workshop INTERMEDIATE PHOTO EDITING taught by Lynn Weber

get it
scrapped!
ONLINE CLASSES
www.debbiehodge.com

LESSON THREE:
Were You At My Party? Adding Someone To A Photo

There are times when you really wish someone was in a photo—but they're not! This is another time when Photoshop can come to the rescue! It sort of gives a new twist to that old saying, "Photos never lie!"

In this lesson, one of my absolute favorites, we'll be using a really fun new tool to add my granddaughter into a family photo. To add the girl to the photo, we will be making a three layer "sandwich" of the original photo layer, the duplicate photo layer with the background removed and the layer with the girl extracted will be "sandwiched" between these two layers.

I have provided some photos for you to work on with this lesson. They are available in the Blackboard Forums along with the lesson. Be sure you have them saved to a place on your computer where you can find them easily.

The Magic Extractor Tool, the main tool that we will be using, is available in Photoshop Elements 4, 5, 6 and 7. In Photoshop CS, CS2 and CS3, it is called the Extract Tool and is found under the Filter Menu. Adobe decided to eliminate the tool from PSCS4. If you use Photoshop CS4, you will need to download the tool at [this Adobe link.](#)
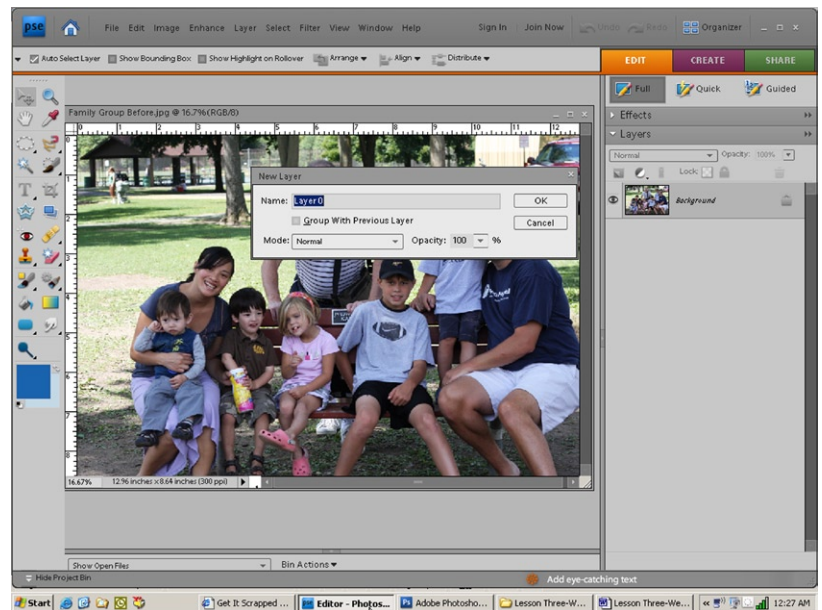
Adding a Person to a Photo

First there were 5 children, then 6!

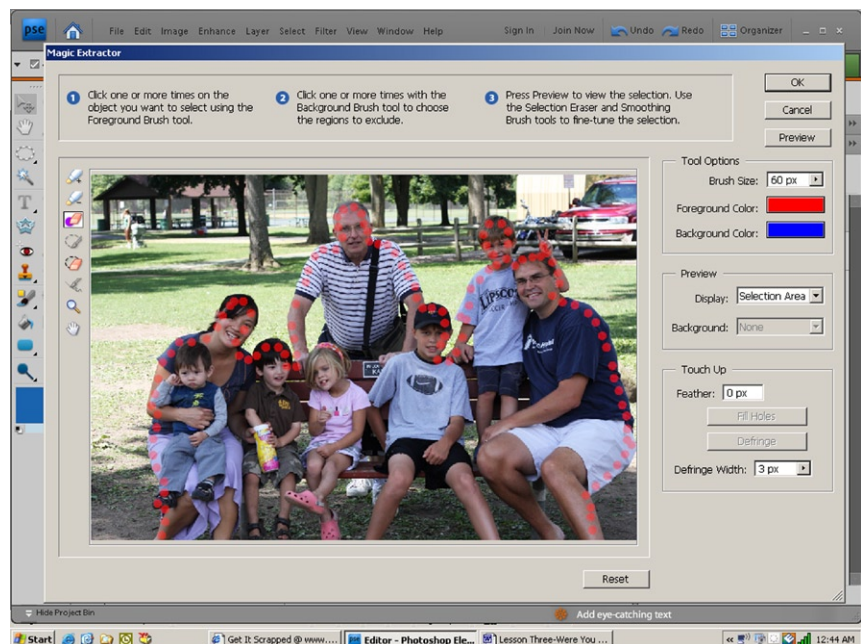I hope you enjoy this lesson. It's really a fun one!

1. Open the photo "Family Group Before." Duplicate it, rename the duplicate and close the original photo.

2. Double Click on the Photo (Background) Layer in the layers palette. When the New Layer Dialogue box comes up, it should be asking you if you want to rename the layer to Layer 0. Click OK. This will remove the lock on the layer that is always there with a Background Layer.

