

Photoshop used with Photomontage

Work with Layer Palette

If the layer palette is not visible, you can bring it is not your work space by clicking:
windows>layers

Cutting out images

You can either cut out images destructively or non-destructively. Using a mask with your selections is a non-destructive way of cutting out images and using the various selection tools combined with deleting is a destructive way of working.

1. Select the areas with which you want to work

Duplicate your original image: *layer>duplicate layer*

Make a selection of the area you want to cut out. You have a variety of tools to choose from: marquee tool, lasso tool, and quick selection tool. If you right click or control click you will see that there are more tools under each of these selection tools. These tools can be used in combination with the second through fifth icons from the left hand side on the control panel. If you want to select all the area outside your current selection choose: *select>inverse*. Double click to close selection. To reposition selection choose: *select>transform selection*. To refine edge, select *refine edge** on the control panel and move the sliders to adjust the edge.

2. Destructive Editing: Make your selection and delete

3. Non-destructive Editing: Using a mask (Chapter 6 in your textbook)

Make your selection. On the bottom of the layer palette click the third icon from the left, *add layer mask*. You can click on the layer mask thumbnail. Wherever the mask is white, that is what it will be revealing from the photograph, whatever is black, it will be hiding. You can continue to add or subtract to the mask by adding black or white to the mask. Toggle the eye icon in the layer palette to see what is hidden/revealed. You can further refine your mask with: *select>refine edge** in the control panel. (An alternative is to choose: *window>mask* and then click *mask edge* in the pop-up window and this will allow you to refine the mask.)

*Refine Edge/Mask

Refine mask can be used with any selection. It is useful if you have complicated outlines that involve items such as hair or grass. The most important tools in this pop-up menu are the smart radius combined with radius and the refine radius tool (which is found under the brush icon, the third icon down on the left hand side). To increase or decrease the brush size of the refine radius too, use the square brackets.

Blending Two Images

Use this option with caution. If it is not used in a contextually appropriate manner, the final image will have an artificial “Photoshopped” look to it.

Place your two images on layers above and below each other. Select your top image and go to the bottom of the layers panel and click on the *add layer mask* icon. With the mask highlighted, activate the gradient tool, located under the paint bucket tool (g key). Check the control panel on the top bar to adjust the type of gradient you desire. Make sure your colors are set to default (d key). Take your cursor, click and drag until you get the desired gradient. To invert the selection click: command I.

Puppet Warp (Chapter 6)

Just because you can do something, does not mean you should do it. Using Photoshop in a way that its footprint cannot be seen poses a challenge and requires restraint and sophistication. This is one of the tools that is a lot of fun, but should probably be only used rarely. After you apply a puppet warp: *edit>puppet warp*, you can keep certain parts of the image stationary by placing pins on the intersections. To take the pins away, alt or option click. To reposition a part of the image, place a pin on an intersection and use it to pivot the portion by applying alt/option, make sure the large circle appears and then adjust.

Creating a Shadow (Chapter 6)

In the layers panel, make a mask and select the masked area, then control click/command click to select the masked area. Choose *select>save selection*. In the dialogue box, make sure New is chosen and then name the selection. The selection will appear in the *window>channels* panel/palette. Create a new layer in the layer palette/panel and name it shadow. Make sure it is directly below the image from which you want to create a shadow. You can then click: *select>refine edge*, and adjust edge to your specifications. Choose: *edit>fill*, choose black and then change the opacity in the layers panel. Choose *select>deselect* and transform or move the shadow to where you want it to be.

Fixing Lens Distortion (Chapter 5)

This can either be done through *edit>transform>perspective* or through *filter>lens correction* and in the subsequent pop-up window pick the *custom* tab and adjust with the *remove distortion* slider.

Burn and Dodge Tools

Burn tool darkens the image and the dodge tool lightens the image.

Altering the Depth of Field (Chapter 5)

If you have two identical images, each displaying a narrow depth of field: one focused on the foreground and one on the background, you can create a wide depth of field by combining the images. Open the two images in Photoshop. Layer them in a single file. Then select both the layers. Choose *edit>auto-align layers*. Then choose *edit>auto blend layers* and choose *stack images* in the pop-up menu.

Replacing Color in an Image (Chapter 2)

Choose the color replacement tool (hidden under brush tool). Create or sample the color (using the eyedropper) you wish to use. In the control menu select your brush specifications, continuous sampling, and find edges from the limits option.