CD Cover – complex backgrounds

The more complex a background is, the harder it is to remove. Even changing the tolerance of the *Magic Wand Tool* and using the *Brush Mask Tool* to clean up, won't always work. Sometimes we just need a different approach

1. Open **PhotoPaint** – press **Alt + S** to get rid of the pop up
2. Click **File** > **Open** > open the lighthouse image and the batman image
3. **Square crop** the lighthouse image – this will be the background
4. On the **right panel**, make sure you are clicked on **Objects**
   If you lose the right panel, click **Window** > **Dockers** > **Objects** to get it back
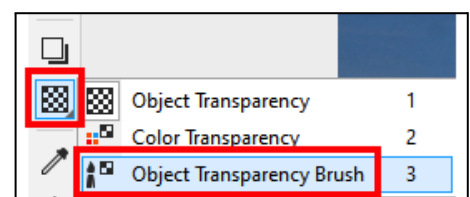
Combining the images

5. **Switch** to the batman image
6. **Crop** the image to remove most of the background
7. **Edit** > **Copy**
8. **Switch** to the lighthouse image
9. **Edit** > **Paste**
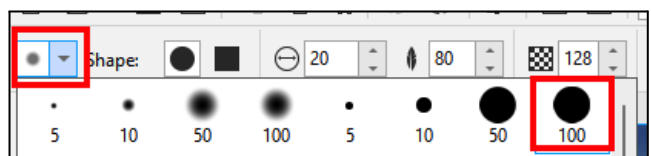10. **Resize** the image **from the corner** to get batman about the right size
    But the background comes as well, which looks meh

Using the Object Transparency Tool

11. On the **left toolbar**, find the **Object Transparency Tool** – it's towards the bottom
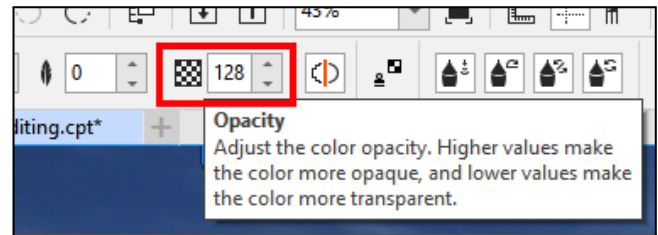12. **Click and hold** and choose the **Object Transparency Brush**

13. Try brushing over the background of the batman image. Not much happens

14. At the top, make the **brush bigger** – go for a **100 round brush** with a hard edge

15. Try brushing over the background again
    That works a bit better, but still doesn't remove the whole of the background
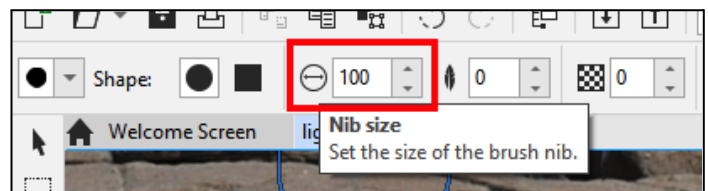
Getting it working

16. At the top, find the **Opacity box**. It has 128 in it

    128 is half way in terms of transparency

17. **Change** the 128 to **0** – type the number, it's quicker

18. Now rub over the background. It works!
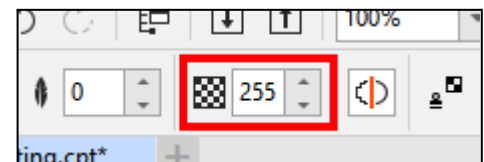
Getting it right

19. Start by removing as much of the background as you can

20. **Zoom in** to help

21. Make the brush **smaller** when you get to the edges – just change the **Nib size number** at the top

22. But you'll still go over some of batman. That's OK – there's a solution

The solution

23. Change the **Opacity** value at the top to **255**

24. Now brush over an area that you removed by accident and it comes back

25. Keep switching between 0 (to rub out) and 255 (to bring back) until you're done

    You'll need to be really patient to get this right!

Sometimes the Magic Wand Tool just doesn't do the job you need. In those circumstances, using the Object Transparency Brush will work. You need patience, but it will remove any background and can be corrected if necessary