

ADOBE PHOTOSHOP Elements TECHNIQUES

Silhouette Art Cheat Sheet

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Join Dave as he shows us how to create a silhouette art effect, using a few layers and every lasso tool in the box!



This effect works best on a subject wearing dark clothing. Grab an image, and follow along with Dave!

Use Magic Wand tool with contiguous tuned ON or OFF (try both) Tolerance set to about 35, give a couple of clicks, your goal is to select just the dark areas of the clothing.

Create a new blank layer (1) Fill selected area with black (Option-Delete or Alt-Backspace)

Use the Polygonal Lasso tool to select the collar edge then finish off with a rough selection of the shirt/chest area.

Create another new layer (2), pick a color you want to use for the shirt (click on Foreground chip), and do same fill of the selection (Option-Delete/Alt-Backspace).

Turn on the top layer to see how the effect is progressing.

Add a new layer (3) and move it beneath layer (2); fill this layer with white.

Go back to layer (1) set your color chips back to default foreground/background colors (press D) and use your Paint Brush to clean up any details you wish to remove. (You can also use a hard-edged eraser to clean up any edging where shadows were picked up.)

Go back to background layer, hold down Option or Alt, click on the eye to view that layer only and select the tie area with the polygonal lasso.

Go back to layer (1) and fill with black again to add the tie to your suit.

An optional step is to add hair: Go to the background layer and using the regular lasso tool, do a rough selection of the hair (it will look weird at first), and fill this selection with black on layer (1).