

Working with Soft Edges

Open up any image you'd like to apply soft edges to. Once you've got it open, go to **>Image>Canvas Size**. Here add a quarter of an inch to the width and height of the photo. Make sure the foreground color is black so you'll get a white border around the image.

Select the white border with the magic wand tool. Make sure this area is selected. Once selected you'll need to invert the selection so the inside portion will be taken instead of the outside part. **>Select>Inverse**.

Go to the channels tab (next to where the layers menu is). In the channels tab go to the bottom of this menu and click on the button that says "Save selection as channel" (button looks like box with circle inside it). Now you will see a new channel created called Alpha 1. Click on Alpha 1 and deselect the selection by going to **>Select>Deselect**.

Now you're ready for the fun part. Go to **>Filter>Blur>Gaussian Blur**. Adjust the radius to 24 or higher, depending on how much of the edge you want to be soft. With this accomplished, click on the first channel. If image is greyscale, that will be the black channel. If RGB or CMYK, pick the RGB or CMYK channel. Usually the first one. OK, now go back to the layers tab.

In Adobe Photoshop, channels store an image's color information. In addition, channels and masks store selections that let you manipulate and control specific parts of an image in sophisticated ways.

Go to **<Select<Load Selection**. In the load selection menu change the channel to Alpha 1, mark the invert box, and click on OK. Now you will see a selection border around your image. Press the backspace (PC) delete (Mac) key at least 5 times to get the edges as soft as you'd like it. Deselect your selection and you're all set. Look at Figure 1.2



Figure 1.0

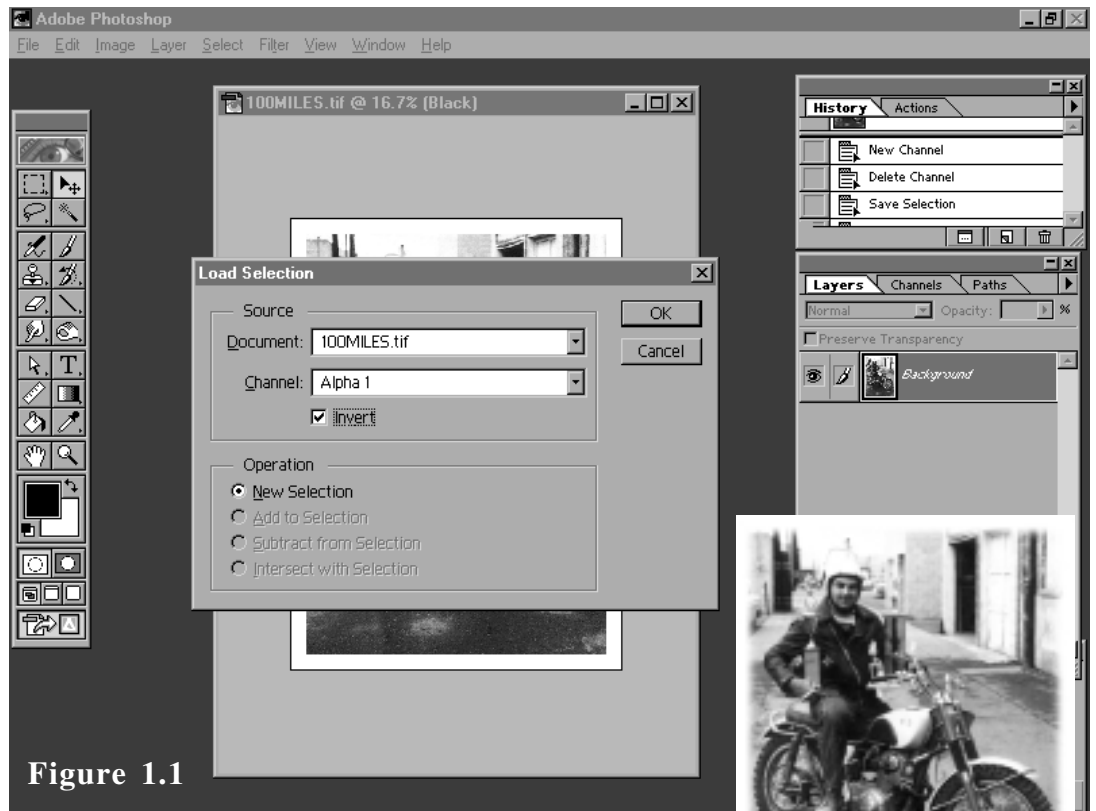


Figure 1.1



Figure 1.2