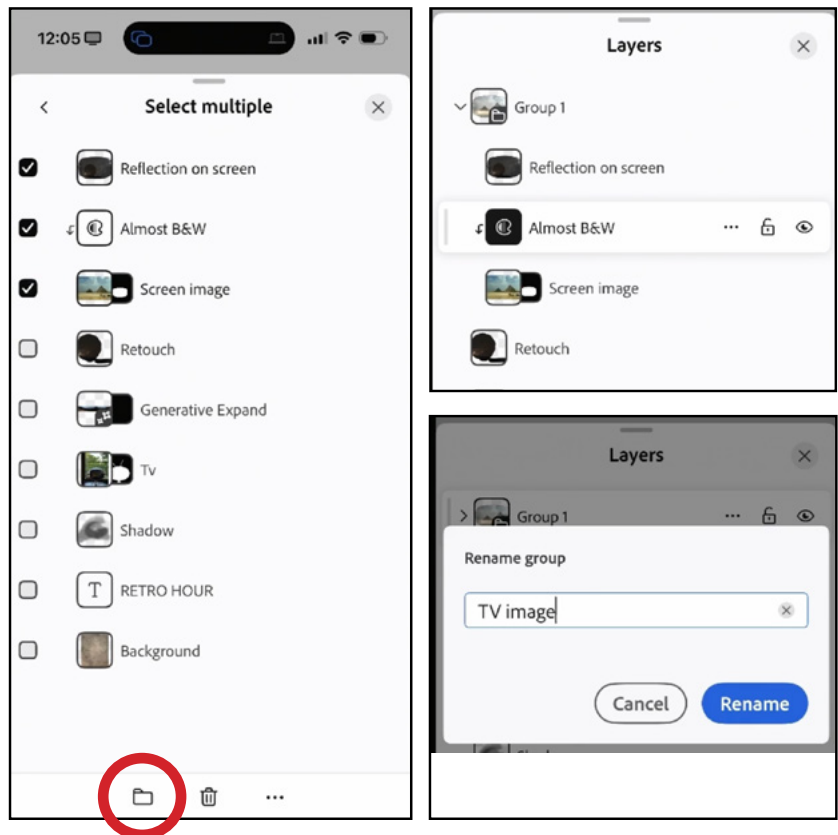
Convert to Smart Object In the Layers Panel, you also have the option for converting a layer or layers into a Smart Object. Click on the three dot icon to the right of one of the layers and again choose Select Multiple. Turn on the check boxes for the layer or layers you'd like to use. Then tap on the three dot icon at the bottom of the Layers Panel and choose Convert to Smart Object from the pop-up menu. An icon will appear in the corner of the layer thumbnail, indicating that it's a Smart Object. In the lesson video, we had three layers that made up the TV set and the table it is sitting on. We chose those three objects and converted them into a Smart Object.
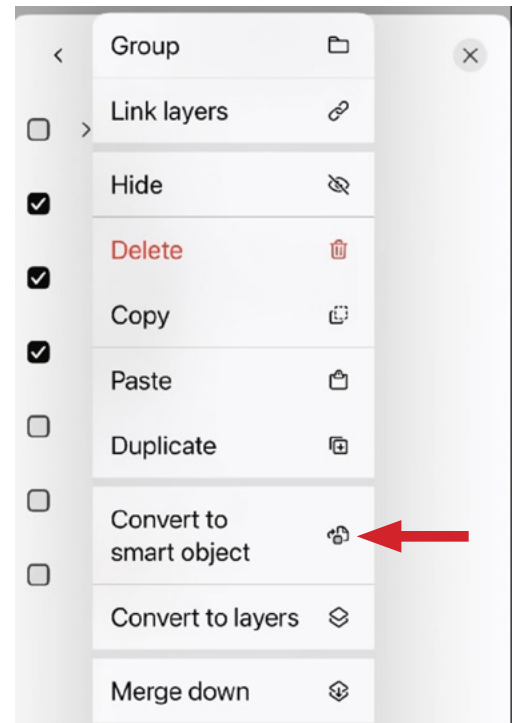
Note that, unlike Photoshop on the desktop, you cannot go in and edit the individual layers inside the Smart Object. The main advantage for using Smart Objects here is that you can scale in down and back up again without losing any detail or quality.

