

## *Removing the Background*

*Photoshop Combination of Tools, Page 2*

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 Next I switch to the pen tool and draw a rough line around the girls arms and sleeves. For a more detailed explanation of using the pen tool, see the [butterfly example](#).

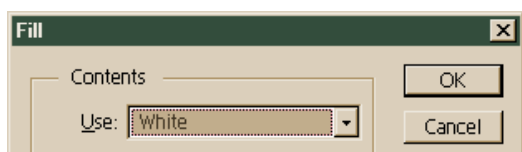


 After the rough outline is drawn, the curves are refined with the convert anchor point tool.



The path is then converted to a selection using the same method that was used in the [butterfly example](#).

The the selection is filled with white. (Edit > Fill)





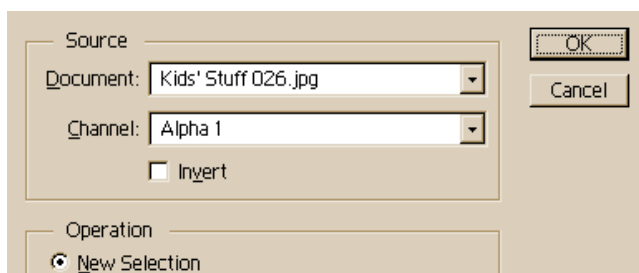
Now we'll need to do another levels adjustment to shift the remaining dark gray areas to 100% black. But we don't want to effect the hair area because it has shades of gray we need to keep. So, first we'll lasso a loose selection around the hair, then invert the selection.



With the inverted selection, we can go to Image > Adjust > Levels and move the left slider in until the surrounding dark gray becomes completely black. We now have a selection mask saved as an alpha channel!



Click the RGB channel in the channels palette to return the view to the full color image. Next go to Selections > Load Selection. In the dialog box, choose the Alpha 1 channel as the source and click OK.



Here you can see the selection marquee around the image.

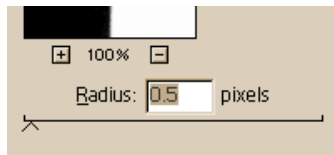


As always, I switch to quick mask mode to have a look at the selection mask. You can learn more about quick mask mode on page two of the [leaf example](#).



While in quick mask mode, I usually apply a half-pixel gaussian blur just to soften the mask the slightest bit.





Next I switch back to selection mode, invert the selection and delete the background.



Here is the final image with a new background.



I hope this series of tutorials showed you that there's never one way to approach a problem. Sometimes it takes creative thinking and a combination of techniques, but with practice and a wide variety of tools I'm confident that anyone can handle even the toughest of background removing challenges.

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