

Notes regarding transposing the 'sky' portion of a photograph in
"Photoshop CS4"

1. Open pictures containing photo needing new sky and photo containing replacement sky in Photoshop. Drag & drop; File > Open > ...jpg; Rt. Click > Open With; etc.
2. In 'sky' picture, Ctrl+A to select all. Then Ctrl+C to copy to memory.
3. Close sky picture.
4. Ctrl+V to paste sky into remaining picture.
5. Double click 'Layers' to show layers.
6. Click layer containing sky in Layers menu to make layer active.
7. Reduce opacity to reveal both layers.
8. Click 'Move' Tool to move into position and enlarge / reduce. Click 'Tick' on completion.
9. Select 'Blend' Mode as 'Normal' (Difference, Dissolve and Colour Dodge are all fun).
10. Hide 'Sky' Layer by clicking on 'eye' icon and select background layer.
11. Select 'Magic Wand' Tool. Set Tolerance to 32, and tick Anti-alias and Contiguous. Select add to selection.
12. Click somewhere on sky. Continue clicking on sky to expand selection. Ctrl++ to zoom in and check that all areas of sky are selected.
13. Check for fringing, if marching ants are not at edge of objects, > Select > Modify > Expand by one or two pixels. It is better to expand into an object than to stop short and suffer fringing.
14. Click Refine Edge box. Set Feather to about 0.5 px to improve further. All other settings to zero.
15. Select > View > Fit on Screen and turn Layer one back on. Click on Layer one to select.
16. Click > Select > Inverse to invert the selection and mask the sky where the building needs to show through. Put 'Opacity' back to 100%.
17. Press 'Backspace' to cut out Mask and Ctrl+D to deselect.

Further Improvements (Levels)

1. Ctrl+M brings up levels palette. Ensure layer to be worked on is highlighted. On Sky Layer an "S" curve works best to improve contrast. Select both intersections and set upper right, (Output 200 Input 184) and lower left (59 Output and Input 71). Click OK to finish.
2. On Background Layer, lower left intersection to Output 75 and Input to 52. Upper right to 176 Output and 206 Input. Click OK to finish.
3. Select > Layer > Flatten Image.

Further Improvements (Rotation)

1. To improve the rotation of the image use 'Rotate Tool' (Top of screen next to 'Magnify')
2. Zoom In (Ctrl++) and scroll picture to align horizon with an edge then click and hold on image and rotate image until parallel. Select > View > Fit on Screen.
3. Select 'Crop Tool', Click on 'Clear' to ensure width and height and resolution are clear to ensure free-form cropping. Select whole picture with 'Crop Tool'.
4. Move cursor outside of picture area and rotate selection to perfect Vertical and Horizontal alignment. Drag in selection to centralise 'Crop'.
5. Click on 'Tick' to crop. Press Escape key to leave rotate state.

Further Improvements (Perspective)

1. Press 'C' to select 'Crop Tool'. Click 'Front Image' to constrain crop.
2. Drag 'Crop Tool' to select entire image. Click on 'Perspective' and drag corners to correct perspective.
3. Click on tick when complete.

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