

## Layers: The Secret of Photoshop

mcmillan.carol@gmail.com

### Remove white background

1. Go to [www.mehdiplugin.com](http://www.mehdiplugin.com).
2. Download eraser classic and eraser genuine. Close Photoshop and place in plug-in directory of Photoshop. Restart Photoshop.
3. Open a picture.
4. Make a duplicate of the picture (Ctrl + J) and turn off original layer
5. Go to Filter>Mehdi>eraser classic eraser. (When you choose the filter it removes white. If you can't see any difference, check to see if you have another layer turned on.)
6. To see if more white can be removed, go to filter>Mehdi> genuine eraser. Make sure to set the delete color to white.
7. If images becomes light, duplicate it about 4 times (Ctrl+J) if you need just one copy for additional layer work, go to Layer>merge visible (Do not flatten.)
8. Save as a gif or png file (These have transparent backgrounds.)

### Shape or Clipping Mask

1. Open a picture and make a duplicate (Ctrl + J.) Turn off the background layer.
2. Choose a fat type style.
3. Type the word. Transform it if you want it to cover more space.
4. Move the picture ABOVE the type layer.
5. Put the curser between the text and picture layer. Hold down the ALT key and when the curser changes into a left arrow, left click and the letters will clip the picture.

### Colorize

1. Open a picture.
2. Make two duplicate layers of the picture (Ctrl + J) and turn off original layer.
3. Choose the top layer .
4. Go to Image>Adjustments>Desaturate.
5. On the same layer, choose Layer>layer mask>reveal all.
6. Make sure the default colors are chosen. (d) These will be black and white.
6. Choose a solid paint brush appropriate to the side of the object you want to colorize.
7. Make sure that you are painting with black (Black reveals, White covers.)
8. Paint the object back into the picture. If you make a mistake, change to the white brush and cover your mistake.

### Quick Mask

1. Open a picture.
2. Make a duplicate of the picture (Ctrl + J) and turn off original layer.
3. Take the rectangular selection tool and draw a selection inside the edge of the picture.
4. Click the Quick mask button (below the colors in the tools section.)
5. Go to Filter>Brush Strokes> Sprayed Strokes . Click OK.
6. Go to Filter>Artistic>Cutout. Click OK.
7. Release quick mask by clicking on the Quick mask button.

8. There should still be a selection around your picture. Choose Select>Inverse.
9. Hit backspace to delete the area masked.
10. Put a new layer under the picture.
11. Fill it with a color that will highlight your picture.

#### Change color

1. Open a picture.
2. Make a duplicate of the picture (Ctrl + J) and turn off original layer.
3. Click the magnifying glass to see if the image is made of many hues of a color.
4. If it is made of many hues go to Image>Adjustment>Hue & Saturation.
5. Move the sliders until you get the desired result.
6. If it is not made of many colors, choose Image>Adjustment>Replace Color.
7. Use left dropper to choose the current color.
8. Look at the replacement color near the bottom.
9. Click on color and find the color that you want.
10. If the colors bleed on the picture, move the fuzziness slider to the right.

#### Putting color in an outline

1. Put a new layer below the outline layer.
2. On the new layer, select a rectangle around the area you want to color.
3. Fill the selection with the desired color. (Edit>fill)
4. Choose a selection tool such as the magic wand.
5. Outline the object on the color layer.
6. Choose Select> inverse.
7. Hit backspace to delete the part of the rectangle that you don't want.
8. Use the paint brush to get spots that you missed and the eraser to remove any stray paint.
9. Repeat with other colors.

#### History Brush

1. Open a picture and duplicate it (Ctrl + J) Hide the background layer.
2. Select All (Ctrl + A)
3. Backspace to delete the selected area (Everything on the layer will be deleted.)
4. Choose history brush and click on pull down menu under the menu bar.
5. Click on small right arrow.
6. Click on thick heavy brushes.
7. Choose replace brushes (You can go back and reset brushes when you are finished.)
8. Choose the first brush.
9. Ctrl + D deselects the outline.
10. Drag the brush across the layer getting the desired "brushed look."
11. Increase canvas size. Image>Canvas size
12. Click on the top center box and put 1 on height.
13. Choose text tool and write a title below the picture.
14. Put a layer below the picture and fill with a color which will highlight your picture.

## Extract

1. Open a picture and duplicate it (Ctrl +J.) Close the background picture. Do not resize the picture.
2. Choose Filter> Extract.
3. Start with a brush size of 6 and experiment with other sizes and their results.
4. Go all around the image you want to keep with the marker.
5. Fill the outline.
6. If purple is only in the outlined area, choose OK. If purple fill the whole picture, find the break in your outline.
7. OK extracts your image from the background.
8. Create a layer below the extracted image and fill with a color that will give you contrast with the image and allow you to clean up the image.
9. Go to the extracted layer and use the eraser to get rid of stray marks.
10. If too much has been erased or extracted, use the history brush to paint back the picture. (If you resized the picture, the history brush will not work.)
11. When you have cleaned up the image, crop it.
12. You may turn off the layer below the extracted layer and add a new layer for a complimentary color background. Consider using a gradient or even another picture as a background.

## Retouch

1. Open a picture and duplicate it (Ctrl + J) and turn off the background layer.
2. If you want to use the healing brush on wrinkles, duplicate the layer first and don't get carried away. (You will have two layers and the background.) Name the top layer smooth.
3. Use the healing brush to blend lines on the face. (Alt + click to set the reference point and begin to paint with the brush or click around on different areas that you want to change.)
4. If you do make the skin too smooth, reduce the opacity of the smooth layer and let it blend with the layer below until you get a more natural look.
5. If you are doing further retouching, go to layer>merge visible (do not flatten.)
6. To retouch the nose, first make a duplicate layer.
7. Take the lasso tool and loosely draw around the nose.
8. Put that selection on a new layer (Ctrl + J)
9. Click on new layer and go to Edit> Transform.
10. Using the handles, change the size and shape of the nose.
11. Apply the transformation (Enter) and make sure that the nose is natural looking.
12. The nose layer and the face layer should be visible.
13. Go to layer>merge visible (do not flatten.)
14. Use the healing brush to blend the nose and the face.
15. To make the teeth whiter, use the magnet lasso tool and outline the teeth.
16. Go to Layer> Adjustments>Hue & Saturation
17. Move the lightness slider to the right for desired color.
18. Click OK and deselect (Ctrl + D)