

## Black on Black

This simple technique allows the selection of a foreground model to be achieved with little effort and the appearance of much greater precision in cutting out than is actually the case.

Step 1: Photograph the model against a black background (e.g. against a black backdrop). Open the image in the RAW converter and, using the shadow and exposure sliders, make sure the black background is as close to pure black as possible. Then select around the area of the model but there is no need to go close to the face/hair etc. Rather, leave a wide margin around the model that includes a wide area of black within the selection.

Step 2: Select a background where there is a black area behind the area that the model will be pasted over. If a natural black area is not big enough in the original image, then extend it using a soft black brush.

Step 3. Paste the selection over the second image and use the transform tool (Control/Command T) to place the selection over the area of black previously prepared on the background image. The 'join' between the selection and the background image is invisible as they are both pure black giving the impression of a very precise selection of the foreground model.