


# Marquee Selections In-Depth


Welcome to the *Marquee Selections In-Depth tutorial* . This tutorial was designed to teach you the basics of Marquee Selections as well as selections in general. This tutorial was created by request. If you need help with it, or find it confusing, don't hesitate to e-mail me, the information is at the bottom of the page.




The image to the left contains two things;


- 1) The image we will use in this tutorial
- 2) The Marquee Selection Tools

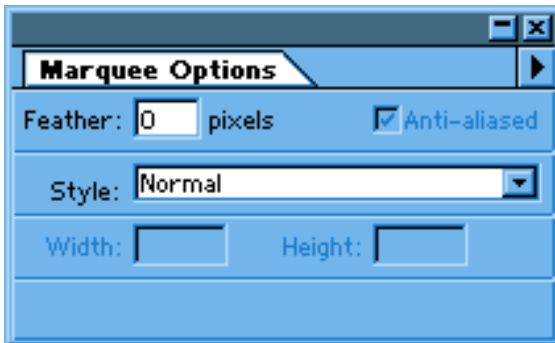
 **Rectangular Marquee Tool:** Used to make square and rectangular selections. Hold down the **Shift** key while dragging the selection to create a perfect square. Hold down the **Alt** key to create the selection from the center.

 **Elliptical Marquee Tool:** Used to make circular and elliptical selections. Hold down the **Shift** key while dragging the selection to create a perfect square. Hold down the **Alt** key to create the selection from the center.

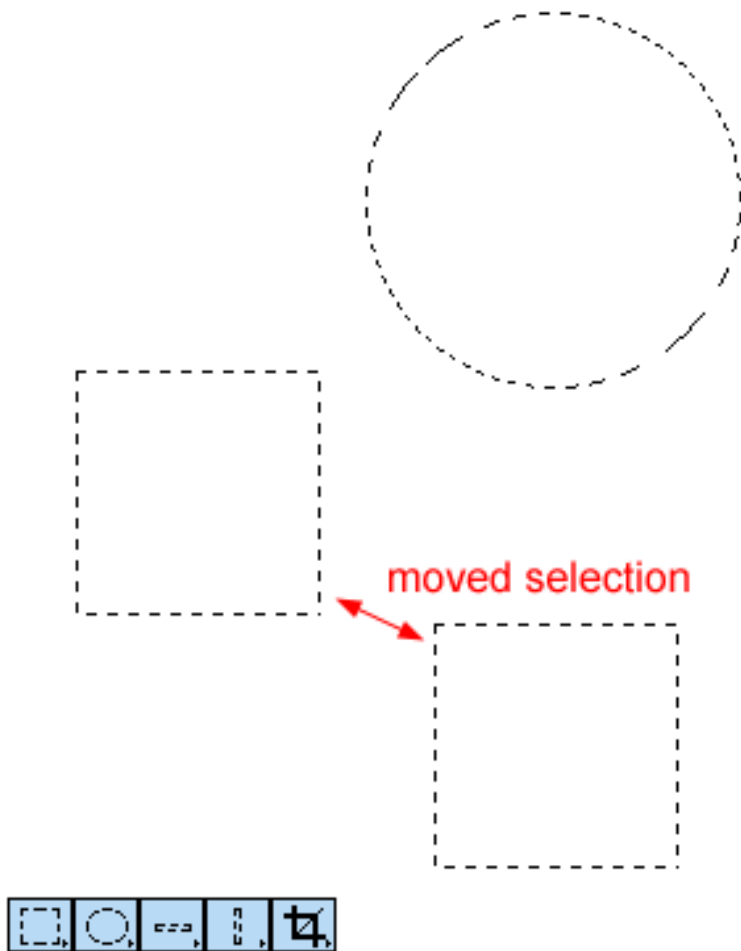
 **Row Marquee Tool:** Used to make 1 pixel row selections. Great for scanlines and other patterns.

 **Column Marquee Tool:** Used to make 1 pixel column selections. Great for scanlines and other patterns.

 **Crop Tool:** Used to select parts of an image and crop the selections. Drag a selection out and release the mouse, now double click within the selection to crop the image to that size.



