

Topic 4

Technical tutorial

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More Photoshop

In these tasks you'll learn how to crop an image and change the canvas size; and to combine images to create a photomontage. You'll find the images used in these tasks in the Topic 4 area of MySCU.

Cropping and changing canvas size

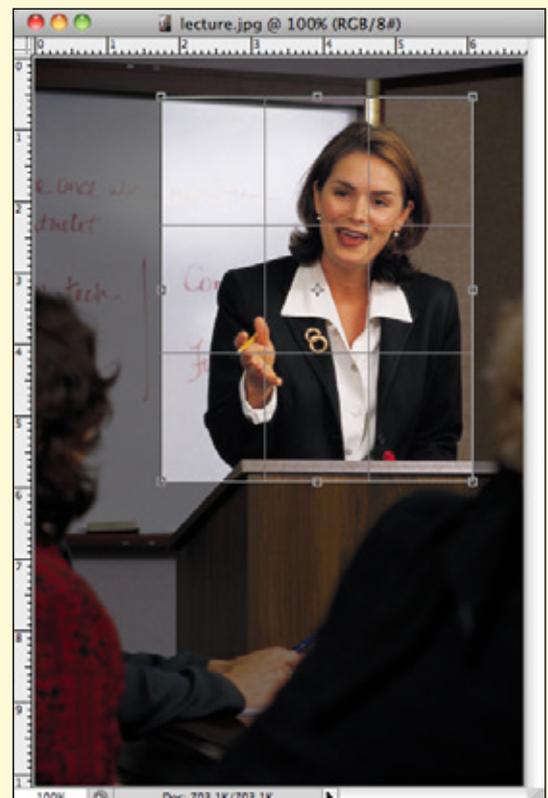
To crop an image

1. Open lecture.jpg
2. Choose the Crop tool  from the Toolbar
3. Drag a marquee over the woman addressing the group.

The crop shield will appear, greying out the area that is going to be cropped away.

You can resize the marquee by dragging on any of the handles (the little boxes); shift-drag a corner handle to preserve the proportions of the marquee.

You can reposition the marquee by clicking inside it, and dragging.





- When you are happy with the selection double-click inside the marquee.

To cancel a crop marquee, Control-click/Right-click and choose Cancel.

The image is cropped.

The greyed out area has gone. The only way to retrieve this is to use your History palette.

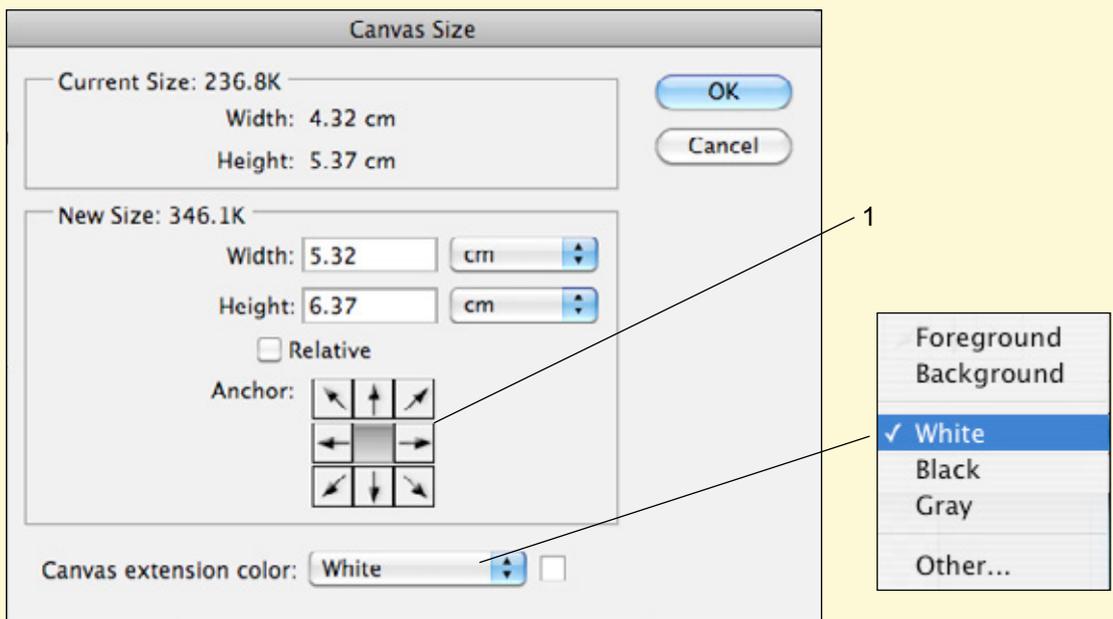
Changing the canvas size

You can enlarge or shrink the image area without changing the size of your images by using either the 'Canvas Size' command, or by using the the Crop tool.

To change the canvas size using the 'Canvas Size' command:

- With lecture.jpg still open select Image > Canvas Size.

The Canvas Size dialog box appears

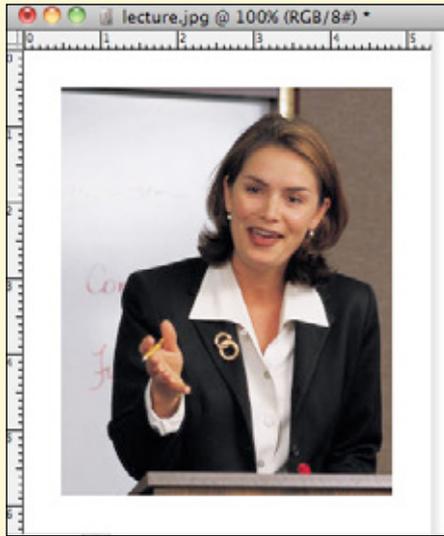


- We're going to add 1 cm to the width and height of the canvas size. In this example the current size is 4.32 cm x 5.37 cm.

Increase the size by entering new width and height values in the New Size windows.

You can reposition the image on its new canvas by clicking on one of the Anchor arrows (1). The grey square (Mac) or white (Windows), represents the existing image area. For this example we'll leave it in the middle which means pixels will be added to each of the sides as the canvas is increased.

