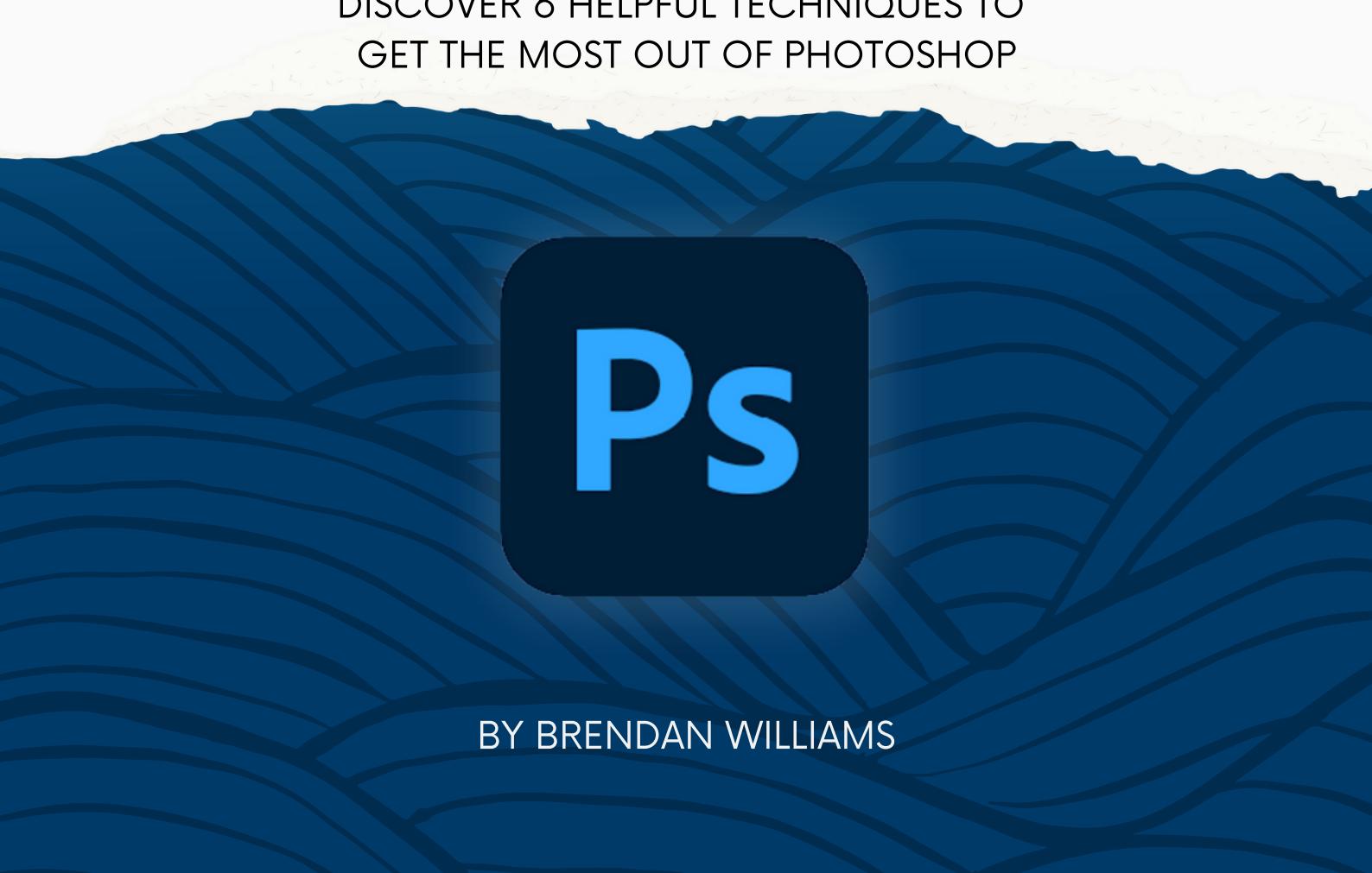


THE **PHOTOSHOP** **BLUEPRINT**



DISCOVER 6 HELPFUL TECHNIQUES TO
GET THE MOST OUT OF PHOTOSHOP



BY BRENDAN WILLIAMS



Who Am I?

If we haven't officially met, my name is Brendan Williams and I'm the guy behind Bwillcreative.com. Over the years one of my biggest passions has been making photography and photo editing simple. Through my website and Youtube channel, I'm able to help over 2 million creatives, just like you, every year learn new skills and progress in their creative journey.

Coming up as a photographer I vividly remember how much of a pain it was to learn new tools and programs; with Photoshop being one of the arch enemies.

In fact, I hated Photoshop.

But only because I found it confusing and the tutorials I watched and read online were less than helpful.

Ironically, Photoshop is now one of my favorite tools as a photographer because of its immense range of capabilities.

Looking back, I realize that there is an easier way to learn Photoshop that wouldn't take years as it did for me. You can learn Photoshop in a matter of weeks if you just follow the right process and understand the basics in a way that actually makes sense.

That's always been my goal with my website and the goal of this ebook too. I want to give you the confidence you've been looking for in Photoshop and notice real progress in your skills.

And with the help of this guide, you are certainly on the right track to do just that!

So let's get started with six easy techniques that you can add to your skillset in Photoshop.

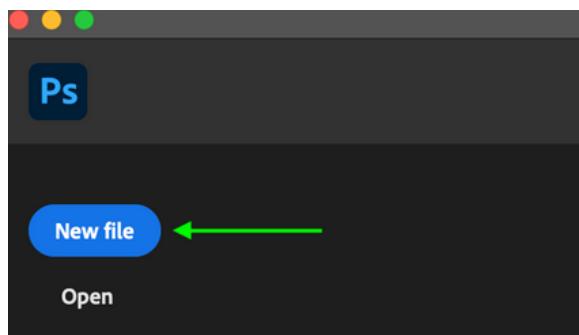
1. Easy Importing Into Photoshop

The first step in every project is to import your images into Photoshop. I've seen way too many people making this step overly complicated and drawn out. So I want to show you a couple of easy ways to bring your images into any project.

With these methods, you can add images directly to your projects without them opening in a new window.

(Because we all know how annoying that can be)

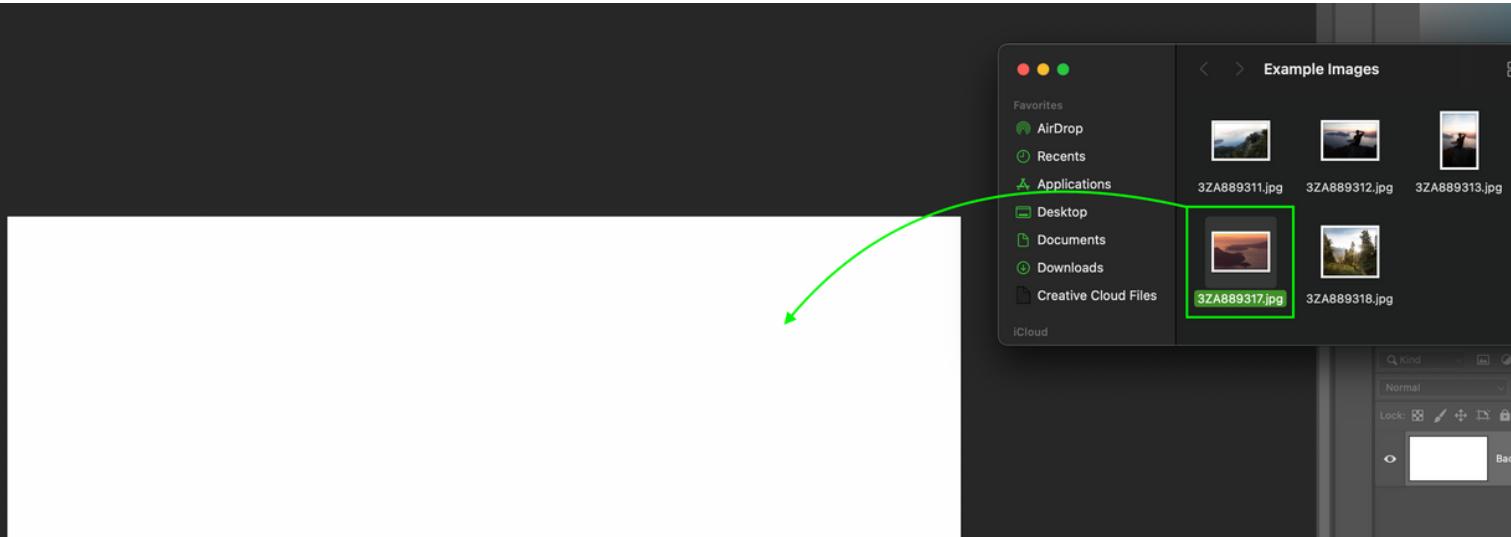
Now before I get into the next steps, remember that you need to create or open a project first. Simply click **New File** from the Photoshop start screen and set your canvas dimensions as needed if you'd like to create a new project!

