

Photoshop Tutorials

Removing Backgrounds



HOW TO REMOVE A BACKGROUND IN PHOTOSHOP



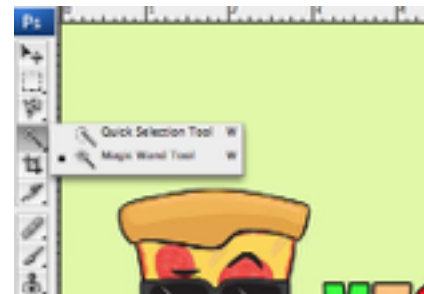
Removing backgrounds in Photoshop can either be easy or complex. Easy for images that don't have a lot of detail along the edges of the area that you want to cut, otherwise removing the background on a very complex image (such as along hair, multiple angled images, feathers, colours, etc) can be quite challenging and tricky.

There are several tools that can help you to remove a background in Photoshop, but the easiest and fastest way is the MAGIC WAND tool and the other easy and efficient option you have in Photoshop is by applying the EXTRACT FILTER on your image. Depending on your preference, both techniques can effectively remove the background of an image.

EASY TOOL : MAGIC WAND

Below are the basic steps in extracting a background from an image using the MAGIC WAND tool.

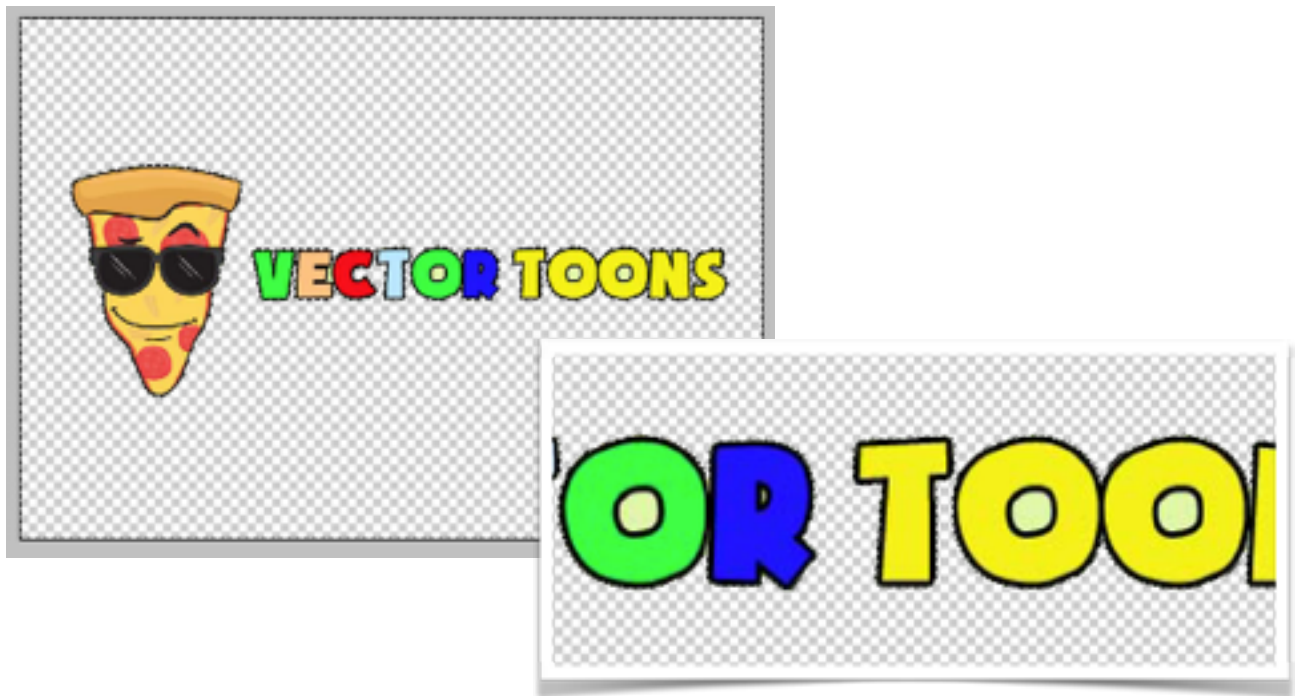
1. Open the image file and UNLOCK the background layer.
2. Select the MAGIC WAND tool.



- Using the MAGIC WAND tool, click on the background to select it.



- Hit DELETE to remove the background. The background will become transparent and you'll notice that not everything from the deleted background was removed completely (in between objects/letters).



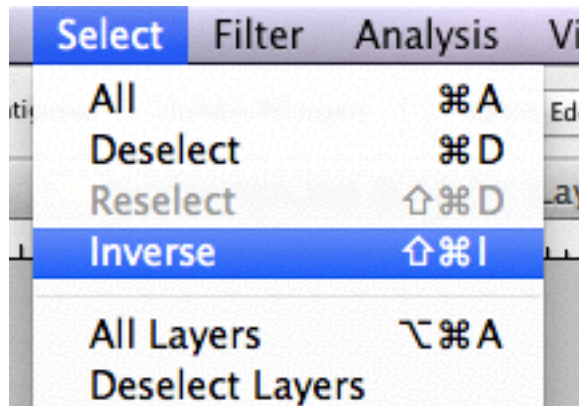
5. To remove the remaining background, click on the MAGIC WAND tool again and select the remainder by holding on the SHIFT key while clicking. Holding the SHIFT key adds the newly selected object to your recent selection. This is useful if you want to select a background that has different locations on the image (like in this example, the letters O).



