

# INTERMEDIATE PHOTOSHOP



## What is Photoshop Elements?

Photoshop Elements is a streamlined version of Adobe Photoshop CC. Despite missing some more advanced features, it is a robust piece of software capable of handling many types of projects. You can buy Photoshop Elements as a one-time purchase instead of a monthly subscription like the full version.

# GETTING STARTED

In Intermediate Photoshop, we will collaboratively walk through all the steps it takes to combine two photographs.

Today, we'll be using Photoshop Elements. Elements is a less expensive version of Photoshop, bought in a one-time purchase instead of a monthly subscription like the full version. Despite missing some more advanced features, Photoshop Elements is a robust piece of software capable of handling many types of projects.

## By This Time You Should Know:

- Basics of layers
- Simple photo editing
- Saving in Photoshop
- Basic Keyboard commands (cut, paste, undo, redo)

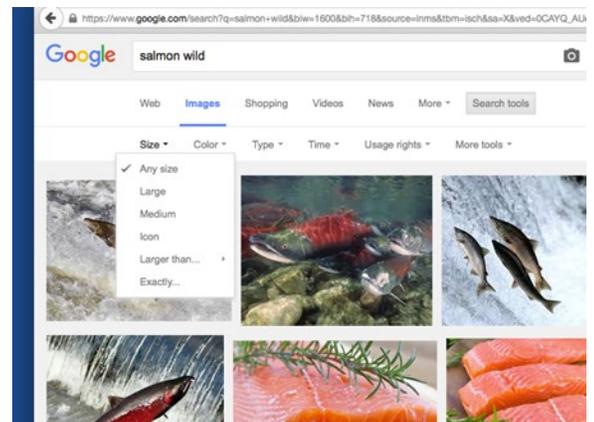
## Today We'll Cover

- Selecting images to Photoshop
- Preparing Images
- Copying and Pasting
- Transforming Image
- Magic Lasso Tool
- Adjust Lighting
- Copying and Pasting Textures
- Merge Visible
- Blur Tool
- Magic Band-Aid Tool

## Selecting an Image

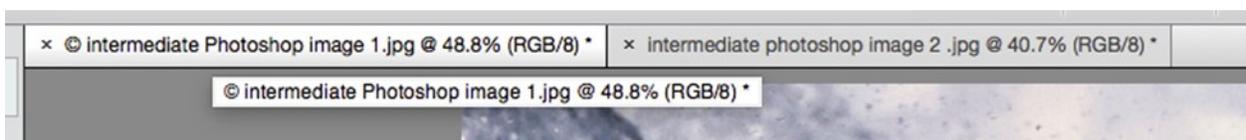
Probably the most important part when combining images happens way before you open up Photoshop. When selecting photos to combine, you'll want to pay attention to the lighting in each, as well as the size of both images, and the posture or scenery in the photos.

For the most part, search for large or medium file sized photos, as smaller sized images may create difficulties when editing. You can limit your search in Google images based on file size after opening the "Search Tools", as seen below.



## Multiple Images into Photoshop

First, we'll need to bring our images into Photoshop. Simply drag them onto the Photoshop icon. **Drag Intermediate Photoshop Image 1 + 2 into Photoshop Elements now.** When multiple images are opened in Photoshop, they appear in separate tabs. You can move between images by clicking on either tab.



