BASIC PHOTOGRAPHY IV
ADVANCED DIGITAL

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WEEK 7

CREATING PRINTING TEMPLATES

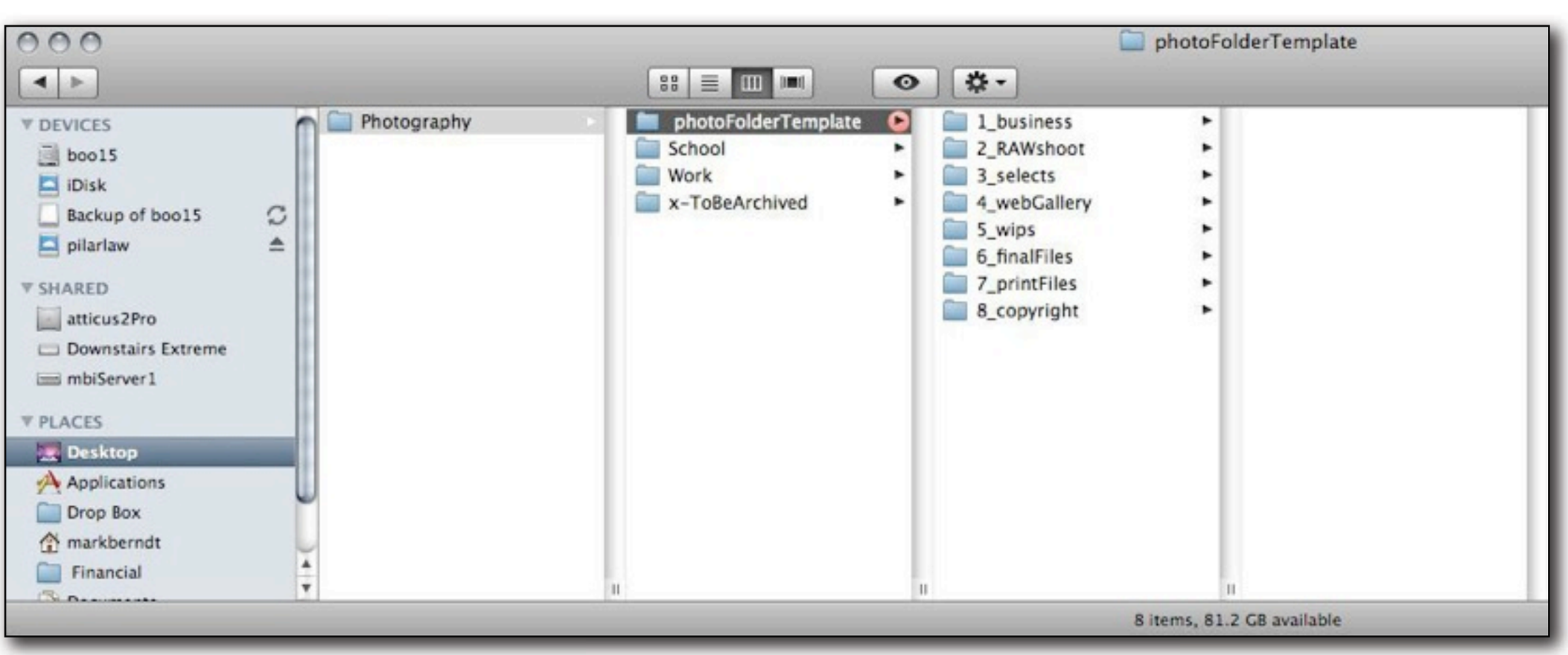
WORKING FROM THE MASTER FILE
CREATING A COMPOSITE LAYER IN THE MASTER FILE
THE TEMPLATE CONCEPT
CREATING PRINTING TEMPLATES IN PHOTOSHOP
INSTALLING PRINTERS AND PROFILES
USING YOUR PRINTING TEMPLATES
SOFT PROOFING ON-SCREEN
PROOF PRINTING AND FINE-TUNING