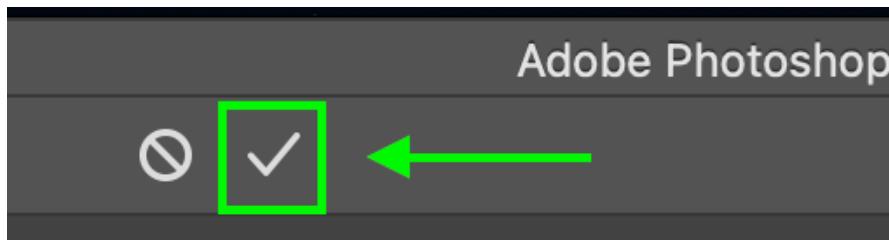
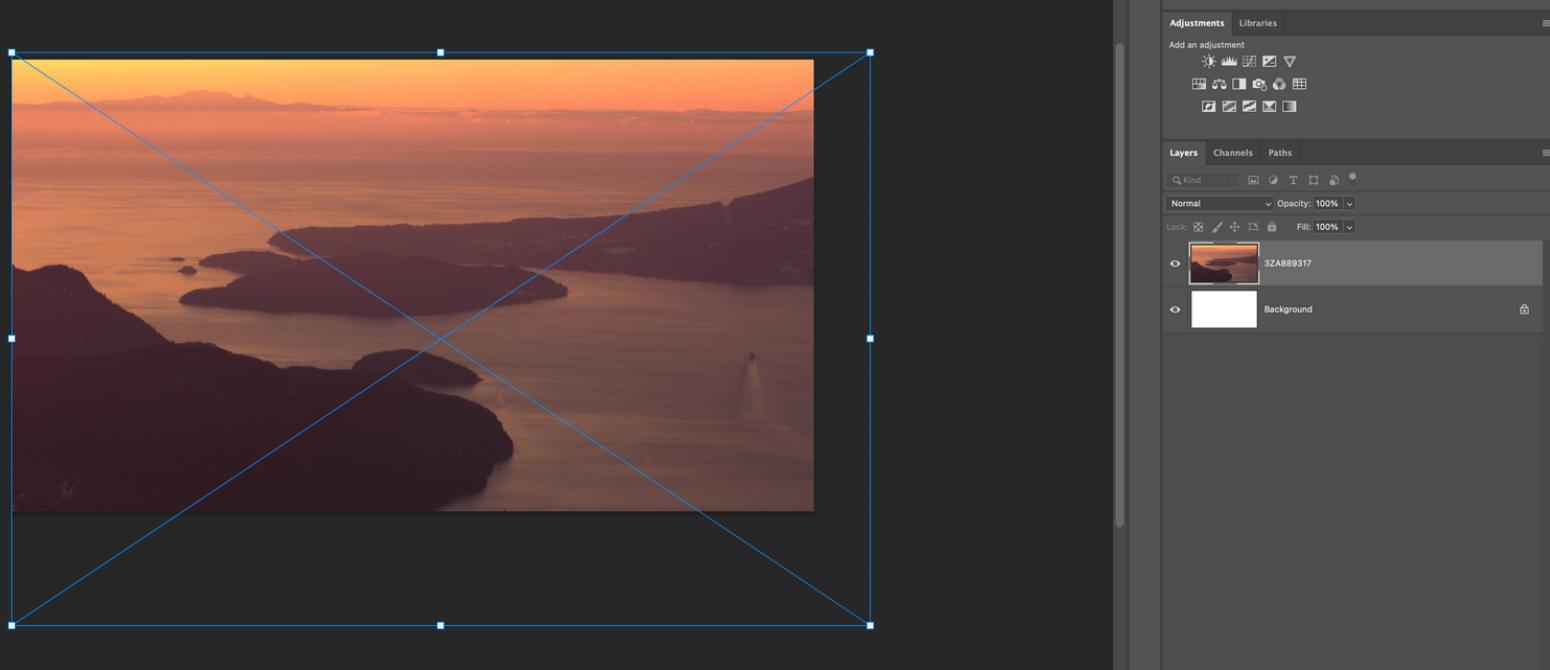
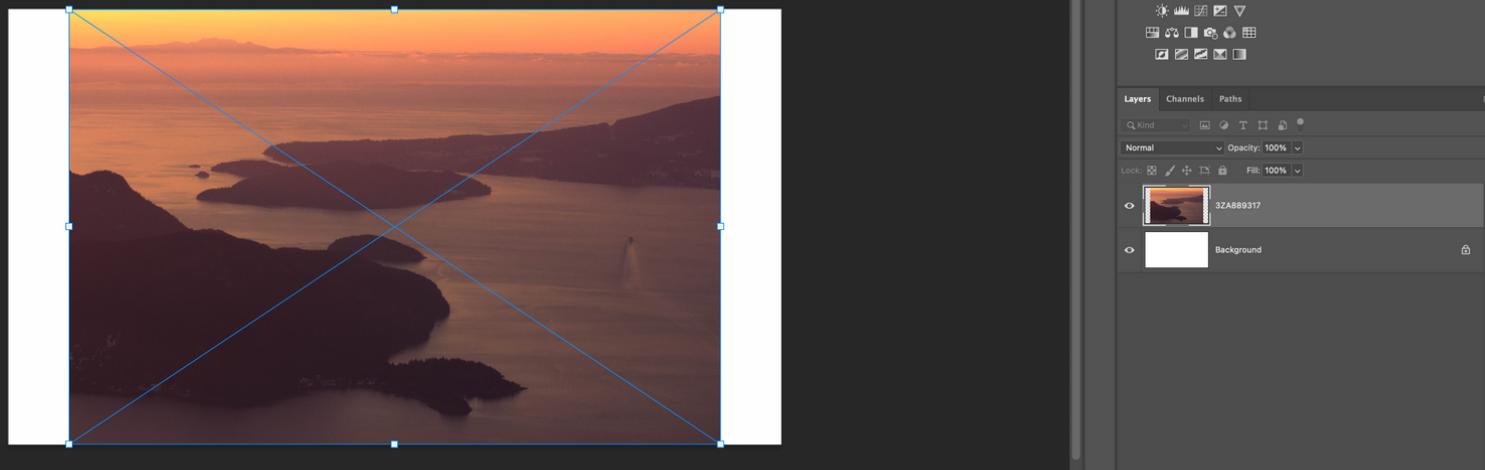


Option 1: Drag & Drop

The fastest way to import an image is to drag and drop it from your computer. This will open your image as a layer in your existing project, without opening it in a new window.

