

Blend LAB v1.2

First Walk-Through

INFO — Blend LAB is an offline learning tool. It helps you see how the top layer, bottom layer, blend mode, Opacity, and Fill work together. It is not intended to replace a full image editor.

Start here

1. Open Blend LAB. The built-in test card is ready immediately, so you do not need to find photographs before learning.
2. Look at the centre Result. Think of it as two sheets: the Bottom layer stays underneath and the Top layer is combined with it.
3. Choose Multiply, Screen, Overlay, Soft Light, or Color. These turquoise choices are the practical “5 for 80%” path.
4. Move Opacity. It controls how strongly the complete top layer is seen.
5. Move Fill. For most modes it behaves like Opacity. Gold modes are the important exception in Photoshop and other major editors.
6. Load your own Bottom and Top images when you are ready. The result updates as you change a control.

A first five-minute experiment

1. Multiply: make an image darker

Select Multiply. Dark areas on the top layer have a strong effect, while white tends to disappear. Lower Opacity to soften the effect.

2. Screen: make an image lighter

Select Screen. White has a strong effect, while black tends to disappear. It is a useful counterpart to Multiply.

3. Soft Light and Overlay: add contrast

Select Soft Light for gentler contrast, then Overlay for a stronger version. Compare the middle tones and highlights as you move the sliders.

4. Color: borrow colour while retaining brightness

Select Color to apply colour information from the top layer while retaining the brightness of the bottom layer. This is useful for learning the difference between colour and lightness.

What the colour cues mean

Cue	Meaning
Turquoise outline	One of the five practical modes most photographers use frequently: Multiply, Screen, Overlay, Soft Light, or Color.
Gold outline	One of Photoshop's Fill Special Eight. In major editing applications, Fill can behave differently from Opacity for this mode.

Cue	Meaning
Blue outline	The active blend mode. Only one mode is active at a time.

Try your own images

1. Choose a Bottom layer image. This is the image that remains underneath.
2. Choose a Top layer image. This is the image whose pixels are blended with the bottom image.
3. Start at 100% Opacity and 100% Fill so that the selected blend mode is easy to see.
4. Change one control at a time. This is the quickest way to understand what each control does.
5. Use Save PNG when you want a copy of the current result.

TIP — There is no “right” blend mode. Begin with the visual question: do you want to darken, lighten, add contrast, compare differences, or change colour?

Important current scope

WARNING — Blend LAB v1.2 now includes all 27 standard blend modes, including repeatable Dissolve and a dedicated Fill route for the gold Special Eight. Formal Photoshop reference capture remains the release-validation step.