

SELECTION METHODS – PHOTOSHOP

'Blend If' for cutting out skies, videos available on You Tube, but double click on right hand side of file name on Layers panel to bring up the menu, then change colour by the words 'Blend if' and play with slider immediately underneath.

Select with Mask

Apologies for the confusion here.

Start with two files open, your flower [if that is what you are using] and your texture or background.

You can do this two ways, 1. Cut out the flower or 2. Remove the background.

To cut out the flower.

1. Have the background photo open.
2. Using the move tool [top left on tool bar] click on the middle of the background photo, hold down left mouse and without releasing move the move tool up to the file name for the flower [which will then open] and then bring back to middle of the flower photo.
3. Reposition as necessary.
4. With your background selected in the layers panel [it will be named Layer 1] go and click on the add layer masks icon at the bottom of the layers panel to bring a white panel alongside the Layer 1 icon.
5. Using the opacity slide bar just above the Layer 1, adjust so that you can see the flower.
6. On the tool bar on the left, make sure you have a black square on top at the bottom.
7. Click on the brush icon on the tool bar and check at the top that you have a soft round brush with 100% opacity.

SHORTCUTS Use ctrl + to enlarge the picture, ctrl – to reduce or ctrl 0 to fit window.

To enlarge or reduce the brush size use [or]

8. You can now use your brush to brush over the whole flower to let it show through the background.
9. If you make an error switch the colour of the black and white square and brush over with white brush.
10. Once finished alter opacity as you wish.

To remove the background.

1. Have the flower photo open.

2. Using the move tool [top left on tool bar] click on the middle of the flower photo, hold down left mouse and without releasing move the move tool up to the file name for the background [which will then open] and then bring back to middle of the background photo.
3. Reposition as necessary.
4. With your flower selected in the layers panel [it will be named Layer 1] go and click on the add layer masks icon at the bottom of the layers panel to bring a white panel alongside the Layer 1 icon.
5. On the tool bar on the left, make sure you have a black square on top at the bottom.
6. Click on the brush icon on the tool bar and check at the top that you have a soft round brush with 100% opacity.
7. You can now use your brush to brush over the whole background to let it show through the background, reducing the size of the brush as you go in closer to the flower.
8. If you make an error switch the colour of the black and white square and brush over with white brush.

The first method is probably the best as, if you do not like the background when you have finished you can change it by adding another one.

Open another texture and then drag onto the photo you have just completed.

You do not have to cut out all over again!

Click on the B&W layer mask, hold down alt and drag the layer mask up to layer 2.

Now by clicking the eyes on the left of the layers you can switch them on and off to see what you prefer.