

Photoshop

selection, masking, composites...

1. Basic selection tools — a summery

Download iscom.millner.fr/down2/exercise-1-selection-masking-composites.zip
...and open `man-portrait.jpg` in Photoshop.



First an aside: after not using Photoshop for a while or having maybe done updates, check that you still have your (my) preferred workspace: go » [Windows](#) » [Workspace](#) check that you are still on the [Photography](#) space.

Some, but not all, of the following is very (incredibly) basic — consider this as revision.


“Simple” selection

- Rectangle tool and the Ellipse beneath
- Polygon tool and those beneath.

...try them out. And, notice (remember) that

- to add to a selection, you hold down 
- to subtract, you hold down 

Try in particular the Magic Lasso tool.

Note that to deselect something you go » [Select](#) » [Deselect](#) or 

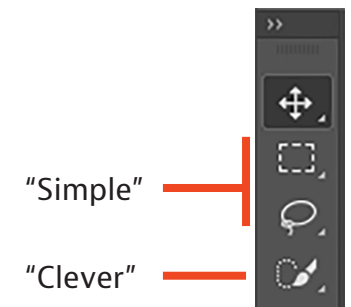
“Clever” selection

...that’s the Quick Selection and the Magic Wand.

The difference between the Quick Selection tool and the Magic Wand often seems subtle:

the Quick Selection tool is edge-based selection; the Magic wand is a colour based selection — try both.

With the Magic Wand tool you can set tolerance.



Select and Mask panel

This is quite a recent addition to Photoshop, and is potent!

After having roughly selected something, you find this in » [Select » Select and Mask...](#)

More later

Pen tool

One can accurately trace a shape with the Pen tool, and convert this into a selection.

More about this another time.

New in Photoshop 2020...

From the download folder, open the good old `hot-air-balloon.jpg` in Photoshop.

Remove everything except the balloon: in the Layers panel, un-click the lock symbol on the right so that one can adjust (make changes to) the image. Go to the Properties panel (icon shown on the right here) and click on "Remove Background" — and the balloon is now isolated and you can for example copy-paste this to somewhere else.



Had there been two balloons in the image and you wanted to select only one...

Select the Object Selection tool (see right here). Make sure the mode (at the top) is Lasso. Drag a Lasso around the balloon. Obvious. Experiment.



Here, Photoshop is using "machine intelligence" to make a selection. It often gets it right!

2. Basic masking

Select the head and shoulders on the man portrait in any way you want (the Select Subject in the Properties panel is probably the easiest here).

Make sure you can see the Layers panel (in the panels area).

With the selection still active, click on the Add a Mask icon at the bottom of the layers panel.

And, you will see a mask (the black and white profile) next to the image in the Layers panel.

The mask: black means masked; white means transparent; grey means partially masked.

In the toolbar, with the Background and Foreground colour tool (shown here right), you can paint white or black onto the mask using the Brush tool. The Brush tool paints the foreground colour onto the mask. To swap foreground and background click the "double arrow" as show here in the range circle.

Practice brushing both white and black. Note that the mask has to be selected while doing this.



3. A very basic composite

From the download folder, open the good old `yellow-wall.jpg` in Photoshop.

Go back to the man portrait image already open. Click `⌘Z` many times until you are back to the original state. Then...

1. Select the head and shoulders using any method you want to sue.
2. Go » **Edit** » **Copy** or `⌘C` to copy the selection.
3. Paste (» **Edit** » **Paste** or `⌘V`) the selection onto the yellow wall image (which is also open in Photoshop).
4. Go `⌘A` followed by `⌘T`, then to resize: drag one of the top corner points while pressing the `⇧` key (the Shift key constrains the proportions). You can also drag the entire selection.



4. Bringing it all together, plus the Select and Mask tool

[Watch \(study\) this tutorial](#), about selection with the Select and Mask tool — it is important that you master this tool! Also, you start to learn how to select hair.

- youtu.be/YNBaJmIXsg8

Whilst in the Select and Mask panel

- you might want to use the Refine Edge tool within the hair as well
- play with the View Mode options, including Transparency, to see how this works

[Watch this second tutorial](#), also about the Select and Mask tool, and making a composite

- youtu.be/utZ8Aji6Qv8

Make sure that you know how to do everything in these tutorials.

EXERCISE

Then, use the yellow wall image as a background, and find another image to cut out and put into the foreground.

If you finish this before the end of the lesson time, then (1) either help somebody else or (2) do another composite — and interesting and artistic one. Show me!