This is the Marquee Options palette, it lets you define your selections more.



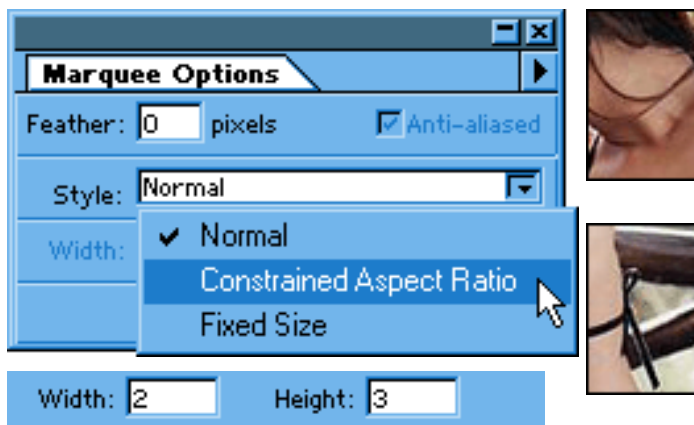
Selections are very simple, make a rectangle selection by clicking and dragging the

**Rectangular Marquee Tool** (⌘) from top left to bottom right. The same concept applies for the Elliptical Marquee Tool and the Crop Tool.

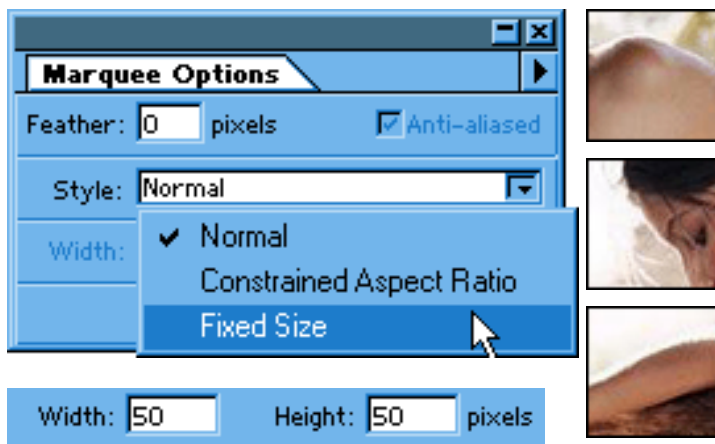
Once a selection has been made, you can move it around if it isn't positioned correctly by placing your mouse within the selection, and dragging it to your new desired position.

Simple isn't it?

As you can see, I've created a perfect square and moved it to the position I like. I've also created a circle. Both selections were made holding down the **Shift** key on my keyboard, meaning they are both perfect shapes.



If you want to keep a certain ratio along with your image, meaning when your width (x), is modified, your height (y) adjusts proportionally/accordingly along with it, or vice-versa, then from the **Style** menu, choose **Constrained Aspect Ratio**, this will make sure the ratio between the width and the height will always stay the same. **Example:** If you were to enter the settings in the image to the left, your selections would always maintain a **2:3** ratio.



If you choose **Fixed Size** the selection will remain the same size no matter what. You will only need to click once because the selection size is up to you to specify in the Marquee Options Palette (to the left), this is often good for creating icons, I use it a lot for creating the icons for my tutorials ensuring that they are all 50 x 50 pixels as seen in the examples to the left.



