

PaintShop Pro Tutorials

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NEW SELECTION TOOLS AND BRUSH SELECTIONS

SOFTWARE: COREL PAINTSHOP PRO X6

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MATERIALS REQUIRED: PHOTOGRAPHS OF YOUR CHOICE


Description : Creating Selections in PaintShop Pro X6 has never been easier. The two new Selection tools, Auto Selection and Smart Selection Brush complete the full group of Selection tools. In this tutorial you will learn how to effectively use these tools. You will also learn how to create selections from brushes.

In PaintShop Pro X6 you received a number of photographs to use for such projects as this.

STEP 1

SMART SELECTION BRUSH

Choose an image that you wish to isolate an object.

Select the Smart Selection  Brush . The Tools Options Palette opens all the controls required for this tool.

You will see Mode > Feather > Anti-alias > inside/Outside > Use all layers > Smart Edge. Smart Edge is ticked by default.

Apply these settings:

Mode: Replace > Set the size of the brush to 22 > Feather 0 > Anti-alias ticked > Inside/Outside: Outside > Smart Edge: Should already be ticked, if not tick the box > Use all layers: should be greyed out.



You may notice that there is no tolerance with this brush. This is a bit of a downside to an otherwise great brush.

Brushing over object notice the selection marquee grabs the edges of the girl.

As with other selection tools, the Mode being set to Replace you can hold the Shift key to add more selection and the Ctrl key to remove selection.

If you stop brushing, lift the brush and go to start again, you will lose the previous selection. In other words, you have to start over :(You need to hold down the shift key, then put the brush back down on the image to resume.

I find having Smart Edge unticked works much better. I suppose it would depend on the image that is being used.

Whilst the selection marquee is visible, go to the Layers Palette, right click on the image and Promote Selection to Layer. Close the visibility toggle on the original image so you can view the selection. If there's not enough selected. Delete the Promoted layer. Open the visibility toggle, click the shift key and begin brushing a little more. If you deselect, click the undo and you can continue as mentioned above.



It's such a simple brush to use and will save a lot of time when making selections.

STEP 2

AUTO SELECTION TOOL

Another easy way of creating selections. Choose the Auto Selection Tool



The Tools Options Palette does not have many controls for this tool.

As per normal there's Presets > Feather > Anti-alias > Outside/Inside > Use all Layers.

All you have to do is drag an outline around the subject you wish to isolate with the tool then, let go. The selection marquee grabs the object!

There are some parts not selected. To fix this, pick the Smart Selection Brush. Hold the shift key whilst brushing over the areas where more selection is required.



Looking at my image there's parts on the head-scarf, the back of her dress and sleeve that require more selection. You can see in the little image below the Smart Selection Brush adding more selection whilst I hold the shift key.



The object has been removed perfectly as you can see here.



Select an image of a large flower. Apply a feather of 22 and untick Anti-alias.

Draw the square around the flower. You will see the feathered outline.

Right click on the image in the Layers Palette and Promote Selection to Layer.

Add a new raster layer, then close the visibility toggle on the flower.

Choose a foreground and background colour, or select a gradient that will complement the flower.

Flood fill the new raster layer.

Open the visibility toggle of the flower and you have a pretty selection image.

You can see that the two new tools work with each other for you to get the best possible selected object from an image.



STEP 3**SELECTION WITH THE PAINT BRUSH**

Open an image that contains fruit. Many of these images are already in PSP images. The one I chose is apples.

To isolate the image by painting can be done with the mouse but is much better using a pen and tablet.



Select the Paint Brush with a size that suits you and depending on the size of your image.

Note: The Art Media brushes cannot be used to do selections.

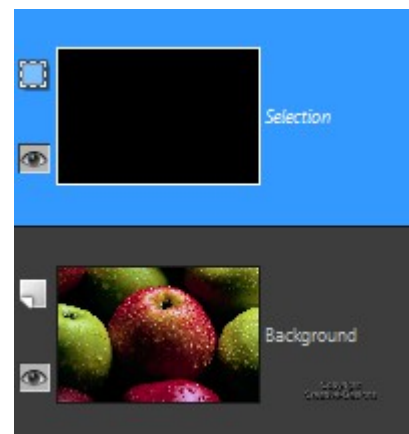
Click on the Edit Selection on the Layers Palette

A black Edit Selection layer is added above the image.