THE MASTER FILE

ONE LAYERED PHOTOSHOP FILE FOR EACH IMAGE

MASTER FILES are kept in the FINAL FILES folder and
are used to create OUTPUT FILES

Customized PRINT TEMPLATE FILES are saved to the
PRINT FILES FOLDER



THE COMPOSITE LAYER
A SINGLE-LAYER VERSION OF YOUR MASTER FILE

OPEN the MASTER FILE

ACTIVATE the topmost *visible* LAYER or LAYER GROUP

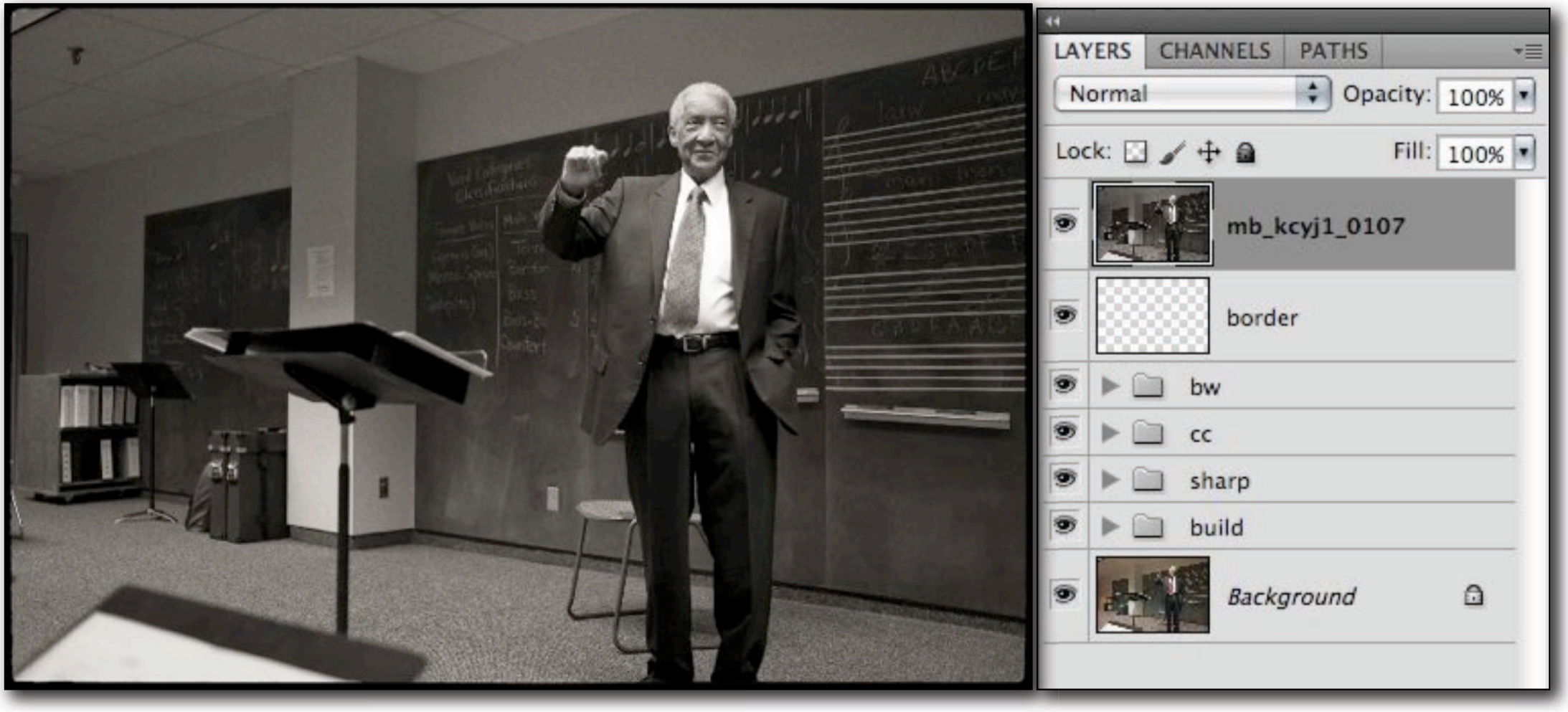
PRESS **SHIFT + OPTION + COMMAND + E** to create a COMPOSITE LAYER as the TOP LAYER of your MASTER FILE

