

## **Making a cutout for pasting using a layer mask.**

1. Crop out (roughly) the required area from your source image & then duplicate the background layer TWICE. (Ctrl+ "j" twice).
2. Activate the middle layer and fill with a colour of your choice. (Edit>fill>colour).
3. Activate top layer and add layer mask (button to right of Fx on layers palette). This gives a layer mask filled with white.
4. Select a 100% HARD small brush ("b"). Set foreground colour to black. (press "d" then "x" if necessary).
5. Paint black into layer mask around the outside of the object to be pasted including any areas "inside" which are not required. Undo any errors by painting WHITE (switch foreground colour by pressing "x"). The unwanted areas will now be filled with your chosen colour.
6. Press & hold "Ctrl" and left click once into the layer mask. This will show the selection as "marching ants" around the object for cutting & pasting.
7. Hide coloured layer and background layer by clicking on to their respective "eyes".  
**Optional** Selection>Save Selection as "Cutout area unfeathered".
8. Delete selection (Ctrl + "d"). Cutout will now appear on a chequered background.
9. Do NOT flatten image yet! Drag both coloured layer and background layer to trash bin (bottom right).  
**Optional** Activate layer mask by clicking into it once then  
Select>Refine mask>Feather by **0.5** or **1** pixel  
( rarely 2 pix) to soften the edge of the cutout.
10. Drag layer mask to trash and accept "apply?" when asked.
11. Save as ..... (your title) **.psd** ie, as a photoshop .psd file.  
Do not save as a .jpg!

The cutout with transparent chequerboard pattern can later be copied to the clipboard and pasted into another image. The selection as saved will be available for use too!

Transform the cutout (Ctrl + "t") holding down the "shift" key to maintain the aspect ratio, to resize it so it looks in perspective.

Move to correct location. Press "Enter" key to accept transformation and location.  
Flatten image as above.  
Save as ..... as usual (.psd or .tif file format).

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