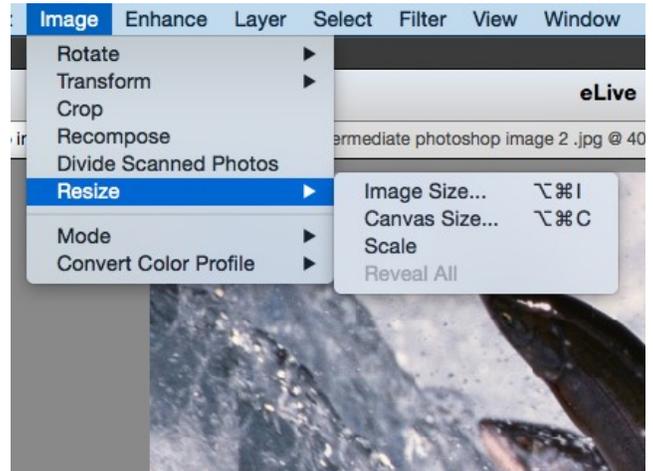
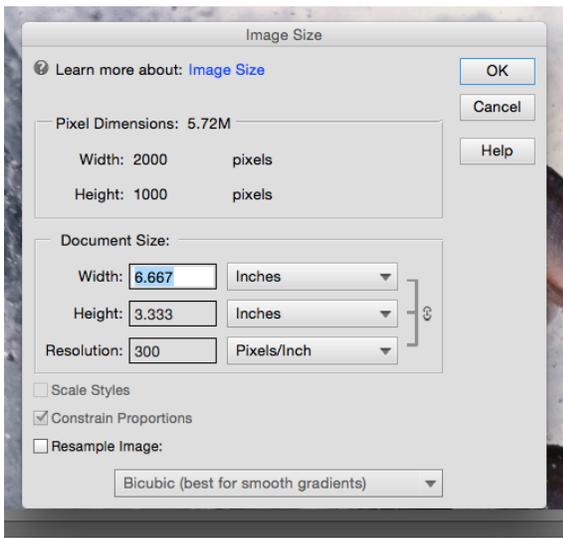
# PREPARING OUR IMAGES

Now, unless we were very lucky and the photos are the same size and quality, we will need to make some adjustments to our images.

## Image Size

The first thing we'll want to review is the term **Dpi**. Dpi describes the resolution of the image. When combining images, we'll want the resolution, or pixel size, to be the same.

To do this, open up the **Image Tab**, select **Resize**, and select **Image Size**.



Next, we'll set the resolution. For large and printed materials, we'll want to set the resolution to 300 Dpi.

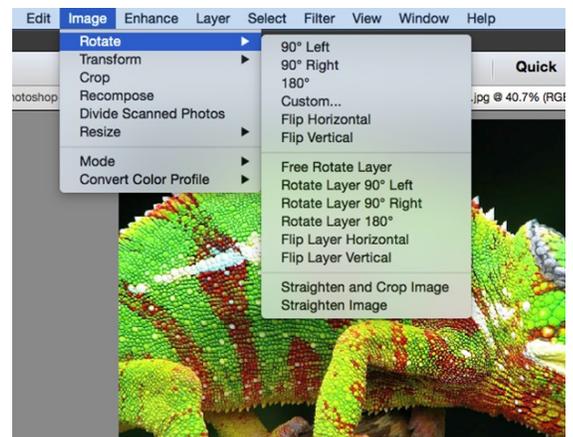
Also remember, you can always reduce quality but it's impossible to add information/quality to our file later. For most documents, 300 Dpi is appropriate. Beyond 300 Dpi is excessive and can lead to extremely large file sizes (but may be used for extremely large printouts).

## Flipping

When looking at image 1 and 2, you'll also need to consider which directions both photos are facing because we'll want to flip those now to face the same direction.

In this case, we'll flip the chameleon horizontally by selecting the **Image Tab**, then **Rotate**, and **Flip Horizontal**.

Now we should be ready to start editing these images together.



# COMBINING IMAGES

## Cutting and Pasting

The basics of almost all intermediate Photoshop skills is cutting and pasting. Similar to the operation in a Word document, we will be using the same principles to select one part of an image and cut/copy that portion onto another.



The first way to cut and paste in Photoshop is using the rectangular selection tool. Using this, we can draw a rectangle around the chameleon's head.

Hit **CTRL+C** and select our other image and enter **CTRL+V**.



Our image is now placed on top. As you can see though, using the rectangular selection leaves a lot of unwanted background in our selection.

## Lasso Tool

A better way to copy and paste a portion of an image, though, is to use the **Lasso Tool**. The **Lasso Tool** works like the square selection tool except that you can move around certain parts of the image. Because we are copying something with an irregular shape, we'll want to use the **Lasso Tool**.



