

Diploma in
Photoshop 



Summary Notes
Lesson 6



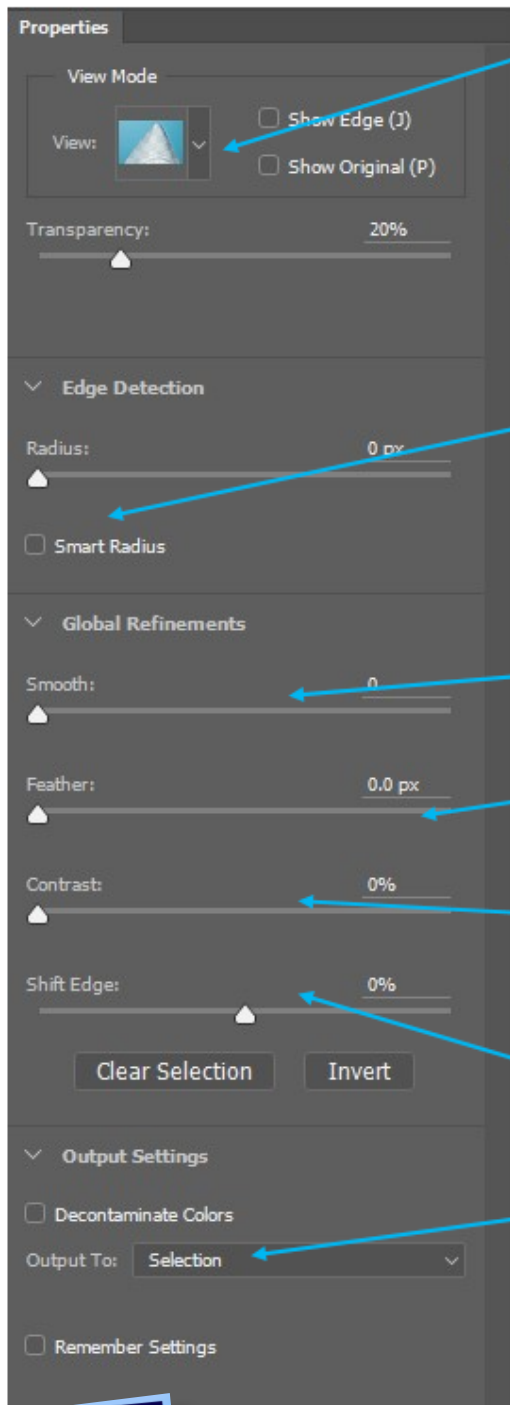
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Image Composite Guidelines

1. Refine your selection using the 'Select and Mask' option. This will make the cut out look more realistic.
2. To cut the object out from the background there are two routes you can take.
 - Edit > Copy and Edit Paste
 - Or Layer > New > Layer Via Copy
3. Select desired background from another image using appropriate selection tool and Edit > Copy. Paste this background directly underneath the new layer that you just created which contains the cut out object.
4. If you need to resize the object you have pasted into Photoshop, simple go Edit > Free Transform to scale the image. Holding shift will constrain proportions.
5. Use Adjustment Layers to make the two layers sit in well together. You need to make it look realistic so look at contrast and colour differences between the two sources images. You can Use a Clipping Mask if you like so that your Adjustment is clipped to a single layer as opposed to the entire stack.
6. You can paint in shadows using the brush tool at a soft setting and with the layer on low opacity.
7. To preserve the document with layers intact, save as PSD.
8. Decide which Selection Tool will be most appropriate for the job.
9. Select the Object that you want to cut out. If it is easier, you can select everything but the object and then invert the section (Select > Inverse).



Refining Edges(Select & Mask)



View Mode allows us to see our selected pixels in a variety of situations. Looking at your selections against both black and white are the most useful options here.

Smart Radius: By turning this setting on, Photoshop will decide whether the selection is hard or soft using an intelligent edge detection algorithm. You can then play with the **Radius** slider until the edges look natural.

Smooth: Makes the selection edges smoother if they are jagged.

Feather: Feathering makes the edges of our selections softer by using partially transparent or differently coloured pixels.

Contrast: This setting sharpens your edge even if you soften it by using Feather or smoothen it by using Smooth.

Shift Edge: This setting shifts your edge. It can either contract your selection or expand your selection.

When outputting using the method shown in Lesson 4, make sure you choose **Selection**.

Step-by-Step Guide to making an Image Composite

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Did You Know? A clipping mask allows us to clip or tie a specific adjustment layer to a specific pixel layer. This is useful when we are making image composites as sometimes you will want to work with individual layers as opposed to the entire stack of layers. To add a clipping mask you can use the Clipping Mask icon inside the Adjustment Layers Property panel or you can hold down Alt/Option, position the pointer over the line dividing two layers in the Layers panel and then click.