LABEL the COMPOSITE LAYER the same name as your MASTER FILE

SAVE the MASTER FILE

THE COMPOSITE LAYER

NAME COMPOSITE LAYER & SAVE IMAGE



CROP WITH COMPOSITE LAYER
WHILE RETAINING ORIGINAL FILE DIMENSIONS

SELECT the COMPOSITE LAYER in your MASTER FILE

PRESS **F** to change screen modes

PRESS **COMMAND + T** to activate FREE TRANSFORM

RE-SIZE & MOVE the layer to perfect your new crop

NAME LAYER filename + “CROP”

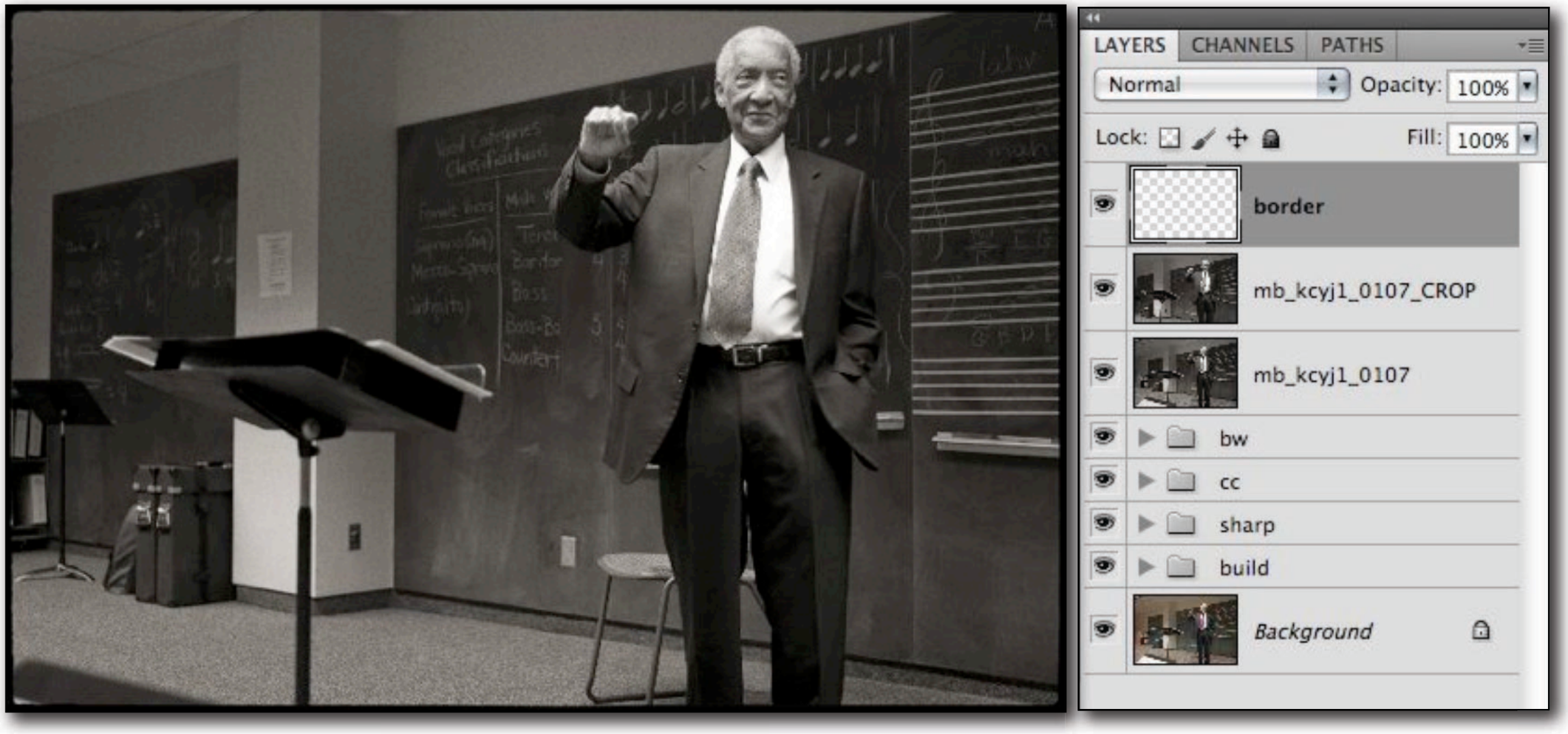
PRESS **COMMAND + A** to select the file dimensions

