



Live Shape Properties

By Martin Evening

Live shape properties

When you add an ellipse shape you will see the Live Shape Properties shown in Figure 1 and when you add a rectangle or rounded rectangle shape you'll see the Live Shape Properties shown in Figure 3. Here, it is possible to edit the corners of the rectangle shape. Note that the Properties panel only shows these options when an ellipse, rectangle or rounded rectangle path or shape layer is selected. If you click in the image with the rounded rectangle tool, this pops the dialog shown in Figure 2, where you can also set the corner radii.

This feature will mainly benefit graphic designer users, although the following steps show how it might also prove useful when editing photographs.

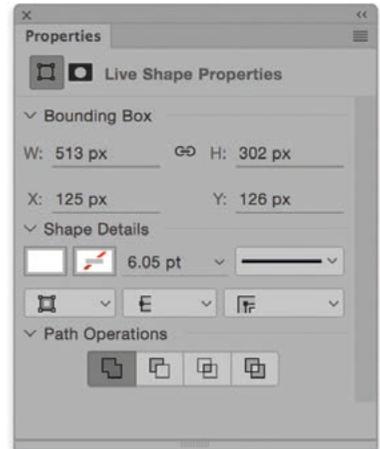


Figure 1 This shows the Live Shapes Properties panel for the Ellipse shape tool.

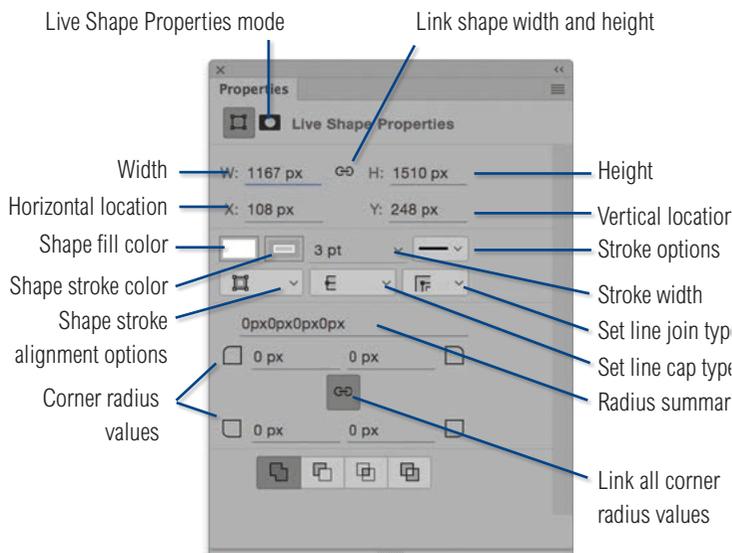


Figure 3 Here you can see the Properties panel showing the Live Shape options, where it is possible to edit the individual corner settings for a rectangle, rounded rectangle shape or path outline. Below the Properties panel is the shape outcome for a rectangle shape with these applied settings.

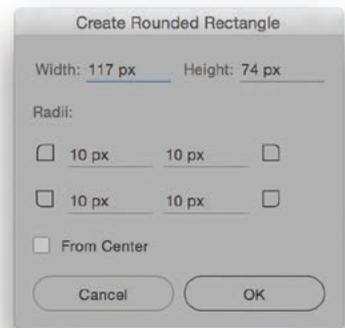
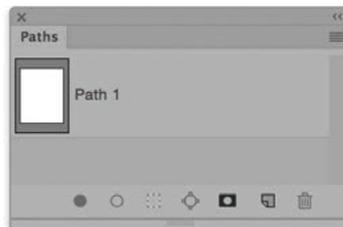


