

# PHOTOBACKS<sup>®</sup>

# PIXEL U

## SELECT AND MASK

*(In Photoshop CC -- otherwise known as “Refine Edge” in Photoshop CS5, CS6 and Elements.)*

**NOTE:** The steps below will apply to all images for background extraction, though not all steps may be required depending on the complexity of the original background.

- 1) Make Layer Sandwich = 3 layers, from top of layer stack to the bottom: Copy of Photo, New Background, Original Photo
- 2) Make a Selection of the Subject (top layer) using any Selection Tools, including Select Subject in the top tool bar of CC. *(No need to be perfect around hair or wispy details...get everything that can be encompassed easily.)*

- 3) Click Select and Mask... in the top tool bar (or Refine Edge)
- 4) Under View Mode, set View to On Layers
- 5) Under Edge Detection, set Radius to 4px, and check Smart Radius
- 6) For **Photoshop v22** and higher:
  - a. For subjects with hair, click Refine Hair in top tool bar
  - b. Under Refine Mode, choose between Object Aware and Color Aware and settle on best result
- 7) Select the Refine Edge Brush Tool, set to + (plus) in top tool bar, and paint over areas of the subject that were difficult to select, such as wispy hair
- 8) Under View Mode, check Show Edge
- 9) Use the Refine Edge Brush Tool, switching between + and – settings, to paint “black” closer to edge of subject, from the inside and outside (*without touching edge of subject*)
- 10) Under View Mode, uncheck Show Edge
- 11) Under View Mode, change View to Black & White

- 12) Using the Refine Edge Brush Tool set to – (minus), paint over “clouds” around subject to remove them *(as much as possible without losing parts of your subject)*
- 13) Under View Mode, change View to On Layers
- 14) Under Output Settings, consider Decontaminate Colors (and Amount)
- 15) Under Output Settings, set Output To to New Layer with Layer Mask
- 16) Click OK