

Extract and Content Aware

Advanced Selections Tutorials-With Photoshop CS5

Skillfully making selections is key to success with Photoshop. The trick is knowing what tools will work in a particular situation. The two techniques we'll explore here are especially powerful features included in CS5. They are Extract and Content Aware selections. Have fun with these. Save the final file in each of the tutorials and submit to our dropbox. Get started by downloading the two starting files from the contents for this week:

flower_woman.jpg and **horse.jpg**

Selection Tutorial One

Extract

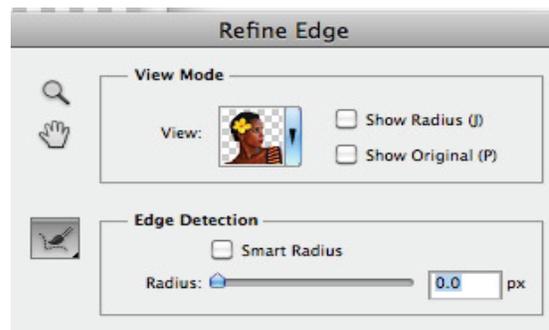
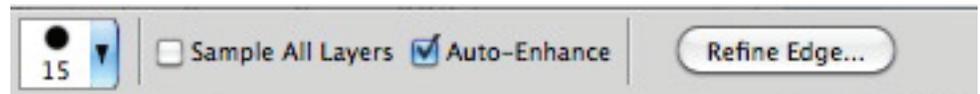
Problem: We want to select the woman from the background but the detail in the hair is a problem. How can we retain the natural edge and remove the background?

1. Open the flower_woman.jpg in Photoshop and make a selection of her using the quick selection tool. This tool is based on color and the radius of the brush that controls it. Keep the brush relatively small. Hold the shift key down to add to the selection. You should end-up with her figure being completely selected-marching ants surrounding her.



Quick Selection Tool

2. Now select **Refine Edges** from the tool property menu. You'll see a rough selection with a white background. You can refine by brushing with the refine edges tool. Wow! Play with some of the sliders to see how they work. You can also select different views in the View Mode. Once happy with the selection, go OK.



3. You'll now have a refined selection of the woman. Go Edit>Cut (this will cut the selection out of the larger image. Now Go Edit>Paste Special>Paste in Place. This will paste the new selection into a new layer and use it in a new composition.

4. For this exercise, delete the background (you'll have to click on the name background and rename to delete) and save your selection. Submit your file as a jpeg with white background.

Selection Tutorial Two

Content Aware



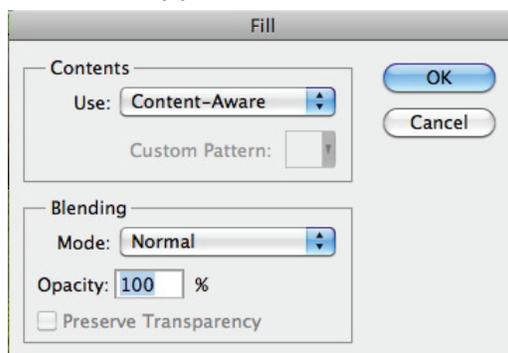
This is an amazing technique that you can use to thrill your friends and show them just how powerful Photoshop is. Our goal is to remove the horse from the scene without using all those repair tools which can be so tedious.

1. Download the horse.jpeg file and open in Photohop.



2. Make a selection of the horse. This does not have to be all that precise. For this tutorial, use the lasso tool to draw around the horse...remember it doesn't have to be too precise. In fact, it's a little better when you are a few pixels away from the horse outline.

3. With the selection active, go to Delete and the Content Aware menu will appear. Select OK



What happened to the horse? It's magic!

Any slight imperfections (like fence) can be repaired with the clone or healing brush! Save the finished file without the horse and put in the dropbox for this tutorial.

Wow.....!

Note: You can combine the extract technique with content aware to remove an object from its background and paste it back into the scene in a layer that can be moved to a new location. Be aware that not all subjects can be removed as cleanly as this exercise but it's worth a try!

Interesting Fact: The Spot Healing Brush is based on Content Aware.

