

Cutting Out

To cut out, for example, a figure from one picture and drop it into another. This can also be used to put a new sky in the picture.

- 1 Use freehand lasso with feather of zero to very roughly select all the figure. I mean roughly, don't spend about more than 10 seconds doing this, as long as you don't chop off anything you want to include.
- 2 Use move tool (V is the shortcut) drag and drop into the second picture. Some versions of Photoshop don't allow you to do this. So >edit>copy. Open up new picture. >Edit >paste.
- 3 See figure in new image. (If not already done so close the first image.) Resize the figure by >Edit>transform>scale. (Use can flip it, rotate it till you are happy)
- 4 Open layers palette. If not open >Window>layers.
- 5 Activate the layer with the figure by clicking on it in the layers palette.
- 6 Click on the icon for a layer mask at the bottom of the layers palette (Square with circle inside)
- 7 See white box appear next to thumbnail of the figure in the layers palette. This is the layer mask.
- 8 Ensure it is active by clicking on it. See the double border appear round it in the layers palette when it is active.
- 9 Pick up brush (B is the shortcut)
- 10 Ensure black is the foreground colour
- 11 Paint on the image to cut away round the figure.
- 12 See black paint appear on the mask in the layers palette.
- 13 Zoom in to be really accurate.
- 14 Alter the size of the brush as you zoom in. (Use square brackets as a shortcut. LH square bracket to reduce brush size. RH square bracket to increase brush size)
- 15 Alter the opacity of the paint by moving the slider at the top of the screen.
- 16 Always aim to take away any halo round the figure.
- 17 If you cut away too much, simply switch to white paint to put this back. (X to toggle between black and white)
- 18 When cutting out hair take the opacity right down and cut through the hair. Switch to white paint at and even lower opacity to paint it back. This will take time and you may have to go over the same area a number of times till it looks right.