

EXERCISE PREVIEW





EXERCISE OVERVIEW



In this exercise, you'll combine two separate photos. The first image features a man against a boring background. To make the composition more interesting, you'll cut him out (often called "silhouetting") and place him in front of the second image.

1. Go to **File > Open**.


From the **Photoshop Class** folder, open the files **baseball.jpg** and **security.tif**.

2. Make sure **security.tif** is the active document.
3. From the Toolbox, choose the **Magic Wand** () tool. If you don't see it, click and hold on the **Quick Selection** () tool and then choose it.


NOTE: The Magic Wand is a selection tool that recognizes color variations. When you click on an area of the image with the Magic Wand, all adjacent areas of similar color will be selected.

4. In the **Options** bar, set the **Tolerance** to **20**. This makes the magic wand less picky about which colors are similar enough to be part of the selection. Lower numbers means fewer colors, and therefore less of the image will be selected.
5. Click on part of the green background. You'll find that a large part of it becomes selected, but that there are many parts of the background that are not yet selected.
6. Go to the **Options** bar at the top of the screen. Near the left, you'll find a row of four similar icons. Currently, the first icon, **New selection** (), is highlighted. Click on the second icon, **Add to selection** ().
7. Click on another section of the green background. The original selection remains and a new selection is added to it.


8. Continue clicking on the green background until all of it is selected. Don't forget the areas between the railings!

NOTE: If part of the man or the railings becomes selected, just use **Cmd-Z** (MAC) or **Ctrl-Z** (WINDOWS) to undo your most recent step. Then try clicking on a different section of the background with the **Magic Wand** () tool. You can also change the Tolerance to a lower number to make the Magic Wand pickier.

9. Choose **Select > Inverse**. Instead of having the background selected, you now have everything *except* the background selected.
10. Use **Cmd-C** (MAC) or **Ctrl-C** (WINDOWS) to **copy** the selected area.
11. Go into the **Window** menu and choose **baseball.jpg** to make it the active document.
12. Use **Cmd-V** (MAC) or **Ctrl-V** (WINDOWS) to **paste** the **copied** image onto this image.
13. Go to your **Layers** panel. If it's not already open, use the **Window** menu to open it.

Notice that the content that you've pasted has been automatically placed onto a new layer named **Layer 1**.
14. **Double-click** directly on the name **Layer 1** and rename it **security**.
Hit **Return** (MAC) or **Enter** (WINDOWS) to apply.
15. From the Toolbox, choose the **Move** () tool.
16. Drag the security guard down or up to line up his bottom edge with the bottom of the document.

CLEANING UP

1. You may find that tiny bits of the green background show up at some of the guard's edges.
2. From the Toolbox, choose the **Eraser** () tool.
3. In the **Options** bar, choose a fairly small, hard-edged brush. (Try **8 px**.)
4. Use the **Eraser** to carefully brush over the green bits on the edges of the guard's sleeves. (It will help to zoom in for this part.)

Note that the areas of the security layer that you've erased become transparent.

5. When you're satisfied with the results, do a **File > Save As**.
 - Set **Format** to **Photoshop**.
 - Name it **yourname-baseball.psd**
 - If it asks you if you want to **Maximize Compatibility**, just leave it checked and click **OK**.

NOTE: Most of the Photoshop class files have been saved as JPEG documents to conserve file size, but you'll always want to save the master copy of your image as a Photoshop Document (.psd). This ensures that the image retains the maximum amount of editability, such as multiple layers. It also maintains the image's quality. JPEG compression reduces the image quality in order to make the file smaller.

TO MAXIMIZE OR NOT TO MAXIMIZE?

By default, Photoshop is set to ask whether you want to **Maximize Compatibility** of Photoshop documents. If you choose to **Maximize Compatibility**:

- The document will be more compatible with older versions of Photoshop.
- The file size may be larger.
- You should maximize compatibility if working with Adobe InDesign.

If you choose NOT to **Maximize Compatibility**:

- The document will not be as compatible with older versions of Photoshop.
- The file size may be smaller.

To turn off that annoying reminder once and for all, go to **Photoshop > Preferences > File Handling** (MAC) or **Edit > Preferences > File Handling** (WINDOWS) and under **Maximize PSD and PSB File Compatibility** choose either **Never** or **Always** and click **OK**.