

Advanced Image Manipulation: Masking with Channels

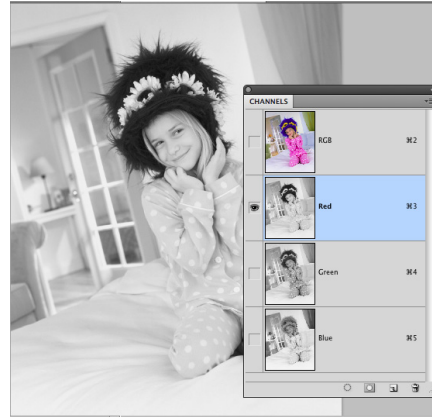
In files with complicated edges (fur, hair, fire) creating a selection can be difficult. You can use a contrasty channel as a start for the selection.

Step One:

Open *fur_hat.jpg* and double-click the background to name and unlock it.

View the channels separately to find the one with the most contrast between object and background.

Duplicate that channel (in this case RED) by dragging in onto the new channel icon at the bottom of the palette. Name this “mask”.



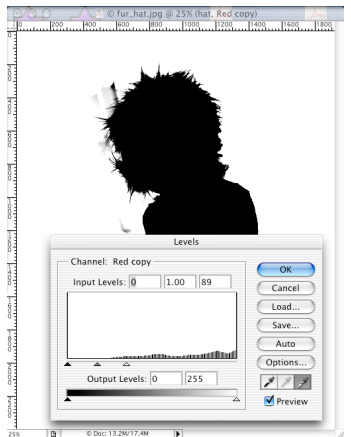
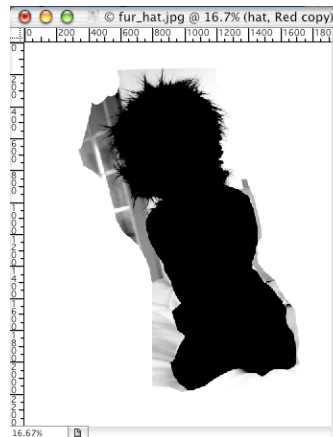
Step Two:

Select the channel that contains the most contrast between the girl's body and the background (in this case GREEN). Use the magnetic lasso to select the body.

Move to the duplicated “mask” channel and fill it in with black.

Adjust levels to darken the body. Use a brush to fill in the rest of the shape.

Using the brush tool and levels, fill in the background with white.



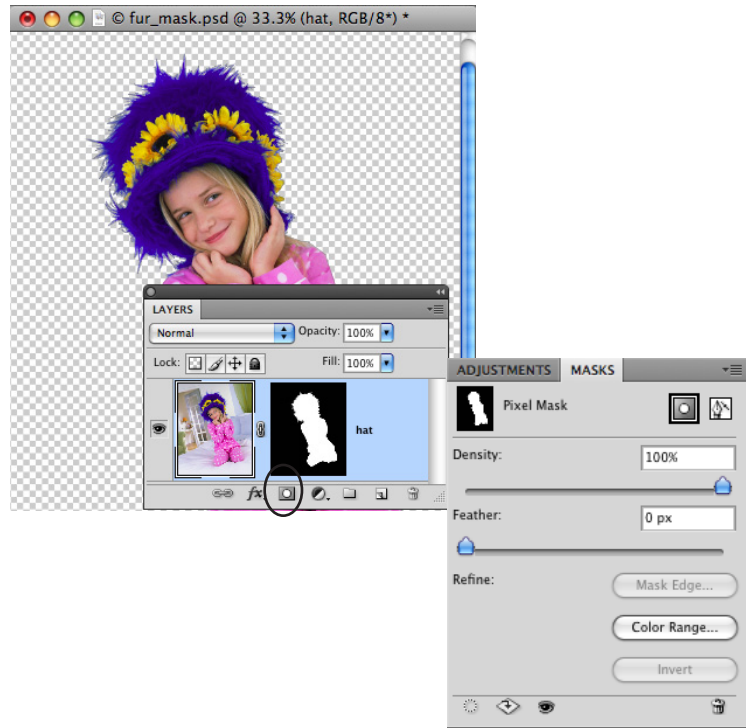
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Step Three:

Make the “mask” channel into a selection by command-clicking the channel.

Move to the Layers Palette. On the hat layer, create a layer mask from this selection.

Adjust the edges of the mask using the Mask Palette. Density changes the opacity of the mask, while Feather softens the edge.



Step Four:

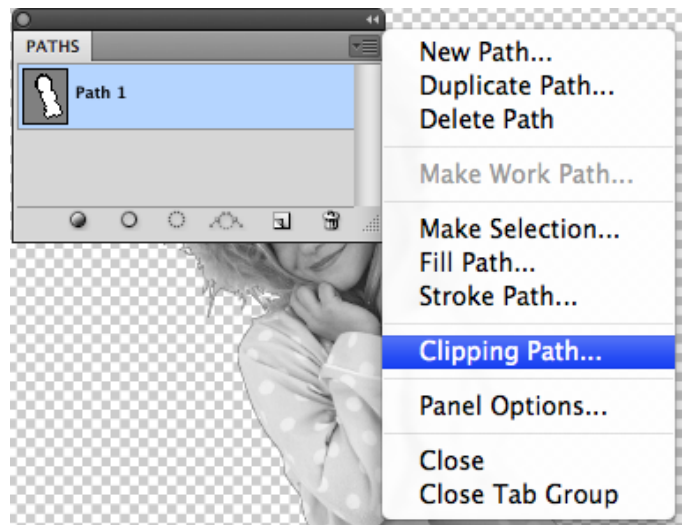
Clipping Paths can be created from masks to place non-rectangular files into Illustrator. (In CS+, a mask will transfer as a clipping path into other Adobe applications, but clipping paths are necessary for non-Adobe imports.)

