

(Legacy) Adobe Photoshop CS3: Feathering a Selection

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This article is based on legacy software.

Feathering is Photoshop's term for "soft edges." Creating a soft edge around a selection is a nice way to blend images, highlight an object within an image, or adjust harsh edges for web graphics. This document explains two ways of feathering an image in Photoshop.

Feathering a Selection

Feathering a selection blurs the edge of the selection. The selection can then be copied and pasted to create a new image or copied and pasted onto an existing image to create a composite image.

1. Using a selection tool, make your selection.

HINT: Leave a little room along the edges for the feathering action. It feathers on both sides of the selection border.

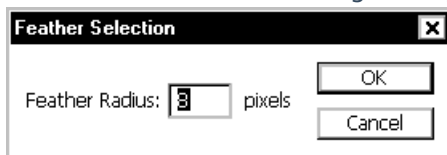


2. From the *Select* menu, select **Modify » Feather...**

OR

Press [Alt] + [Ctrl] + [D].

The *Feather Selection* dialog box appears.



3. In the *Feather Radius* text box, type your desired feather pixel value.

RECOMMENDED: Select a number between 5 and 10 for best results with resolution values around 72 ppi. The higher the image resolution, the higher the allowed feather radius value.

4. Click **OK**.

5. You can now copy and paste your selection to a new image or an existing image.

NOTE: Paste the selection onto a new image with a transparent background if you are planning to move it to another image.

Feathering a Selection Using Inverse

If you want to feather only a part of an image, use the *Inverse* function. The *Inverse* function simplifies the process of deleting the background detail. You have to select what you want to keep and then invert the selection by using the *Inverse* function; all details surrounding the selection will be selected. The feathered selection remains on a plain background. You may want to use this to create a composite image.

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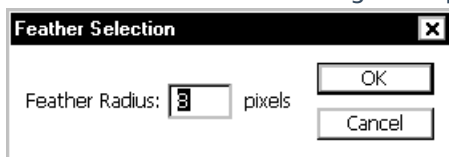


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The *Feather Selection* dialog box appears.



3. In the *Feather Radius* text box, type your desired feather pixel value.

RECOMMENDED: Select a number between 5 and 10 for best results with resolution values around 72 ppi. The higher the image resolution, the higher the allowed feather radius value.

4. Click **OK**.

5. From the *Select* menu, select **Inverse**.

OR

Press [Shift] + [Ctrl] + [I].

6. Press [Backspace].

The detail surrounding the selection is deleted, leaving only the feathered selection.