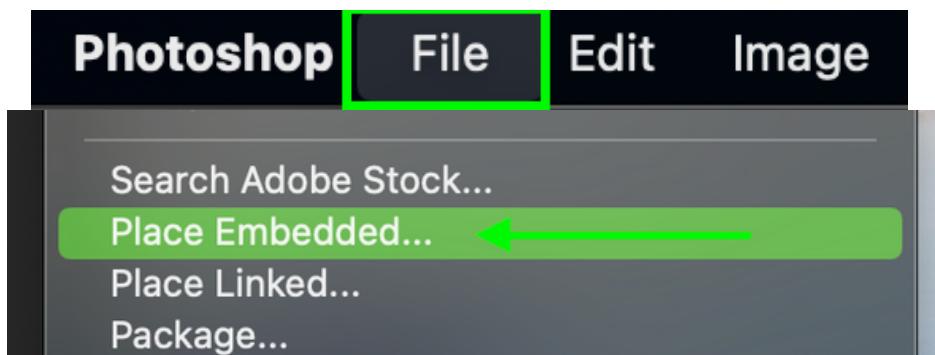
By clicking and dragging from your computer into Photoshop, it will automatically be placed. You can scale or reposition the image as needed, but press **Enter** or click the **checkmark** in the upper bar once you're all set.



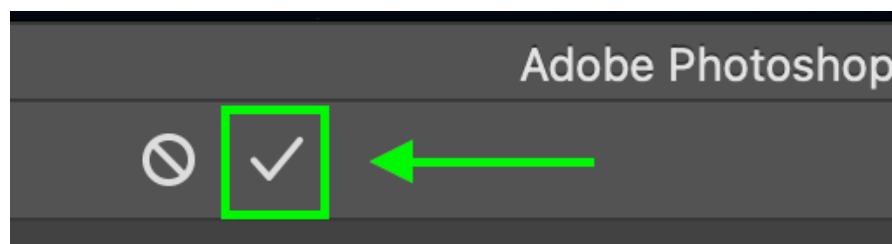
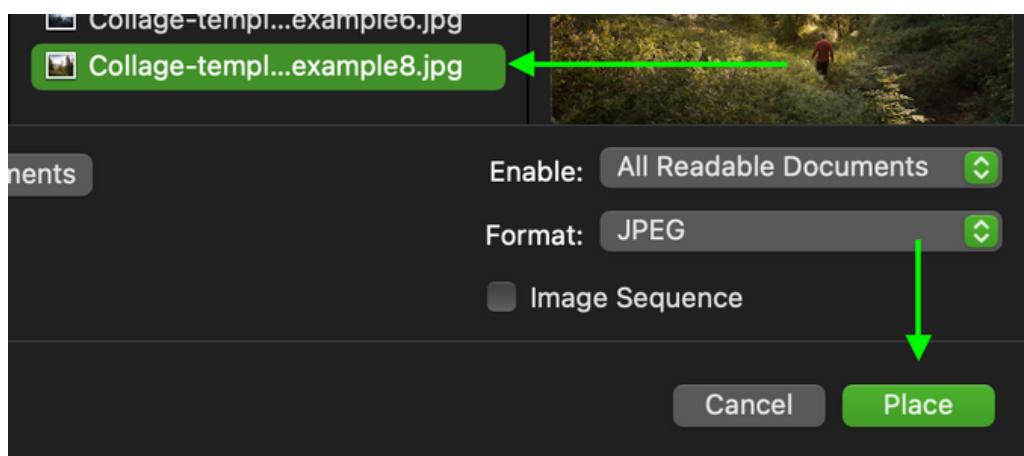


Option 2: Place Embedded

If clicking and dragging isn't your thing, another great option is to go **File > Place Embedded**.



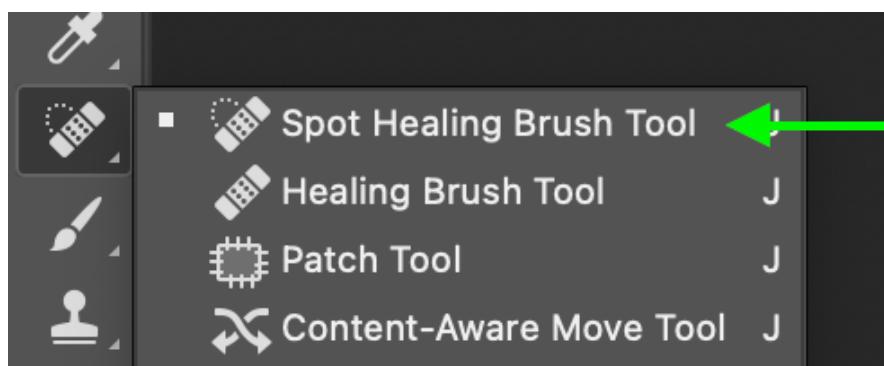
A window will appear where you can select an image file from your computer. Once selected, click **Place** to add it to your opened Photoshop project.



2. Automatically Removing Objects

There are a number of powerful tools in Photoshop to remove things from an image. The only downside is that most of them take a lot of practice and can be a bit confusing. Luckily, one simple tool called the **Spot Healing Brush Tool** will automatically remove basic objects.

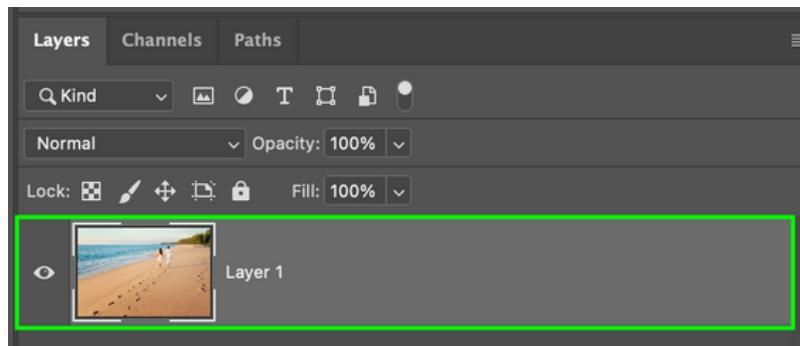
To select this tool, press **J** on your keyboard or locate it in the toolbar. Be sure to select the Spot Healing Brush and not the Healing Brush as those are two different tools.