3. Right click on the Photo Layer (Layer 0) and choose Duplicate Layer. Click OK. Shift+Click on both layers to choose both of them. Right Click and Choose Link Layers.

4. Click on the little eyeball icon to the left of the Photo Layer (Layer 0). This will make that layer invisible for the time being.

5. With only the Layer 0 Copy Layer selected, from the menu bar at the top of the workspace, choose Image>Magic Extractor. The Magic Extractor Screen will appear, like this:
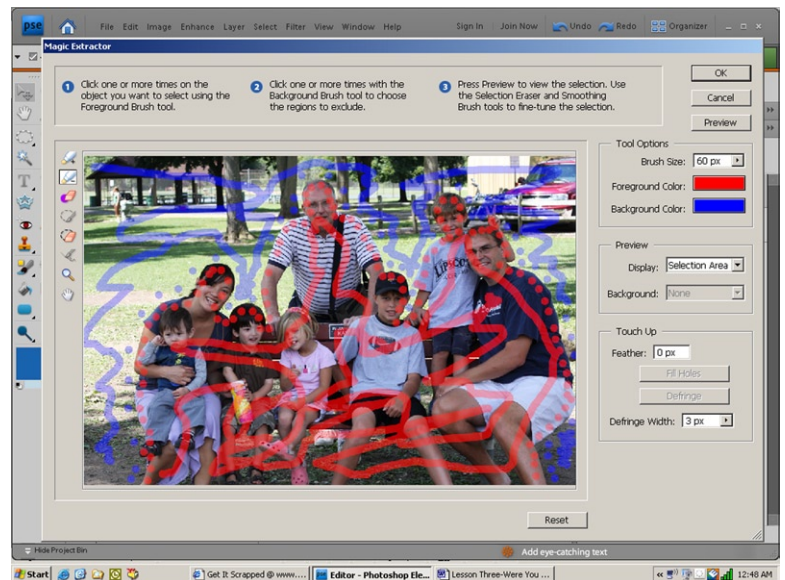
6. In Tool Options, on the right side of the screen, choose a brush size of about 60 pixels. The Foreground color should be set to red and the Background color should be set to blue. In the Preview box, the Display should be "Selection Area."

7. Now the fun begins! The directions are given at the top of the workspace for this 3 step process. First, click on the Foreground Brush Tool at the top of the tool bar on the left side of the workspace. You are now going to begin to extract the family from their background. Click this tool around the area you want to select for extraction (the family). Clicking the tool will be placing red dots around the edge of the family group, staying close to the edge but being careful not to go outside the edge of the area you want to extract. We really wouldn't need to extract the whole family to add the person this time, but for purposes of illustrating how the tool works, that's what we'll do. If you place a red dot that you want to get rid of, click the third tool down on the left side, the Point Eraser Tool, which you can use to erase red dots you have decided you don't want.

8. Then, still with the Foreground Tool, scribble around a little inside the area you want to select for extraction, so the program gets the idea that this is the area you are choosing.

9.   Next, from the left toolbar, choose the second tool down, the Background Tool. Dot the edge of the background that you want to get rid of and scribble it in a bit, so the program knows what you want to get rid of. Again, use the Remove Selection Tool for any blue dots you want to get rid of.
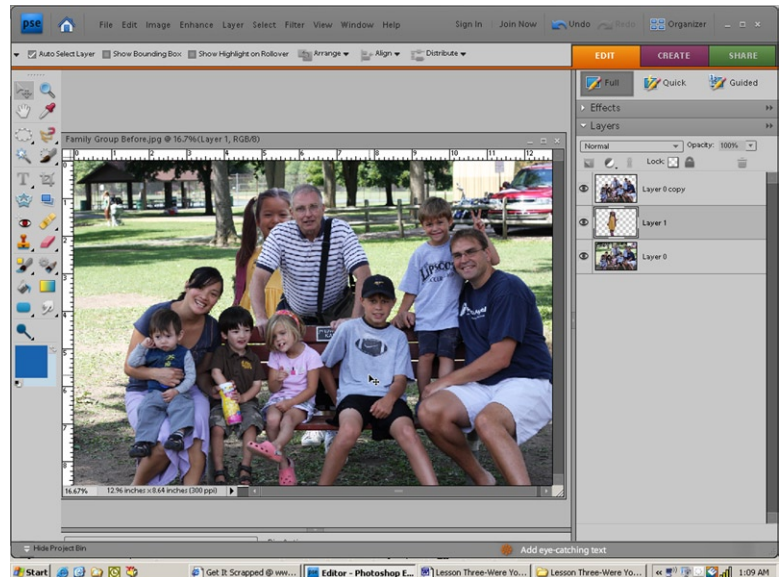
10. Click on Preview in the upper right. Wait a few seconds (this may take a little longer on some machines) and you should see your selection (the family) extracted and the background gone! If it looks pretty good to you, in the Touch Up box, set Feather to 3 pixels and click OK in the upper right. The extraction doesn't have to be perfect except in the area where we will be adding the person. We'll be adding the background layer back in (when we allow the original photo to be seen again) so little bits around the selection will not show.