Define Selection with the Brush Tool (4:26)

One of the things I am frustrated with on Photoshop for the iPhone is that there is not an option for using a brush to make a selection. There is a Quick Select brush, but that is more automated and tries to expand out the selection, so it does not provide the precise control that a regular manual brush would. If you find that you have the same frustration, I have a work-around that will help.

Instead of tapping on the Select Area feature to make a selection, tap on the Paint feature. In the Paint screen, create a new layer by tapping on the new layer icon below the image window. The new empty layer will appear in the mini Layers Panel. Drag this new layer to the very top of the layer stack. To access the brush settings, tap on the little icon that looks like a set of sliders to the right of the Brush button. Here, make sure the Opacity setting is at 100% and the Hardness is relatively high. Then you can set the size based on how detailed of an area you want to select.
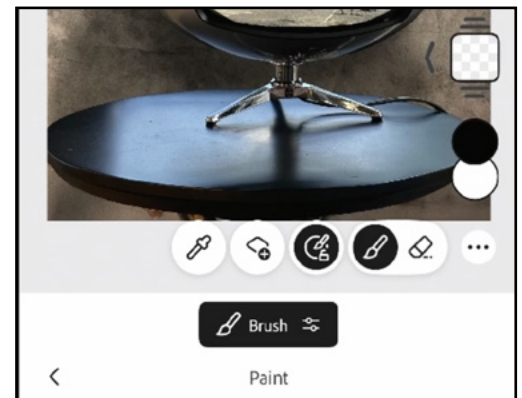

You'll want to paint with a color that will make it very easy to see where you've painted. The foreground and background swatches are located in the bottom right corner of the image window. Tap on the foreground color swatch and use the Color Picker to choose an appropriate color. In the lesson example, I chose a bright red because it resembles Quick Mask Mode.
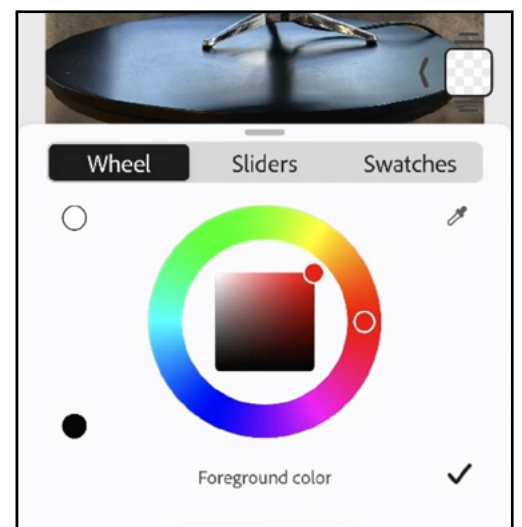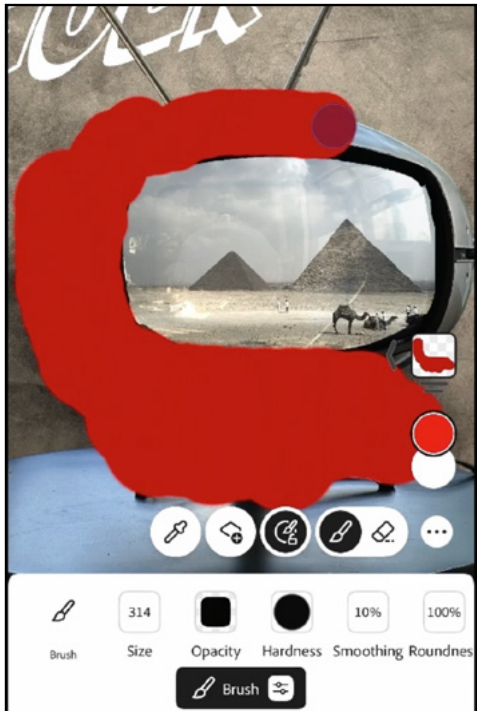
Now you can paint on the areas that you'll eventually want to select. If you accidentally paint too much, you can switch to the Eraser setting at the bottom of the image window. Use the Eraser to remove any paint that shouldn't be there. When you've painted over the area you want selected (or the opposite of what you want selected), tap the back arrow button to exit the Paint feature.
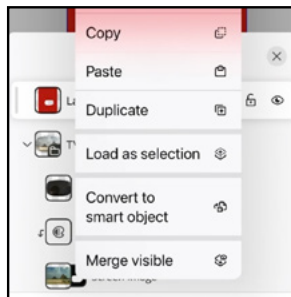

