

2 Selection Tools

2.1 Selection: Marquee

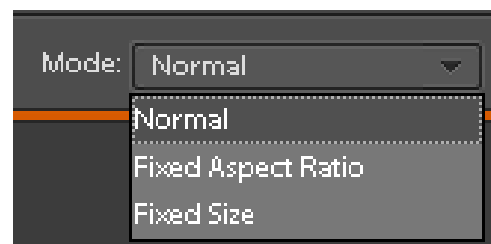


Used for selecting areas, the **rectangular** and **elliptical** marquee tools are grouped together in the toolbar. To find the one you want, click on whichever is showing in the toolbar, and select the one you need from the pop-up menu.

2.1.1 The Marquee Options Bar



1. Choose a **Feather** amount, [usually 2-5 pixels] if you want a softer edge. Be aware, that current location colours will move with the feathered edge if the contents of the selection are moved.
2. **Anti-aliasing**, which will smooth pixel edges on curvy lines, is available only for the elliptical marquee tool. Horizontal and vertical straight edges do not require anti-aliasing.
3. If you choose Fixed Size from the **Mode** menu and enter dimensions in the **Width**, and **Height** boxes, a marquee will appear to those dimensions when you **click** in the image. You can then place the pointer inside the selection outline and drag to move it.



Note: If you use any Mode setting other than Normal, be very sure to set it back to Normal when you're finished.

If you choose any **Fixed** options, the Width and Height options become available. If the units used for Fixed Size are not what you want, right-click directly on the text box to get a menu of available choices. You have to do this for both text boxes; resetting one does not reset the other.



4. Finally, the illustration below is a larger scale version of the buttons from the left end of the options bar. They look like little flags and determine how the selection you draw will interact with any existing, active selections.



They are:

1. Make a **new** selection (no interaction)
 2. **Add to** an existing selection
 3. **Subtract from** an existing selection
 4. Select **only the overlapping** area in this new selection, and an existing selection
5. **Reset tools:** If you have made several changes to tool's options and want to get back to the default settings, click that tool's icon at the far left end of its options bar. Choose either **Reset Tool** to reset only the current tool, or **Reset All Tools** to restore default settings to every tool.



2.1.2 Constrain Proportions and other useful tips



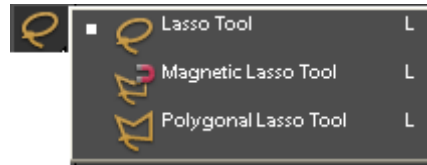
When dragging a new selection, you can **constrain the proportions by using Shift** on the keyboard. For example when used with the rectangular marquee, you can draw a **perfect square** by holding down the Shift key while dragging your selection. If you do the same with the elliptical marquee tool, you will be able to draw a **perfect circle**. Also, pressing the Shift key while a selection outline is already active will cause the new selection to be added to the existing one.



If you hold down **Alt** on the keyboard, as you drag, the selection will **draw outward from that point**, i.e. the initial click will be the centre of your selection, and, as you drag, it will radiate outward from that point. Pressing Alt while a selection outline already exists will cause the second selection to be subtracted from the first.

To move a selection border **as you drag**, hold down the spacebar, and reposition your outline. To move a selection outline **after you have completed it**, make sure a selection tool is selected in the toolbar, and then place the pointer **inside** the selection outline, and drag. To move the **contents** of a selection, use the move tool to drag it somewhere else.

2.2 Selection: Lasso Tools



Used for making selections. The **(Regular) Lasso**, **Magnetic Lasso** and **Polygonal Lasso** tools are grouped together in the toolbar. To find the one you want, click on whichever is showing in the toolbar, and select the one you need from the pop-up menu.

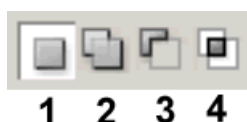
2.2.1 (Regular) Lasso Tool

Drag with the lasso tool to make freehand selections. You can also hold down Alt, and click where corners would be if you want to make straight-edged selections. When the desired shape is made, and closed (the **end point is over the start point** - °), release the mouse button to complete the selection. If you release the mouse button before the shape is closed, the selection will complete itself with a straight line.

The Options Bar for Lasso



1. If you want a softer, blended edge on your selection, enter a value in the **Feather** box, usually from 2-5 pixels, but you can enter as much as you like. Be aware that if you intend to move the selection, colours from the current location will be in the feathering.
2. **Anti-aliasing** softens the jagged [pixel] edges on curvy portions of the selection.
3. The numbered buttons below are exactly the same as for Marquee Tools.



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2.2.2 Polygonal Lasso Tool

To use the polygonal lasso alone, select it and then click on corner points. Don't drag. Complete the selection by clicking on the start point to close the shape. Toggle to the regular lasso by pressing the Alt key and dragging.

While making a selection, you can remove the most recent portion of your outline by pressing Backspace and backtracking.

Existing selections can be added to, subtracted from, or intersected to modify the selection outline. This is done by choosing one of the selection type buttons on the tool's options bar. If you use the add selection option, the new selection you draw will be merged with the old. Overlaps will not affect the resulting selection.

If you choose the subtract selection button, the new selection you drag will disappear the minute you complete the selection, along with any part of the old selection that was overlapped by it.

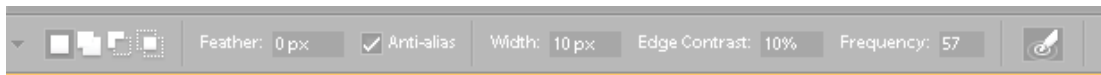
If you choose the overlapping option, only the outline of the overlapping parts of the selections will remain when you complete the second selection.

2.2.3 Magnetic Lasso Tool

This tool can be used only for selecting objects with a clearly defined edge. As you drag the tool near this edge, it will automatically find, and attach anchor points to it.

To make a selection with the magnetic lasso, start by clicking once on the edge of what you wish to select. Then move the cursor along the outline of the object. You don't have to press the mouse button, though you can if you like. Periodically, points should snap to the edge of the image you are selecting. You can force a point to be added by clicking.

The Options Bar for Magnetic Lasso



Width sets the distance the cursor may be from the edge of the object you are selecting, and still work. The **Edge Contrast** value designates how strong or weak the edge must be to be responded to by the magnetic lasso.

Frequency sets the rate at which the tool will set fastening points. **Pen Pressure** is only for people using drawing tablets, and can be disregarded by those who are not.

2.3 Selection: Magic Wand



Used for selecting areas by colour, this tool selects all pixels that are the same colour as the one you click on.

Frequently, after the initial click, additions are made to that selection by holding down the Shift key, and clicking repeatedly on any additional shades that did not get selected.

Note: that the magic wand does not work on 1 bit Bitmap mode images.

This tool is useful if you have very evenly coloured objects, or if you wish to make a selection in order to edit the hue, saturation, or brightness of a particular colour which is intermingled with colours you don't want to change.

Note that the magic wand uses the sample size setting currently selected on the eyedropper tool's options bar. Also be aware that the magic wand does not make partial selections. It's all or nothing.

The Options Bar for Magic Wand



1. The **Tolerance** value sets how much variation in the clicked-on colour will be included in the selection. A low number allows less variation; a high number allows more. Values may be from 0 to 255.
2. **Anti-aliasing** softens the jagged [pixel] edges on curvy portions of the selection.
3. Check the **Contiguous** box if you only want to select pixels adjoining the original spot that was clicked. Same coloured pixels elsewhere in the image will not be selected.
4. If **Use All Layers** is checked, the Tolerance settings will 'look at' all layers to decide where to draw the selection outline.
5. The numbered buttons below are exactly the same as for Marquee Tools.



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