GO TO **IMAGE>CROP** to remove excess image from crop layer

SAVE the MASTER FILE

CROP WITH COMPOSITE LAYER

WHILE RETAINING ORIGINAL FILE DIMENSIONS



THE PRINTING TEMPLATE
CONSISTENT & REPEATABLE PRINTING

Printing TEMPLATES allow pixel-accurate control of the size, crop and image placement of your image in any medium (print, web, projection)

Printing efficiency is increased and printing stress is reduced

Create professional presentations and exhibitions by easily outputting consistent files

Eliminate arbitrary lab decision and costs by supplying PRINT-ON-DEMAND ready files

A system for repeatable output for future printing sessions

CREATING THE PRINTING TEMPLATE
A CUSTOM PHOTOSHOP FILE FOR *EACH* OUTPUT

Go to **FILE > NEW**

Set WIDTH & HEIGHT to the PAPER SIZE of your FINISHED PRINT*
*[*NOTE: NOT the IMAGE SIZE, and NOT the size of the paper going through the printer!]*

Set RESOLUTION + COLOR SPACE + WHITE BACKGROUND

Create a NEW LAYER and label it “CROP MARKS”

COMMAND + A to select all

EDIT > STROKE > *INSIDE > 1 pixel > BLACK*

COMMAND + D to de-select

Press **F** to change SCREEN MODE

Use 0-feather MARQUEE TOOL to trim STROKE LAYER

Set OPACITY to 25%

Drag from rulers to set GUIDES

Select BACKGROUND LAYER

USING THE PRINTING TEMPLATE

#1 - TO CREATE AN INDIVIDUAL PRINT FILE

Turn off **OPEN DOCUMENTS AS TABS** in your Photoshop
PREFERENCES > INTERFACE > PANELS & DOCUMENTS

OPEN the appropriate size PRINT TEMPLATE file

OPEN a MASTER FILE

SHIFT DRAG the COMPOSITE LAYER of your MASTER FILE into the TEMPLATE FILE

Press **F** TO change SCREEN MODES

COMMAND + - (minus) to reduce IMAGE VIEW SIZE

COMMAND + T to activate FREE TRANSFORM

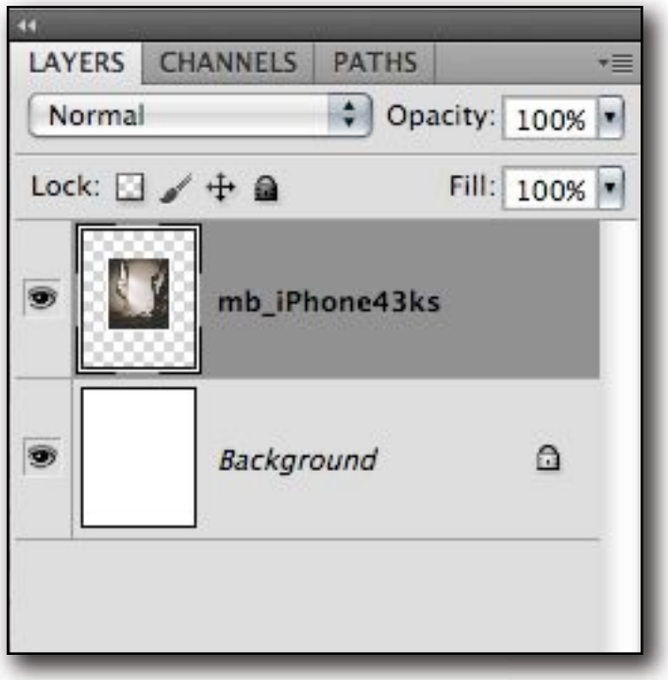
Set HORIZONTAL DIMENSION + UNITS in **OPTIONS BAR**