Next, open the full Layers Panel, click on the three dot icon to the right of the layer name and choose Load as Selection from the pop-up window.

After closing the Layers Panel, you'll see the marching ants selection. In the lesson video, we actually painted on the area we did NOT want selected, so we'll tap the Invert button, which appears below the image window. At this point, you can delete the paint layer because you have the selection you want.
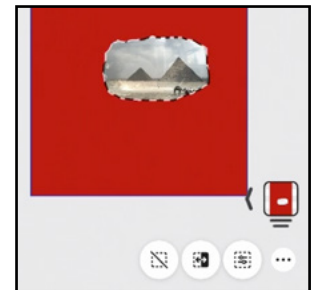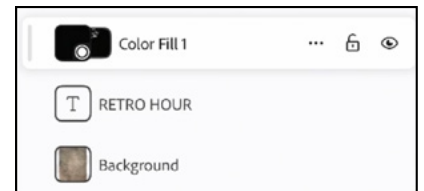

Create a Drop Shadow (9:13)

Let's say we want to create a drop shadow for the text in this document. The problem is that there is no Layer Styles feature in Photoshop for the iPhone. Let's learn how we can accomplish that anyway. We'll open the full Layers Panel and activate the layer that contains the text. We'll tap on the three dot icon to the right of the type layer name and choose Load as Selection from the pop-up menu. We'll close the Layers Panel and a marching ants selection will appear around the text.
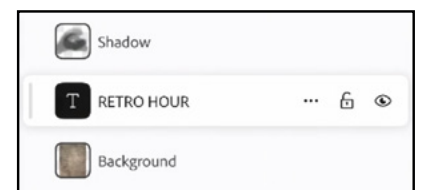
With a selection active, there is a Fill Area option at the bottom of the screen. We'll tap that and then choose Color Fill when given the option. The Color Picker will appear, we'll set the color to black and then click the check mark in the lower right to

close the window. This color fill was actually placed on its own Color Fill layer and you can see that if you expand the Layers Panel. A Color Fill layer is just a color layer with a mask attached to it that limits where it shows up.
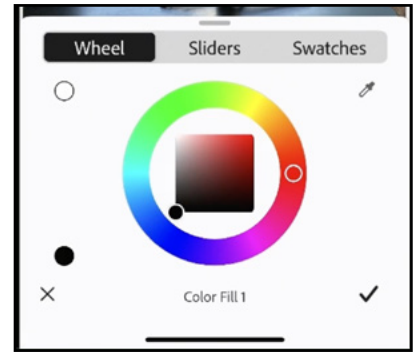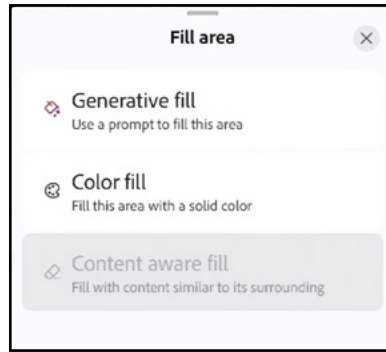

