Using Blurs in Animations

Blur effects can be used in animations to highlight important parts by making them gradually come into focus. To illustrate this a short animation advertising a car will be created.
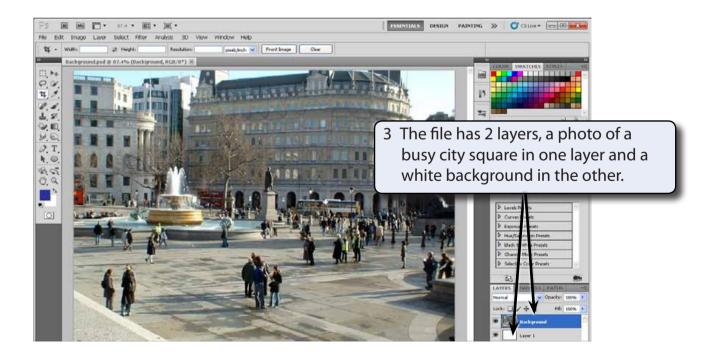
Creating the Layers

The first step in creating an animation in Photoshop is to set up the required layers.

A   Loading the Background Layer
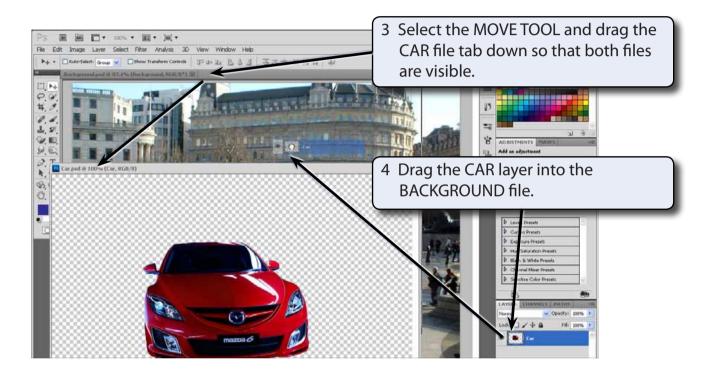
The background will be a photo of a busy city square.

1   Load Photoshop or close the current files then display the FILE menu and select OPEN.

2   Access the PScs5 SUPPORT FILES, open the CHAPTER 34 folder and load the BACKGROUND file.

3 The file has 2 layers, a photo of a busy city square in one layer and a white background in the other.
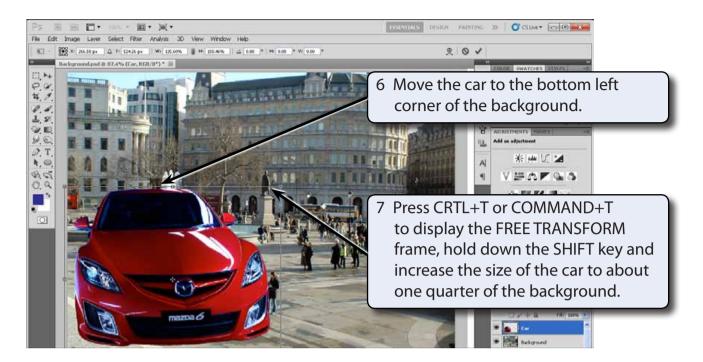
B   Adding the Car Layer

A photo of a car has been prepared for you and it needs to be added to the BACKGROUND file.

1   Display the FILE menu and select OPEN.

2   Access the CHAPTER 34 folder of the PScs5 SUPPORT FILES and load the CAR file.
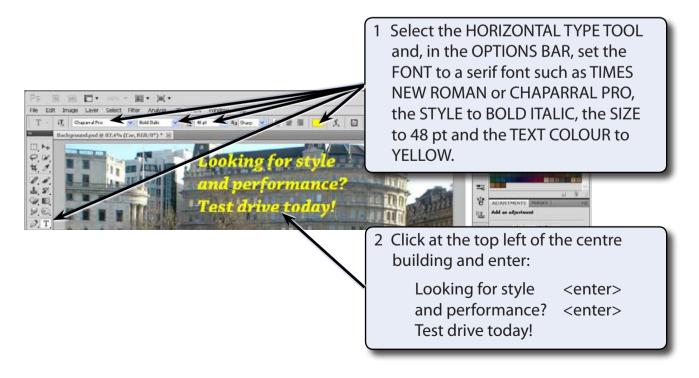

3 Select the MOVE TOOL and drag the CAR file tab down so that both files are visible.

4 Drag the CAR layer into the BACKGROUND file.

5 Select OK if a COLOUR warning dialogue box is displayed then close the CAR file.

6 Move the car to the bottom left corner of the background.

7 Press CRTL+T or COMMAND+T to display the FREE TRANSFORM frame, hold down the SHIFT key and increase the size of the car to about one quarter of the background.
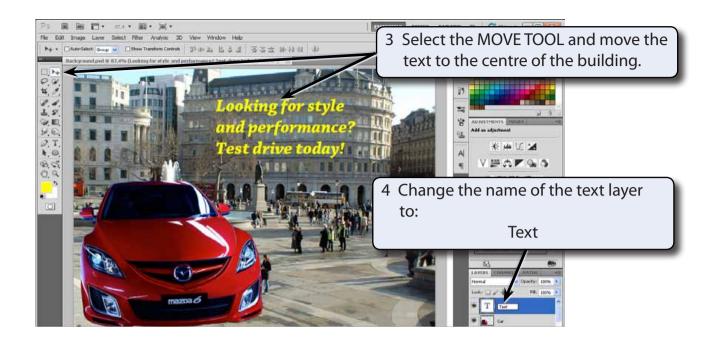
8 Press <enter> or <return> to accept the transformation.

C Adding the Text Layer

Some text will be added at the top of the background.

1 Select the HORIZONTAL TYPE TOOL and, in the OPTIONS BAR, set the FONT to a serif font such as TIMES NEW ROMAN or CHAPARRAL PRO, the STYLE to BOLD ITALIC, the SIZE to 48 pt and the TEXT COLOUR to YELLOW.

2 Click at the top left of the centre building and enter:

Looking for style   <enter>
and performance?   <enter>
Test drive today!

3 Select the MOVE TOOL and move the text to the centre of the building.

4 Change the name of the text layer to:

Text

Creating the Blur Layers

Each layer will be duplicated and its copy blurred or its opacity reduced.

A   Blurring the Text

1 Drag the TEXT layer over the CREATE A NEW LAYER icon and rename the duplicate layer:

Text Blur