

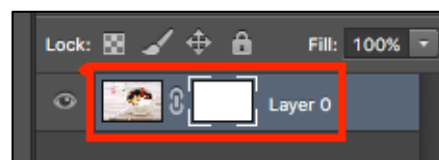
Photoshop: Complex backgrounds

Sometimes the background of an image is too complex to use the Magic Wand or Quick Selection Tool. In this case you need to get more complex with a layer mask.

This can take some time. Be patient and keep saving with a new name.

1. Open **Photoshop** and open your file: **File > Open**
2. **Unlock** the background layer (double click)
3. Click **Layer > Layer Mask > Reveal All**

This should add a layer mask box to the layer

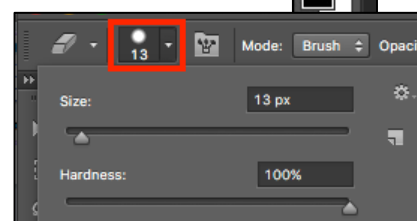


4. Choose the **Brush** tool on the left toolbar
5. Look at the **bottom** of the left toolbar and find the **colour box**
Black needs to be on top. If it's underneath then click the double arrow to switch the black and white around.

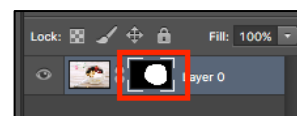


6. Make the **brush bigger** by using the size slider and set the bottom slider all the way to the right to get a "hard" edge

Screenshot this for marks!



7. Now **"paint"** over the background to remove it
At the edges it's best to zoom in and reduce the size of the brush.
8. Look at the layer. The **Layer Mask** part (the white box) should have black on it now where you've painted over.



9. You will probably paint over part of the background. This is easy to fix. Switch the **Brush colour** to **white** – use the **double headed arrow** at the bottom left

Paint over your mistake – making the brush smaller helps

10. **Save** your work as a **Photoshop file** to preserve the layers – **File > Save As**. Make sure you **change the name of the file** to get marks for version control

Save As: bowlberries-300-v2.psd

11. It may be worth trying the **Blur tool** around the edge of the image to soften it up

