

The Eraser tool



On one level the Eraser tool works just like a whiteboard eraser, letting you erase lines created with the Pen tool. As users begin to explore the software however, they will quickly learn that the Eraser tool is a much more interesting tool than it first seems.

When you erase a line with the Eraser tool you don't actually erase it. Instead you paint a see-through object on top of the line which makes the line invisible. The see-through object can be moved around the page independently of whatever has been erased. This means you can erase something and make it visible again by moving the see-through object away. You can also paint a see-through object on the page and then move the line to the object to make it invisible. With this technique you can create a range of hide and reveal exercises.

On every flipchart there are three layers – bottom, middle and top. The Eraser tool only makes things invisible on the top layer. This is worth bearing in mind when working with your flipcharts. The Eraser tool makes lines invisible because they are placed on the top layer; it won't make images invisible, however, because they tend to be placed on the middle layer. If you move an image onto the top layer, however, you can use the Eraser tool to make the image invisible.

This is useful, for example, in 'before and after' exercises. Place a 'before' image on the top layer, and an 'after' image on the middle layer. With the Eraser tool you can erase the before image to reveal the after image underneath.