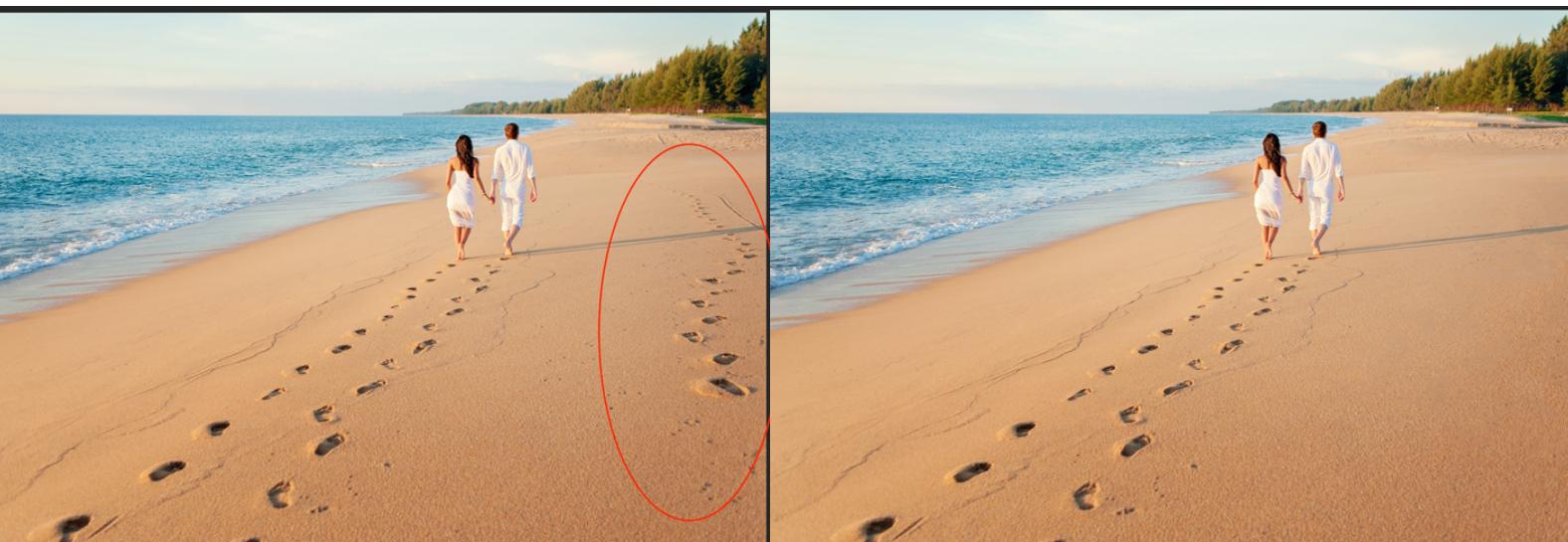
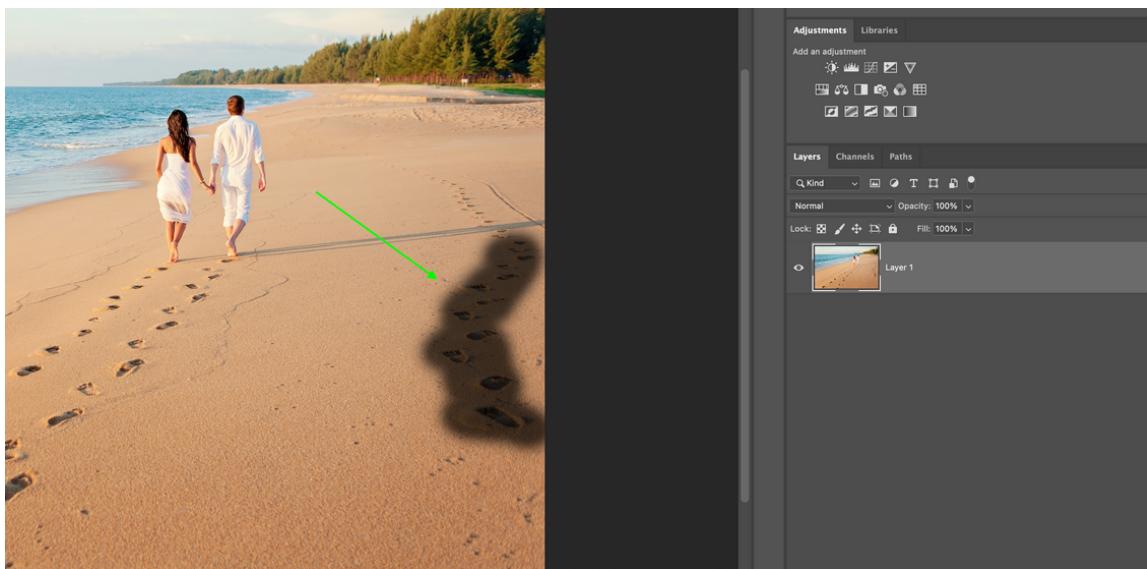
Then make sure your **blending mode** is set to **Normal** and the **type** set to **Content-Aware**.



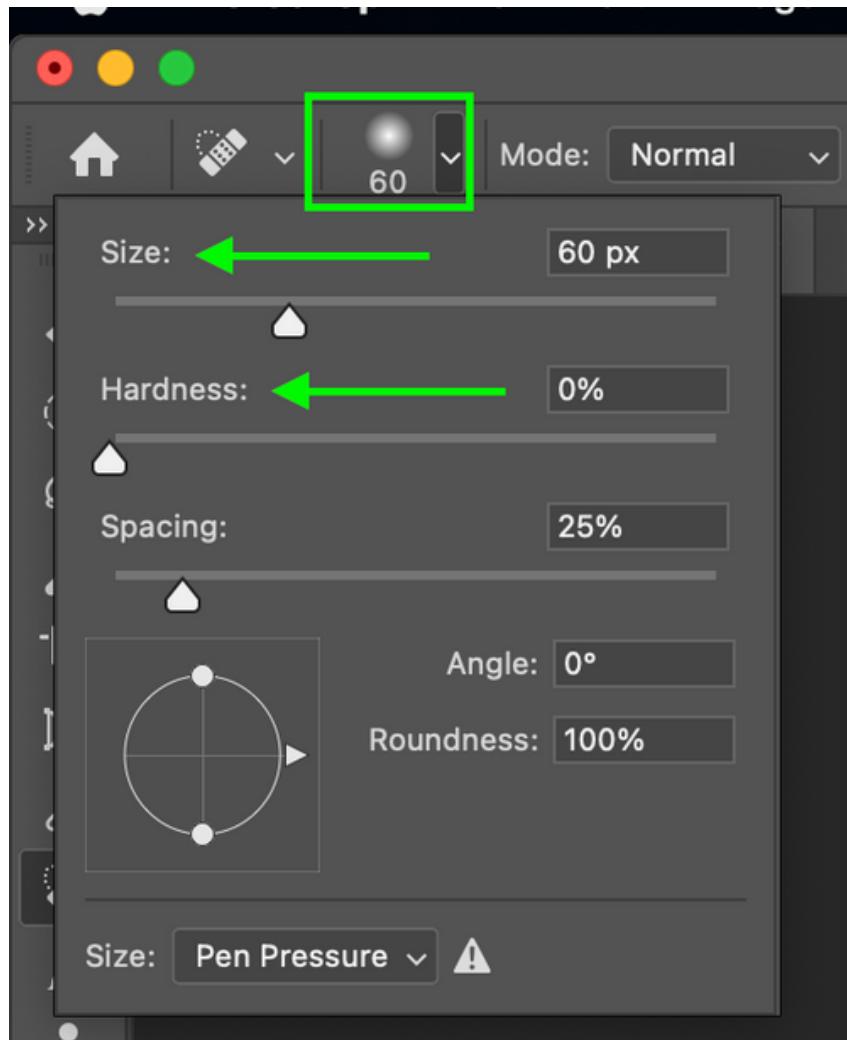
Now select the desired layer you want to make an adjustment to in the Layers Panel.



Now just **click and drag over the object you want to remove**. The tool will paint a semi-transparent black streak which represents the selection area. Once you let go of your mouse, anything beneath that black area will automatically be removed from the photo.



While using the Spot Healing Brush, you will need to adjust the brush size and hardness. Go to the upper settings bar and click the Brush Tip Preset panel to change these settings. Here you can change the size and hardness of your brush accordingly.



For reference, your brush size should be slightly larger than the object you want to remove. A helpful shortcut for scaling your brush is the **[and] keys** to decrease or increase the brush size.

As for the brush hardness, a softer brush will blend better into your image while a harder brush works better against edges in an image. For example, if you were removing an object against the edge of a building, use a hard brush. If you are removing a blemish on someone's face, use a soft brush so the adjustment blends evenly.

The Spot Healing Brush isn't a silver bullet for removing objects, but it works well with smaller objects, blemishes, or larger objects against a solid-colored background such as the sky or a sandy beach. It is truly one of the easiest methods of object removal in Photoshop!

3. Remove Backgrounds With One Click

In Photoshop CC 2021 they released a remove background button that continues to be one of the easiest ways to cut out an image. Photoshop will automatically select your subject and remove the background with a layer mask using AI. It always blows my mind how good this tool is!