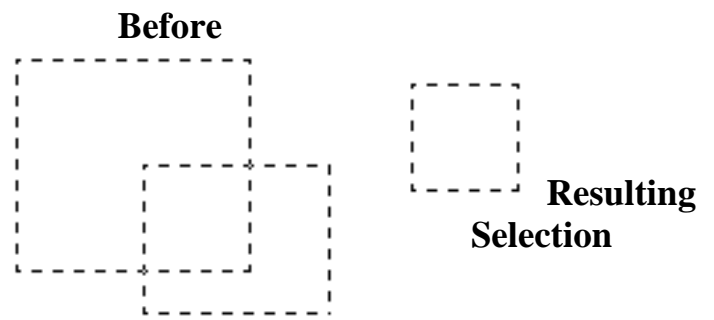
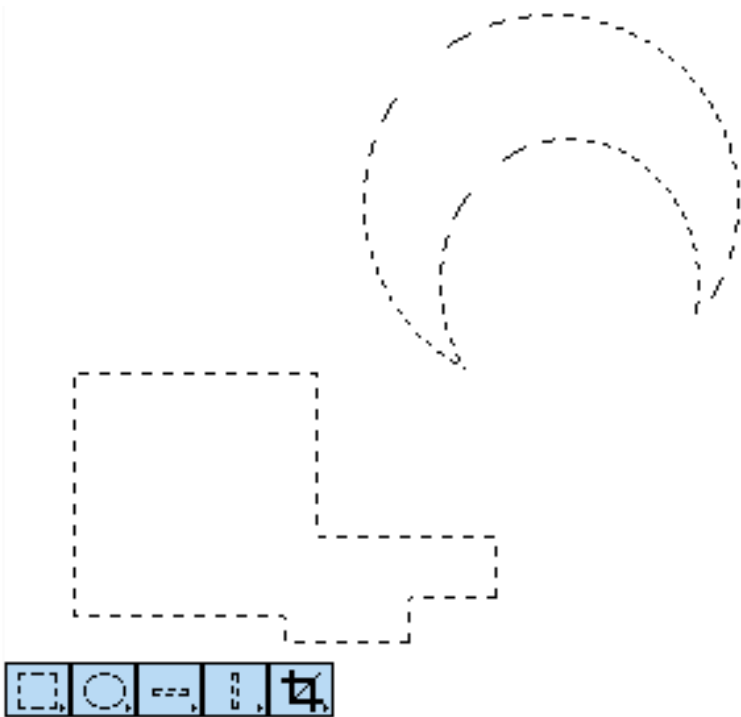
You can copy and paste selections by selecting the desired area and choosing **Edit>Copy** from the main menu, you can then paste the selection by choosing **Edit>Paste** from the same menu. As you can see I've covered up the "rude" areas of Laetitia using this method.

You can completely cut the selection out by choosing **Edit>Cut** from the main menu.

Here are some shortcuts to those commands that you should get familiar with;

<b>Cut</b>	Ctrl + X
<b>Copy</b>	Ctrl + C
<b>Paste</b>	Ctrl + V

You can add and subtract selections as well. To add a selection to a previous one, hold down the **Shift** key and drag out your selection. To subtract selections, hold down the **Alt** key and drag out your selection. To create an intersecting selection press **Shift + Alt** while dragging, this will create a new shape out of the first selection and the second one based on the intersection between them. **Example;**



You can feather selections creating an angelic effect. Simply make the selection and choose **Select>Feather** ( **Ctrl + Alt + D** ) and input the desired amount. As you can see in the image to the left, this creates the feeling of innocence, this effect is used widely around the web.

*Laetitia*

A nice little feature in Photoshop is the ability to expand and contract selections, you can do this by first making a selection, and then choosing **Select>Modify>Expand/Contract** from the main menu. Using this method to create outlines around text is very easy, as seen to the left.





Finally selections can be transformed, distorted, etc. Just make a selection and choose **Edit>Transform>Free Transform ( Ctrl + T )** and adjust the handles at the side and corners of the bounding box. As you can see I made a circular selection and dragged the bottom right handle towards the bottom right corner.

That about raps it up for now, anything else that comes to mind will be added immediately, hope you learned something!

## Discussion

Marquee selections will be one of your most used features available in Photoshop from now on, I don't know what I'd do without them. If you have any questions, or there are any steps that I can further elaborate on, don't hesitate to e-mail me using the information below. Due to the amount of e-mail I get, you'll get a quicker response if you use the discussion forum. Post your question in the tutorials forum. Click [here](#) to go to the discussion forum.

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