

# Digital Photo Image Editing

- using Adobe® Photoshop Elements

## Workshop 7: THE SELECTION TOOLS

### Objective

We are going to explore the tools that allow you to select just a portion of an image, which you can then modify independently or even move to become part of a different image. These tools are tied to the very powerful Layers capability of PSE.

### Selection Tools

There are several different types of **Selection tools**. Those that outline the selection - **Lasso** tools, those that use luminosity differences - **Magic Wand**, and those that use preset shapes - **Marquee**, and **Cookie Cutter** tools. The selection tools can be used to make a new selection, add to a selection, subtract from a selection, and in combination with each other to build complex selections.

Selections are used to isolate a part of the picture, to move it to another place within the picture, or to another picture (where it automatically becomes another Layer), or to edit/modify it independently of the rest of the picture. After making a selection, we often want to “feather” the edges so that it blends in with the rest of the picture and doesn’t look “pasted-on”.

### Exercise 07-01 Marquee Selection Tool

Image: *linda-before.jpg*

- Open the **Lab Images Week 7** and select the file *linda-before.jpg* using the **Full Editor** in PSE.
- Select the **Marquee Selection Tool** which is the 5th tool from the top in the Tool Bin. Note that there is a small triangle in the lower right. This means that there is more than one tool in this location. We can get to the other tools by right clicking. Select the **Elliptical** marquee tool.
- Every tool has an options bar that is appropriate for that particular tool running along the top of the image window. They all have a small triangle to the extreme left which allows you to reset the tool. Reset the **Elliptical Marquee** tool. The **Options Bar** should now have settings of **Feather: 0**, **Anti Alias** checked, **Mode: Normal**.
- Go into the image and make an oval selection around Linda’s face. Start above and to the left and drag diagonally downward with your mouse. Keep holding down the left mouse button and move the mouse to get the shape right. DO NOT stop holding down the left mouse button, and now press the **space bar** to move the selection around. Let go of the **space bar** and keep holding down the left mouse button to fine tune the shape. When done let go of the mouse button. *{This is the point at which we would feather the image if we wanted to. To feather a selection Select>Feather and select the amount.}*
- Note the “marching ants”. The marching ants should only be around her face and none around the outside of the image.
- Now go to **Enhance > Adjust Lighting > Shadows/highlights**. Reduce/increase the amount until it looks right. (Note you can check and uncheck the preview button to see what you have accomplished. Also note that you can push alt/option to reset the shadows/ highlight back to the original default.)
- Now go to **Select > Inverse**. The marching ants should now also be around the edge of the image as well as the ellipse. We have selected everything except her face.
- Go to **Filter > Blur > Gaussian Blur**. You can make the background appear out of focus.
- Go to **Select > Deselect**. Note the sharp demarcation at the ellipse.

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### Exercise 07-01 Marquee Selection Tool (cont.)

Image: *linda-before.jpg*

- Redo the steps above, but start with **Feather** set to 50 pixels. (The effect of a given number of pixels is dependent upon the total number of pixels in the image. The more pixels in an image, the larger the number required to achieve a given effect). The result should be a smoother transition.

### Exercise 07-02 Lasso Tools

Image: *Denver Public Library.jpg*

- Open the **Lab Images Week 7** and select the file *Denver Public Library.jpg*.
- Try using the regular **Lasso** tool by clicking on it in the **Tool Bin** (It is the 6th tool down {RC down 3}--the shortcut is "L").
- Select the regular **Lasso** (not the **Magnetic Lasso** or the **Polygonal Lasso**, we will deal with them in a minute). Select the dark projecting roof area at the top of the building using the lasso tool. Make a complete closed path and come back to where you started and click.
- Use **Select > Deselect** to clear the selection (Shortcut **Command D**) so we can try another tool.
- Now right click on the lasso and select the **Magnetic Lasso** tool in the **Tool Bar**, **reset** the tool and check that the **edge contrast** is set to 30%. Begin at the upper left corner of the roof and move clockwise around it. This tool works well when there is contrast between what you want to select and its surroundings.
- Use **Select > Deselect** again to clear this selection.
- Now right click on **Lasso** and select the **Polygonal Lasso** tool. For the straight sections of the roof you only need to click on one corner and then the next. Along the curved bottom click on several points along the arc to add more points. If you are patient, you can get a good fit with a lot of points. ( *For all selections, it is easier to work on a large image and use the space bar to move around. Type a number like 125 or 150% in the size box in the lower left or use the zoom tool.*) Let's use this selection.
- Go to **Enhance > Adjust Lighting > Shadows/Highlights** and play with the selection to see that only it is changing.
- Close image.

