

Diploma in
Photoshop 



Summary Notes
Lesson 5

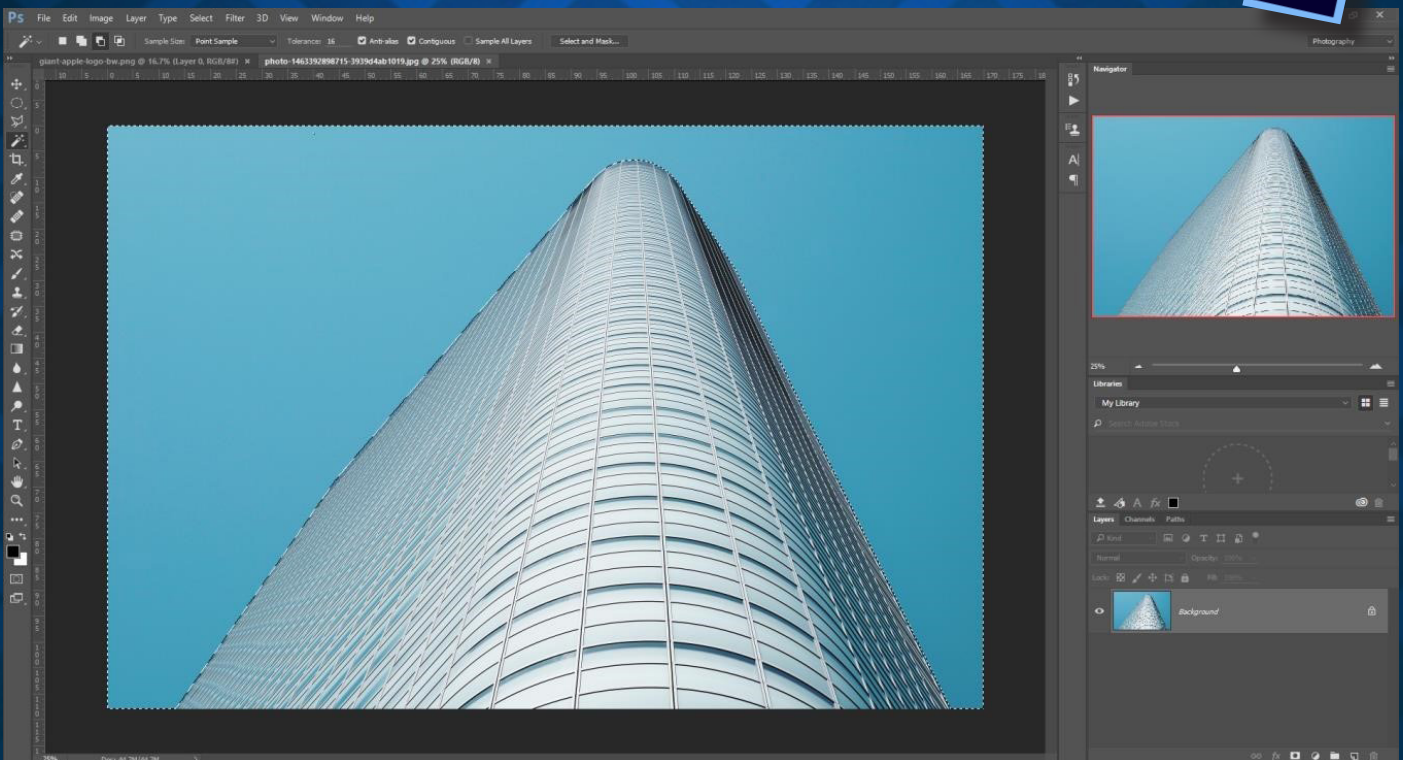


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Photoshop Selection Tools

Selection Tools allow us to isolate areas of our image and apply adjustments to these selected areas only. A selection simply isolates one or more parts of your image. By selecting specific areas, you can edit and apply effects and adjustments to portions of your image while leaving the unselected areas untouched. Photoshop shows us which area is selected by a flashing dotted line. We can also use selection tools to copy a certain area of our image and paste it into another one to create an image composite.

Did You Know? This flashing line used to indicate the selection you have made is known as 'marching ants'. This is due to the movement of the line.



- To deselect pixels at any point simply choose **Select > Deselect**.
- If you are using the Rectangle Marquee tool, the Elliptical Marquee tool, or the Lasso tool, click anywhere in the image outside the selected area and your pixels will automatically be deselected.
- We can invert a selection using **Select > Inverse**.
- We can transform a selection using **Select > Transform Selection**.
- We can soften the edges of our selections using the **Feather** option.

Tool Types



Rectangular Marquee Tool allows us to select rectangles and squares.



Elliptical Marquee Tool allows us to select ellipse shapes. To make a perfect circle hold down shift key while you click and drag. To draw ellipse out from the middle, click and hold alt/option key.



Lasso Tool is a free form drawing tool. It allows us to draw irregular shapes. Simple click and drag wherever you want the selection to go.



Polygonal Lasso Tool draws a point to point line around our subject. It can only draw straight lines. To delete a point, you can use the backspace key on your keyboard.



Magic Wand Tool is a very old tool. Nicknamed the 'tragic wand tool'. Uses contrast detection to make selections. Selects pixels similar in colour to the pixel on which you originally clicked on with the tool.

- The **Tolerance** option tells Photoshop how different in tone and colour a pixel can be from the area we clicked on for it to be included in the selection. By default, the Tolerance value is set to 32, which means that Photoshop will select any pixels that are the same colour as the area we clicked on, plus any pixels that are up to 32 shades darker or 32 shades brighter.
- **Contiguous:** Only pixels connected to the spot by pixels of the same colour are selected.
- The **Shift** key allows us to add to the selection.
- The **Alt/Option** key will remove from the selection.
- **Anti-Alias** should be turned on for smoother selections.



Quick Selection Tool allows us to quickly "paint" a selection using an adjustable round brush tip. As you drag, the selection expands outward and automatically finds and follows defined edges in the image.

- We can make our brush larger/smaller and harder/softer using the Options panel.
- Tool uses contrast detection so sometimes doesn't work with blurred or low contrast images.
- We can use our square bracket keys as a shortcut to make brush larger/smaller.