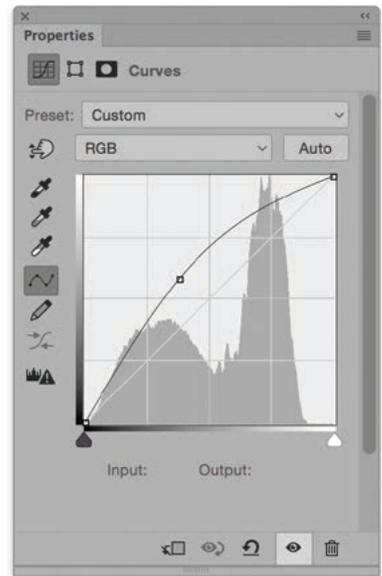
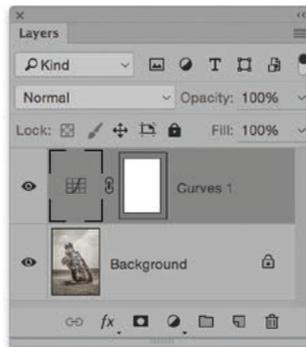
Figure 2 The Create Rounded Rectangle dialog.



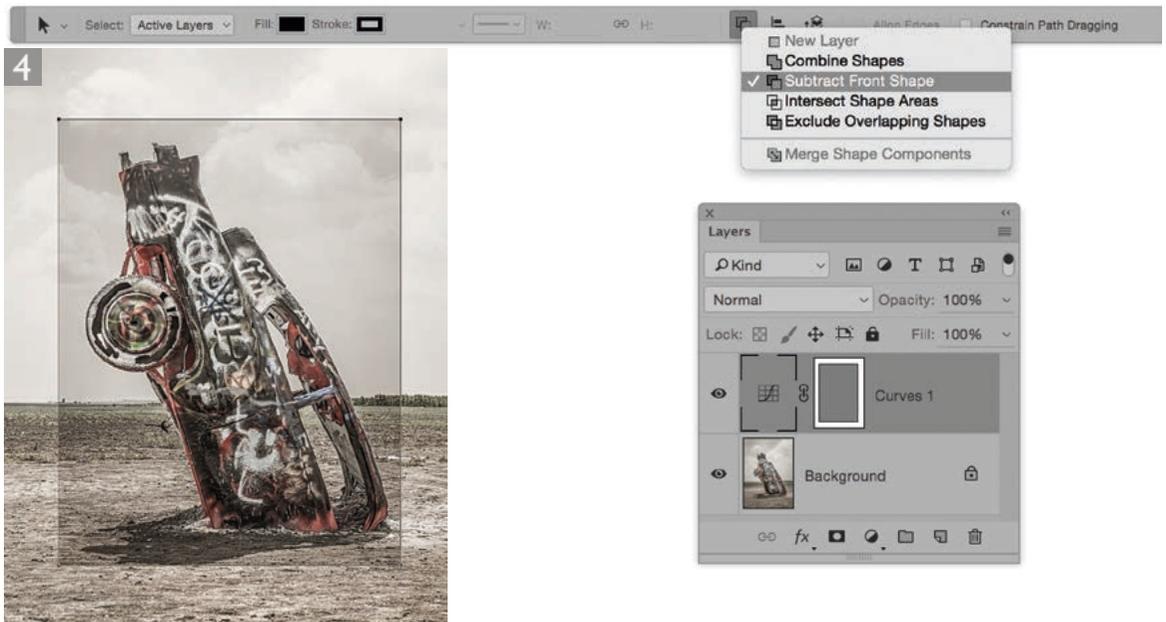
1 I began here with a photograph taken at Cadillac Ranch, just outside Amarillo, Texas. In the following steps I wanted to show how you can use the Properties panel to edit the corners of a vector mask.



