

# PHOTOBACKS<sup>®</sup>

# PIXEL U

## SELECT AND MASK

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

- 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) 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
- 7) Under View Mode, check Show Edge
- 8) 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*)
- 9) Under View Mode, uncheck Show Edge
- 10) Under View Mode, change View to Black & White
- 11) 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*)
- 12) Under View Mode, change View to On Layers
- 13) Under Output Settings, consider Decontaminate Colors (and Amount)
- 14) Under Output Settings, set Output To to New Layer with Layer Mask
- 15) Click OK