PRESS ENTER TWICE to commit TRANSFORM

Use **MOVE TOOL + SHIFT** to reposition if necessary

USING THE PRINTING TEMPLATE

#1 - TO CREATE AN INDIVIDUAL PRINT FILE



USING THE PRINTING TEMPLATE

#2 - TO CREATE A *STACKED* PRINT FILE

Turn OFF OPEN DOCUMENTS AS TABS in your Photoshop
PREFERENCES > INTERFACE > PANELS & DOCUMENTS

OPEN the appropriate size PRINT TEMPLATE file

In **BRIDGE** select up to 10 multiple images for batch printing (same size, paper & printer)

SHIFT DRAG the stacked LAYERS of your SOURCE FILE into the TEMPLATE FILE

Press **F** to change SCREEN MODES

COMMAND + - (MINUS) to reduce IMAGE VIEW SIZE

COMMAND + T to activate FREE TRANSFORM

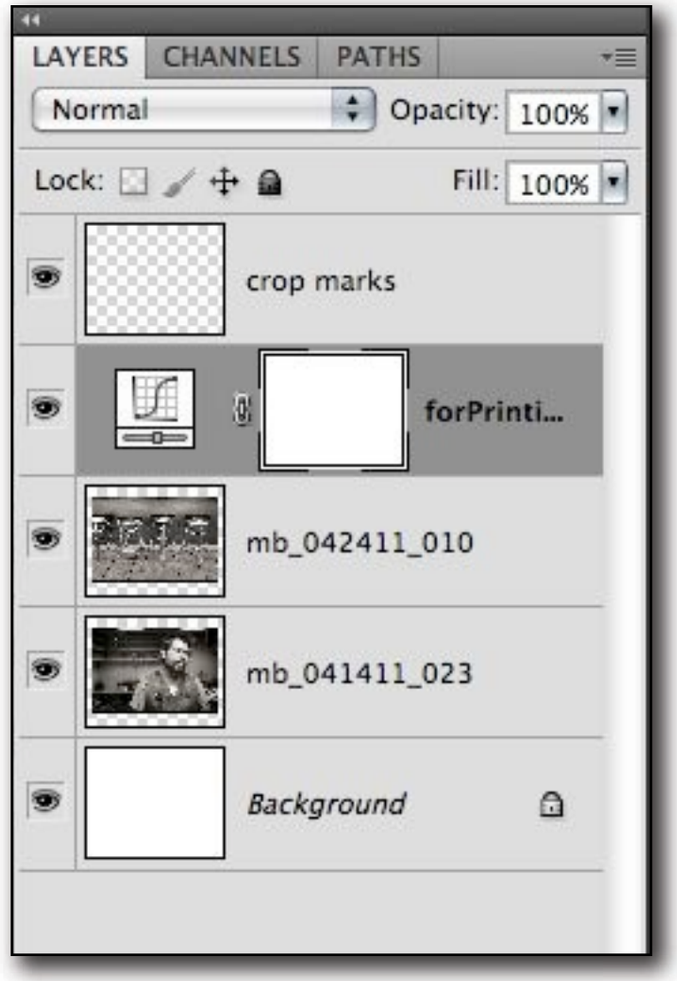
Set HORIZONTAL DIMENSION + UNITS in **OPTIONS BAR**

Press ENTER **TWICE** to commit TRANSFORM

Use **MOVE TOOL + SHIFT** to reposition if necessary

USING THE PRINTING TEMPLATE

#2 - TO CREATE A *STACKED* PRINT FILE



PROOFING
PRINTING'S ESSENTIAL FIRST STEP

When we print we try to control the TRANSLATION of the image from screen to paper by maximizing the ability of the printer/paper/ink to reproduce color and contrast in a color space smaller than that of both the file and the display.

