**Step 1: Make a selection**

**Quick Selection tool** First introduced in Photoshop CS3

Quick Selection tool from the Tools palette. Tick the Auto Enhance box in the Options bar to give your selection a smoother, less blocky edge. Brush over the woman to ‘paint’ a selection marquee that snaps to her outline. Don’t worry if bits of background hiding in her hair get selected, or if fine edge hairs are excluded from the selection – you can tidy up these problem areas later.

<http://www.digitalcameraworld.com/2012/06/07/how-to-make-a-perfect-photoshop-cut-out/>

**ALSO in Photoshop Elements11**

The Magic Wand and Quick Selection Tools are good for objects with nearly uniform color.

1. For a **solid colour background** you can try the **Magic Eraser tool**. Just play with different tolerance levels and eventually you should get it to work for you. But again, this will only really work with even/monotone colored backgrounds.
2. So is Color Range (**Select/Color Range**). Can use in combination with the History Brush Tool.
3. **more detailed background** (like buildings, cityscape, forests, whatever), then you need to use the **lasso tool.** You have to actually draw around the subject's edge and cut them out. Once you have them traced out, then just use the Selection > Inverse option. Hit the delete key and voila, the background is gone.
* Lasso –free hand
* Magnetic Lasso
* Ploygonal Lasso – one option is to "anchor" the lasso at key points

-you might also want to increase your "feather" number so that slight mistakes can be blurred out.

1. The Extract filter **(Filter/Extract**).

-Highlighter tool covers edges of areas to be protected

-Fill tool areas you want to retain

-History brush will help refine

3) Detailed but time consuming.

i) select a color that does not exists within the person; pure white will usually do;

ii) -fill the whole area around the person with the fill color; this is the time consuming part as you have to do the contours by hand with the pencil too (could use a drawing tablet);

iii)-select the **Magic Wand tool**;

iv)-click in the fill color; the fill color will be selected;

v)-go to Select/inverse selection; the person will be selected.

vi) You can then do a copy/paste into another image with a pre-selected background of your choice or transparency. Or delete the background

The best photos are those professional studio type shots that are taken against a plain white background (contrast is key). These shots make it much easier to find the edges of the subject, but trimming out fine hairs can still be a little tricky. In this example we’ll be using the common Channel technique

[**http://blog.spoongraphics.co.uk/tutorials/handy-techniques-for-cutting-out-hair-in-photoshop**](http://blog.spoongraphics.co.uk/tutorials/handy-techniques-for-cutting-out-hair-in-photoshop)