

# Tynemouth Photographic Society - Digital & Practical Group - 25th Feb 2020

## Affinity Photo

See the Links tab on [tynemouthps.org](http://tynemouthps.org) for the Affinity Photo web site and video tutorials.

### 1. Making high-contrast monochrome

There are several possible routes, starting with a RAW file.

First ensure the Develop Assistant says "RAW output format: RGB (32 bit HDR)"



Assistant  
(on top bar)

- Bring histogram in range by adjusting **Exposure** and **Blackpoint** sliders; Develop; Go into the **Tone map**: select "High contrast black & white"; Apply; Layer/New Adjustment Layer/Brightness&Contrast: push contrast right up
- Bring histogram in range as in A; Develop; Layer/New Adjustment Layer/Black&White: adjust colour filters: CB down, YG up;
- Bring histogram in range; Develop; Tone map: select "Dramatic"; Apply; Layer/New Adjustment Layer/Black&White: adjust colour filters: CB down, YG up.
- Bring histogram in range; On the Tones tab (still in Develop) choose Black & white; adjust colour filters (CB down, YG up); then develop; Tone map: select "Dramatic"; Apply;

Try these processes on the file **01\_Rochester/\_MG\_0299.CR2**





In the same folder are 3 results (\_a.jpg, \_b.jpg, etc from processing as described).

As noted last time, getting the histogram within range is impossible with non-RAW files.

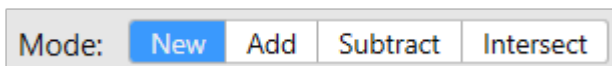
Also try **01\_Rochester/\_MG\_0302.CR2**

### 2. Selecting parts of an image

Several tools can be used in combination\*:

-  Selection Brush Tool
-  Flood Selection Tool
-  Marquee Selection Tool (4 shapes)
-  Freehand Selection Tool

Choose a tool and **check** (a) is the current layer Pixel, (b) does it contain the pixels you can select, (c) is the mode (shown at the top) suitable?



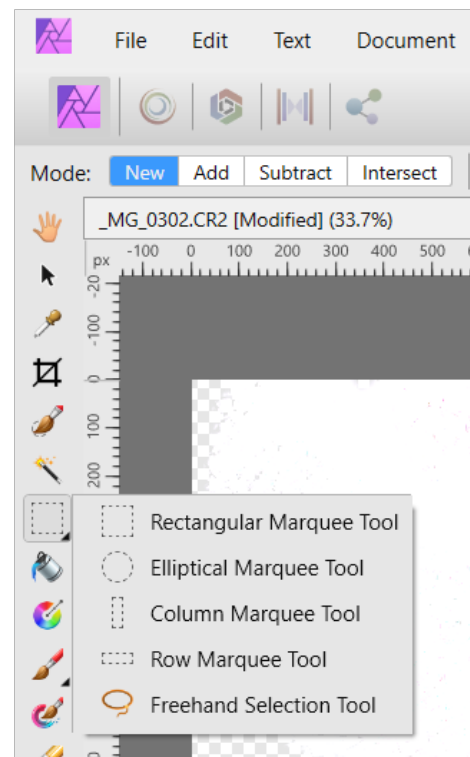
Are you starting a **NEW** selection or **ADD**ing to or **SUBTRACT**ing from a selection?

The **Marquee** tool is simple. Try it on a Rochester image, using all 4 modes to see effects.

Next try the **Freehand** tool (lassoe). This has 3 types; the 2nd (polygon) is most useful.

Type:    Mode: **New** Click each vertex, double-click to close polygon. (Notice hints at bottom of screen.)

With the **Flood** tool (wand) just click on required areas. Notice the **Tolerance** setting above the image: adjust it to avoid selecting too much or too little on each click.



The **Brush** tool can be dragged around to select an area. Try it on a sky.

\* Having used one tool to get most of the selection you can use any of the others in add or subtract mode to improve it. I often start with flood or brush then use polygon to improve.



