Adobe Photoshop CS 6

Level II

Topics:
- Selection Tools
- Layers
- Photo Correction

Chapter 3

Quick Selection Tool

The Quick Selection tool provides one of the easiest ways to make a selection. You simply paint an area of an image, and the tool automatically finds the edges. You can add or subtract areas of the selection until you have exactly the area you want.

Magic Wand Tool

The Magic Wand tool selects all the pixels of a particular color or color range. It's most useful for selecting an area of similar colors surrounded by areas of very different colors. As with many of the selection tools, after you make the initial selection, you can add or subtract areas of the selection.

Lasso Tool

You can use the Lasso tool to make selections that require both freehand and straight lines.

Rotating a Selection

After making a selection, choosing Edit > Transform > Rotate brings your selection into a Rotate box. By placing your mouse over the corners of the Rotate box you can rotate your selection. Alternatively, you can set the angle of rotation in the options bar at the top.

Magnetic Lasso Tool

You can use the Magnetic Lasso tool to make freehand selections of areas with high-contrast edges. When you draw with the Magnetic Lasso tool, the selection border automatically snaps to the edge between areas of contrast. You can also control the selection path by occasionally clicking the mouse to place anchor points in the selection border.

Tip: By holding the Shift key you can rotate by exactly 45 degrees.

Chapter 4

About Layers

Every Photoshop file contains one or more layers. New files are generally created with a background layer, which contains a color or an image that shows through the transparent areas of subsequent layers. All new layers in an image are transparent until you add text or artwork (pixel values).

Applying Gradients

The Gradient tool lets you apply a transition between two colors on your selection.
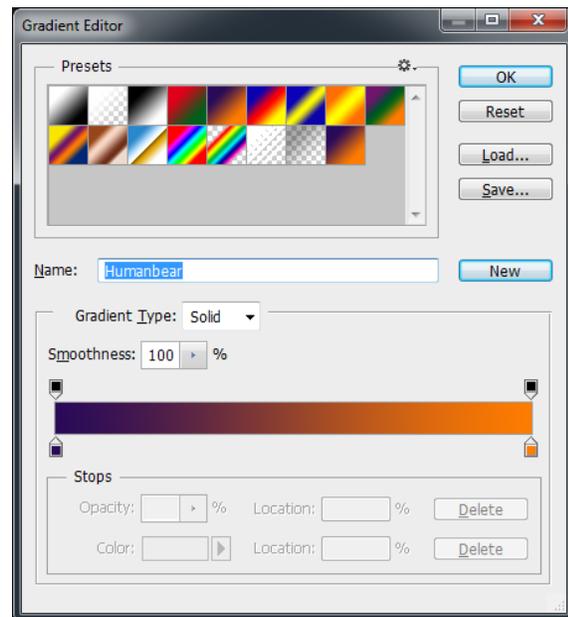
Adjustment Layers

Adjustment layers can be added to an image to apply color and tonal adjustments without permanently changing the pixel values in the image. For example, if you add a Color Balance adjustment layer to an image, you can experiment with different colors repeatedly, because the change occurs only on the adjustment layer. If you decide to return to the original pixel values, you can hide or delete the adjustment layer.
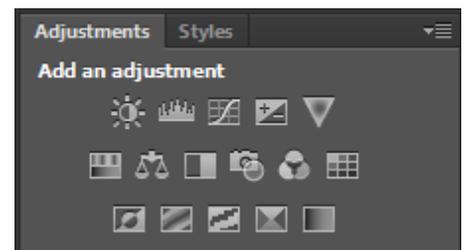
Tip: You can hide layers by clicking on the eyeball icon 👁 located next to the thumbnail of an icon. This is helpful when trying to view a particular or only a select few layers.