11. Open the photo titled "Girl to Add." Duplicate the photo, rename the duplicate and close the original. Go to Image>Magic Extractor and, using techniques # 7 through #10 above, extract the girl from her background. She should look like this when you are done:

12. Choose the Move Tool from the top of the toolbar on the left side of the workspace. Drag the extracted girl photo onto the group photo.
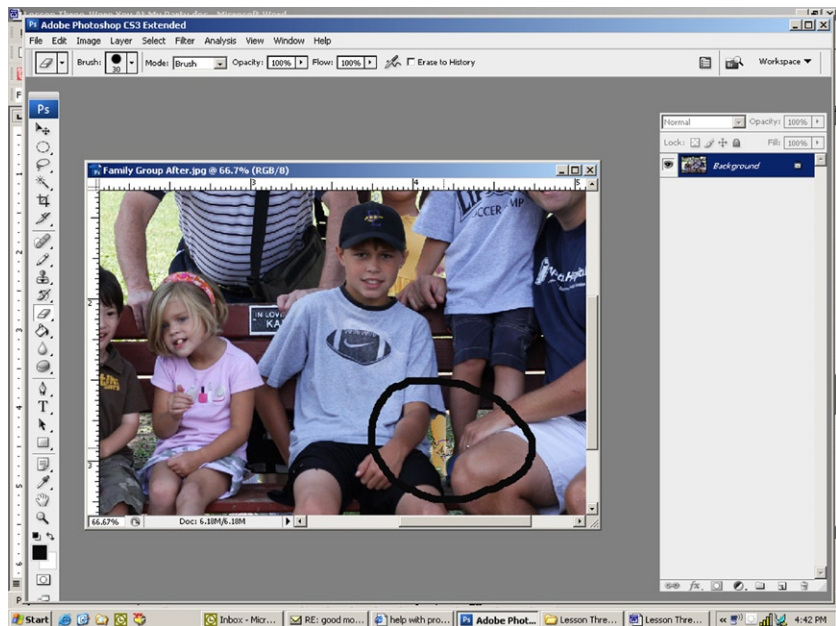
13. You should now have three layers showing in your layers palette, the group photo, the group photo duplicate and the photo of the girl. In the Layers Palette, click on the girl layer and drag the layer down between the two group photo layers. Then click the eyeball next to the original group photo (Layer 0) and that layer will again show up. Your photo will probably now look something like this:

14. With the girl photo layer highlighted and the Move Tool selected, click on the girl and drag her over to the area above the boy with the baseball hat. Position her approximately where you will want her in the finished photo.

15. She's looking pretty good, but in my photo, she's rather large in proportion to the rest of the group. With the girl photo layer still highlighted, click CTRL+T (CMD+T for Mac) and you will see a box around her photo. In the small menu bar that has appeared at the top of the workspace, choose 80% for the width and height. If Constrain Proportions is checked in your version, the height should also automatically become 80% when you change the width. Click on the little green checkmark at the bottom of the box that is around the girl (or wherever your checkmark is in your version—sometimes on the right of the top menu bar). She should now be approximately the right size to fit in believably with the group.

www.DebbieHodge.com

16. Again, with the girl photo layer highlighted and the Move Tool selected, position her exactly where you want her in the space above the boy with the baseball cap.

17. I did two other little things to make the photo addition look more believable. I pressed CTRL and + a time or two to make my photo a little larger. With the photo duplicate layer highlighted, I selected the regular Eraser Tool from the left toolbar and erased the area just to the right of the arm of the boy with the baseball cap so that the girl's yellow dress shows through (see Screen Shot below). I also tried to erase the area under the bench to have her shoes show but they didn't look in proportion. I thought it looked better without her shoes showing so I pressed CTRL+Z and undid that erasure.

18. I also highlighted the girl photo layer and—with the Magic Eraser Tool selected—I erased the area inside her pigtails to let the group photo background show through. And that's it! How do you think the finished photo looks? Does she look like she was actually there? If she does, from the top menu bar, choose Layer>Flatten Image. Save the photo with a new name and as a jpg.

In this example, we didn't have to have very "clean" extractions because of the way we were placing them. If you want to add the girl to a different photo, you may want to use some of the tools we learned for extractions in Lesson One and Two to clean up any stray pieces of the original photo background that may still be showing. Here's an example:

To add the girl to this photo, I simply opened the Disney layer and dragged the extracted girl onto the photo. I then pressed CTRL+T and resized her to be a proportionate size. With the move tool active, I then moved her around to a spot where she looked natural.

I hope you had fun with this technique! I look forward to seeing some of your before and after photos in the gallery!

GETTING READY

In Lessons Four and Five, we will be doing some Photoshop Plastic Surgery, so round up those photos with wrinkles, double chins and teeth that need whitening!