- From the 'Canvas extension color' menu, you can choose a colour for the added pixels. For this example choose white.



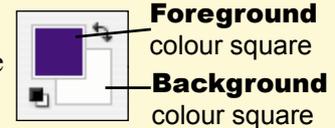
4. Click OK.

Any canvas area is automatically filled with the colour you chose (white).

To change the canvas size by using the Crop tool:

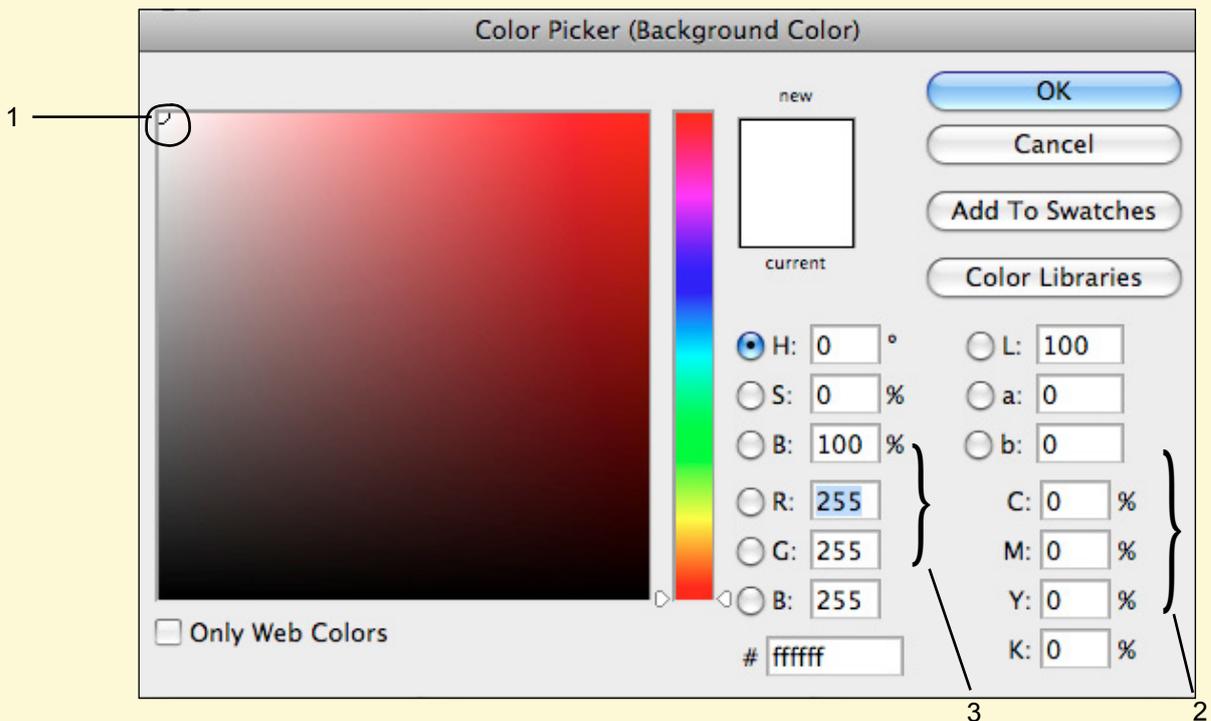
1. Keeping your lecture.jpg open, save a copy of your file and name it appropriately.
2. In your History palette, click back on the 'Crop' step to take your image back to when you first cropped it.
3. Make sure your Background colour is white.

To select white as your Background colour, click on the Background colour square on the Tool Bar.



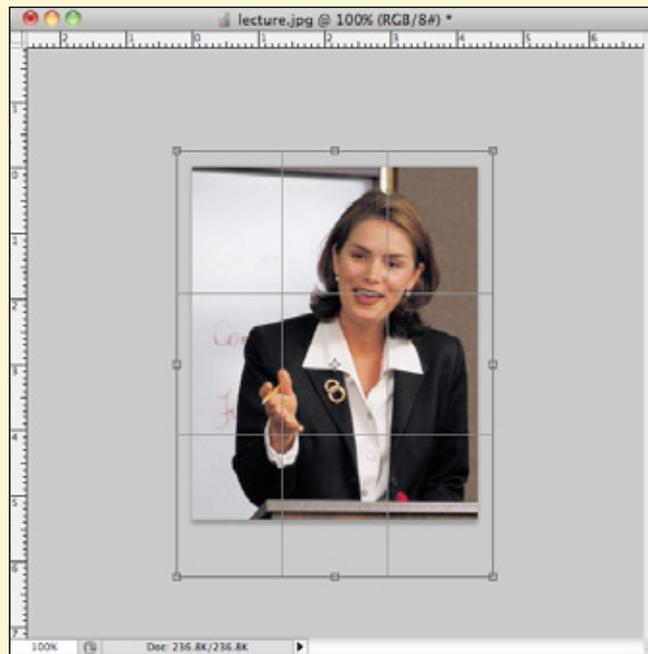
The Colour Picker window appears.

You can either click where it is white in the large square (1), or enter '0' in the C, M, Y, and K percentage windows (2), or enter '255' in the R, G, and B windows (3), and click OK.

