Adobe Seminars: Web Page Design
by Lisa Lopuck and Sheryl Hampton

The techniques within this Acrobat™ PDF file are from the upcoming Adobe Press book Adobe Seminars: Web Page Design.

Adobe Seminars: Web Page Design is a portable seminar on web page design taught by experienced professionals that documents Adobe software such as Adobe Photoshop 4, Adobe Illustrator 7, and Adobe PageMill 2, as well as the latest HTML language protocols.

This October 1997 Adobe Press book will bring all the essential information of a two-day seminar into a compact and reusable format, complete with CD and step-by-step techniques. Two noted Web seminar instructors, Lisa Lopuck and Sheryl Hampton of ElectraVision, have distilled their training sessions into over a hundred two-page techniques using popular Adobe applications to simulate how Web pages are actually created. The result is a reference book of clear, simple explanations and designs that are reusable page after Web page.

Adobe Seminars: Web Page Design

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4-color, 264 pages, includes ImageClub CD

Trimming Graphics to the Smallest Possible Size

Web graphics always need to be made as small as possible in terms of file size. A few factors that contribute to making smaller files include: reducing the color palette, using flat color whenever possible, avoiding horizontal gradients, and finally, trimming your graphics to their smallest possible size. In this case, the image to be cut out has highly feathered edges. These types of graphics are difficult to cut out by eye-balling it alone. Often times, you will end up cropping too closely and you will see a hard edge once the image is on the Web (as shown).

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PHOTOSHOP 4.0	Object Gear, Vol. 1 Design Elements: Skull Steer
	Object Gear, Travels: Road Sign
	Photo Gear, Skyscapes: Clouds#7
	font: Garage Gothic Black

STEP 1: MERGING LAYERS

If the image is in multiple layers, merge them together. Use the Option Merge technique discussed in Lesson **B7** to keep the source layers intact.

TIP: *Instead of using option + merge, you can simply turn on all the eyeball icons of the layers to be merged, and select Duplicate from the Image menu. Check the Merged Layers Only check box to create a new merged file apart from your source file.*

STEP 2: USING THE MAGIC WAND TO FIND THE EDGES

Using the Magic Wand tool, set on a tolerance of zero and with no anti-aliasing, select the transparent background surrounding the image. To ensure that you capture all the transparency, choose Similar from the Select menu. Invert the selection. This selection shows you the absolute outer edges of your image.
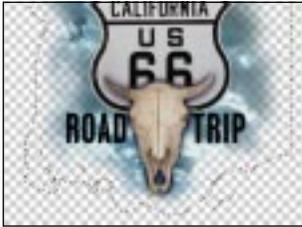
STEP 3: CREATING A RECTANGULAR SELECTION

In order to crop the image according to the selection created in Step 2, you need to convert the selection into a rectangular one. Hold down the shift key to add to the current selection using the Marquee tool until you have a perfect rectangle.

Because you are adding to the selection, you do not have to do it all in one step; you can build it in stages. For example, start at the top-most point and draw to one of the side-most points.

If the Crop function is grayed out in the Image menu, your selection is not a perfect, there may be a tiny bulge somewhere. Crop the image with the Crop function once the selection is perfect.

NOTE: *The crop tool does not work in this case because it erases your Magic Wand selection.*