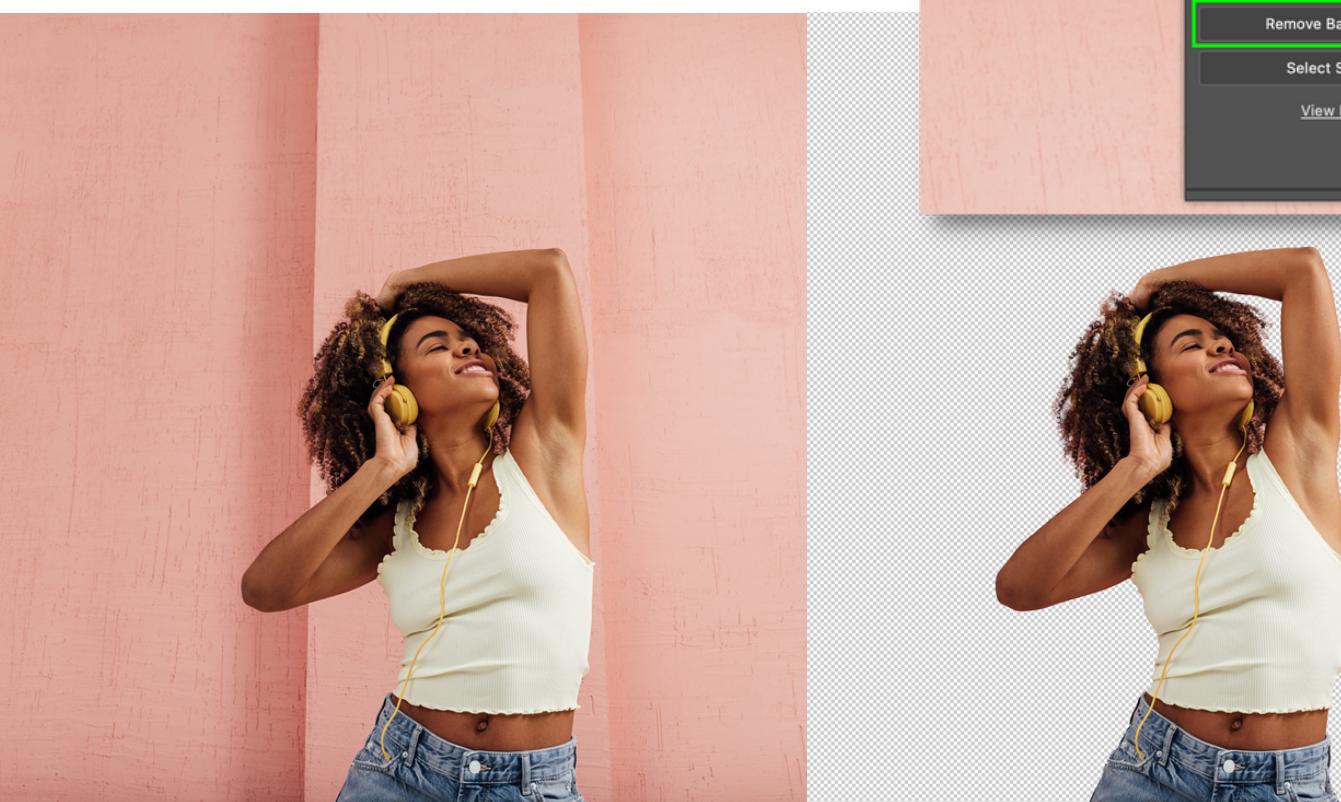
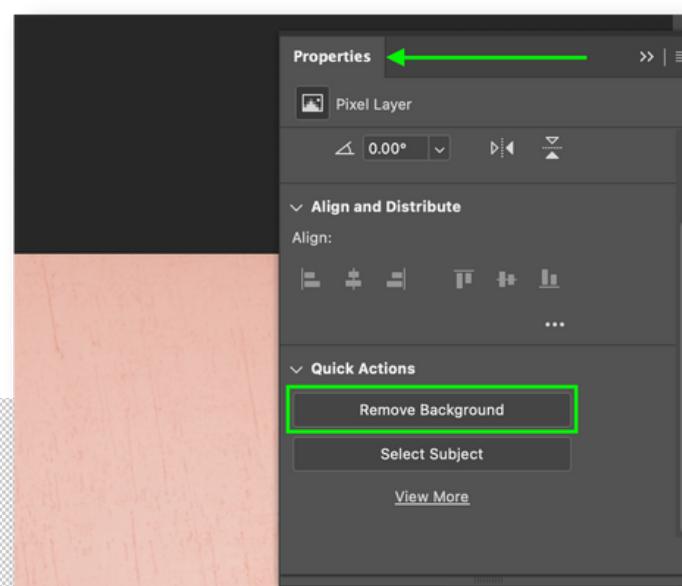
To access this tool, you must first select your desired image layer from the layers panel. Be sure that the layer is unlocked (with no lock icon beside it) before following the steps.

To locate the remove background button, open your Properties Panel by going to **Window > Properties**.

Within the Quick Actions, you'll see two buttons called **Select Subject** and **Remove Background**. Select subject will create a selection of your subject, but not remove the background. Meanwhile, Remove Background creates a selection AND removes the background for you.

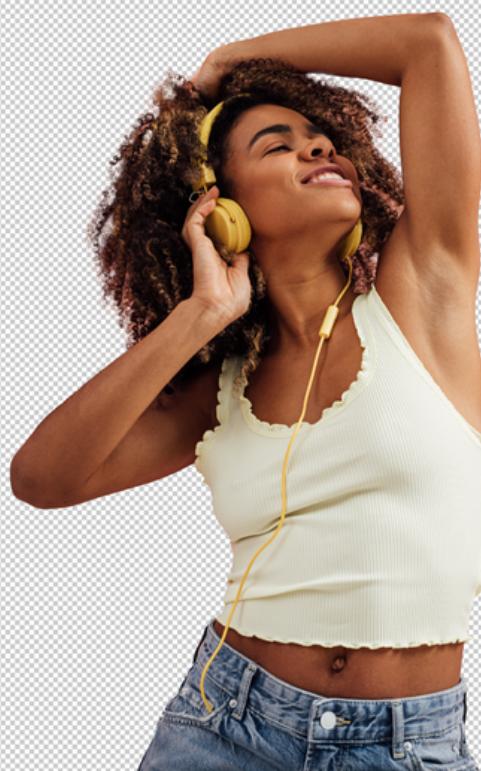
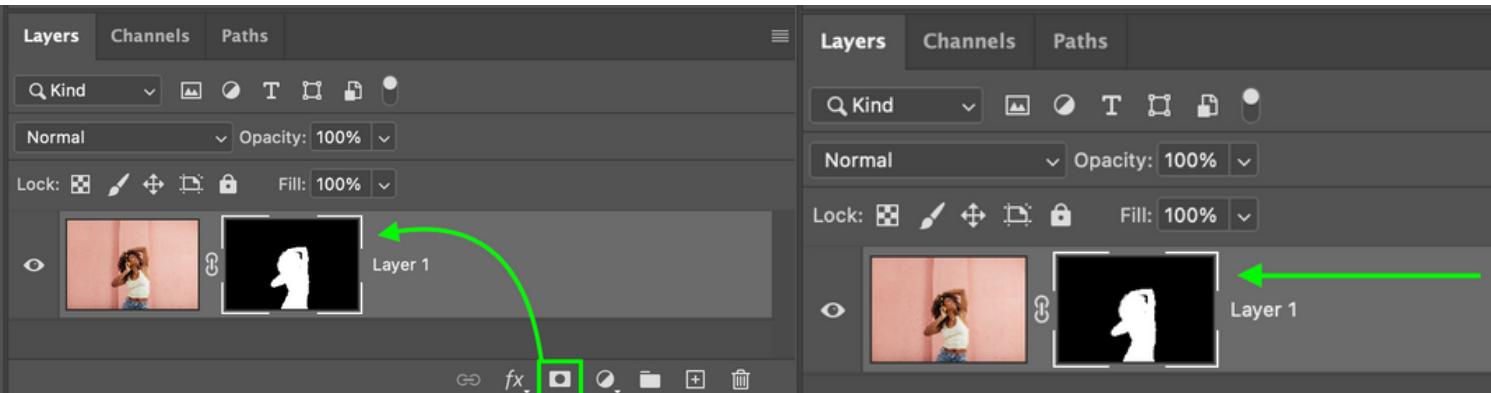
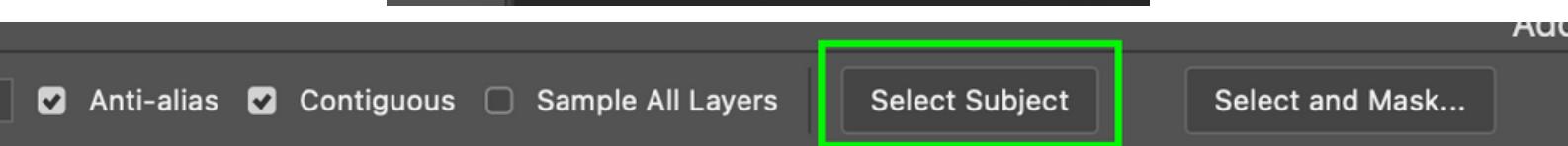
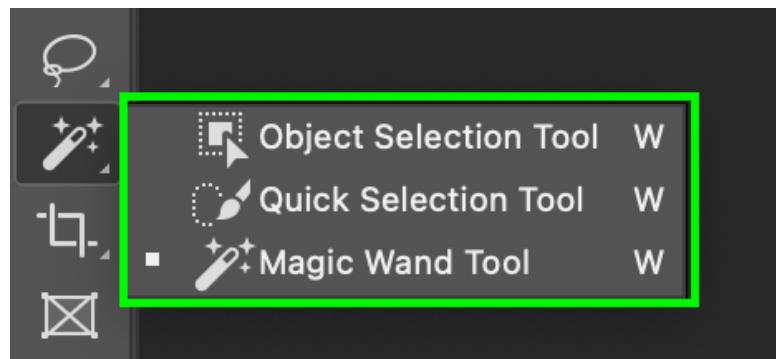
Therefore, you want to click **Remove Background**.

