

Using the extract filter in Photoshop

In this tutorial you will learn how to extract the background from an image using the extract filter in Photoshop. Extracting removes the background and leaves the object in place. You can also use the pen tool or the [quick mask tool](#) to remove the background, but I find using the extract filter easier.

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Step 1

Open an image in Photoshop. I have used a free stock image, but you can use whatever image you wish.



Step 2

Select the Extract filter by going to **Filter > Extract**. On the Tool options to the right, adjust the brush size to your liking. Then paint over the areas of the image to create an edge of where you want to retain like below. Notice that you don't have to be too accurate with the paint brush as any mistakes can be later corrected.



Step 3

Select the Fill tool (G) on the tools panel on the left and fill in the selection. The selection will appear in a blue colour. If you wish to see what your image will look like you can click the preview button, otherwise click ok.



Step 4

My extracted image has not come out perfectly, but this can easily be fixed. Select the History Brush tool and recover any missing areas. Then select the eraser tool to remove any extra areas.



Once you have corrected the damaged area you will be left with the following image.



Now you can add any background of your choice to the image.

