



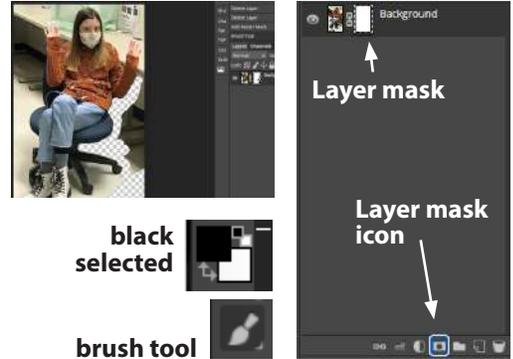
# Stretching Pixels in Photoshop

## 1) Prepare a Photo:

Open a photo in Photoshop, crop it close to the subject, then size it (recommendation: 7", resolution 200)

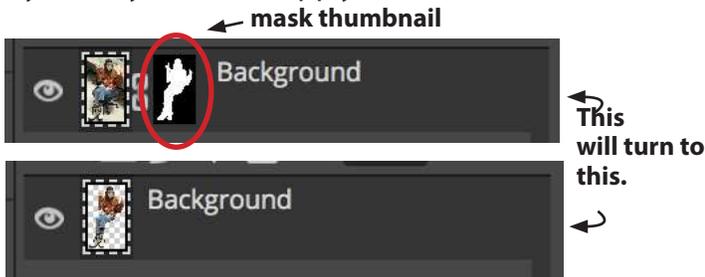
## 2) Remove the Background:

- Add a layer mask by clicking the layer mask icon in the bottom of the layers panel
- Get the brush tool and set the color at black in the toolbox
- Use the brush to "paint" away the background in the photo. Be sure to zoom in and select the most appropriate brush size for your image.



## 3) Apply the Mask:

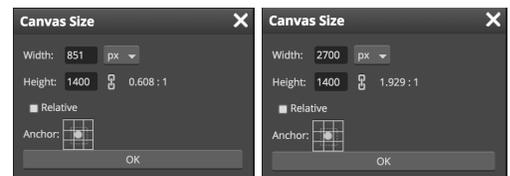
click on the mask thumbnail then Layer > Layer Mks > Apply.



## --> SAVE AS A PSD

## 4) Prepare the Canvas:

- Image > Canvas Size and make the canvas at least 3 times wider (for example, 2000 to 6000 pixels or 4" to 12")
- Zoom out (command/control -)
- If necessary, use the Rectangle Select Tool to select and then delete unwanted pixels
- Use the Move Tool to move the image to one side of the canvas



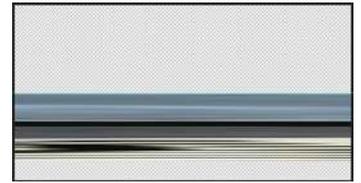
## 5) Select the Pixels to be Stretched:

- Get the Rectangle Selection Tool and draw a tall, very thin (1-4 pixels wide) rectangle over a part of the image that has a variety of colors
- Press command j and a new layer with a copy of the thin selection will appear in the layers panel
- On the new layer, get the Move Tool , then Edit > Transform > Distort



## 6) Stretch the Pixels:

- grab the middle anchor point of the strip with the Move Tool and drag the colors all the way to one side (off the canvas) Repeat, this time dragging the other direction.



## 7) Make a Choice (choose a or b):

- a - Select more pixels to get more color and repeat the process of 5-6 and then move the 2 strips of color together until they touch, OR
- b - Select the colors then stretch the pixels up and down to fill the canvas

--> **SAVE AS A PSD**

## 8) Arrange the Layers and Move the Subject:

- Click on the eyeballs in the layers panel to make all layers visible again
- Click on the Background layer to activate it and then drag it to the top, above any other layers
- Use the Selection Tool to move the subject to the center of the Background layer (if you want it there)
- If you have more than 2 pixel stretch layers: Hold down the shift key and click on each layer in the layers panel EXCEPT for the Background layer (the one with the subject in it)
- Then Layer > Merge Layers. You should now have just 2 layers



--> **SAVE AS A PSD**

## 9) Choose an Option to Distort, Warp, or Remove Pixels for Special Effects

### Option 1: Use a Filter to Distort the Pixels

- Click on layer 1 (colored stripes)
- Go to in the menu to Filters > Distort > Polar Coordinates or try other filters!



### Options 2: Remove Some of the Stretched Pixels to Add Emphasis

- Move color stripes and/or subject to where you want them, then
- Add a layer mask (see step 2 to review) to the color stripe layer
- Select the Brush Tool and set the color at black, and
- brush to paint away parts of the stretched pixels that you do not want



### Option 3: Warp the Pixels to Create Wings, Swooshes, or Whatever Design You Want!

- Click on layer 1 to activate it (the color stretched pixel layer)
- Go to Edit > Transform > Warp
- Click on various anchor points and drag them around to create a warping effect

--> **SAVE AS A PSD**

When you are done editing your

image(s) and are ready to turn

it/them in, save again, but this time go to:

File > Export as > jpg Name it! Keep it in a

safe place! Turn this jpg version of your work in in Canvas!



## Why save as both psd and jpg?

A **psd** is saved with all of its layers intact, so you can still edit it. That is a good thing! When you save (File > Export as...) a **jpg** the image is flattened to one layer, so it loses its editability, but is a smaller file for saving, emailing, sharing on the internet, or submitting in Canvas.