Create a selection from the mask by command-clicking on the mask thumbnail.

In the paths palette, click on the *make work path from selection* tab.

Save the path and convert it to a clipping path using the fly-out menu.

Place the file into Illustrator or Indesign.



without clipping mask

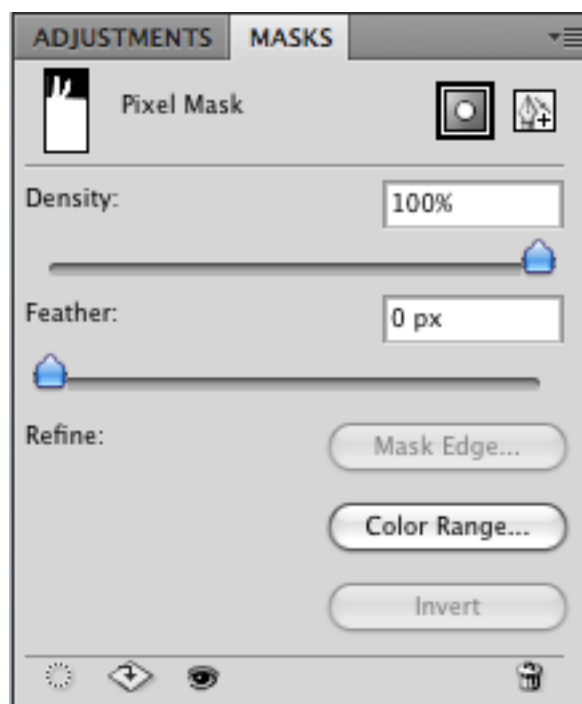
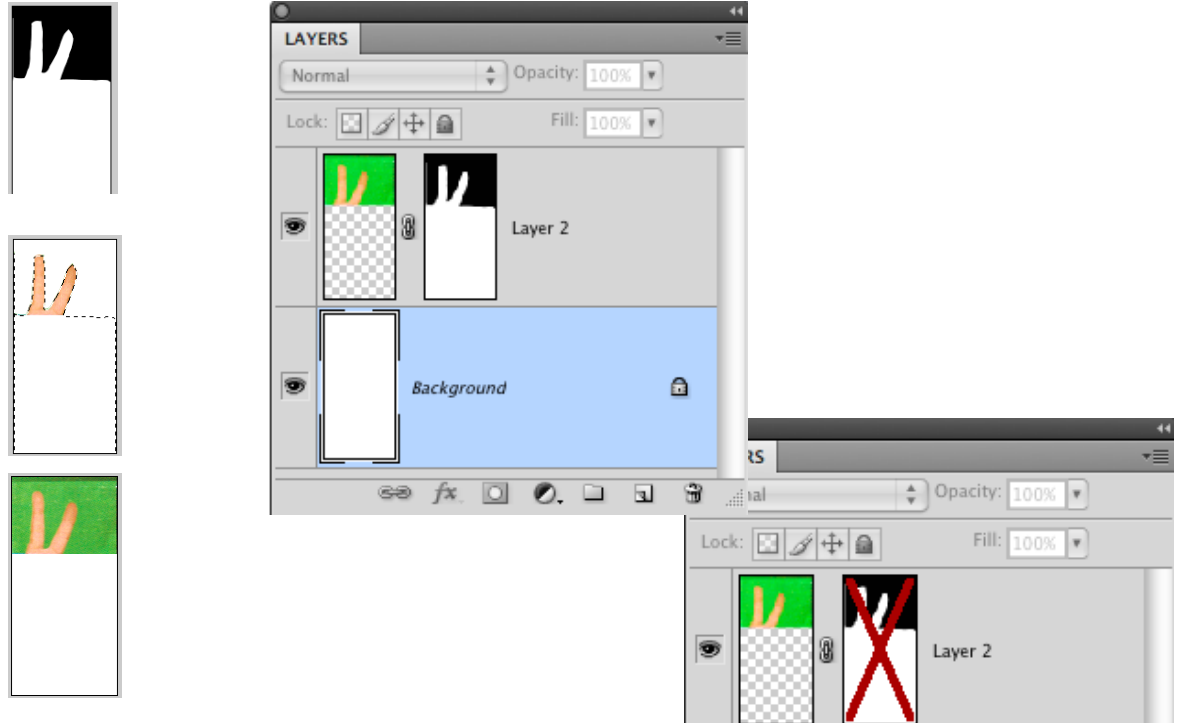


with clipping mask

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To create an active mask, select part of your image and click on the Create Layer Mask button on your layers palette.

To create an inactive (open) mask, click on the Create Layer Mask button with nothing selected.



Advanced Image Manipulation: Line Art and Blend Modes

IN-CLASS PROJECT

2 points | due at the end of class

Create a digital exquisite corpse. An exquisite corpse is a surreal portrait created from conceptually different parts.

Sketch out some ideas for a portrait that combines four different photos to create a unified whole.

Select photographs that can be combined into your portrait.

Copy all the files into a new document.

Mask each layer to show just the part of the object that is relevant.

Mask out the background of each photo and replace it with a solid color or colors.

Save as *lastname_corpse.psd*.

