

Making Selections in Photoshop

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Types of selection

Selections applied to a specific object with a view to moving or replacing it

- Selecting a sky in order to delete and replace it
- Selecting a focal point / feature from one photo in order to copy it into another photo

Types of selection

Selections made to specific area of a photo in order to selectively improve or enhance it

- Selecting a sky to denoise or improve dramatic impact
- Selecting a foreground to lighten, sharpen, saturate, improve colour balance etc
- Selecting a focal point to improve it's impact within the composition
- NB - The sky and foreground of many photos benefit from different and often opposite treatments that would be impossible if treating the whole image

Types of selection tools

- Geometric shapes to select an area within a photo – rectangle, ellipse selection tool
- Lasso tools to perform freehand selections within an image
- Magnetic lasso tool – detects and ‘sticks’ to edges
- Quick selection tool – the most sophisticated, will detect edges & colour differences and can be fine-tuned to select complex objects like tree branches / leaves, fur etc
- Magic wand tool – will select areas based on colour only

Modifying selections to improve workflow

- Selections to large areas of an image always benefit from a large feather to blend the intended effect
- Selections can always be inverted in order to quickly apply the selection to the alternative area(s) of the image

Demonstration of
all tools and typical
applications