Photoshop will work its magic and you'll be left with your subject against a checkered background. This checkered background represents transparency, meaning your subject is perfectly cut out!



This tool works extremely well for objects against simple or very blurred backgrounds.

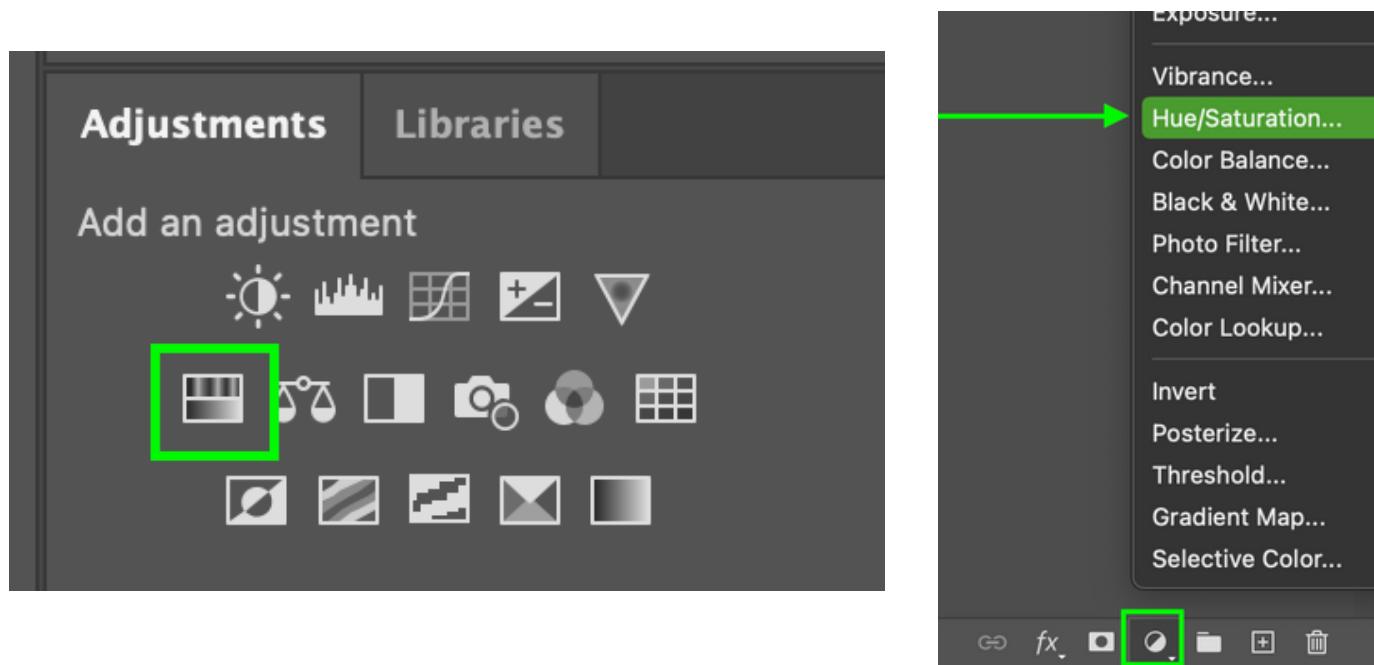
It's worth noting that the select subject button can also be accessed while any of your primary selection tools are active. With the Quick Selection Tool, Object Selection Tool, or the Magic Wand Tool, you will see a select subject button in the upper setting bar. This will automatically create a selection of your subject which you can remove the background from by adding a layer mask.



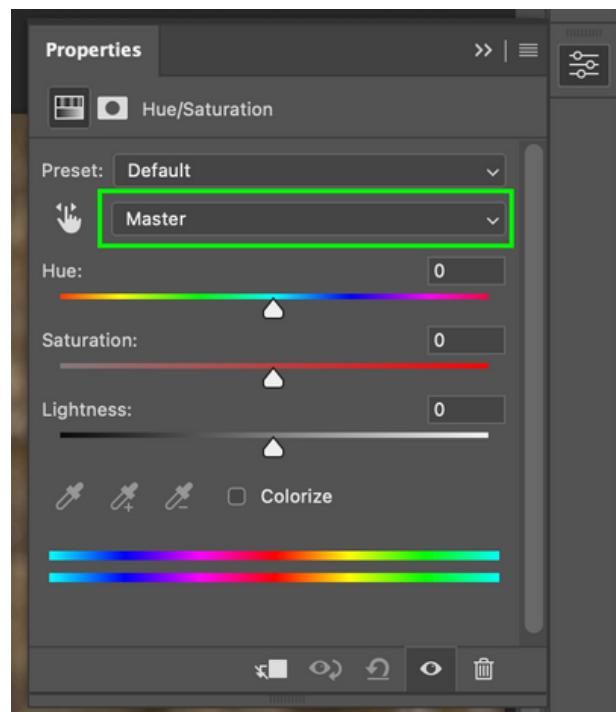
4. Easily Change Color In Photoshop

Even though it may seem tricky, with the help of the HSL (Hue, Saturation Luminance) adjustment layer, you can easily target specific colors. For this example, let's say I want to change the color of a sweater.

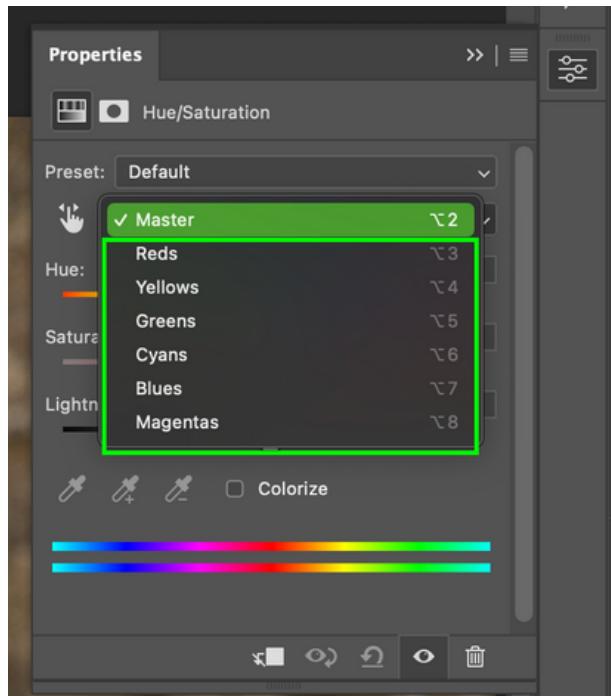
First, you need to create a new HSL adjustment layer via the adjustments panel or click the new adjustment layer icon at the bottom of the Layers panel.