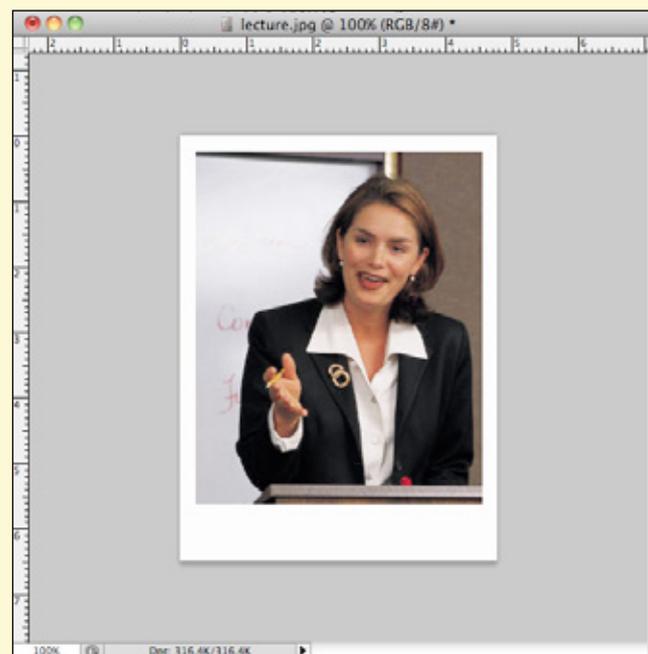


4. To reveal more of the work canvas (grey area) around the image, enlarge the document window by dragging the lower right corner of your image window.
5. Choose the Crop tool from the Tool Bar
6. Drag a crop marquee within the image.
7. Drag any of the handles of the marquee into the work canvas (outside of your image area).

You can drag any centre handle to add more canvas area to just that edge of the image.



8. Double-click inside the marquee to accept the crop.



When we accept the crop, the added canvas pixels are filled automatically with white, our chosen Background colour.



View some video demos

You can also view these short videos for a demo on the cropping tool. Some of these are in CS4 but will still be relevant.

<http://tv.adobe.com/watch/learn-photoshop-cs4/getting-started-08-cropping-an-image/>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1ARHWOrzGfw>

Using the selection tools

In this task we are going to look at different ways we can select parts of an image; copying a selection; scaling and rotating selections. There are a number of ways you can select certain parts of an image in Photoshop.

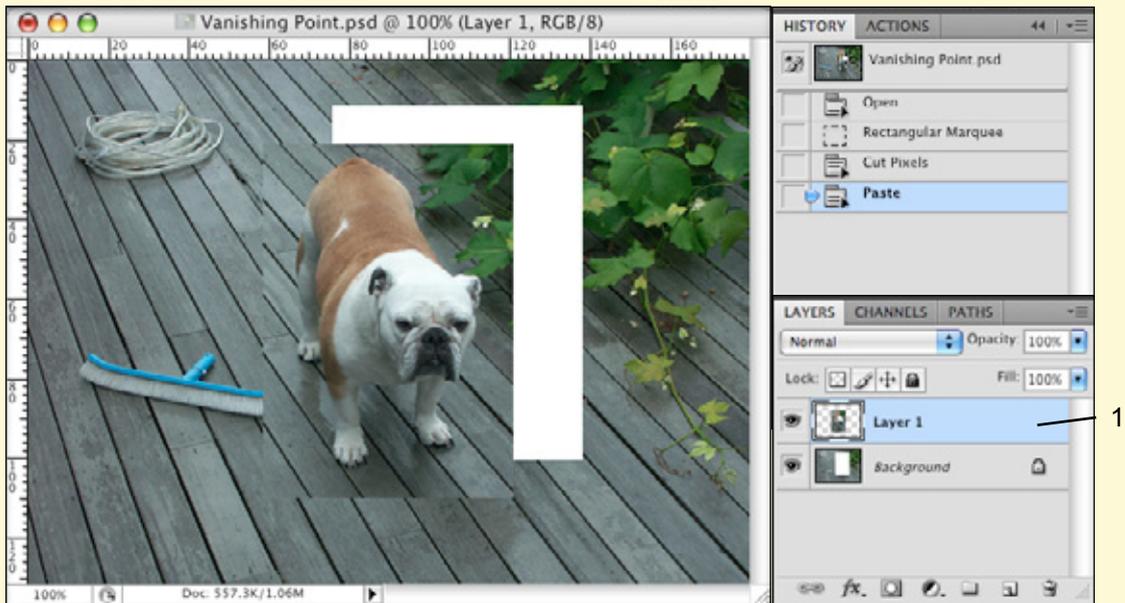
Creating a rectangular or elliptical selection

1. Open Vanishing Point.psd
2. Select the Rectangular Marquee tool  from the Tool Bar and draw a marquee around the dog.

The selection is represented onscreen by a marquee of “marching ants”.

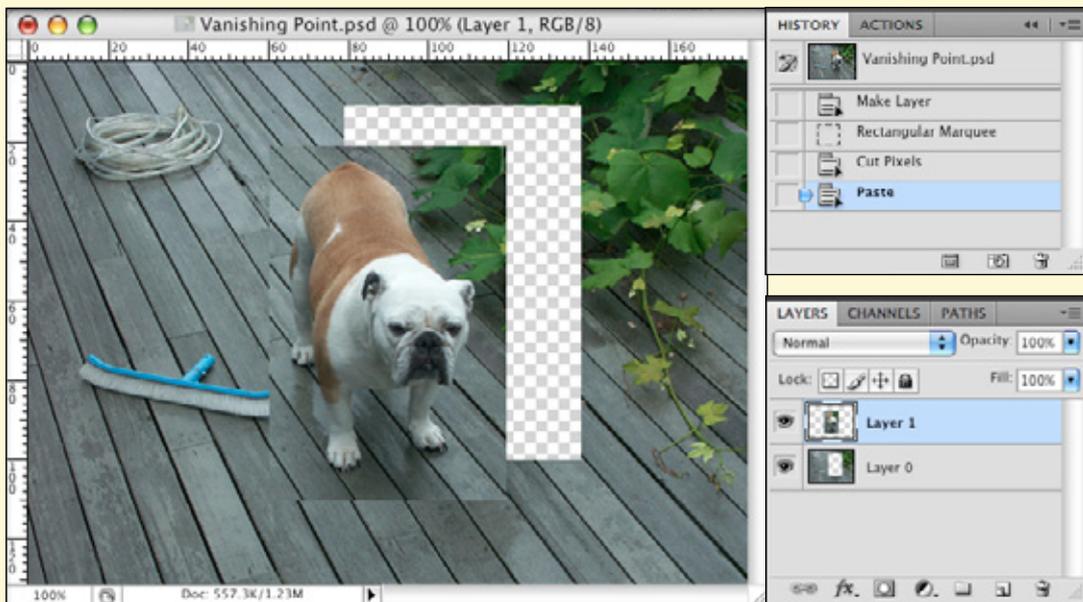


3. Cut and paste your selection. Edit > Cut, or command-x (Mac), Ctrl-x (Windows); and Edit > Paste, or command-v (Mac), Ctrl-v (Windows).



