

Creative Computing: Introduction to Digital Photography

Leader/author: Gary Thomson

Class 4

Basic collage

As per the example in Peter Bauer's book *Create Your Own Digital Photography*.

Peter Bauer says: *we'll see a great tool for making selections, the power of layers and even get a look at layer styles and filters.*

Bauer is referring to the **Selection brush tool** in *Elements*.
If you are using *Photoshop* (full) then you will use the **Magnetic lasso** tool.

We didn't get as far as looking at layer styles and filters in class.

Since it's not possible for me to say whether your editor will allow you to create and work with layers I'll only refer here to *Elements* and *Photoshop* (full).

I am supplying two files

cow.jpg

port.jpg

which we will combine, together with some text, to produce a homemade postcard.

NB Use of the so-called modifier keys appears in red bold text in this PDF version of the notes.

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Steps

1. Launch *Elements E*, or *Photoshop (full) PS*
2. Open the two files
3. If using *Elements* you need to be in *Standard Edit* mode (as opposed to *Quick Fix* mode) - see top right of the *Elements* screen for the switch
4. If using my images bring *cow.jpg* to the fore
5. **E** Find the **Selection brush** tool in the *Tools* palette down the left hand side of the *Elements* screen (use the mouse tool tips to find it)
6. **PS** Find the **Magnetic lasso** tool - see the **Help** on how to set options for the tool
7. **E** Set up the **Selection brush** tool in the *Options bar* near the top of the *Elements* screen
 1. Size: 75 px
 2. Hardness: 80%
8. **E** Click with the left mouse button and paint over the cow in *cow.jpg* image
9. **E** Be careful near the edges but we can tweak the selection by zooming in and using a finer brush
10. **PS** Click your way round the outline of the cow using the **Magnetic lasso** tool
11. **E** Set the **Selection brush** to
 1. Size: 20 px
12. Touch up the selection by zooming in (**Scroll wheel** on mouse should do this if you have one, or use the **Zoom** tool)
13. **E** Click and drag to add to the selection
14. **E** **Alt**+drag (with the mouse button depressed of course:) to subtract areas of the background from the selection
15. (Hold down the **Space bar** to get the **Hand** tool which allows

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- you to reposition the image within the window by using the mouse. Release the **Space bar** to get back to your lasso tool.)
16. When you are happy with the selection use the keyboard shortcut **Ctrl+J** to copy the selected pixels to a separate layer. Note the appearance of a new layer *Layer 1* in the *Layers* palette. NB it's quite common to use the keyboard shortcuts
 17. Copy *Layer 1* to the second image (*port.jpg*)
 1. Position the two image windows so that you can see both (don't maximise the windows, drag them around by clicking on the title bar (where it says the file name))
 2. With *cow.jpg* to the fore click directly on the layer *Layer 1* in the *Layers* palette
 3. Hold down the mouse and drag *Layer 1* to the window of *port.jpg* and let go
 4. The layer with the transparent background will be copied to the *port.jpg* image
 18. **E** Position the layer and resize using the **Move** tool
 19. **PS** Resize using the transform command from one of the menus
 1. With *Layer 1* selected in the *Layers* palette use the menu command
 2. *Edit > Transform > Scale*
 3. You should get handles round the object in the layer allowing you to resize it
 20. When resizing, holding down **Shift** ensures that resizing will be proportionate
 21. Now use the **Type** tool to add a greeting, observe the creation of a new *Type* layer in the *Layers* palette
 22. Play around with the settings for type
 23. Save the file as **.PSD** to keep the separate layer info intact

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