

## Exporting selections

In a Photoshop image every pixel has a value, even transparent pixels. When you place a Photoshop image in another application, those transparent pixels appear white. The following illustration shows an image on a transparent background in Photoshop, and then placed into an Adobe PageMaker® file.



*Image placed without a clipping path*

To make transparent areas in Photoshop appear transparent in another application, you need to create a *clipping path* around the area you want to be opaque and then save the file in EPS format. A clipping path is a PostScript® outline that contains areas of the image

that should appear opaque when the image is placed in another application.



*Image placed with a clipping path*

Creating clipping paths is simple, as demonstrated by the following procedure. Note that this technique is intended for artwork that will be printed. To create transparency in images for use on the World Wide Web, use the GIF export feature. See the *Adobe Photoshop User Guide* for details.

**1** Choose File > Open, and open the *Export1.psd* file located in the Tutorial/Artfiles folder.



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You'll begin by selecting the part of the image you want to remain opaque—the chaise lounge. Since the background is white, it's easier to select it, and then invert the selection.

**2** Using the magic wand tool, click the background. Then choose **Select > Inverse**, so the lounge, rather than the background, is selected.

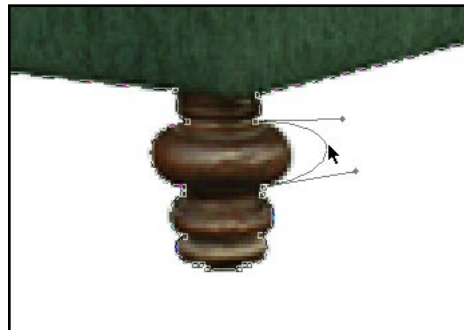


**3** Choose **Window > Show Paths** to display the Paths palette.

**4** Choose **Make Work Path** from the Paths palette menu, set the tolerance to 1.5, and click **OK**. The tolerance value determines how closely the new path resembles the shape of the selection. The lower the value, the more closely the path adheres to the shape of the selection because more anchor points are used. You want to use as few anchor points as possible to ensure that the path prints. Regardless of the default tolerance value you use, you may want to fine-tune the path for the best results.



**5** Enlarge your view of the lounge so you can easily see the path, and then drag to select the direct-selection tool from the toolbox. Either adjust the position of individual anchor points or adjust the direction lines of selected anchor points. Use the pen+ and the pen- tools to add and subtract anchor points, respectively.



**6** Double-click the Work Path in the Paths palette. Name the path *Lounge*, and click **OK**.

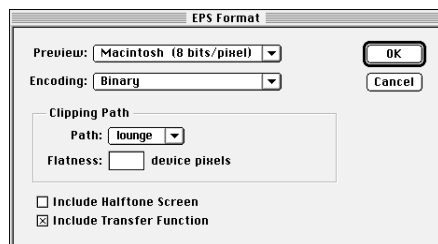
**7** Choose **Clipping Path** from the Paths palette menu. Choose *Lounge* from the Path option, leave the Flatness option empty, and click **OK**. The Flatness option determines how smooth curves in the path are drawn by the PostScript interpreter when the image is printed. Leaving the option blank means the printer's default value is used. If you do enter a value, the lower the flatness value, the smoother the curve.

Notice that the path name in the Paths palette is outlined (Macintosh®) or boldfaced (Windows®). This indicates the path is a clipping path.



**8** Choose File > Save a Copy, select Photoshop EPS as the file format, name the file, and click OK.

**9** In the EPS Format dialog box, verify that Lounge is selected in the Path option, and click OK. Generally, you can use the default settings in the EPS format dialog box. For more information on the EPS format, see the *Adobe Photoshop User Guide*.



**10** Open the application in which you want to place the image, and import or place it.



When you place the image in another application, such as Adobe PageMaker or Adobe Illustrator, the transparent areas remain transparent.

*Note: Versions of PageMaker for Windows prior to version 6.5 may display black in areas that should appear transparent; however, the document will print correctly.*

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