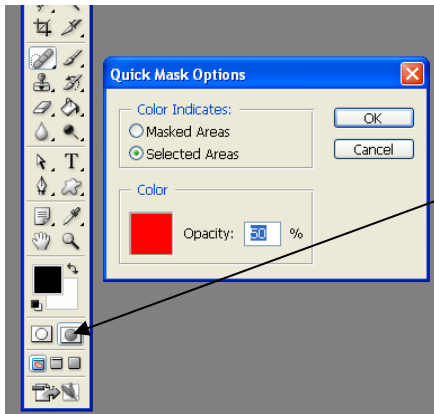


Photoshop

Quick Mask

Using the Quick Mask is an easy way to select part of an image to enhance it in a variety of ways whether it is sharpening, blurring, color enhancement etc. This is a great way to enhance the bird or face without changing the background. Conversely the background can be blurred without changing the foreground object. **Q** is the toggle keyboard shortcut to get into Quick Mask and back to Standard modes. When in Quick mask you will be “painting” your selection with the Brush (**B**) tool – using the size brush and softness of edge that is appropriate for the selection.



Before beginning these lessons: Please doubleclick the Quick mask icon at the bottom of the Tool palette and make sure that color indicates Selected Areas. The default is the opposite – this way makes more sense.

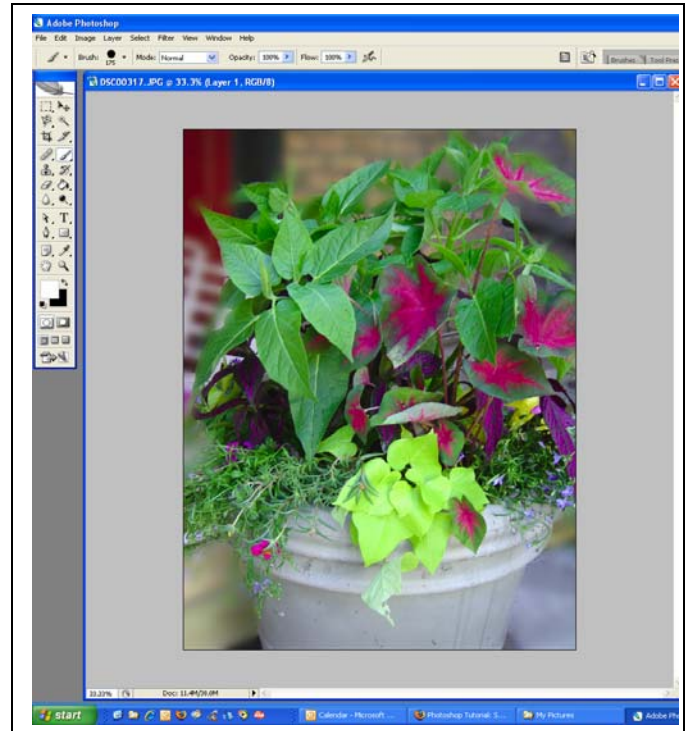
Blurring out a Background

Uses: This is a great technique using the Quick Mask to select the foreground subject and then blur the background around it.

1. Open original photo and create a new background layer.
2. Click the Quick Mask icon (**Q**)
3. Select the brush tool (**B**) and ‘paint’ the foreground subject that you want to keep sharp. The subject will be painted in transparent red.
4. Click the icon next to quick mask to edit in standard mode (**Q**). At this point you should see the “marching ants” line around the selection. To select the opposite of what you just selected, **Ctrl+Shift+I** to inverse the selection.
5. From the Layer menu, choose New>Layer via copy (**Ctrl+J**). This will create a new layer with just the background in it.
6. Now you can go to Filter menu and apply what ever effect you want to the background, Blur>Radial or Gaussian are good places to start and experiment.



Before



After

This can be done in the opposite way by sharpening the selected object and keeping the background out of focus. Paint the center object with the quick mask brush through step 3 above.

1. Change to edit in Standard Mode (the icon on the left of quick mask) (**Q**).
2. Layer>New>Layer via copy (**Ctrl+J**) (this will create a new layer with just the center object in it)
3. Filter>Other>High pass
 - a. The image will gray out. Play with the radius, but keep it at a low number. If any color is showing, you've gone too high. You're looking for just the edges to show.
4. At the Layer palette, change the mode to Soft Light. (You can play with other light modes, but this one is the most realistic. Vivid may be a good choice as well depending on the image.)

Sharpening the bird

In this example we'll use the Quick mask to select the foreground object and then sharpen it using the Unsharp Mask.

1. Open original photo and create a new background layer.
2. Click the Quick Mask icon (**Q**)
3. Select the brush tool (**B**) and 'paint' the foreground subject that you want to keep sharp. The subject will be painted in transparent red.
4. Click the icon next to quick mask to edit in standard mode (**Q**). At this point you should see the "marching ants" line around the selection.
7. From the Layer menu, choose New>Layer via copy (**Ctrl+J**). This will create a new layer with just the foreground subject in it.
8. Filter>Sharpen>Unsharp Mask. Photoshop will make some assumptions here for you, but you can play with the percentage, radius and threshold until you have what you want.
9. Playing with the Blending Mode at this point can also help "bring out the bird" from the background.