In the HSL properties panel that appears, you'll notice a drop-down menu set to "Master" by default. This means that any adjustment you make to the sliders will affect every color in your image.



However, if you click on this drop-down menu, you will see a handful of individual color channels to choose from. By selecting any of these channels, your adjustments will only target that specific color. For example, by selecting the blue channel you would only edit the hue, saturation, and luminance of blue tones in the image.



You can make adjustments to multiple color channels without affecting the previous adjustments too. For example, you could add specific adjustments to the Reds, Yellows, Cyans and Magenta channels all on the same adjustment layer.

In this case, I want to change the blue sweater, so I know I need to select the blue color channel.

With the blue channel selected, I can adjust the hue, saturation, and luminance sliders to adjust the color of the sweater. Since I am editing only the blue channel, other colors in his skin or the background are left unaffected.

This is a quick and effective way to selectively change color in Photoshop that works well for clothing and objects, or to simply stylize your images!

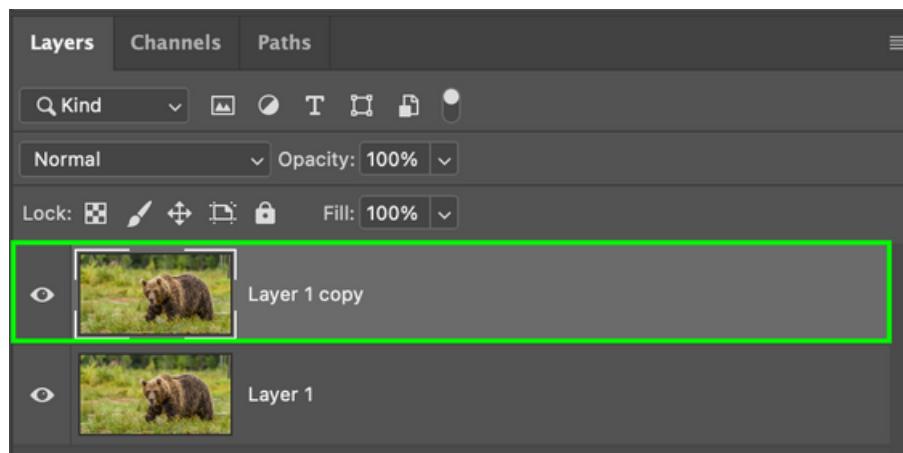


5. Sharpening Images In Photoshop

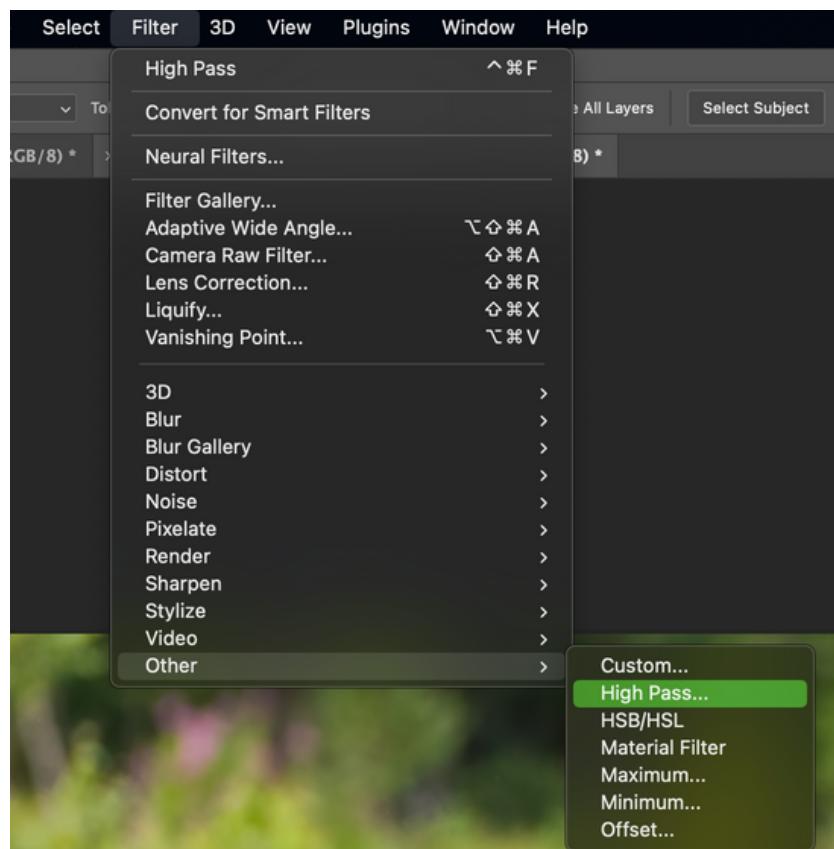
Perhaps you've researched a few methods in the past and noticed how many ways you can go about this process. However, I want to show you one of the most effective (and easiest) ways to sharpen your images here.

This method uses what's known as the **high pass filter**. This adjustment brings out details in your photo and makes it appear much sharper than before (in a good way).

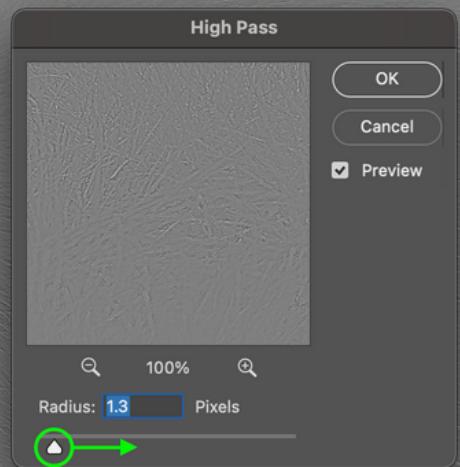
To apply this adjustment, first, select your image layer and duplicate it by pressing **Command + J** (Mac) or **Control + J** (Win). With your new layer selected, right-click on it and choose **Convert To Smart Object**.



Now go to **Filter > Other > High Pass**.



In the dialogue box that appears, your whole image will turn grey. Now increase the slider until the details in your photo become slightly visible. You don't want the details to be too visible at this point or the sharpening effect will look overkill. Click **OK** once complete.



Now to get rid of the grey while keeping the sharpness, make sure your layer is selected and set the **blending mode** from **Normal** to **Linear Light**.

This will retain the sharpening adjustment and make the grey completely transparent. All you're left with is a nicely sharpened image with uber-crisp details!

The screenshot shows the Photoshop interface with the Layers panel open. The 'Layers' tab is selected. In the top bar, the 'Blending Mode' dropdown is set to 'Normal' (which is highlighted with a green box). To the right of the dropdown, the 'Opacity' is set to 100%. Below the dropdown, there are lock and fill buttons, both set to 100%.

The Layers panel lists two layers:

- Layer 1 copy**: This layer has a solid gray thumbnail and is currently selected. Its Blending Mode dropdown is also highlighted with a green box.
- Layer 1**: This layer has a thumbnail showing a brown bear in a grassy field.

To the right of the Layers panel is a large vertical dropdown menu for 'Blending Mode'. The 'Normal' mode is checked. Other modes listed include Dissolve, Darken, Multiply, Color Burn, Linear Burn, Darker Color, Lighten, Screen, Color Dodge, Linear Dodge (Add), Lighter Color, Overlay, Soft Light, Hard Light, Vivid Light, **Linear Light** (which is highlighted with a green box), Pin Light, and Hard Mix.

