

Selecting a Subject from an Image

Selecting and cutting out part of an image has never been simpler than in the current Photoshop version. This method uses the 'Select Subject' button to achieve a good standard of execution and I will be working on the image below.



- 1 Open the image in Photoshop and process it to your liking, adding a little extra contrast and colour will help the selection process.

- 2 Click on the *Quick Selection tool* (press W) from the toolbar on the left edge of the screen.



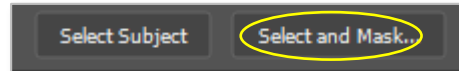
Then click on the 'Select Subject' button at the top tool menu.



Photoshop will then attempt to make the selection of the main subject in the image which will be identified by the dotted line.

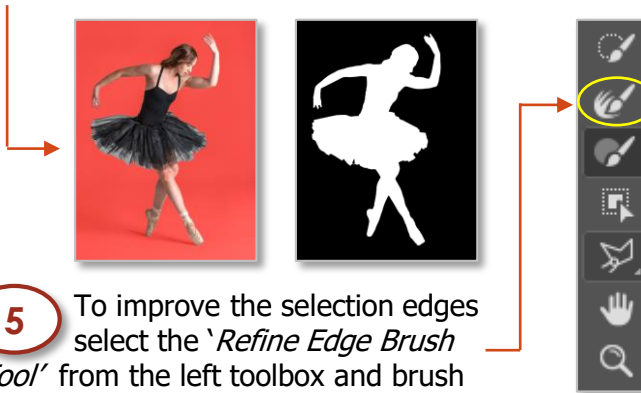
You may need to add some areas to the selection by clicking in the desired areas and also you may need to subtract some areas by holding down the Alt key and clicking to remove selected areas.

- 3 Now click on the 'Select Subject' button at the top tool menu.



Then click on the 'Select Subject' button at the top tool menu.

- 4 You can change how the selection is displayed by pressing 'V' to see it with a pink surround or 'K' to show it on White on Black. Switch between them as required to improve the selection. Other views are also available.



- 5 To improve the selection edges select the 'Refine Edge Brush Tool' from the left toolbox and brush around the edges to refine. Click the 'Smart Radius' button in the right hand panel to improve edge finding, the other settings are fine at their default settings.

- 6 The selection should now show a true and accurate indication of the subject. At the bottom of the right hand panel set the 'Output To' to 'New Layer with Mask' and click OK.

Note the fine details that has been selected in the dancer's dress.



- 7 The Layers Palette now show two layers; the original and the new masked layer with the cut-out as shown below. De-Select the bottom layer to reveal the Cut-Out on a transparent background.

Ensure that the Layers Palette is showing, press F7 if it is not visible.

