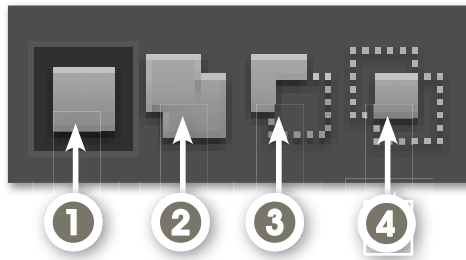


## Beyond One Step Selections

It is not often that you can complete a specific technique in a single step. In most cases you will find that the selection creation process contains many steps and employs a variety of tools and features. In this section we'll look at the ways that you can modify and manage the selections you create.

Different selection modes are available as buttons on the options bars of the various Selection tools in Photoshop Elements. You can change the selection mode by clicking onto one of these buttons or by using associated shortcut keys.



These choices in the selection tools options bar determine how any newly created selection interacts with any existing ones.

- (1) New selection.
- (2) Add to selection (Shift).
- (3) Subtract from selection (Alt/Opt).
- (4) Intersect with selection (Shift Alt/Opt).

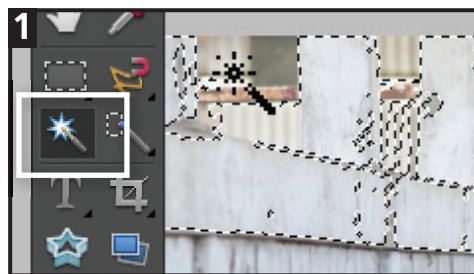
### Adding to a selection

By default most tools are set to create a new selection when first picked from the toolbar. To add to an existing selection, you will need to hold down the Shift key whilst selecting a new area. Notice that when the Shift key is pressed the selection tool's cursor changes to include a '+' to indicate that you are in the 'Add to Selection' mode.

As well as using the Shift key you can also pick the 'Add to Mode' from the tool's options bar in Photoshop Elements. This switches the actual mode of the tool.

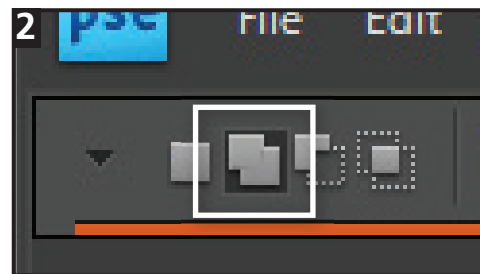
#### Step-by-step adding to a selection:

Follow these steps to include other picture parts in your selection.



#### Create a Selection First:


Start by creating an initial selection. Use any of the Selection tools for this step.



#### Use Shift to Add to a Selection:

With the selection tool still selected, hold down the Shift key and continue to define picture areas to include in the now extended selection. It is also possible to change selection tools at this point and use a different tool to add to an existing selection.

## Subtracting from a selection

Another way to modify existing selections or masks is to remove parts of the selection or erase sections of the mask. To remove sections from an existing selection hold down the Alt key (Option - Macintosh) whilst selecting the part of the picture you do not wish to include in the selection. When in the subtract mode the cursor will change to include a '-'. 

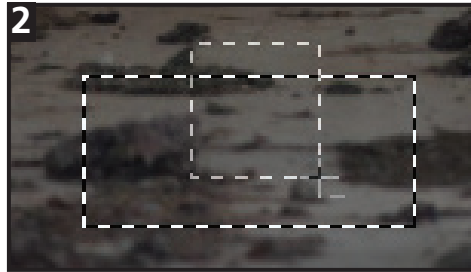
### Step-by-step subtracting from a selection:

Follow these steps to remove picture parts from your selection.



#### Create a Selection First:

Again this is a feature for modifying existing masks or selections. So the first step is to create a selection or mask on the image.



#### Use Alt/Opt key to Subtract from a Selection:

Once the Selection or Mask has been created, holding down the Alt/Opt keys will switch the Selection or Adjustment Brush tool to the Subtract From or Erase mode. Using the tool in this mode will remove sections of the mask or selection.

## Intersecting selections

When you are trying to isolate picture parts with complex edges it is sometimes quicker and easier to make two separate selections and then form the final selection based on their intersection. Often the quickest route to selection perfection is not the most direct route. Alongside New, Add To and Subtract From, the fourth Selection mode available as a button on the option bar is the Intersect mode. Although not used often, this mode provides you with the ability to define a selection based on the area in common between two different selections.

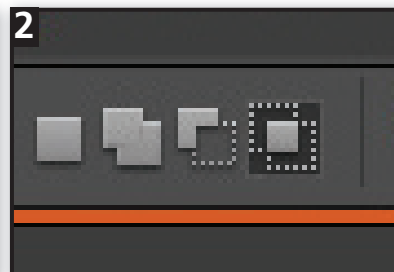
### Step-by-step creating a selection from intersecting selections:

Follow these steps to create a new selection from the intersection of two different selections.



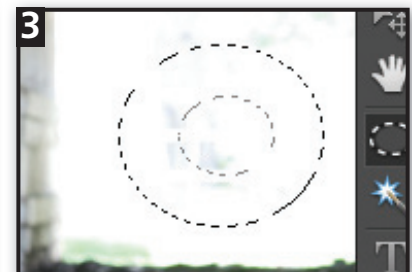
#### Create the first Selection:

Start by using one of the Selection tools from Photoshop Elements to create an initial selection. Now choose the selection tool that you will use to create a second selection.



#### Switch to Intersect Mode:

Next, switch to the Intersect With mode by holding down the Shift and Alt/Opt keys. Notice that the tool's cursor has the addition of a small X indicating that it is now in the Intersect mode.



#### Create the Second Selection:

Now create the second selection, keeping in mind that it will only be the overlapping parts of both first and second selections that will remain when you release the mouse button.