No matter how well-calibrated the monitor, images change when reproduced on paper and again when viewed under various light sources*.

Every printing device creates color differently.

FINE ADJUSTMENTS to the printing file based on evaluation of the proof allows us to compensate for printer limitations.

Proofing on smaller paper, and gang-proofing groups of images, SAVES TIME, PAPER and INK and helps ensure satisfactory results in the final print.

* Controlling the print viewing light source is as important as calibrating your monitor. The SoLux Color Proofing Light Kit is a reasonably-priced color-balanced print viewing solution from www.solux.net.

CREATING A PROOF DOCUMENT
FOR SINGLE IMAGES AND GANG-PROOFING

OPEN an appropriate size PRINT TEMPLATE FILE

In BRIDGE use **TOOLS > PHOTOSHOP > OPEN FILES INTO PHOTOSHOP LAYERS** to create a single, layered SOURCE FILE of the images you intend to print

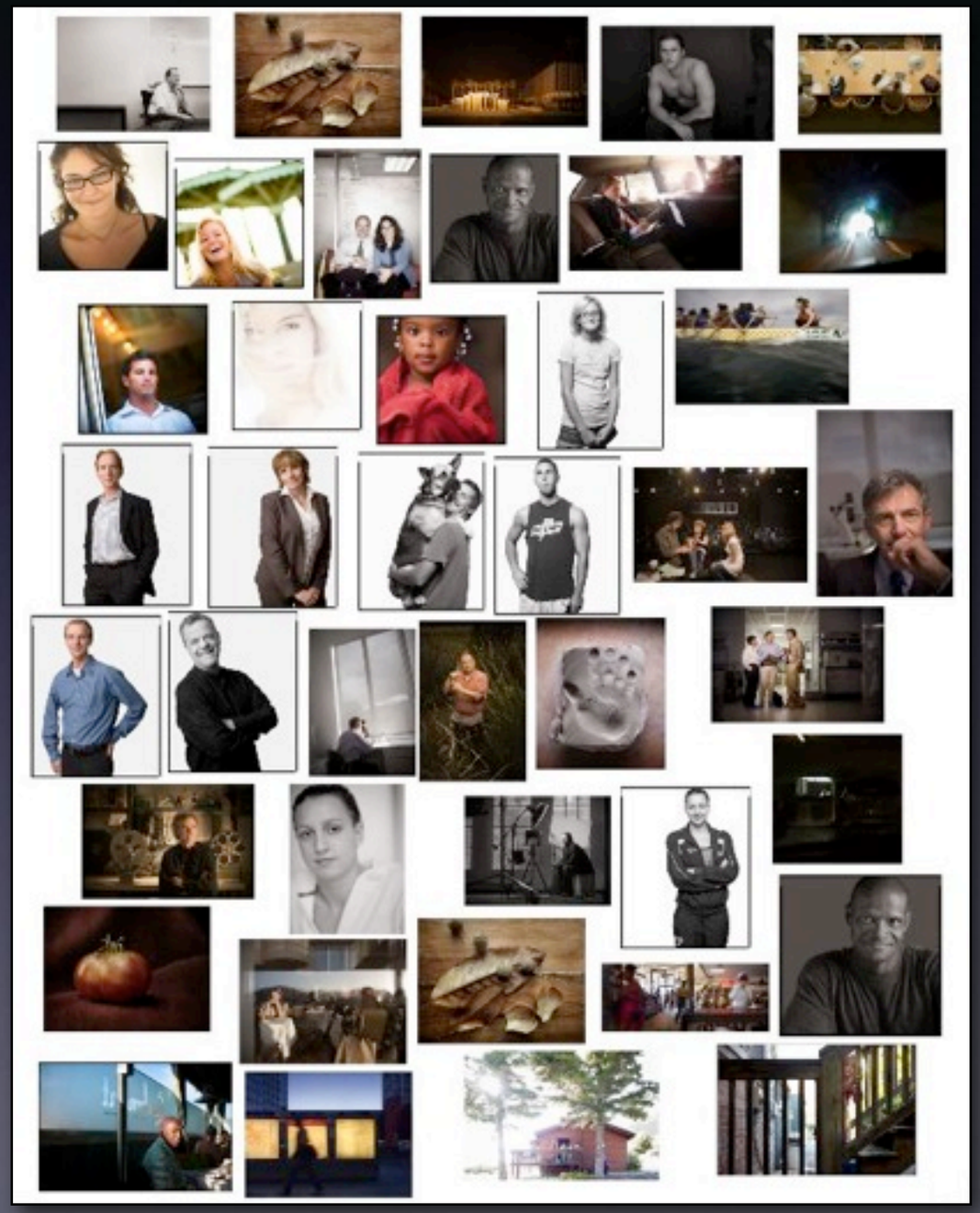
SELECT ALL LAYERS and **SHIFT DRAG** into the PRINT TEMPLATE FILE, then RE-SIZE the images so that they can all fit onto the page