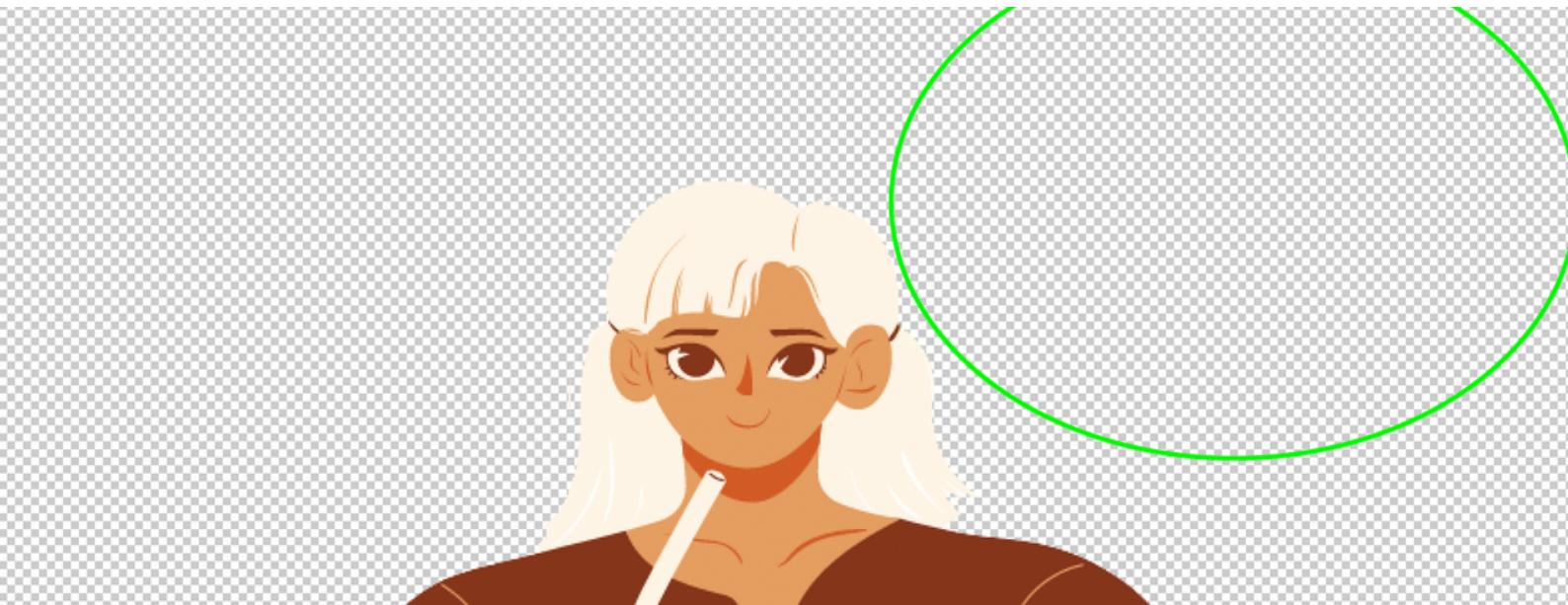


6. Exporting With Transparent Backgrounds

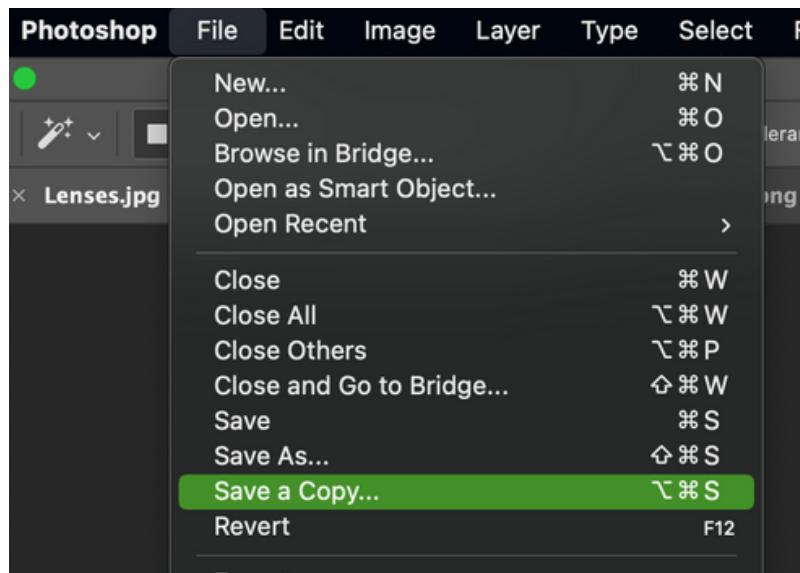
Whether you have a logo, a cutout subject, or something else you need a transparent background for, it's important to export into the right file format. To keep a transparent background upon export, you need to export your project as a PNG. If you exported to something like JPEG, the transparent areas would be replaced with white on export instead.

Luckily exporting to PNG is super easy to do!

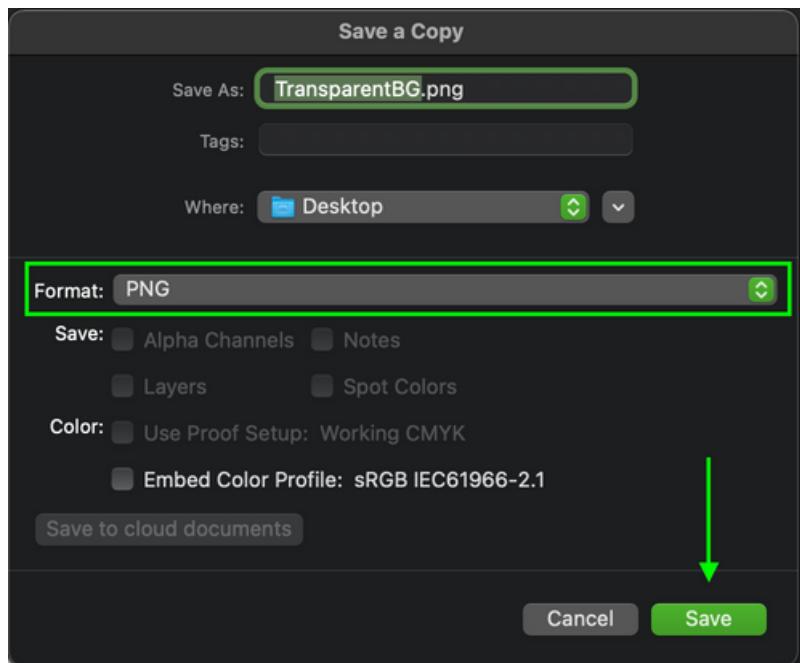
To start, you need to make sure your project has a transparent background represented by the grey and white checkerboard.



From there, simply go to **File > Save A Copy**.



In the window that appears, give your file a name and choose a save location on your computer. Then, most importantly, set the **Format to PNG**.



Now when you add your exported photo to another project it will already have a transparent background!

This is especially useful for graphics, such as uploading a logo to your website, or demonstrating something in an ebook like I just did here ;)



What's Next?

Although this guide just scratches the surface of what can be done in Photoshop, I hope it helped you to learn something new that you'll use going forward! Now let's talk about what to do next.

First of all, the most important thing is to **keep an eye on your inbox for future emails from me**. You'll regularly hear from me with more Photoshop and photo editing tips to help you level up your skills. My goal around here is to help you improve, without leaving you confused and overwhelmed like so many tutorials do online these days.

Secondly, **if you're feeling fired up to learn even more about Photoshop, there are two places you can go**.

Over on my **Youtube Channel**, I have hundreds of free Photoshop, Lightroom, and photography tips waiting for you. Make sure to subscribe so you never miss a tutorial from me in the future!

The second place to explore is my website, **bwillcreative.com**. There I publish in-depth guides on all things Photoshop, Lightroom, and photo editing. If you have a question about any of those things, odds are I have something written about it!

I look forward to hearing from you in my emails and seeing you over in the youtube comments!

Happy Photoshopping!

Brendan :)



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