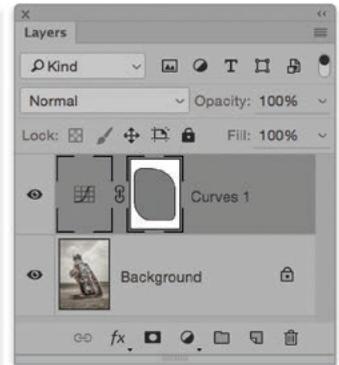
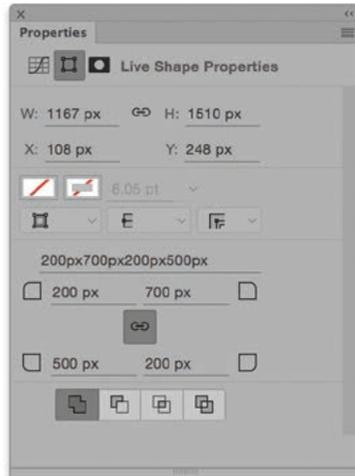
2 I first selected the regular rectangle tool in Path mode and defined a rectangle path outline. This added a new Work Path in the Paths panel.



3 With the work path active, I added a new Curves adjustment layer, which also applied the active path as a vector mask. I then edited the Curve to apply a lightening adjustment.



4 For this image I wanted the effect to be reversed, so I selected the Path select tool, clicked to activate the path and selected Subtract From Shape from the menu shown here to invert the vector mask.



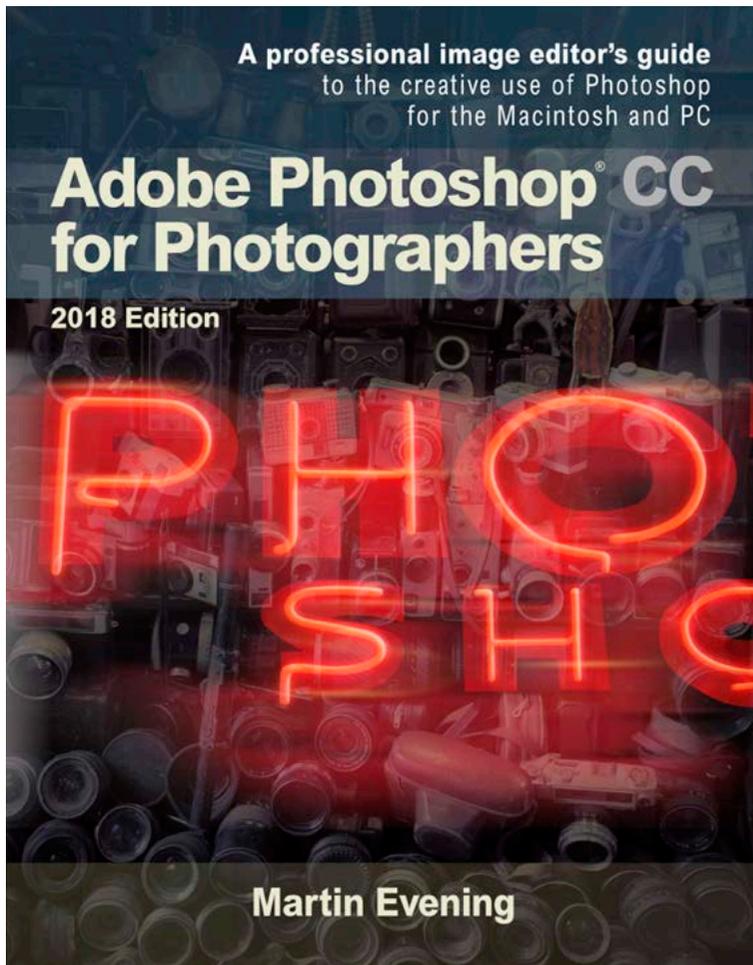
5 In the Properties panel I clicked on the Live Shape Properties button (between the Adjustment settings and Masks buttons) and proceeded to edit the corner settings. By doing so, I was able to control the shape for the original rectangular outline.



6 Lastly, I clicked on the Masks button to switch to the Masks mode for the Properties panel and adjusted the Feather setting to soften the modified mask edge.

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