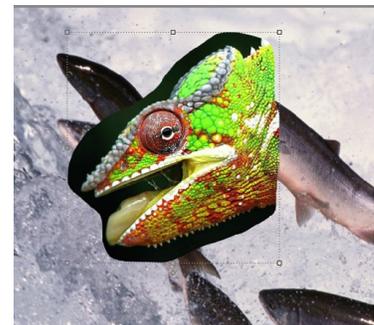
Select the **Lasso Tool** and draw around your chameleon's head. Then cut the chameleon's head and paste into onto our first image.

If you make a mistake, simply hit the **ESC key** and start over.



Once the image is pasted, you'll also notice that a new layer is created.

We should now have two layers, one that is the chameleon and the other that is our fish.

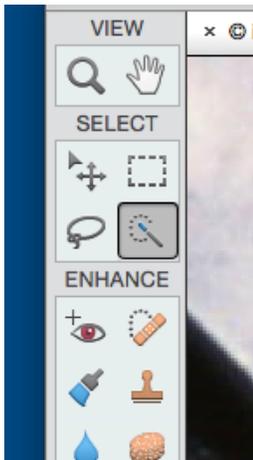
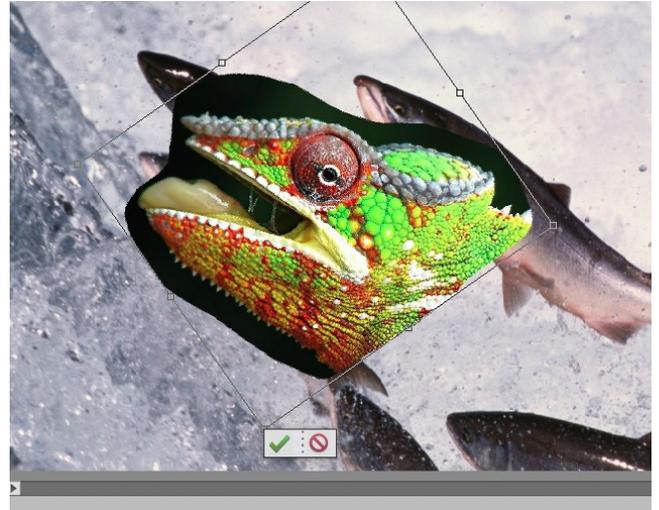


# TRIMMING

## Transforming the Image

Once the image is pasted onto image one, you'll notice a square border around the new layer. You can now change both the image's size and rotation by clicking, holding, and dragging.

Use the bisecting boxes on the side to increase the size. To rotate, move the mouse to the corner until you see the rotation symbol.



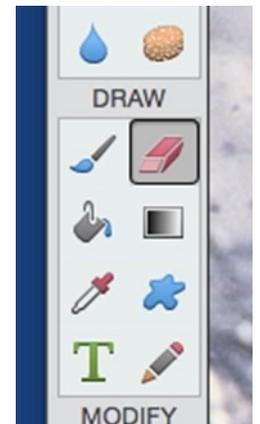
## Magic Wand

You'll notice, we still have some excess background on our chameleon. Similar to the regular lasso, the **Magic Wand** does all the selecting work for you. Clicking and drawing with the **Magic Wand Tool** selects and highlights based on shape. Select the background and click **Delete** to remove unwanted background. If you make a mistake use **CTRL+Z** to undo your deletion.



## Eraser Tool

Now we should have a chameleon head that matches the relative size of the salmon. There's still a slight border that the **Magic Lasso** didn't remove, so we'll also want to erase that using the eraser tool.

