



INTRODUCTION TO
GRAPHICS

EXTRACTIONS

Information
Sheet No.

PS752

HOW TO REMOVE THE BACKGROUND FROM IMAGES





The Extract command in Photoshop enables us to isolate a foreground object from its background. Even objects with undefinable edges like hair can now be clipped from their backgrounds with very little work.

1. Open an image from which you would like to extract the background.
2. After you have loaded an image, go to **Image>Extract**. You'll see the same image come up in the Extract window.



3. The first thing to do is outline our foreground object. In this example it will be the squirrel. Select the Edge Highlighter tool (as shown). Now set a brush size and outline your foreground object. Zoom in if needed. Select the Zoom tool, click on the image to zoom inward and hold down the Alt key (Mac: Option) to Zoom out.



Tip: You will have differ-ence results depending on the size of the brush you use. I have found that trying to use a small bush size on my squirrel gave me better



4. Now fill the foreground object by using the Fill Tool. Select this tool and click in the center of the object.



results with minimal clean up work. If you have an image with long hair or wispy parts, then you may want to try using a larger brush on those edges.

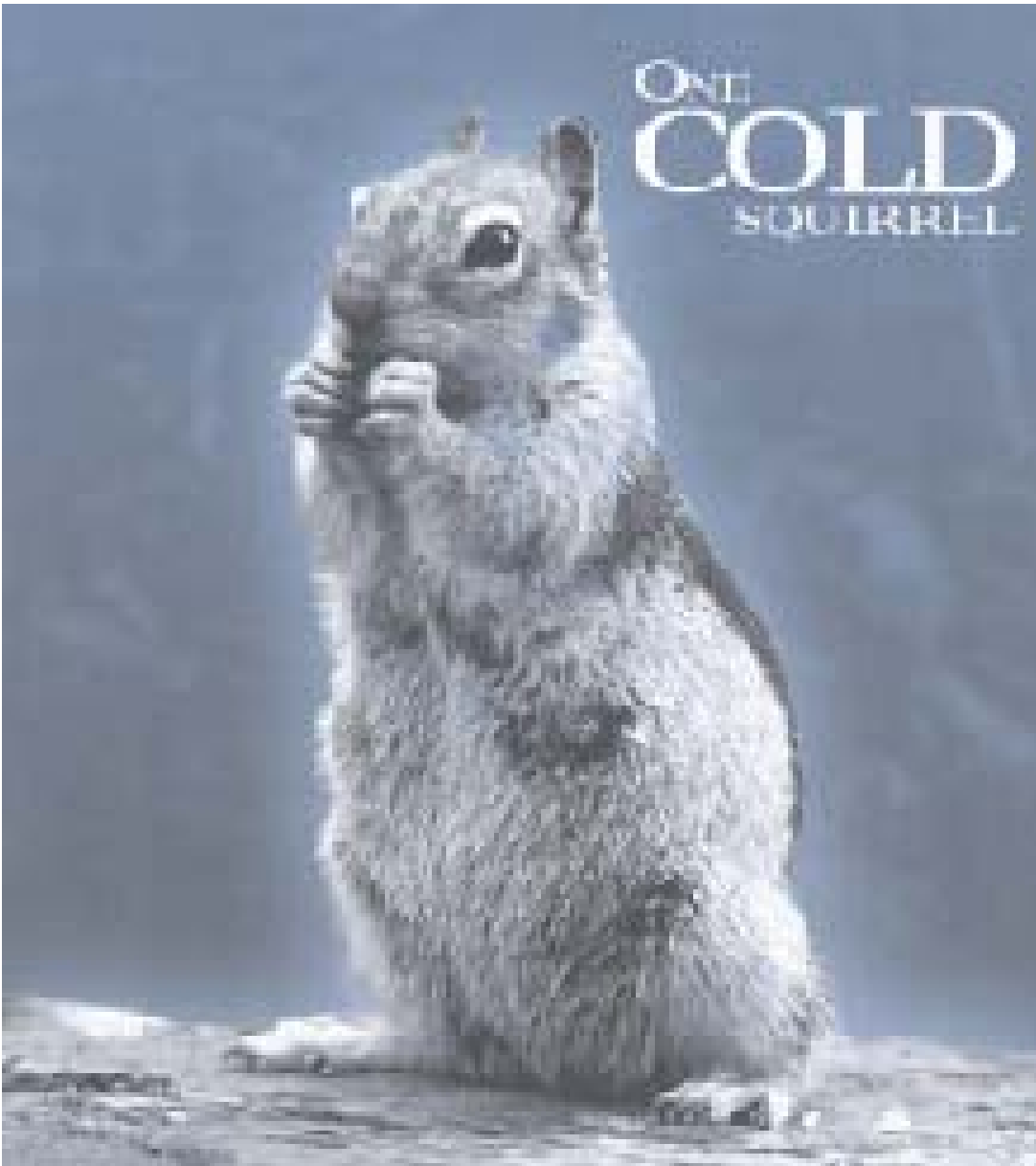
5. Now you are ready to preview the image by pressing the "Preview" button at the top right corner of the window. You now should see the background disappear.

Under the Preview Options you can change the background color if needed. If you like what you see, then press the OK button.

Note: Sometimes it's not always perfect and you may need to clean up some edges with the Eraser Tool. If this is the case, then click on OK, now select the Eraser and clean up the edges.

Tip: The steps outlined will create a new layer image. If the selection is not crisp or if there are areas which were inadvertently deleted (either inside or outside of the desired border) drag the layer down to the create new layer icon at the bottom of the palette. You may do this several times, as required. Be sure to always drag the original layer, not the copy(s). When you are satisfied that it the process is not creating significant improvements, merge all of the layers back into a single one.

The final image of the squirrel is on the next page. In it a different background was used and a glow was made around the squirrel using



Here's the final image with a different background and a glow around the squirrel using Photoshop Layer Styles.