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Creating a Silhouette Digitally



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“I observed that there are many users who simply used the term “silhouette” without really understanding what exactly it is. Before we get started, let’s get the fact correct.

A silhouette is a classic and dramatic photographic technique. By isolating the outline of a subject while eliminating detail, a silhouette places tremendous emphasis on shape and contrast. It’s not only popular for portrait photography, but also landscapes and nature photography.

Now that you know what a silhouette is, let’s get started with the steps.”



Shirley Tan
*The #1 Adobe Certified
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Laying the groundwork

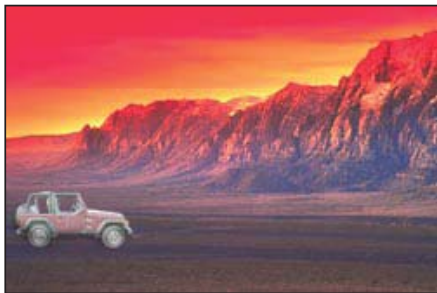
- 1) Open the image that you want to work with. Make sure you get one that has a dark background.



- 2) Drag and drop the an object to be used as the silhouette, in this example, we are using a jeep.

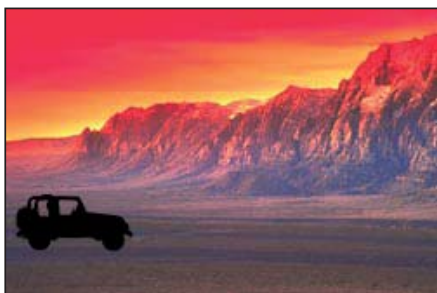
As a good practice, rename the layer as jeep.

Remember to clear the background of this image to transparent.



Creating the silhouette

- 3) Press **D** on to keyboard to reset the foreground colour to black.
- 4) Press **Alt + Shift + Backspace (Win)** or **Opt + Shift + Delete (Mac)** to fill the jeep with black, creating the silhouette effect.



Ta-da! That's your silhouette. Easy?

Adding realism

This is where lot of Photoshop users stopped, take a closer look - what more can be done?

Yes, an added shadow would have made the whole effect more realistic.

- 5) Duplicate the jeep layer and rename it as cast shadow.
- 6) With **Lock Transparency** feature turned on, fill the cast shadow with a black and white gradient.



- 7) To make it look real good, simply change the layer's blending mode to **Multiply**.

You may also want to add some text to complete the whole effect.