This color layer is going to be the drop shadow layer so we'll need to place it beneath the original text. In the Layers Panel, we'll drag the color layer directly beneath the text layer. Now we need to reposition the layer so it looks like a drop shadow. We need to be in the transform controls, which you can access by tapping on the Layer Properties button at the bottom of the screen. Then, you can tap and drag the color layer so that it is slightly offset from the overlying text layer.
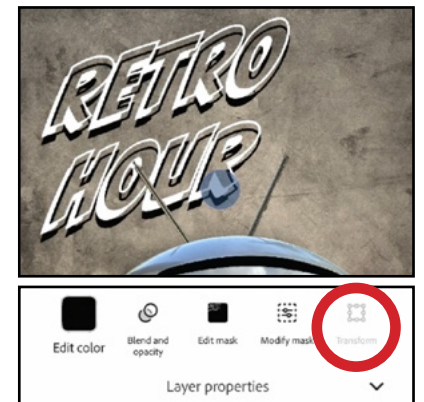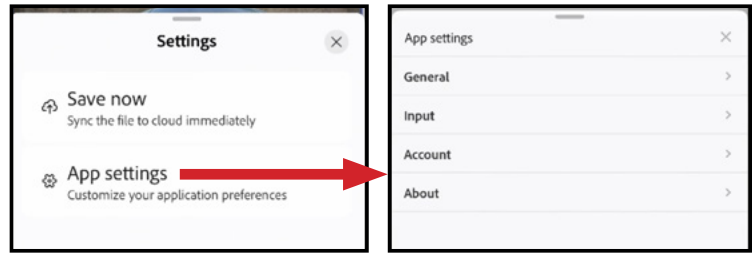

Remember, the black drop shadow is defined by a layer mask attached to a Solid Color layer. At the bottom of the Layer Properties screen, there are options for Editing the Mask and Modifying the Mask. We'll tap the Modify option because this is where there is a control for Feathering. Feathering with soften the edge of a mask. When you select the Feathering option, you will be prompted to type in a number for the amount of feathering. In the lesson example, we chose an amount of 20. We'll tap the check box to close the Modify Mask settings and you can see that there is now a soft edge on the shadow.
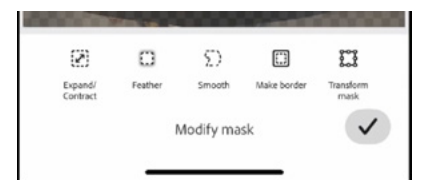
App Settings (12:15)

The Photoshop App Settings can be accessed via the gear icon in the upper right corner of the screen. Here, you can force the app to save the document (to the cloud) right away, or you can tap App Settings to customize your preferences. The preference categories include General, Input, Account and About. The Account settings refer to your Adobe account and Info just tells you information about the current version of Photoshop you are working in.

General Settings Here, you can choose if you prefer a light or dark theme to the app or if you would like it to switch between the two any time your operating system does so. You can also restore all your app settings to their default settings. There is a "Place as Smart Object" switch that, when turned on, would import all media you bring into a document as a Smart Object layer. The Canvas Projection setting is if you want to AirPlay your screen to another display showing only the document canvas and none of the Photoshop interface surrounding it.
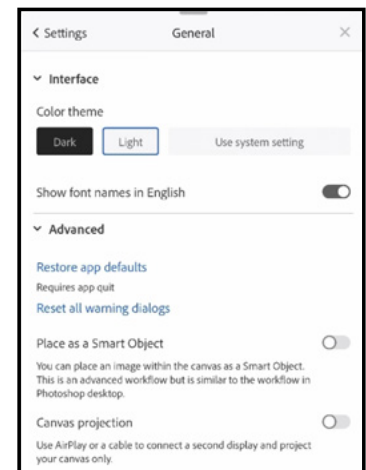
Input Settings The Stylus only painting setting will try to ignore your finger when painting because it expects you will be using a stylus. (This setting is odd in that you currently cannot use the Apple Pencil on an iPhone.) There are two canvas rotation settings, which I have not been able to get to work. The Show touches setting will place a little blue highlight on the screen where your finger touches it. You can see that I use this in the lesson video so that you can see where I am tapping.
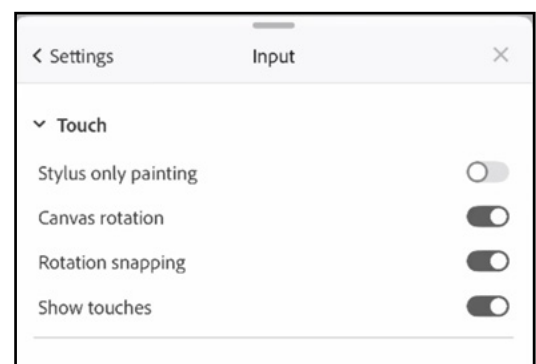
Document Options (14:30)

