week::six

Transparency

Overview
- Also referred to as the *Opacity* of a pixel.
- Available as an option in most tools.
- Allows for professional compositing and editing of images.
- Represented by default as a gray checkered pattern in the canvas.
- Provides 256 levels of transparency per pixel.
  - Photoshop uses percentages as a measurement of opacity
- Always good to preserve transparency when possible.
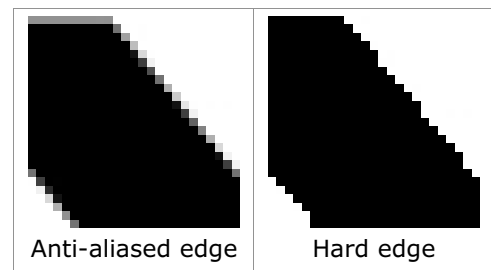 - Allows for flexibility in editing an image

Selections

Edge Type
- Anti-aliased vs. Hard edge

Tools
- Rectangular Marquee (M)
- Elliptical Marquee (Shift-M)
- Lasso (L)
- Polygonal Lasso (Shift-L)
- Magnetic Lasso (press Shift-L twice)
- Magic Wand (W)

Anti-aliased edge   Hard edge

The Options Bar
- Displays the options for the current selected tool

Selection Hints
- To constrain the proportions of the marquee tools, hold down the Shift key.
- Press the Shift key to add to the current selection.
- Press the Option key to subtract from the current selection.
- Press the Shift and Options keys to select the Intersection of the current selection and the new selection you are drawing.
- Press the Option key to temporarily change the Lasso tool to the Polygonal Lasso tool (and vise-versa).
- Command-Click on a layer to select only opaque pixels.
- The Delete key removes any content in a selection.
  - When the selection is on a layer, the pixels become transparent
  - When the selection is on the Background, or when transparency is locked, the pixel are colored with the Background color.

Useful Shortcut Keys
- Select All: Command-A
- Deselect All: Command-D
- Invert the Selection: Command-Shift-I
- Reselect a Selection: Command-Shift-D

Select Menu
- o Feather (Command-Option-D)
- o Modify > Border; Smooth; Expand; Contract

Quick Mask
- o Quick Mask turns the current selection into an editable set of pixels.
  - ▪ Pixels overlaid with pink are not selected
  - ▪ Fully-visual pixels are currently selected
- o Most painting and selection tools are available to edit the mask.
  - ▪ Brushes, Eraser, Lasso, etc.
- o Displays the "true" selection, including semi-transparent selections.
- o The Q key toggles between Quick Mask and Standard selection modes.

Editing Basics

Moving
- o The Move tool (V).
- o Operates on the current selection or layer.

Copy and Paste
- o Copy (Command-C) copies the current selected pixels.
- o Copy Merged (Command-Shift-C) copies all pixels from every layer in the current selection
- o Paste (Command-V) pastes the copied pixels onto a new layer.
- o Paste Into (Command-Shift-V) pastes into the current selection.

Brush Tool
- o Powerful, flexible tool for creating or modifying imagery.
- o The Brush tool can be customized in a infinite number of ways using the Brush palette (Window > Brushes).
- o Brushes are the basis for other tools, including the Eraser, Healing, Clone, Blur, Sharpen, Smudge, Dodge, Burn and Sponge tools.

Eraser Tool
- o Used to remove pixels from a document.
- o When you are working on the background layer, or when transparency is locked, the Eraser tool replaces the pixels with the Background color.
- o If Lock Transparency is off for a layer, the pixels are replaced with transparency.

Clone Stamp Tool
- o Clones imagery from one area to another, or imagery from an open image to the active image.
- o The Clone Stamp's power lies more in what it can *remove* than what it can add.
- o Important Keys:
  - ▪ S – Select the Clone Stamp tool
  - ▪ Option key – Selects the source area for cloning

Healing Brush
- o Copies just the texture of the source area, not the coloring.
- o Important Keys:
  - ▪ J – Select the Healing Brush tool
  - ▪ Option key – Selects the source area for texture

Layers

Compositing with Layers

- o When creating composite images, it's important to always use and maintain as many layers as you need.
- o Editing a composition that has been flattened (all layers merged into one) is very difficult.

Basics

- o Create a New Layer
  - ▪ Click the Create New Layer button in the Layer palette. (Command-Shift-N)
- o To Show/Hide a layer
  - ▪ Click in the eye column to show/hide a layer.
- o Convert the current selection into a layer
  - ▪ Copy the selection, deselect the pixels, then paste the copied pixels. (Command C, Command-D, then Command-V)
- o Convert the Background layer into a true layer
  - ▪ Double-click on the Background in the Layer palette, give it an appropriate name, and click OK.
- o Duplicate a layer
  - ▪ Drag the layer you wish to duplicate onto the Create New Layer button in the Layer palette. (Command-J)
- o To name a layer
  - ▪ Double-click on the layer name (not the layer icon).
- o To delete a layer
  - ▪ Drag the layer you wish to delete onto the Delete Layer button in the Layer palette, or select the layer and then click on the Delete Layer button.

Layer Transformations

- o Options available under the Edit > Transform menu.
  - ▪ Scale
  - ▪ Rotate
  - ▪ Skew
  - ▪ Distort
  - ▪ Perspective
  - ▪ Rotate 180°/90° CW/90° CCW
  - ▪ Flip Horizontal/Vertical
- o Free Transform
  - ▪ Quick key: Command-T
  - ▪ Similar to transform in Illustrator
  - ▪ Control-click (Right-click on Windows) brings up other transform options.

Blending Modes & Opacity

- o Opacity
  - ▪ Controls the translucently of the pixels on the selected layer.
  - ▪ The opacity of pixels multiplies if they are stacked on top of each other.
  - ▪ Use the keypad keys 0-9 to jump to different opacities (1 = 10%, 7 = 70%).
- o Blending Modes
  - ▪ Controls how the current layer is applied to layers beneath it.
  - ▪ See pages 32-36 in the Photoshop QuickStart Guide book for a basic visual reference guide to the different modes.
  - ▪ Use Shift—and Shift-+ to cycle through Blending Modes.

— Demonstration Outline —