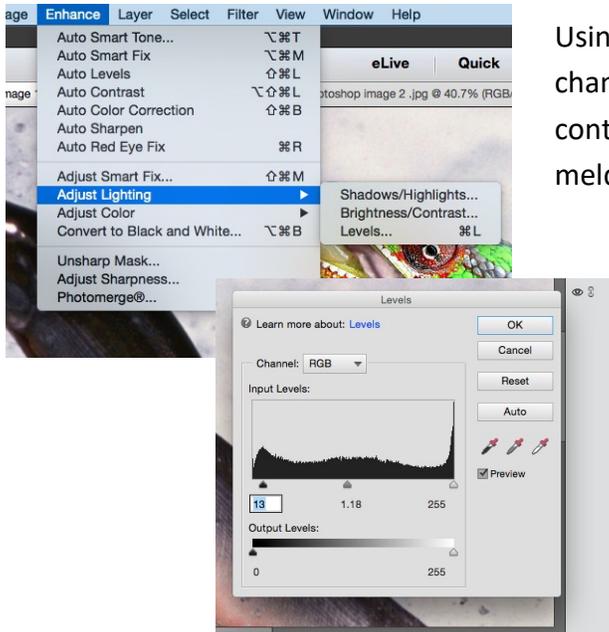


Now our fish is coming along nicely.

# ADJUSTMENTS

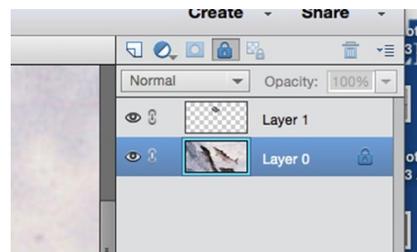
## Adjust Lighting

Based on what we have now, you can see that the chameleon head is not blending into our image for a few reasons. The first being that the lighting is both too bright and has too much contrast.



Using the **Enhance Tab**, let's bring up the **Levels**. Make the chameleon's head darker by bringing the blacks up and reduce the contrast by changing the mid-tones. This will allow the images to meld together visually.

As a reminder, always make sure that you have the layer selected you would like to edit. If you have the incorrect layer selected, either nothing will happen, or you may make changes to the background unknowingly.

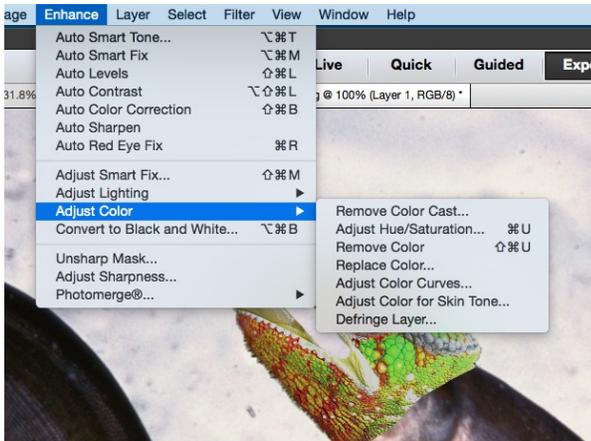


## Using Pre-existing Textures

The next thing we'll want to do is remove the salmon visible between the chameleon's mouth. The easiest way to do this is to use a pre-existing texture/image to cover it up. Simply use the **Selection Tool** to copy a portion of the water and paste it back onto the image. Use the **Pointer Tool** to drag it over until it is in the correct location.

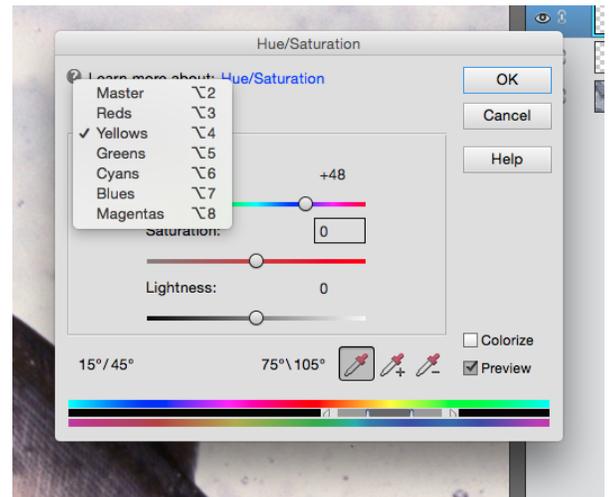


# ADJUSTMENTS



## Adjusting Color

Our next big problem is the differences in color between the muted salmon and the green chameleon. Under the **Enhance Tab**, we can **Adjust Color** using **Adjust Hue/Saturation** features.



