Marquee – Oval

To add parts of one image to another or to change part of a photograph in some way, we have to select and isolate the relevant section. There are a number of ways this can be done and the method chosen will usually be determined by the image and circumstances, although personal preference does come into it as well. Very often more than one method of selection is required on the same image.

1. If the 'Suffragette' image used for the Clone Stamp exercise is still on the screen, we will use it again now, otherwise reopen image **003.jpg**.

2. In the toolbox, press the cursor on the Rectangular Marquee Tool and in the drop-down menu which appears, select the Elliptical Marquee Tool.

3. Drag the cursor across the image to make an oval over the seated figure.
    It might require several attempts to get it right.
    If you touch the screen outside the oval with the cursor, the 'marching ants' will be deleted.
    If you touch the screen inside the oval, then you can move the oval selection around the screen.
    Try and get it something like the example.

4. We want to delete the area outside the oval, which means we have to reverse or invert the selection.
    Go to Select > Inverse.
    Note how there are now 'marching ants' around the edge of the image as well as the oval.

5. If we delete now, we will get a hard edge to the cut, which won't look appropriate.
    We want to soften the edge or 'feather' it, as it is called.
    Go to Select > Modify > Feather.
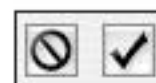   For versions of Photoshop prior to CS3 this will be Select > Feather.

    In the dialogue box type **10**
    Click on **OK** or press the Enter or the Return key.

6. In the toolbox, the default colours of black over white should be in view for the foreground and background colours.
    The shortcut for this is the letter D.
    To reverse the two colours, press X.

7. To clear the unwanted area around the figure, and fill with the background colour, press the Backspace/Delete key.

8. Now we want to remove parts of the outer area to make the image balanced and symmetrical.
    Firstly, put the cursor on the bottom right corner of the frame and drag down and out. This gives us a little extra space around the image.

Crop Tool

9. Select the Crop Tool on the main toolbox.
   In the top options bar is a small window called **Resolution** and with this we can set the resolution the image will be after cropping.

10. Our sample has a Resolution of 100 ppi so we'll keep it the same. If the Resolution box is empty then the resolution will remain the same; otherwise enter a value of **100** and press Enter.

11. Drag the crop symbol around the whole picture.

12. The small squares, or handles, of the crop frame are used for adjusting its size.
    Put the cursor on the centre left handle and move it to the right. Now push the bottom middle handle up until the frame is symmetrical. The darkened area represents the part of the image which will be removed.

13. Press Return or Enter to make the crop.

14. Cancel the crop with Ctrl + full stop (period) / Cmd + full stop (period).

- There are also **Cancel** and **Commit** buttons in the top options bar.

Tip

Make a copy of an image file and work on the copy.
The image might be on a CD in which case it will be locked, so you are safe.
Very often, however, the file might be a scan you have done and it's on your computer.
In such a case, copy it immediately and work on the copy.
An image file can be copied by the computer like any other file.