Photoshop will automatically paste your selection into a new layer (1). The background now has a white rectangle where you cut out the dog. This is because it was cut out of a Background layer. White pixels are automatically substituted for the background.

4. In your History palette, click the 'Open' step to take you back to the original image.
5. Double-click the Background in the Layers palette to change the Background to a Layer. It's important to do this if you will be creating multiple selections in a layer.
6. Select the Rectangular Marquee tool again and draw a selection around the dog.
7. Cut and paste the selection.

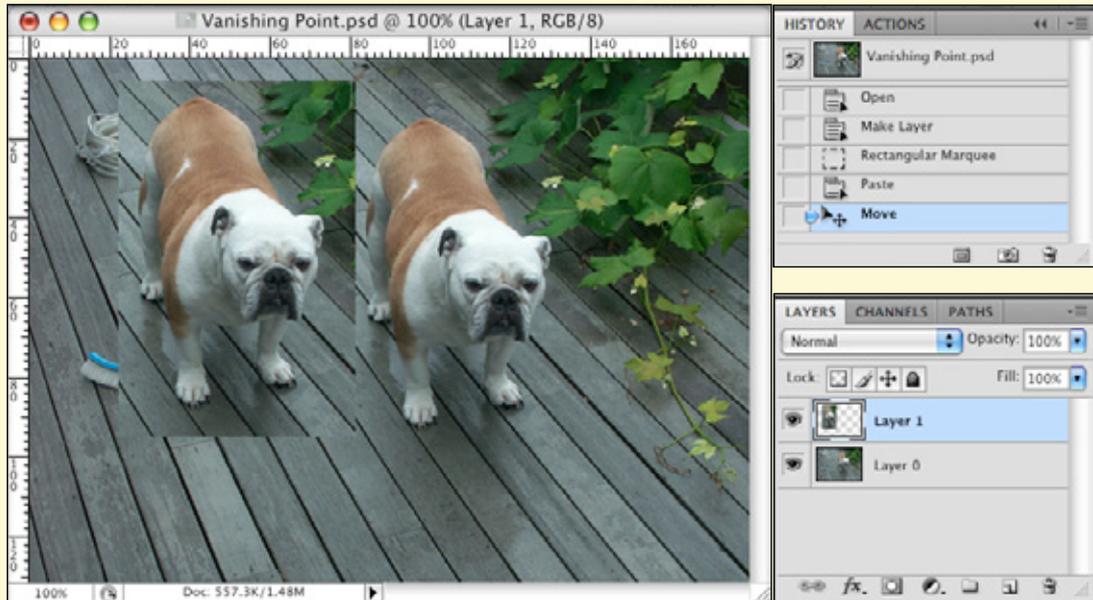


Notice that the background is now showing a transparent window.

8. In your History palette click back to the Rectangular Marquee step and copy and paste the selection. Edit > Copy, or command-c (Mac), Ctrl-c (Windows); and Edit > Paste, or command-v (Mac), Ctrl-v (Windows).

You now have two dogs in your image.

- Click on Layer 1 and select the Move tool  in the Tool Bar and move your image to show the two dogs.

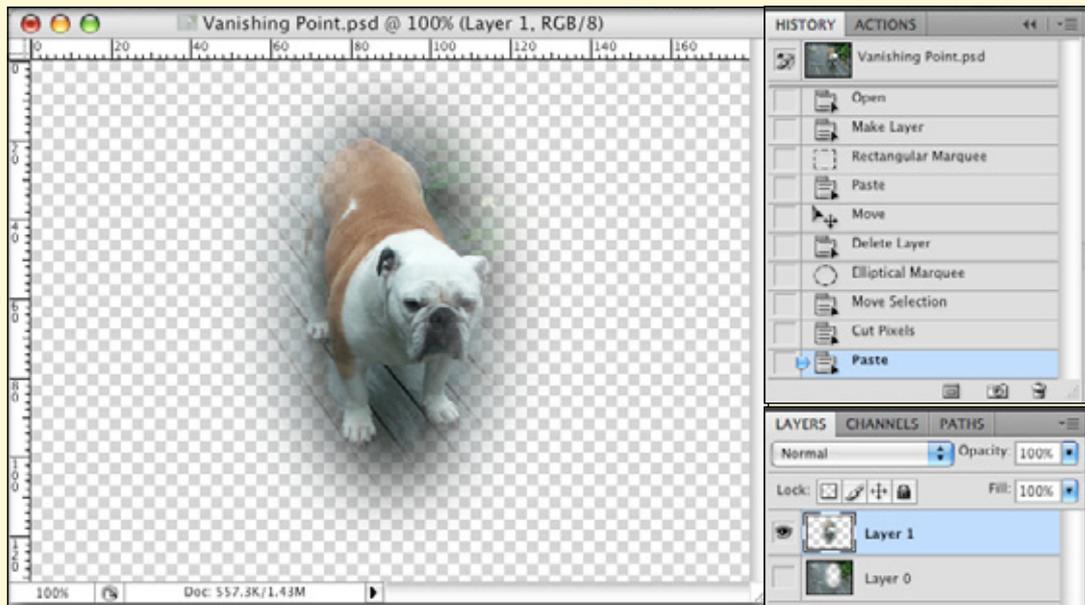


Don't forget, if you want to keep a copy of any of the steps, create a Snapshot of them from the History palette.

- Delete Layer 1 by dragging it to the Trash at the bottom of the Layers palette.
- Select the Elliptical Marquee tool (click and hold on the black triangle on the  Rectangular Marquee tool).
- In the Options toolbar (under your Menu bar), change 'Feather' to 20 px (pixels). This will soften the edge of your selection.



