

Selecting

In Adobe Photoshop, you make selections to isolate parts of an image, edit images, and create composite images. In this lesson, you'll make a variety of selections using different selection tools and commands. (For information on selecting areas using masks and painting tools, see the "Masks" lesson.)

1 Open the Select1.psd file, located in the Tutorial/Artfiles folder.



You'll begin this lesson by selecting the "cat" block at the bottom right of the photo, and adjusting its color.

2 Select the rectangle marquee tool (☐) in the toolbox. Drag the tool diagonally from one corner of the "cat" block to select it. Everything within the selection border will be affected by any change you apply.

3 Choose Image > Adjust > Color Balance.

Drag the top slider to the left to decrease the red (we used -30). Drag the middle slider to the right to increase the Green (we used +20). Then click OK.

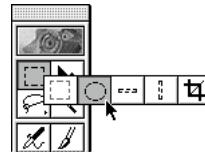
4 Deselect the block using one of the following methods:

- Click outside of the selection anywhere in the window.
- Choose Select > None.
- Press Command + D (Macintosh®) or Ctrl + D (Windows®).

Now you'll select the train using three different selection tools and increase its contrast.

5 Drag the rectangle marquee tool to select the body of the train.

6 Select the ellipse marquee tool (◯).




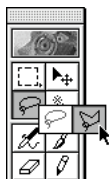
7 Position the pointer over the center of the train's left wheel. Hold down Shift and begin dragging outward; then hold down Option (Macintosh) or Alt (Windows) in addition to Shift and continue dragging. Release the mouse button and keyboard keys when you finish selecting the wheel. (Holding down Shift lets you add to the current selection; holding down Option/Alt lets you drag the selection marquee from the center out.)



8 Select the train's right wheel the same way you selected the left wheel.

You'll now remove the partially selected blocks from the train with the polygon lasso tool, leaving just the train selected. The polygon lasso tool lets you make straight-edged selections around objects. (For information on using the pen tool to make selections, see the *Adobe Photoshop 4.0 User Guide*.)

9 Select the polygon lasso tool () . Hold down Option (Macintosh) or Alt (Windows) and click above one side of the train. Holding down Option/Alt lets you subtract areas from the current selection.




10 While still holding Option/Alt, follow the shape of the train's top, clicking at each corner. Move the pointer above the train and double-click to end the selection.



11 Choose Image > Adjust > Brightness/Contrast. Drag the Contrast slider to the right to increase the contrast. Click OK.

Here, you'll use the magic wand tool to select the doll's hair, without having to trace the hair with a selection tool. The magic wand tool enables you to select areas that share approximately the same colors.

12 Double-click the magic wand tool () ; then click the doll's hair.

Notice that not all of the hair is selected. You can raise the tolerance value to increase the range of colors that the magic wand tool selects.

13 Choose Select > None to deselect the hair. Enter a higher number in the Tolerance text box in the Magic Wand Options palette (we used 80), and click the hair again.

Now that the hair is selected, you'll create copies for the two other dolls.

14 Hold down Command + Option + Shift (Macintosh) or Ctrl + Alt + Shift (Windows) and drag to move a copy of the hair onto the second doll. The Shift key constrains the movement horizontally.

15 Choose Select > Feather. Enter 7 in the Feather Radius text box and click OK. This action will soften or *feather* effects across the selection border on the copy you now make.

16 Hold Command + Option + Shift (Macintosh) or Ctrl + Alt + Shift (Windows) and drag to move a feathered copy of the hair onto the third doll. Press any arrow key to move the copy in small increments if you need to refine the position of the hair.


Next, you'll change the color of the hair. So that you can see the effect of feathering the color more easily, you'll first hide the selection border.

17 Choose View > Hide Edges. Then choose Image > Adjust > Hue/Saturation. Drag the Hue and Saturation sliders to create the color you want and click OK.

Next, you'll select the green "Z" on the block in the upper left and change its color, along with the similarly colored "P" block.

18 Enter 20 in the Tolerance text box in the Magic Wand Options palette. This action decreases the tolerance for the magic wand tool, since the previous setting of 80 would select too large of an area.

19 Click the green letter "Z" on the block to select most of the letter; then choose Select > Similar to select all color in the image within that tolerance. Notice that the green parts of the "P" block are selected, along with other areas you don't want to modify.

20 To deselect the unwanted areas, first choose one of the selection marquee tools, such as the rectangle marquee tool (). Then hold down Option (Macintosh) or Alt (Windows) and drag across the area you want to deselect.

21 Choose Windows > Show Swatches. Click a swatch to choose that color.

22 Press Option + Delete (Macintosh) or Alt + Backspace (Windows) to fill the green letters with the new color you chose.

23 Open the Rabbit.psd file in the Tutorial/Artfiles folder.



Next, you'll select just the rabbit and chair in the new window and paste them into the Select1.psd image. The easiest way to do this is to select the background and then invert the selection to select the rabbit and chair.

Because the background is roughly the same color, you'll use the Color Range command. This command works similarly to the magic wand tool, but selects all similarly colored areas in the image at the same time, even if they are in separate parts of the image.

24 Choose **Select > Color Range**. Then **Shift-click** several parts of the background in the image to sample a range of colors. The white areas in the preview indicate the areas that will be selected in the image.



Sampling background



Preview of selected areas shown in white

25 Drag the Fuzziness slider in the **Color Range** dialog box until just the background appears white in the preview, indicating it is selected. Then select the **Invert** option and click **OK**.

26 Choose **Edit > Copy**. Click the **Select1.psd** window and choose **Edit > Paste**. Select the move tool (**V**) and drag the seated rabbit to the bottom left corner. A new layer containing the rabbit is added to the **Select1.psd** file.

27 Choose **Layer > Merge Down** to merge the layer containing the rabbit with the rest of the image.

Finally, you'll load a saved selection border to select the circus toys in the top right and adjust their contrast. A saved selection border gives you an easy way to reselect a complex area at any time. (For information on how to save a selection border, see the user guide or the "Masks" lesson.)

28 Choose **Select > Load Selection**. Choose **Circus Toys** from the **Channel** menu and click **OK**.

29 Choose **Image > Adjust > Auto Levels** to adjust the contrast of the circus toys. Then choose **Select > None** to deselect the toys.



Adobe, the Adobe logo, and Adobe Photoshop are registered trademarks of Adobe Systems Incorporated. © 1996 Adobe Systems Incorporated. All rights reserved. Macintosh is a trademark of Apple Computer, Inc. registered in the United States and other countries. Microsoft is a registered trademark of Microsoft Corporation in the United States and/or other countries.