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### Exercise 07-03 Selection Brush

Image: *PhotoSpin giraffe.jpg*.

- Open the **Lab Images Week 7** and select the file *PhotoSpin giraffe.jpg*.
- Choose the **Selection Brush** tool (8th tool down from the top or {RC down 4}) The first one on the options bar is the **Magic Selection Brush**, but we want to try to 2nd one, the standard **Selection Brush** Tool. **Reset** the tool.
- Select **Add to Selection**, change the **brush size** to 80 pixels, and make sure the other options are **Mode:Selection** and **Hardness: 100%**. Then you should see a circle that moves around the image as you move the mouse.
- Begin selecting the giraffe's head by holding down the mouse button and moving inside his head. You can paint the selected area by moving the mouse around. To capture some finer details near his mouth or ears, you can make the brush size smaller. Use the [ key to reduce the brush size, and the ] key to increase it. If you made a mistake and selected some sky outside his head, hold down the Alt key as you erase from outside the selection. (Hint you can sometimes see the selection better if you put it on a new layer --- **Layer>New>Layer via copy**).
- After you see that you have a good selection, use the **Undo History** to go back. We will talk a lot more about Layers later.
- Then go to **Enhance > Adjust Lighting > Brightness/Contrast** and see that you can change only his face.
- Then remove the selection using **Select > Deselect**.

### Exercise 07-04 Quick selection Brush

Image: *PhotoSpin giraffe.jpg*.

- Continue with the image *PhotoSpin giraffe.jpg*.
- Choose the **Quick Selection Brush** tool from the tool bar(8th tool down or {RC down 4}). **Reset** the tool
- Click on the “+” in the **options bar**. Now draw several strokes inside the giraffe's head until it is selected.
- You can press the **alt/option key** and remove some of the selection.

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### Exercise 07-05 Magic Wand Tool

Image: *Bolivian backdrop.jpg*.

- Choose the **Magic Wand** tool in the **Tool Bin** (7th tool down or {LC down 4}).
- This time we will select the sky since it is almost all the same color, and then we will use the inverse selection, which is the giraffe's head.
- Reset the tool. Set the **options bar** for the **Magic Wand** settings along the top to the following:
  - The second icon for **Add to Selection** should be chosen.
  - **Tolerance** should be 32.
  - Put check marks in both the Anti-alias and Contiguous boxes.
- Then click anywhere in the sky. You will see marching ants denoting the selection that has just been made. But some portion of the sky below the giraffe's head has not been selected, because it is a slightly different shade of blue. Click again to add to Selection and then click in the remaining section of sky until it is all selected. (If selected too much, not in this case, then push the option and click to remove part of the selection. The amount of the picture that is selected is based on the **tolerance** a small number selects very little and 255 selects everything. The range is 0 to 255).
- Now that we have the sky selected, let's select the giraffe head by going to **Select>Inverse**. Notice the change in the marching ants.
- We are now going to move the selected giraffe's head onto another picture.
- Go to **File > Open** and open *Bolivian backdrop.jpg*. Make sure that you are in **cascade window mode**, so that both images are stacked up in the working space. (**Window > Images > Cascade** or click on the cascade icon in the upper right.)
- Select the **Move** tool (the very top one) and hold down the **Shift** key.(the **Shift** key is telling PSE to position the head in the same spot in the new photo relative to where it was in the old one.)
- Move/drag the selected giraffe into the Bolivian backdrop photo by dragging it, release the mouse button. We can use the move tool to resize the giraffe, rotate it etc.

### Exercise 07-06 Magic Wand Tool

Image: *Denver Public Library*

- Open *Denver Public Library.jpg* .
- Use the **Magic Wand** as you did above to select all of the bright orange, rounded front of the building. You will need to **add to selection**. You may also want to **subtract** using the lasso or another too.
- Then go to **Enhance > Adjust Color > Adjust Hue/Saturation** and change to Hue to some other color.