- Drag a marquee around the dog.
You can reposition your marquee by clicking on the middle and dragging it.
- Cut and paste your selection.



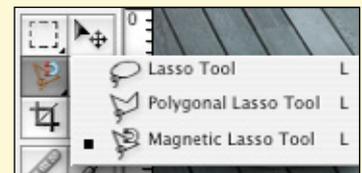
Here, I've turned off Layer 0 by clicking on the eye.

15. Take a snapshot of your image.
16. In the History palette, click on the 'Make Layer' step.

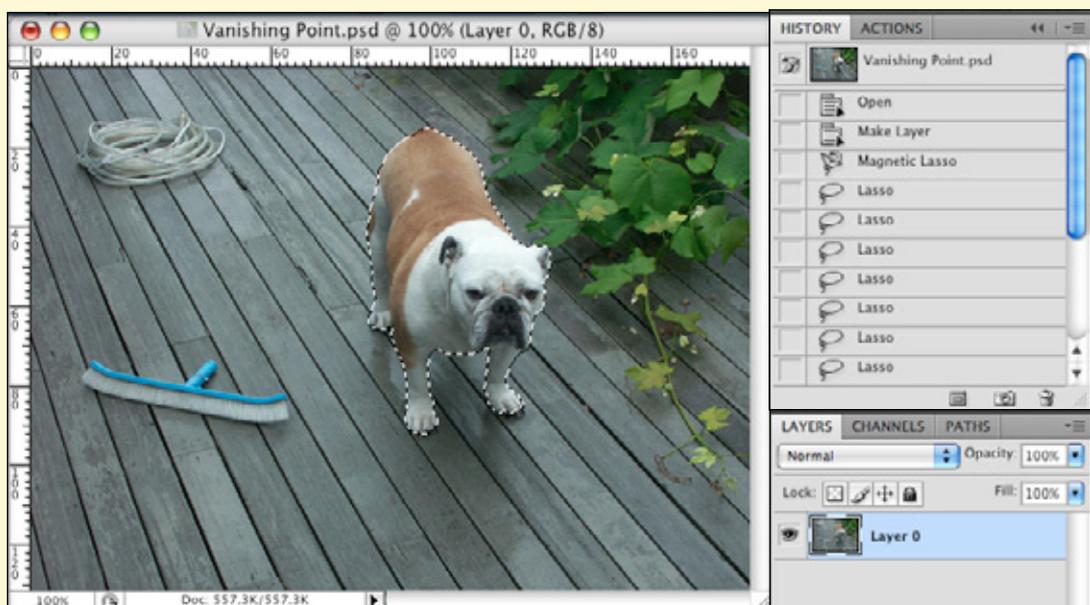
Using the Lasso tools

The Lasso tools are good for creating free-form selections. The Lasso Tool is the second on the left side of the Tool Bar.

17. Select the Magnetic Lasso tool (click and hold the black triangle on the Lasso tool button).
18. Click and drag around the edge of the dog. You'll notice that the selection 'sticks' to the edge of the dog. Click at various points along the edge that you are tracing to help it 'stick' better. Don't worry if you miss some areas, we will go back and fix these.



Complete the selection by clicking on the starting point. You will see the marching ants representing your selection.



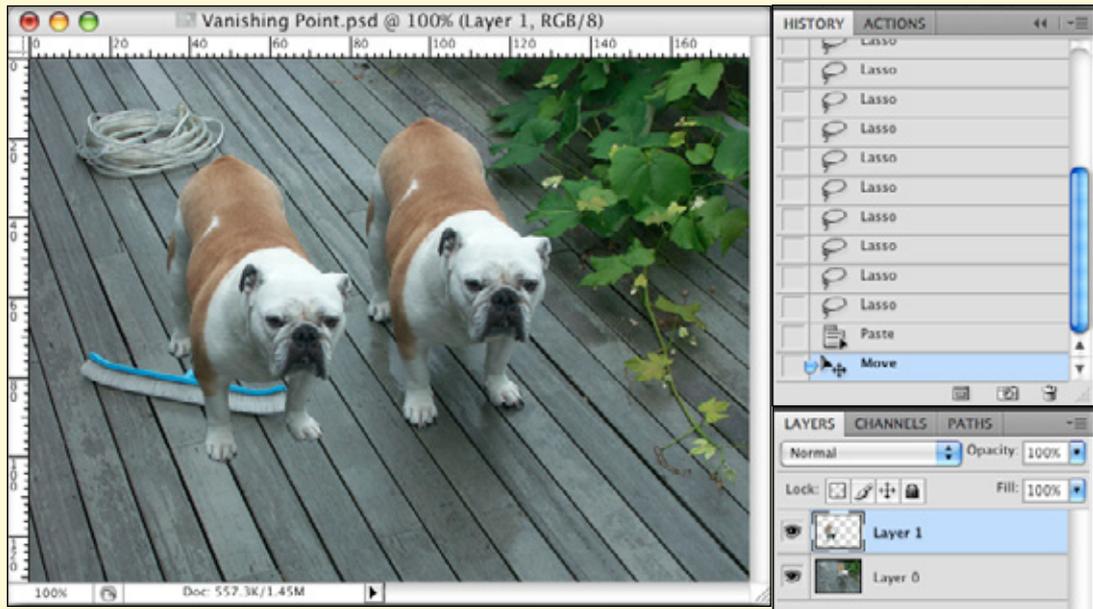
19. You can tidy your selection by choosing the Lasso tool.

- To add to the selection, shift-drag around the area you want to add, starting within the selection.
- To subtract from the selection, option-drag (Mac), Alt-drag (Windows) around the area to be removed, starting outside the selection.

Don't worry if you don't get this the first time – it takes practice!

20. Copy and paste your selection.

21. Move your copied selection so you have two dogs.



22. Save a snapshot of your image.

Using the Magic Wand tool

With the Magic Wand tool, you simply click a colour in the image and the tool selects all adjacent pixels of the same or similar colour. You can control the range of pixels in a selection.