Click set to black and white in the Materials Palette.

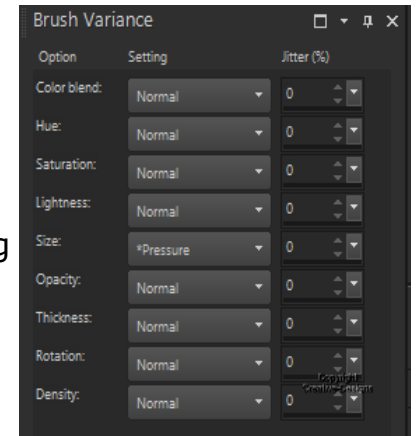
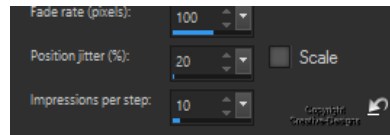
Painting with white adds to the selection.

Painting with black subtracts from the selection.



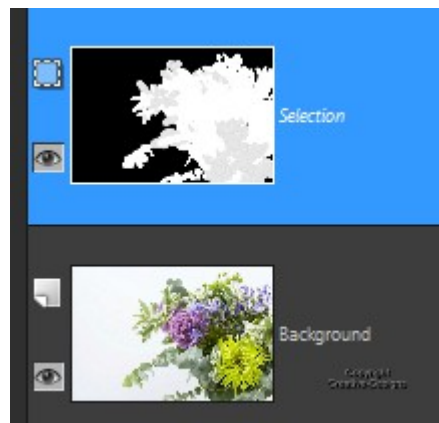
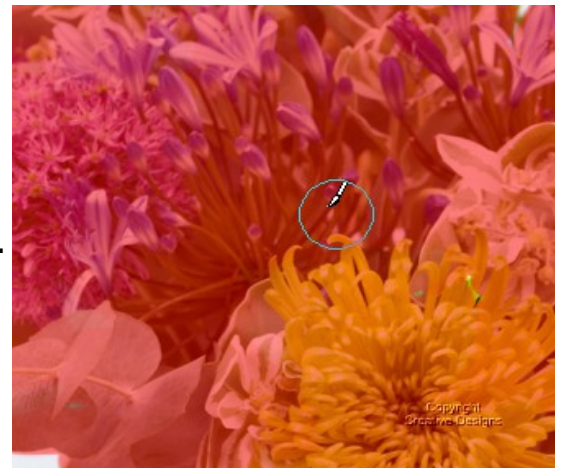
You can also use shades of grey. The lighter the grey will add, darker greys will subtract. For now, we will only use black and white.

The Brush Variance Palette can also be applied here by adjusting the various settings.



When you begin painting, shades of red you can paint all of the image or just paint an area you want. If you go over the edge of the selection, switch the colour to black, or use the right mouse button.

This is what the selection layer looks like after painting. Notice there are a few darker areas, grey. This is because I changed the colour to light grey.



The overall painting selection didn't make much difference whether I used shades of grey or white. The flowers shown below are the painted selection.

It's always best to experiment, trying out different tools and settings and see what you come up with. Often trial and error are the best way to go and you certainly learn a lot.

Whilst brushing, you can turn off the edit selection to see how the selection is progressing.



The image below was painted using the brush normally then with increased saturation. The brush was then used with watercolour which can be seen by the transparent petals on the lower right. The jagged petals and centre piece were painted with a twisted brush. This is just to show you than you can create a selection with a paintbrush and apply a number of settings to that brush.



I hope you enjoyed this tutorial of PaintShop Pro's selection tools, particularly the two new tools in PaintShop Pro X6.

Examples of two flowers painted in selection mode. Both painted with watercolour.