More buttons on the top bar: Select all | Deselect | Invert selection

Or keys: *Ctrl-A* selects whole image/layer. *Ctrl-D* deselects. *Ctrl-Shift-I* inverts.

Then we come to the white button at the top, marked **Refine...**

### 3. Refining a selection

Let's replace the sky in **01\_Rochester/\_MG\_0302.CR2**  
The tree on the left is a problem.

Select most of the sky by using the brush or flood tool.

Invert the selection, so it covers the ground, not the sky.

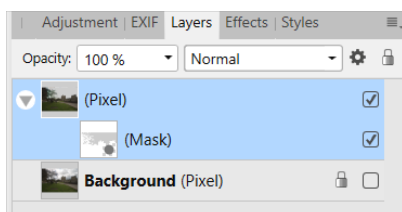
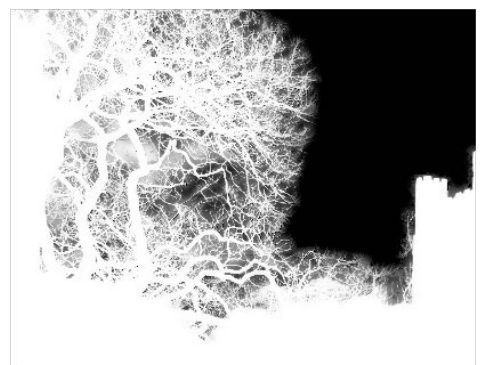
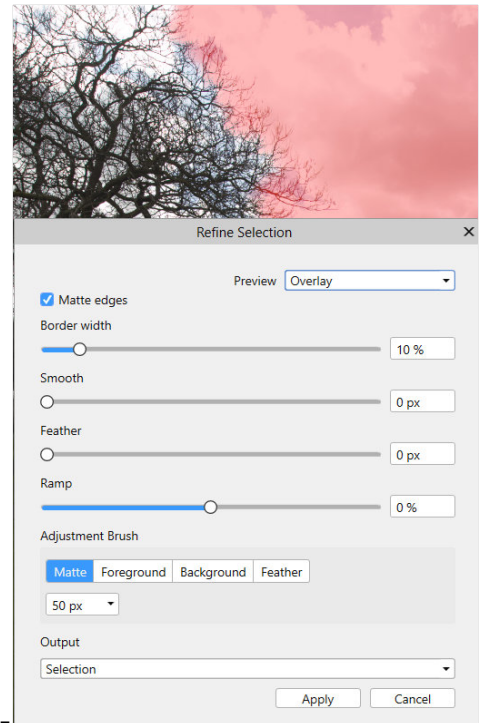
Then click **Refine...** to get a dialogue as shown here.

You need to brush over all of the tree, which is easier if you enlarge the brush. That "50px" box at lower left reveals a slider which can be pushed up to, say, 300px.

The areas you brush go pink and when you raise the brush some processing occurs. You may need to do this a few times to cover everything.

To check what has happened, change the "Preview" drop-down (top right) to either "Transparent" or (better) "Black & white".

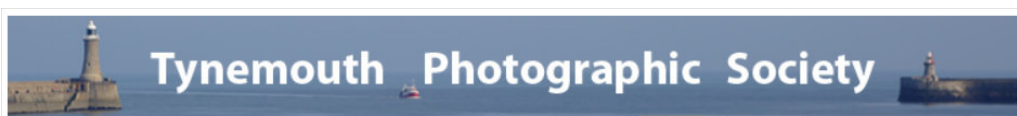
When the selection seems to be complete change the "Output" drop-down to "New layer with mask". **Apply**.



Layers are now like this.

On some images (including this one) the dialogue does allow for further refinements, explained here: <https://affinity.serif.com/en-gb/tutorials/photo/desktop/video/334273469>

Create a new pixel layer. Select all of it and fill it with a colour (Edit/Fill...). Finally move this new layer down below the layer with the mask. The sky is recoloured.



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### Nik filters in Affinity Photo

[tynemouthps.org/tips.html](https://tynemouthps.org/tips.html)

The free version of Nik Collection (that was supplied by Google a few years ago) works in Affinity Photo.