All the Photoshop documents you have created will appear on your Home Screen. Below each document thumbnail is a three dot icon. Tap on it to access some settings relating to the document. In the pop-up menu, you have the options to rename the document or create a duplicate. There is the option to make the document available offline, which is nice if you will be working somewhere with no connectivity, like a plane. The Show Version History option is very nice because it will allow you to revert to an earlier version of the document. When you choose this options, the document will appear and a little clock icon will appear in the bottom right corner of the screen. Tap on it and it will show you all of the times when the document was saved. You can tap back on a previous version to see what it looked like in that earlier state. Tap on the three dot icon to the right of the time stamp and you will have the option to name that version or actually revert the document to that version. Note that the timed versions do get thrown away after 30 days time.
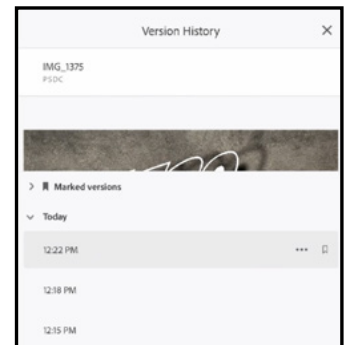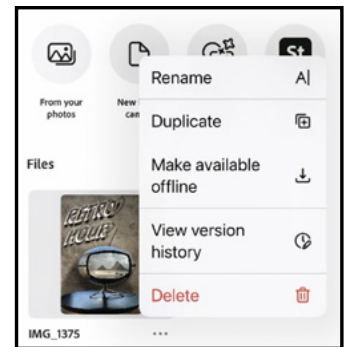

Move Documents to Desktop Version of PS (16:12)