This will open up the **Hue/Saturation Menu**. Here, we can play with the colors of the layer easily. Simply adjust the **Hue Slider** on the top to effect the master color, or select specific colors to adjust from the drop down menu.

In this case, we'll probably want to make our chameleon head a slightly muted purple.



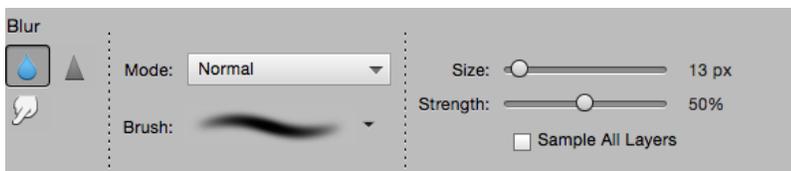
## Blur Tool



If we look more carefully now, we can also see that the chameleon head is in sharper focus than the salmon behind it. The easiest way to fix this problem is to use the **Blur Tool** to make the chameleon appear more similar to the background.

Selecting the **Blur Brush**, we can paint over the head to decrease the detailed located there.

You can use the menu below to adjust the size and strength the blur brush.



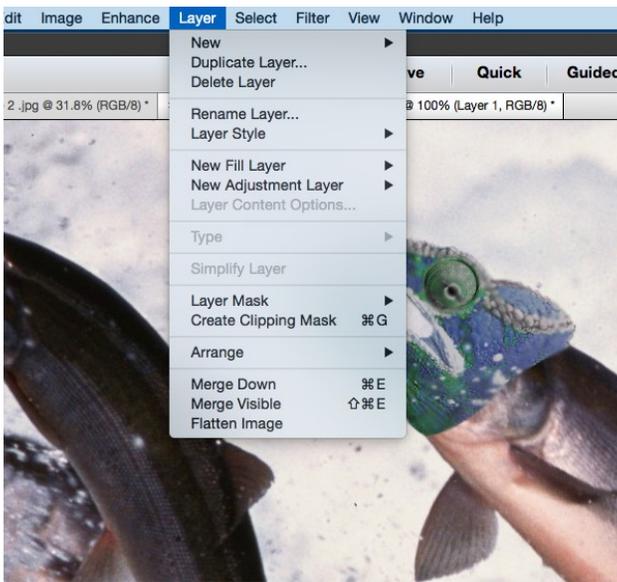
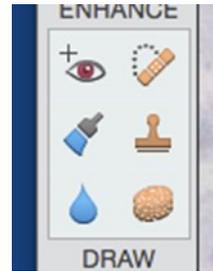
As you can see the level of detail is similar now on the head and body of our fish.



# MERGING THE IMAGES

## Correcting with the Spot Healing Brush

Finally, we will need to hide the lines between our two images. While there are several ways to do this, the **Spot Healing Brush** provides nice results with little work.



In order to edit them together though, we'll need to combine the layers to blend them. This is called “merging.”

To **Merge** the layers, go to the **Layer Tab** and select **Merge Visible**. This will combine all our layers together into a single image.

This means, though, that we will no longer be able to move parts of the image independently. It is advised to save several versions while working in order to backtrack after a merge.

Now that our layers are merged, we can use the **Spot Healing Brush** to blend the shapes together. Using trial and error, merge the shapes together, drawing over them to combine the sharp lines.

We should now have a combined salmon chameleon. There are obviously several more tricks to make this photo more convincing, but by using these tools you should be able to merge photos successfully.



### Let's Try It!

Combine Images 3 and 4 by:

- Adjusting image size
- Flipping Image
- Resizing and Rotating
- Adjusting Levels
- Adjusting Hue/Saturation
- Blur Tool
- Merging Layers
- Spot Healing Brush