



## Photoshop Elements Week 2

### 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!

## **Color Corrections, Enhancement, and Adjustments**

**Guided Edit** – this walks you through the color correction task and you can learn from it.

**Quick Fix** – just the basic tools for correcting color and lighting.

**Full Edit** – most power and flexibility over your pixels for image correction. You can make adjustments directly to the image pixels or use adjustment layers that let you test out tweaks without affecting the image.

## **Using Quick Fix to learn**

**Smart Fix** Adjusts lighting and color. Smart Fix corrects overall color balance and improves shadow and highlight detail, if necessary. The Smart Fix slider allows

you to vary the amount of the adjustment. Click the Auto button to apply this command.

**Red Eye Fix** Automatically finds and fixes red eyes in the image.

**Levels** Adjusts the overall contrast of an image and may affect its color. If your image needs more contrast and it has a color cast, try this command, which works by individually mapping the lightest and darkest pixels in each color channel to black and white. Click the Auto button to apply this command,

**Contrast** Adjusts the overall contrast of an image without affecting its color. Use Auto Contrast when your image needs more contrast but the colors look right. Auto Contrast maps the lightest and darkest pixels in the image to white and black, which makes highlights appear lighter and shadows appear darker. Click the Auto button to apply this command.

**Lighten Shadows** Drag the slider to lighten the darkest areas of your photo without affecting the highlights. Pure black areas are not affected.

**Darken Highlights** Drag the slider to darken the lightest areas of your photo without affecting the shadows. Pure white areas are not affected.

**Midtone Contrast** Adjusts the contrast within the middle tonal values (those that are about half way between pure white and pure black) without affecting the extreme highlights and shadows.

**Color** Adjusts the contrast and color by

identifying shadows, midtones, and highlights in the image rather than in individual color channels. It neutralizes the midtones and clips the white and black pixels using a default set of values. Click the Auto button to apply this command.

**Saturation** Makes colors more vivid or more muted.

**Hue** Shifts all colors in an image. This control is best used in small amounts or with selected objects whose color you want to change.

**Temperature** Makes colors warmer (red) or cooler (blue). Use this control to enhance sunsets or skin tones, or when the color balance set by your camera is off.

**Tint** Makes color more green or magenta. Use this control to fine-tune the colors after using the Temperature control.

**Sharpen** Sharpens your photo. Click Auto Sharpen to use the default amount of sharpening. Drag the slider to vary the amount of sharpening. Zoom your preview at 100% to get a more accurate view of the amount of sharpening you are applying.

## Levels

Functionality for adjusting color and tone. With a Levels adjustment, you can set shadow and highlight values to use a full tonal range, adjust middle tones only, correct color casts, and so on.

## Adjust color curves

The Adjust Color Curves command improves color tones in a photo by adjusting highlights, midtones, and shadows in each color channel. For example, this command can fix photos with silhouetted images resulting from strong backlighting, or slightly washed-out objects that were too close to the camera's flash.

In the Adjust Color Curves dialog box, you can compare and choose different tonal presets by selecting from the list of styles in the Select A Style box. To fine-tune the adjustment, adjust the highlights, midtone brightness and contrast, and shadows.

## **About adjustment and fill layers**

Adjustment layers let you experiment with color and make tonal adjustments without permanently modifying the pixels in an image. You can think of an adjustment layer as a veil coloring the underlying layers. By default, an adjustment layer affects all layers below it, although you can change this behavior. When you create an adjustment layer, the Layers palette displays a white box representing the adjustment for that layer.

## **Correct color casts by comparing variations of an image**

You can make color and tonal adjustments in the Color Variations dialog box by comparing and choosing different thumbnail variations of the photo. Color Variations works best for average tone images that don't require precise color adjustments.

You'll find this in the Help Menu! © 2007 Adobe Systems Incorporated. All rights reserved.