Tip: To list the gradient options by name rather than by sample, click the gradient picker menu button, and choose either Small List or Large List. Or, hover the pointer over a thumbnail until a tool tip appears, showing the gradient name.
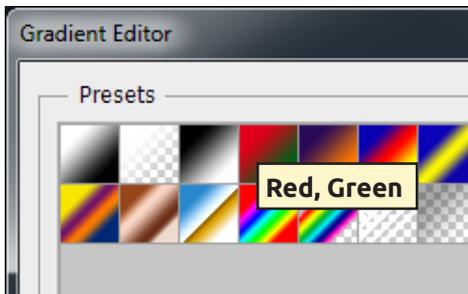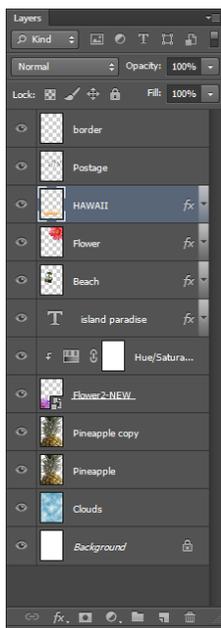
Full Layers   Flattened
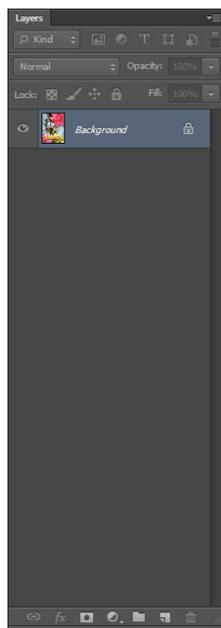
Layer Styles
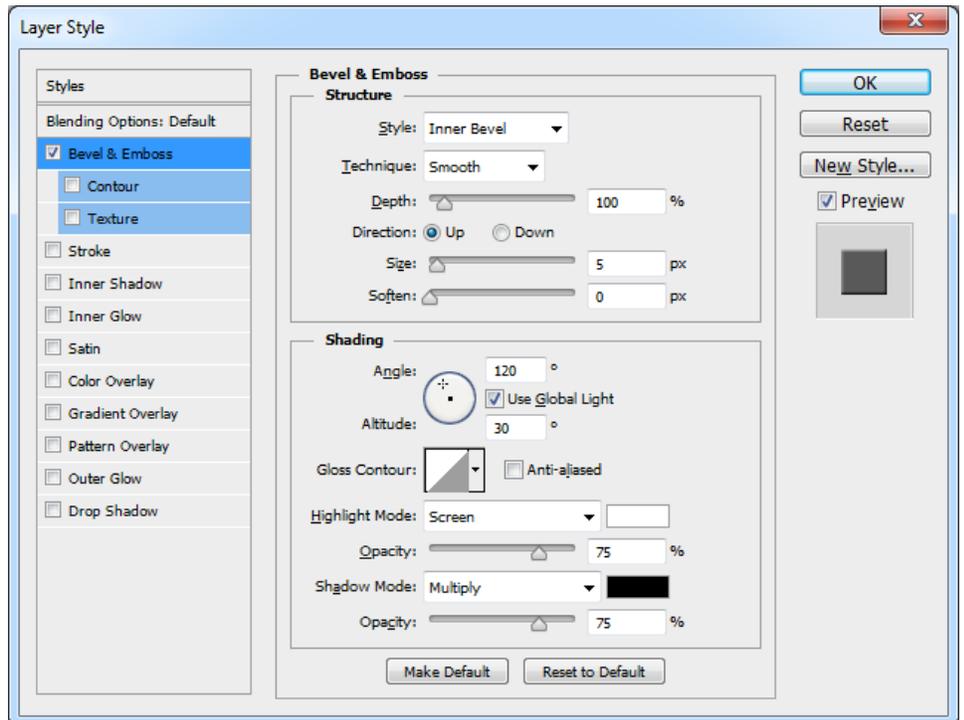
You can enhance a layer by adding a shadow, stroke, satin sheen, or other special effect from a collection of automated and editable layer styles. These styles are easy to apply and link directly to the layer you specify.

Flattening and Saving

When you finish editing all the layers in your image, you can merge or flatten layers to reduce the file size. Flattening combines all the layers into a single background layer. However, you cannot edit layers once you've flattened them, so you shouldn't flatten an image until you are certain that you're satisfied with all your design decisions. Rather than flattening your original PSD files, it's a good idea to save a copy of the file with its layers intact, in case you need to edit a layer later.

Chapter 5

Processing files in Camera Raw

When you make adjustments to an image in Camera Raw, such as straightening or cropping the image, Photoshop and Bridge preserve the original file data. This way, you can edit the image as you desire, export the edited image, and keep the original intact for future use or other adjustments.

Adjusting White Balance

An image's white balance reflects the lighting conditions under which it was captured. A digital camera records the white balance at the time of exposure; this is the value that initially appears in the Camera Raw dialog box image preview. White balance comprises two components. The first is temperature, which is measured in kelvins and determines the level of "coolness" or "warmness" of the image—that is, its cool blue-green tones or warm yellow-red tones. The second component is tint, which compensates for magenta or green color casts in the image.

Correcting Digital Photographs

Photoshop provides many features to help you easily improve the quality of digital photographs. These include the ability to bring out details in the shadow and highlight areas of an image, gracefully remove red eye, reduce unwanted noise, and sharpen targeted areas of an image.

Correcting Image Distortion

The Lens Correction filter fixes common camera lens flaws, such as barrel and pincushion distortion,

Adding Depth of Field

When you're shooting a photo, you often have to choose to focus either the background or the foreground. If you want the entire image to be in focus, take two photos—one with the background in focus and one with the foreground in focus—and then merge the two in Photoshop.
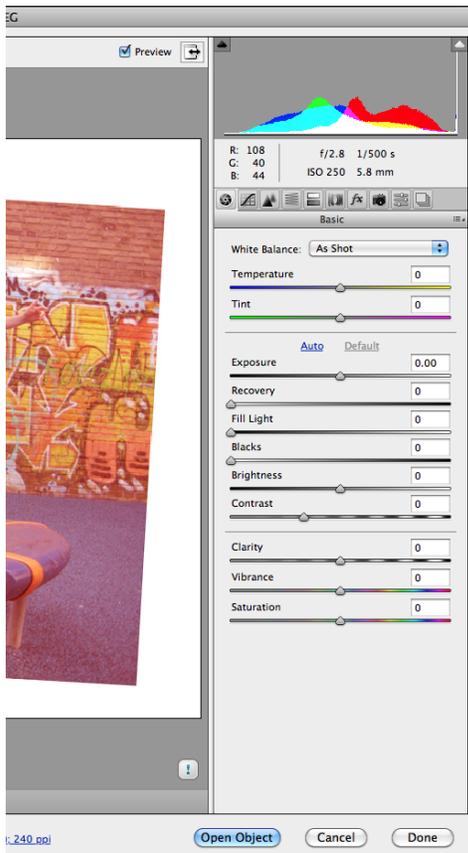
Wrap-up

By the end of this workshop, you should be able to:

- Understand what a selection does for your editing

- Add to and subtract from a selection

- Move a selection

- Select a region with the Quick Selection tool

- Modify the tolerance of the Magic Wand

- Make a collage with layers

- Change the order in which layers display

- Give a layer a style that affects layers beneath it

- Flatten a completed image

- Apply corrections for common photographic abberations