6. Once you've highlighted the remainder of the background, hit DELETE once again. The entire background will be transparent now. You may now save this as a PNG file for future use.



7. To move the recently extracted object to a new background, click on SELECT -> INVERSE.



8. Drag your newly cut object anywhere you like by clicking on the MOVE tool.



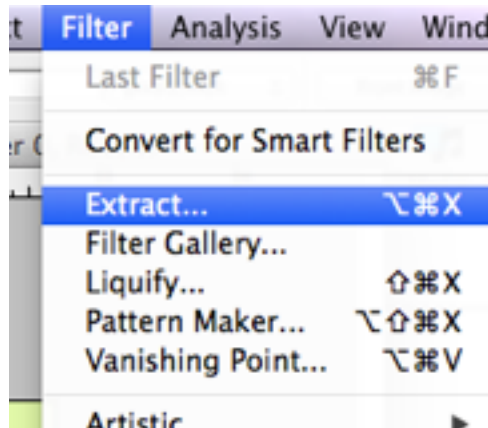
You have now transferred the selected image to a new background using the MAGIC WAND tool.



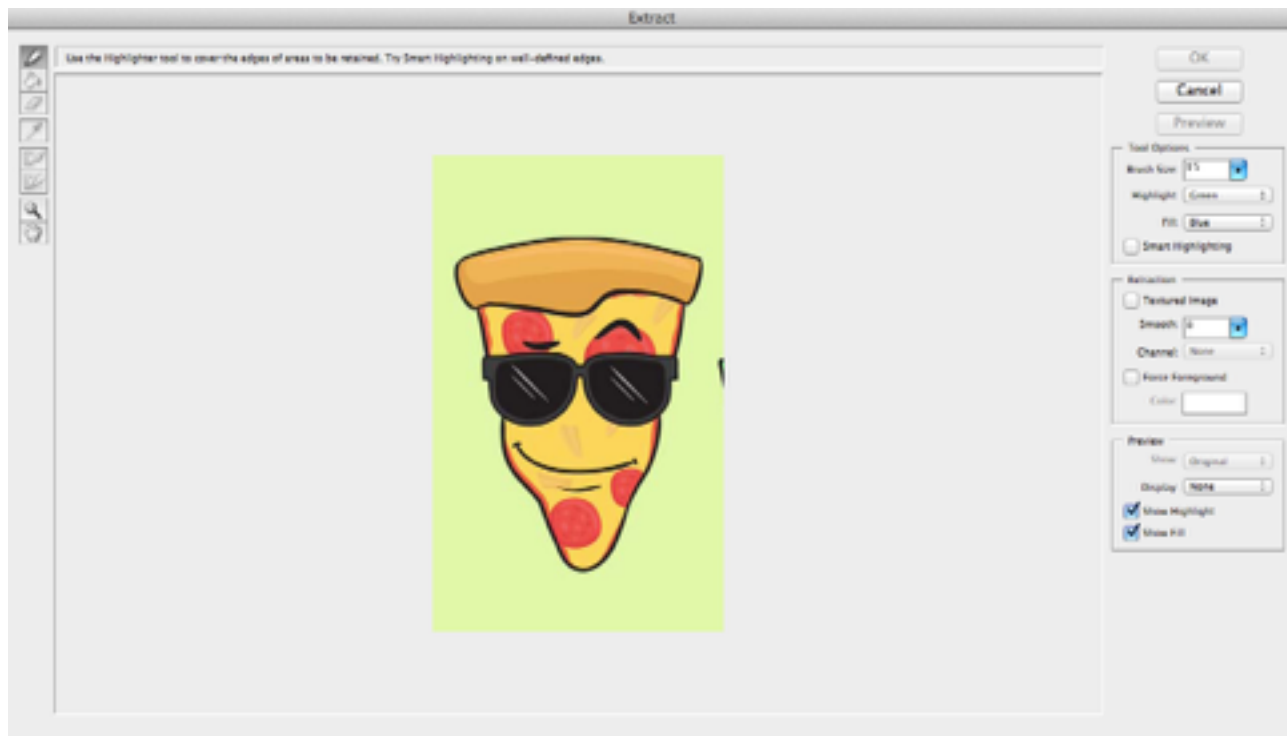
EXTRACT FILTER

Another efficient technique to remove backgrounds is by using the EXTRACT FILTER.

1. Open the file that you want and make sure that you UNLOCK the background layer.
2. Select FILTER -> EXTRACT.



3. The EXTRACT window will pop up. Click on the HIGHLIGHTER tool on the left and adjust the BRUSH size according to preference. In this sample we are using a brush size of 15..



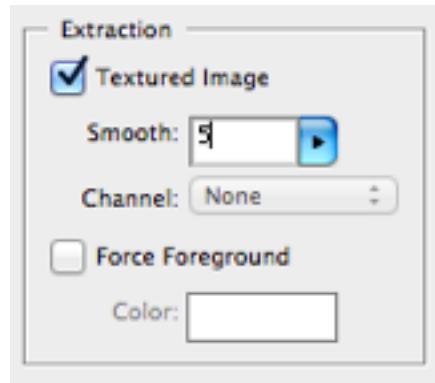
4. Start highlighting the edges of the image you want to extract



5. After highlighting, select the FILL tool and click on the inside of your highlighted area.



6. Check the TEXTURED IMAGE box in the EXTRACTION OPTION and adjust the SMOOTH level. In this example, we are using a smooth level of 5.



7. Click on PREVIEW and once satisfied with the result, click OK.
8. You have now removed the background using the EXTRACT FILTER. Save the photo as PNG to retain the transparent background.