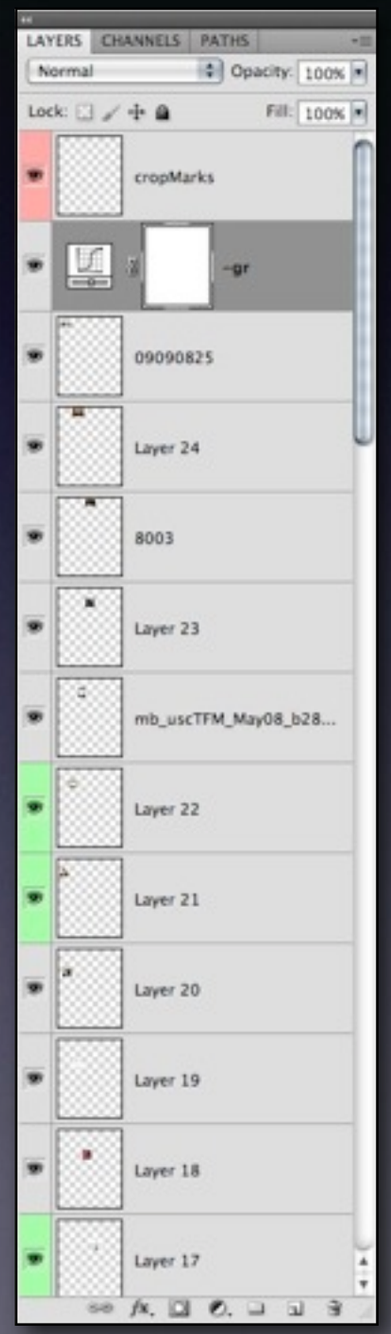
Using the MOVE TOOL, arrange the images on the page

