



Photoshop Elements

Week 4 – Making Selections

**To affect something
you have to select it.**

Practice. Practice. Practice.

Selection Possibilities

Regardless of how you make a selection, here are your options once you make one.

New selection – Go on and make the selection first off.

Deselect – If you don't want the selection, Ctrl –D or go to the Menu Bar > Select > Deselect.

Select all pixels in a layer – Ctrl – A or choose Select > All.

Reselect your most recent selection - Choose Select > Reselect.

Add to selection – Grab some more by holding down the Shift Key or choose the icon in the Options Bar. Look for the + sign near your cursor.

Subtract from selection – Nope. Subtract by holding down the Option Key or choosing icon in the Options Bar. Look for the – sign near your cursor.

Intersect with selection – Use the icon in the Options Bar.

Invert a selection – Sometimes it is easier to select the opposite of what you want. Just swap them! Inverting a selection changes the unselected areas into selected areas. After making a selection of what you don't want, go to Select in your Menu Bar and choose Inverse.

Incorporate other areas of similar color you have in a selection – Make a selection then choose Select > Grow. This will grab the adjacent pixels within the color tolerance range. If you want to change the tolerance range, choose the Magic Wand and change it in the Option Bar. A higher Tolerance value adds a broader range of colors. More tolerance means more friends.

OR

Choose Select > Similar to include pixels throughout the whole image that fall within the tolerance range.

Smooth the edges of a selection – Your selection can be smoother by anti-aliasing or feathering. Sometimes it looks better than a hard edge and you can turn most of your selection tools by choosing the Anti-Alias in the Option Bar.

Make a feathered edge – The marquee and lasso tool allow you to set a Feather value or width in the Option Bar. The feathering begins at the selection border. You can create a feathered edge with the Selection Brush if you choose a soft brush.

Create a feathered edge for an existing selection – After making a selection, go to Select > Feather and enter a Feather Radius value between .2 and 250. This is the width of the feathered edge.

Moving a selection – To adjust a selection, that means moving the “marching ants” place your selection tool inside the selection. Then click and drag or use your arrow keys.

Moving what you have selected – Choose the Move tool and click and drag or use the arrow keys. This moves the image you have selected. You can also drag a selection onto another file, like items from the salad bar to the plate.

Save, load, or delete a selection – You may want to use a section more than once or at a later time. Make the selection and go to Select > Save Selection. In the Save Selection dialog box, choose New then enter a name and click the OK button.

Loading the selection, choose Select > Load Selection, choose your saved selection from the Selection menu, and then click OK.

To delete a selection, choose Select > Delete Selection, choose a saved selection from the Selection menu, and then click OK. This is different than deselect.

Selection Tools

These are your new best friends.

Rectangular Marquee – This tool draws square or rectangular selection borders, and the Elliptical Marquee tool draws round or elliptical selection borders. Just drag over the area you want to select. It is easiest to drag from the top to the bottom diagonally. Hold down the Shift key as you drag to constrain the selection marquee to a square or circle. If you want a specific size selection, set your Fixed Aspect Ratio to a width-to-height ratio for the selection border; or Fixed Size to specify the marquee’s height and width. This is helpful if you need to make the same size selection over and over.

Lasso – this tool draws freehand selection borders. You make very precise selections and it is easier if you make smaller selections at a time and then add to them. To close the selection border, release the mouse button. Try to get close to where you started. If you have an image area that isn’t freehand and want to change to a straight edge, press Option (while pressing the mouse); then release the mouse button and, when the pointer changes to, click where you want to position the end of the segment. It is tricky.

Polygonal Lasso – This tool draws straight-edged segments of a selection border. You can create as many segments as you need to draw a selection border. If you make a mistake, hit the Delete key to erase segments. Hold down the Option key to switch from creating straight to drawing freehand. To close the selection position the pointer over the starting point where you will see a little circle by the cursor and click.

Magnetic Lasso – This tool draws a selection that automatically snaps to the edges of objects you drag over in the image. It is a little wildy. To specify the area of edge detection, enter a pixel value between 1 and 256 for Width. The tool detects edges only within the specified distance from the pointer. To specify the rate at which the Magnetic Lasso tool sets fastening points, enter a value between 0 and 100 for Frequency. A higher value anchors the selection border in place more quickly. To close the border, drag to the starting point where you will see a little circle by the cursor and click. Or, double click.

Magic Wand - This tool selects pixels within a similar color range with one click. You specify the color range, or tolerance, for the Magic Wand tool's selection. Check your Option bar for these choices; don't forget to reset your tool to get the default.

For Tolerance is the range of colors that will be selected similar to the pixel you clicked on with the Magic Wand. The higher the value, the broader range of colors the wand will be selected. I like to use values between 24 to 42, but you can go 2 to 255.

For a smooth selection edge, select Anti-aliased.

If you uncheck Contiguous, the Wand will select colors through the whole image. Checking Contiguous will just select the adjacent areas.

To select colors using data from all the visible layers, select Use All Layers. When this option is deselected, the Magic Wand tool selects colors from only the active layer.

No Magic Wand can make all your wishes come true. If it did, what would you dream of?

Quick Selection - This tool makes a selection based on color and texture similarity as you click or click-drag the area you want to select. It isn't very precise, so it may not be the right tool for the job. Try it out though.

Selection Brush – This tool makes selections two ways. Just paint with it in the Selection mode and the selection will appear. Or, use the Mask mode to paint over areas you don't want to select then switch back to the Selection mode to see your selection show up. You can go back and forth between these modes to make a selection. Play with this one!

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