Now let's look at how you can open Photoshop on the desktop and access the files made on the phone, and what changes you might want to make to those files. Open Photoshop and navigate to the Home Screen if it does not automatically pop up. If you instead see a document window, you can access the Home Screen by tapping on the little house icon in the upper left corner. There is a list of categories on the left and one of them is Your Files. Tap this and you will see any documents that were made in the mobile version of Photoshop.
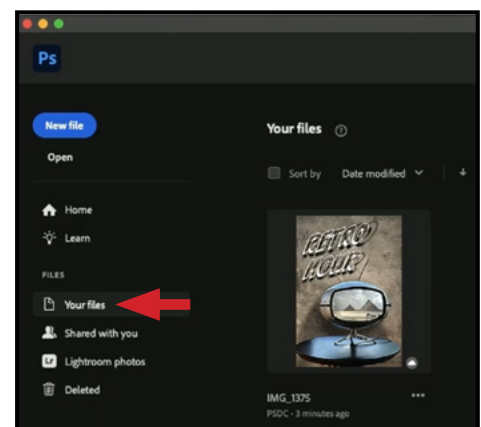
Here, you can rename the document or use the little three dot menu to Rename, Duplicate, Move, Delete or Make Available Offline.
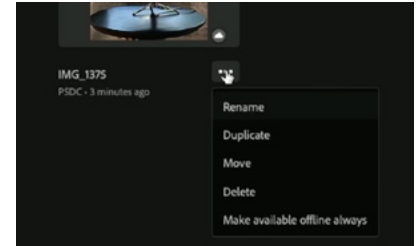
Click on the file to download it from the cloud and open it into Photoshop on the desktop. One thing to look out for is any mask that was created from multiple elements. In the lesson example, we made a mask of the TV and then went on to add the table to that same mask. To view a mask in the image window, Option click on the mask thumbnail (Alt+Click on Win). In this view, you will see that there is likely a transition area between the two objects that will need to be cleaned up. To do that, activate the Brush Tool and paint on the mask with white over those transition areas.
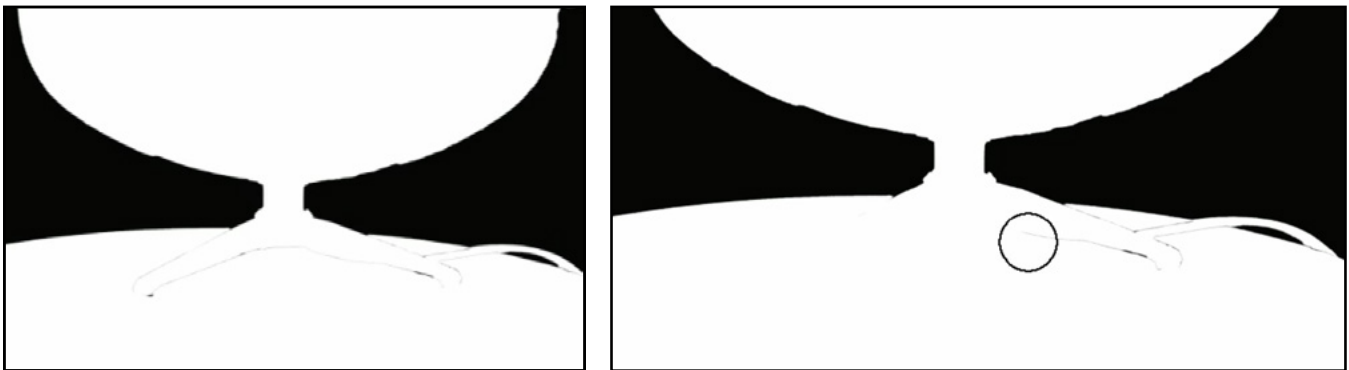

A good general rule is to actually inspect all masks and make them more precise. When working with your finger on a small iPhone screen, there is a lot of room for error, so some clean-up is always a good idea when you have more control in Photoshop on the desktop. In the lesson document, I used the Pen Tool to make the selection of the TV screen much more precise.

Move Document Back to Photoshop for iPhone (20:33)

Getting that file back into Photoshop on the iPhone is simple. In the Photoshop tap that shows the document's name, you'll see that there is a little cloud icon, which means it's being saved on the

cloud. When you close the document, it will automatically save to the cloud and that will be reflected in Photoshop on the iPhone.
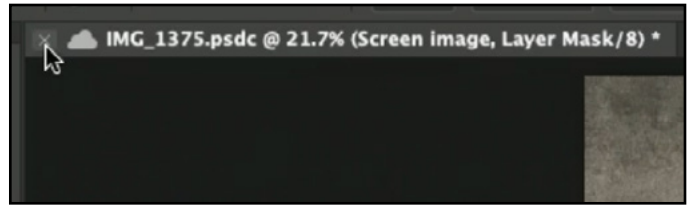
Access Photoshop Desktop Document on Phone (21:14)

Let's say you have a document that you created in Photoshop on the desktop, which is not in the cloud, and you want to move it to Photoshop for the iPhone. Open the document in Photoshop on the desktop. Then click the File menu and choose Save As. In the Save As dialog, there is a "Save to cloud documents" button near the bottom. Tap this and you'll be brought to a new dialog where you can rename the file and click Save. After a short syncing period, the document will appear under the My Files category on the Home Screen of both Photoshop for the desktop AND Photoshop for the iPhone.