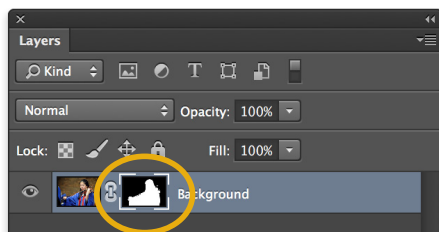
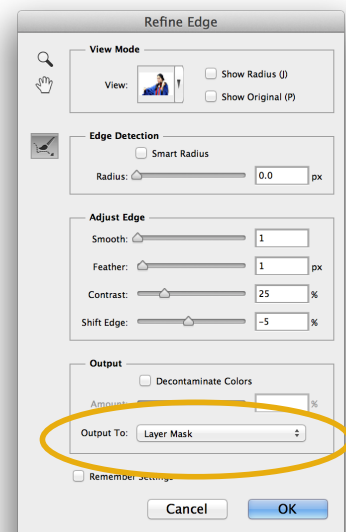
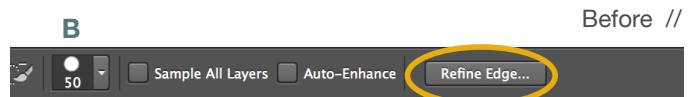


// CREATING CUTTING OUT BACKGROUNDS

From the **Lasso Tool**, the **Pen Tool**, **Magic Wand** and **Quick Mask Mode** — there are many ways to select a background in Photoshop. While the **Quick Selection Tool** has been featured for this tutorial, any of these methods can be used to make your initial selection.

Cut-Out Background (COB)

- 1) Open the image that you would like to COB in **Photoshop**.
- 2) Select the **Quick Selection Tool (W)** from the tool bar. (figure A)
- 3) Use the bracket keys on the keyboard to toggle the size of the brush — the **left bracket ([)** will reduce the brush diameter and the **right bracket (])** key will increase the **brush diameter**.
- 4) Select the area of the image that you want to keep. A smaller diameter brush can be used for more detailed areas. If you select an area that you don't want, hold down **Alt (PC) // Option (Mac)** and paint back over the area to modify the section.
- 5) Click the **Refine Edge** button in the **Control Bar**. (figure B)
- 6) Adjust the **Smooth**, **Feather**, and **Contrast** to refine the edge of your cutout until you reach the desired effect. Moving the **Shift Edge Slider** to the left will help to make sure there is no white or black halo around your subject.
- 7) Select **Layer Mask** from the **Output Drop Down Menu** and click **OK** to apply the changes. (figure C)
- 8) If you still see any area of you cutout that needs to be adjusted, choose the **Brush tool (B)** from the tool bar, select the **Layer Mask** (figure D) from the **Layers panel**. Painting with the color **Black** on the **Layer Mask** will hide whatever you paint. Painting with the color **White** to reveal something you cutout by mistake.



Saving the Image

If you save the file in **JPEG** file format the **Layer Mask** will no longer be editable and the background of the image will appear white when you place the image on your page. This will prevent you from being able to use the photo on a colored background. To retain the **Transparent Background** and the **Layer Mask** follow these simple steps.

- 1) Choose **File>Save As** and choose **TIFF** as the file format (**not JPEG**).
- 2) After you click **OK** to save the file, a dialog box will pop up. Make sure to check the box **Save Transparency**. Then click **OK**. You may get another dialog/warning box telling you that some programs can't use **TIFFs with Transparency**. Don't worry about this.

