

CD Cover – background removal

To combine images, you need to be able to remove their backgrounds

1. Open **PhotoPaint** – press **Alt + S** to get rid of the pop up
2. Click **File > Open** > find the image you want to use and open it
3. **IMPORTANT:** make sure you square crop your **background image** first
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

Removing a simple background – the earth image

Work on the **earth image** first. This is a really easy background to remove

5. **Crop** the image to remove most of the background

This makes it easier to handle later on

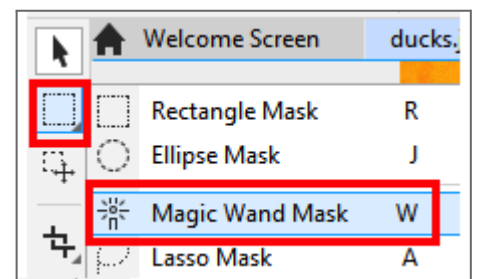
IMPORTANT: before you start you need to convert the background to an object.

This is the only way you can make it transparent

6. **REALLY IMPORTANT:** Click **Object > Create > From Background**

This changes the Background layer in the layer stack to be an object

7. On the **left toolbar**, find the **Rectangle Mask Tool**
8. **Click and hold** and choose the **Magic Wand Mask**
9. **Click** somewhere on the background of the image
This should select all of the background – you'll see dashed lines. We call these the “**marching ants**”



10. Press the **delete key** on the keyboard
This removes the background, making the image transparent
11. **Save** the image as a **PNG format file** – **not** JPG. You **do** want to **flatten the image** when you save it

Combine the images

12. On the **earth image**, click **Mask > Remove Mask**
13. Then click **Edit > Copy**
14. **Switch** to the **tree image** and click **Edit > Paste**
15. **IMPORTANT:** resize **from the corner only** to avoid distorting it

A slightly more complex background – the duck

This is a little more difficult to do

16. Open the **duck image** and **crop** it so that you can see only **one duck**

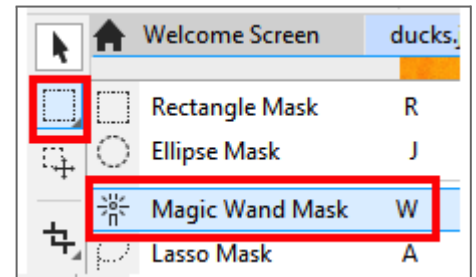
17. **REALLY IMPORTANT:** Click **Object > Create > From Background**

18. Select the **Magic Wand Tool** from the left toolbar
(under the Rectangle Mask)

19. Click somewhere on the **blue background** to select it

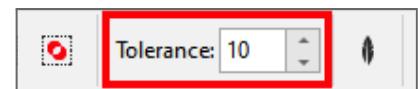
Not very much gets selected. This is a problem

This background is hard to remove with the standard settings for the Magic Wand Brush



20. Click **Mask > Remove Mask** to start over

21. At the top, find the **Tolerance box**. It currently says **10**



22. Change the **Tolerance** to **50**

23. Now click somewhere on the blue background

This should select **most** of the blue area, but you've probably got other parts of ducks that haven't been selected

24. To **add** to the background selection, hold down the **SHIFT** key. A small **+** appears next to the mouse pointer

25. Click on any part of the image that hasn't been selected and it should add it to the selection

26. Do this until everything you need to remove is selected

27. Press **delete** to remove the background

28. **Save** the image as a **PNG file**

29. **Mask > Remove Mask**

30. **Copy** and **paste** the image where you need to use it