22. Open starfish.psd

23. Select the Magic Wand tool from the Tool Bar. 

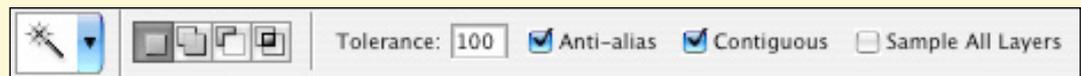
24. On the Options bar:

Check **Anti-alias** to allow the tool to add semi-transparent pixels along the edge of the shape. This creates a smoother edge to your selections.

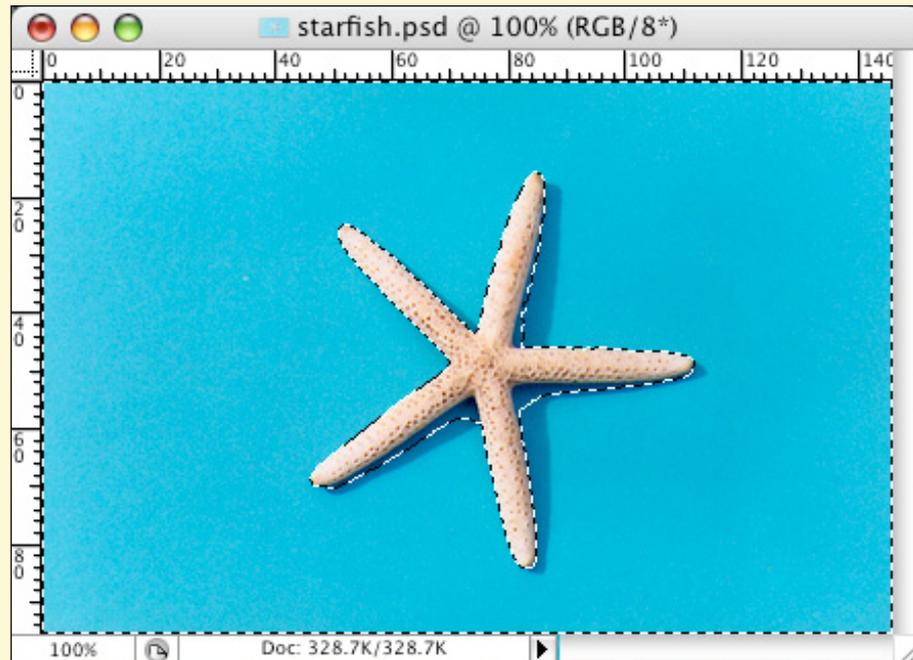
Check **Contiguous** to limit the selection to the areas that are connected to the first pixel you click, or uncheck this option to allow the tool to select unconnected areas of a similar colour throughout your image with the same click. Let's keep this checked for this example.

To select possible occurrences of a similar colour on all visible layers, check **Sample All Layers**, or uncheck this option to select colours only on the current layer. As we only have one layer (the Background), this doesn't matter so much, but let's uncheck it.

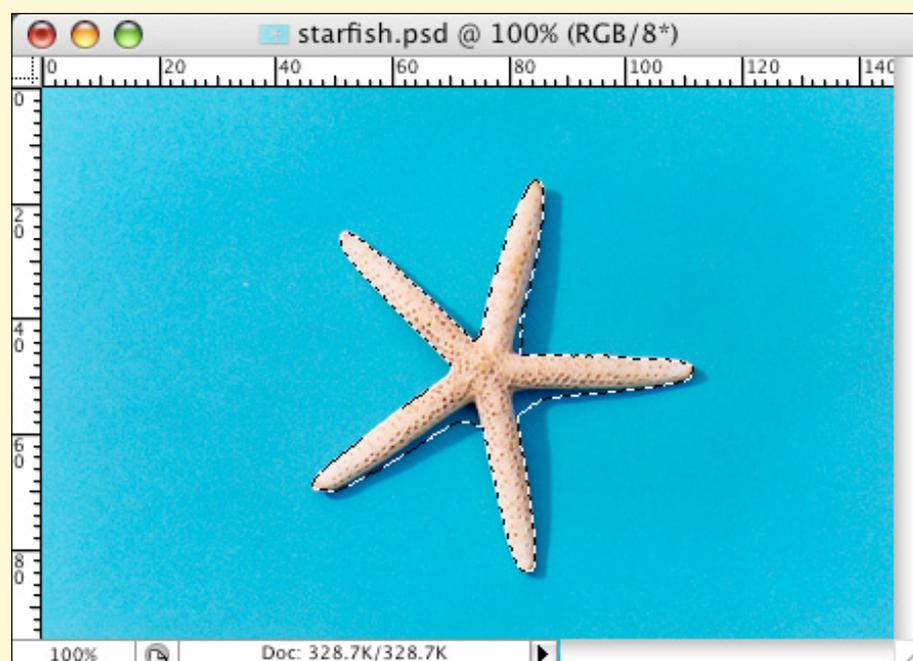
Choose a **Tolerance** value to control the range of colours the tool selects. Experiment with this as it depends on the colour of the pixel you select. Type in a number and hit 'return' or 'enter'.



