I am by no means expert in this, but here is my understanding. You cannot copy a pixel layer, and then paste it into a mask layer. I imagine that, despite its on-screen representation, the mask layer has only Alpha components, while the pixel layer has RGBA components. The two don't play together well in AP.

What you CAN do is (i) right click on the channel you want to deal with (e.g., in a photo named "Flower" right click on the "Flower Red" entry in the Channels panel) and choose "Create Grayscale Layer" in the pop up menu. Once you have the grayscale version of the Red channel, you can do anything you want to it. Then, with the grayscale layer selected, (ii) choose "Rasterize to Mask" from the Layers menu and drag the new mask layer into the proper position.

The other thing is that you CAN apply certain adjustments to Masks - specifically, any adjustment that lets you specify that it applies to the Alpha component. That includes Levels, Curves, and Channel Mixer adjustments. Simply create the adjustment layer, choose Alpha from the drop down menu, and drag the adjustment onto the Mask thumbnail so that the VERTICAL blue line appears just to its right.

unni said:

Ganna: I also wanted to get adjustments done on mask . Tried suggestions given by Smadell in the last paragraph of his thread above. During trials I noted that clicking the composite alpha under channels tab (right bottom) shows the preview of the adjustment layer effect on the mask layer.(Ensure that visibility of all other pixel and mask layers are turned OFF because the composite RGB channels and composite alpha combines data from all visible layers) For the curves adjustment layer, if you have selected the Alpha from pop up menu instead of Master, then when you change the curve, the b&w preview of the mask layer changes. Once you are okay with the adjustment, keep cursor on composite alpha icon on channels and right click. Select "create spare channel" from pop up. Then go up to the layers panel and select the mask layer. come back to spare channel and right click. There will be an option in popup "Load to mask alpha". Select that. Now your old mask will be replaced with the curves adjusted data. Always deselect any marching ants by going up to Select>Deselect because if selections are active sometimes things don't work. This may sound complicated but its a question of patiently understanding how AP works. I need to do more such experiments to understand further details. Once one gets comfortable with these routes, it will be easy to make an efficient workflow. The route between pixel and mask lies in the channels menu through composite alpha/mask alpha/pixel selection/spare channel and also Rasterize to mask under Layers (top middle). The right click options of the icons under channels also has to be selected properly.