SAVE AS - with appropriate name + “PROOF” - to your PRINT FILES folder

CREATING A PROOF DOCUMENT

FOR SINGLE IMAGES AND GANG-PROOFING





SOFT-PROOFING ONSCREEN
PHOTOSHOP'S PRE-PRINT EVALUATION TOOL

In PHOTOSHOP, choose **VIEW > PROOF SETUP > CUSTOM**

SELECT the printer/paper PROFILE you intend to print with

SAVE the PROOF SETUP and make sure it's selected

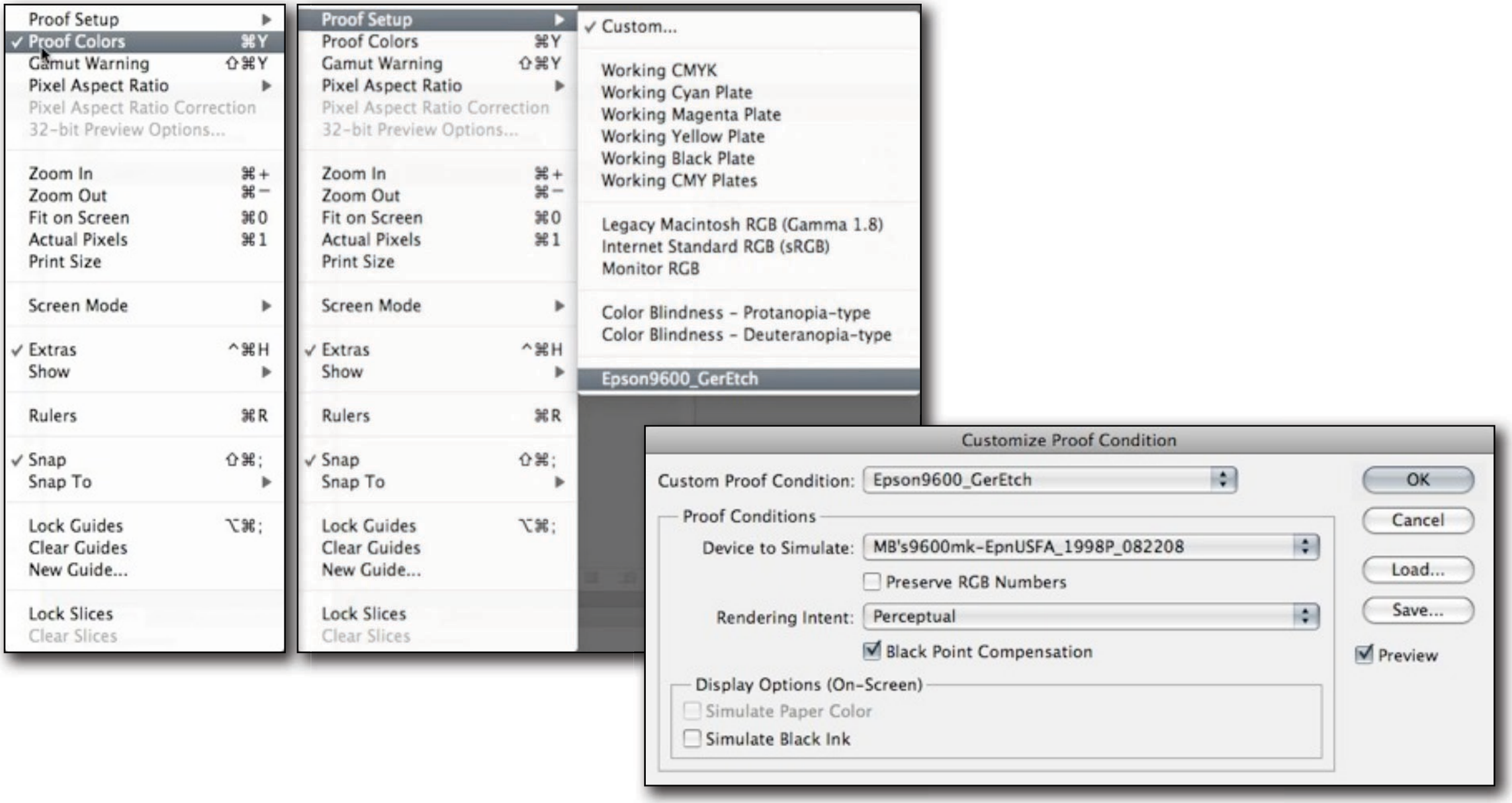
SELECT **VIEW > PROOF COLORS** to activate soft-proofing

You may notice shift in the image when you turn on soft-proofing

NOTE: This is an approximation of the way the image will appear when printed using the selected paper, printer and profile. It may or may not accurately render a view of the eventual print.

SOFT-PROOFING ONSCREEN

PHOTOSHOP'S PRE-PRINT EVALUATION TOOL



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GO MAKE SOME PRINTS!