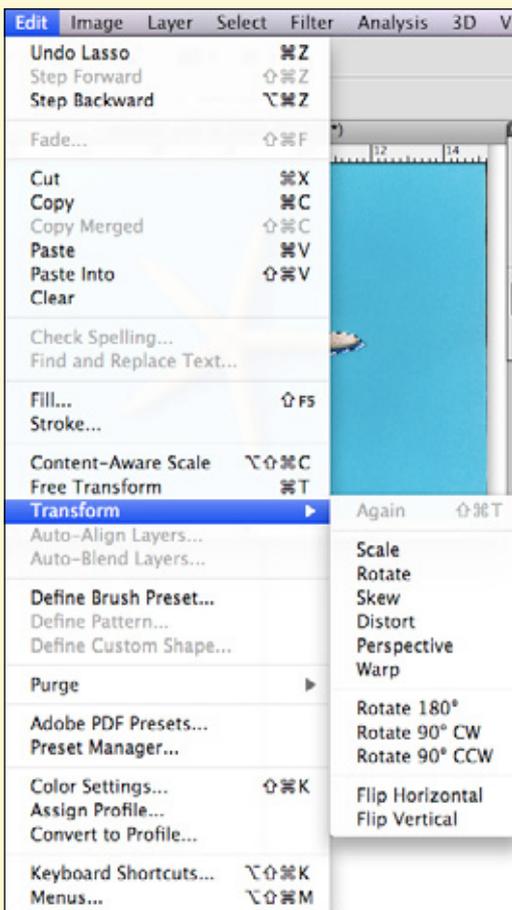
25. Click on the blue background in the image. It may look like a flat blue area, but it is made up of different coloured pixels. The greater the tolerance the more colours are included in your selection. I settled on a tolerance of 100, but I had to do some tidying up (see step 19).
26. You should now have a selection that includes all of the blue background.



27. We want to select the starfish, so to do this choose Select > Inverse. The marching ants will now only be marching around the starfish.



28. Copy and paste your starfish selection into your Vanishing Point image. You have to make the document active to paste your starfish (click on the Title bar).
29. It will be pasted into its own layer. Move it around to the desired position.



30. You can scale and rotate your starfish with the 'Transform' or 'Free Transform' commands.

Choose Edit > Transform and select one of the commands from the menu.

A transform box will surround the object in your selected layer, in this case the starfish. Drag on any of the points to transform it.

If you are using the **Scale** command, hold down the shift key as you drag a corner handle for proportional scaling.

Experiment with these.

31. When you are happy with a transformation double-click in the transformation box to complete the transformation.



View some video demos

You can also view these short videos for demos on the selection tools. Some of these are in CS4 but will still be relevant.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5ts29hykMsA>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u1cTI1AUDdg>

<http://tv.adobe.com/watch/learn-photoshop-cs4/getting-started-04-selecting-portions-of-an-image/>

More advanced

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7DEF9GI-SJc>

Creating an image with multiple images

We're going to create our own image made up of multiple images, using some of the techniques we've just learnt about. We're also going to create a mask to reveal part of the image.

1. Open door.jpg and road.jpg.

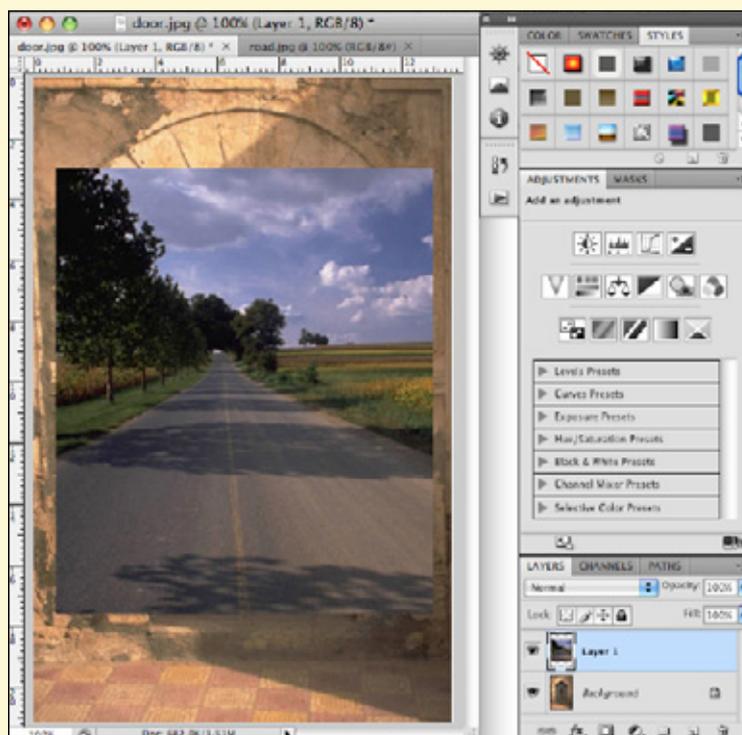


2. Select an area of the road using the Rectangular Marquee tool and copy and paste it into door.jpg.

Note: You might want to check the ppi for each of these images before you do this Image > Image Size.

3. You may need to enlarge the road so it covers all of the door, Edit > Transform > Scale. Don't forget to hold down the shift key as you drag on a corner, so you don't distort the image.
4. Arrange the layers so the door layer is above the road layer.

The door layer is locked because it is a Background. To be able to move it, double-click to make it a layer.



5. Use any of the selection tools we explored in the last task and make a selection of the door.



Add a Layer mask

6. To create a black mask in which all the layer pixels are hidden, Option-click/Alt-click the 'Add layer mask' button at the bottom of the Layers palette (1).

To create a white mask in which all the layer pixels are visible, click the 'Add layer mask' button at the bottom of the Layers palette.

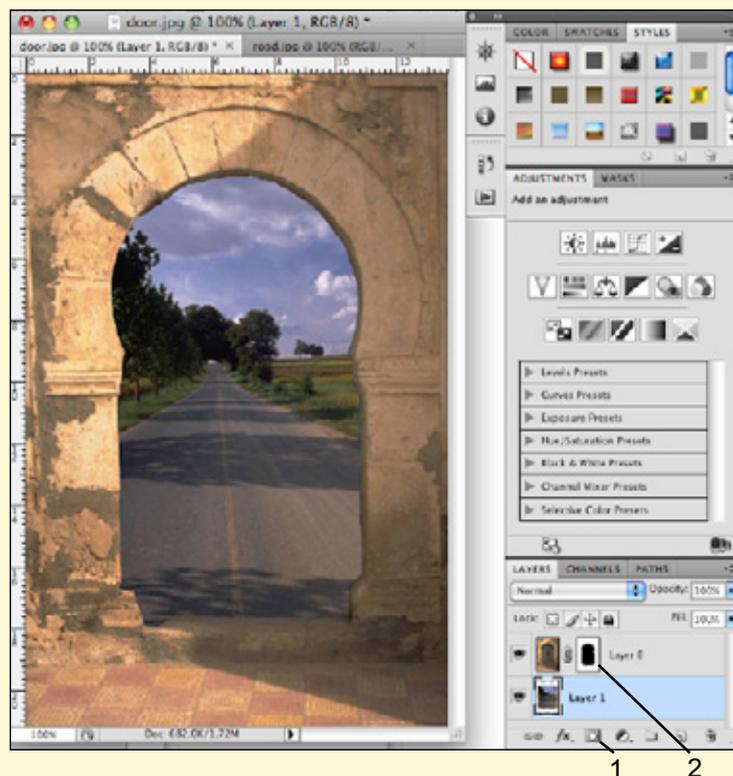
For this exercise we want to create a black mask. Experiment with both.

