

08 Selection & Mask Shortcut Sheet

Three columns: how to select, how to mask, and how ArtRage does the same jobs with different words.

SELECTIONS · Photoshop

Rectangular / elliptical marquee

M

Lasso (all three lassos)

L

Automatic selection (Object / Magic Wand)

W

Add to the selection

hold Shift

Subtract from the selection

hold Alt / Option

Intersect

Shift + Alt / Option

Select everything

Ctrl / Cmd + A

Deselect

Ctrl / Cmd + D

Reselect what you just lost

Ctrl / Cmd + Shift + D

Invert the selection

Shift + Ctrl / Cmd + I

Feather (soften the edge)

Shift + F6

Select the contents of a layer

Ctrl / Cmd + click its thumbnail

MASKS · Photoshop

Add a mask: with the layer selected, click the circle-in-a-rectangle button at the bottom of the Layers panel. A white thumbnail appears beside the layer.

BLACK

conceals

GREY

partly

WHITE

reveals

Paint on the mask with black to hide, white to bring back. You are never destroying the pixels underneath.

Invert the mask

Ctrl / Cmd + I (with the mask thumbnail selected)

Turn the mask off temporarily

Shift + click the mask thumbnail

See the mask on its own

Alt / Option + click the mask thumbnail

Soften a mask edge

Properties panel > Feather

Fill the mask with black or white

Ctrl / Cmd + Backspace / Delete

Mask instead of erase.

The eraser throws pixels away. A mask hides them, and you can always change your mind. There is almost no reason to use the eraser on a finished layer.

THE SAME JOBS · ArtRage

ArtRage has a Selections tool that works the way you expect: draw a region, then paint only inside it. It lives in the Digital Utility Tools group with Text, Colour Sampler, Transformations, Fill and Cloner.

STENCILS - three modes

Stencil (red)

Blocks paint completely. Paint outside it, nothing gets through - like a physical mask taped to the canvas.

Ruler (grey)

Does not block anything. It guides the cursor, the way a real ruler guides a pencil. Best mode for ellipses and straight edges.

Guide (blue)

Guides the cursor AND lets the paint through. A compromise between the other two.

Stencils never appear in an export. They are tools sitting on the canvas, not paint on it.

Note on names: some sites list .arstencil, .arpalette and .arbrush files. Those extensions do not exist. ArtRage packs stencils, stickers, presets and scripts into a single .arpack container, saves colour collections as .col and tool presets as .prs.