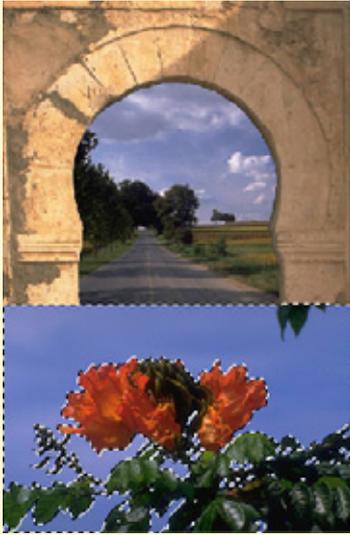
A layer mask will appear in the door layer (2). The selection has been filled with black.

Black hides what is on the layer in that area, and reveals layers underneath.

White reveals what is on the layer in that area, and hides layers underneath.

You should be able to see the road through your door.





7. Open branch.jpg and copy and paste into your file.

Make sure this layer is the top layer.

8. You may also have to resize this using Scale.

9. Select the Magic Wand tool and click on the sky.

You will have to play around with the Tolerance and also uncheck 'Contiguous' so it includes parts of the sky between the leaves in your selection.

You may want to use the Lasso tool to include the leaves at the top in your selection (shift-drag around the area).

10. Option-click/Alt-click on 'Add Layer Mask'

11. Choose Edit > Transform > Flip Horizontal

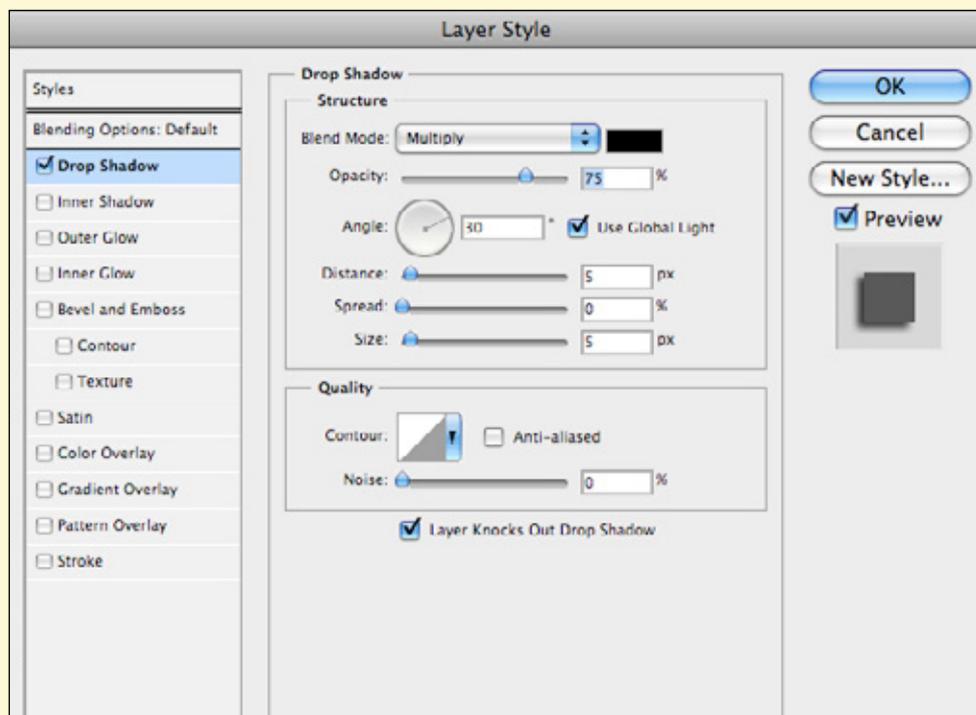
12. Add a layer style.

To do this either click on the Layer Style button at the bottom of the Layers palette.



The drop down menu offers you a number of different effects. For this exercise choose 'Drop Shadow'

13. The Layer Style window appears. Here you are given different options to change the appearance of your drop shadow.

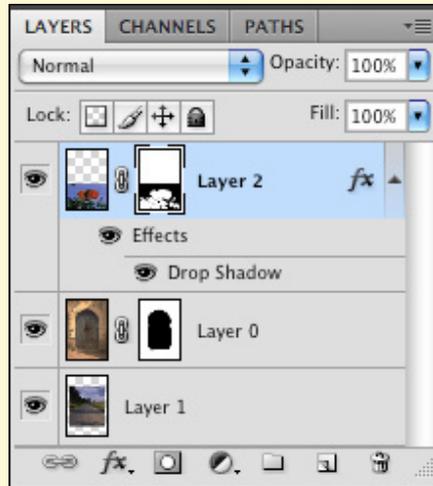


You can also select the other effects from this menu as well.

Once you have added an effect it is displayed in the layer with the  symbol.

If you don't see the list of your effects click on the arrow beside the symbol to reveal them in the layer.

You can double-click on your effect from here to play around with the options.



Your file should look something like this.



View some video demos

You can also view these short videos for demos on the selection tools. Some of these are in CS4 but will still be relevant.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=efbhGnqb2K0>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LM4z2JR4dwA&feature=relmfu>

More about masks

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ef-7epDx1s&feature=related>

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=29_GyRk16Js&feature=related