# GIMP Tutorial 4 - Creating a collage using GIMP

1. Create a folder in your **H: drive** or other safe location and name it **GIMP**
2. Download 8+ animal images from GeekPhilosopher.com and save them there.
3. Open GIMP by choosing **Start** | **All Programs** | **GIMP** | **GIMP2**
4. When the following window appears, **close** the **tip menu**, unless you want to get some basic tips.
5. The following windows are important to create your masterpieces:
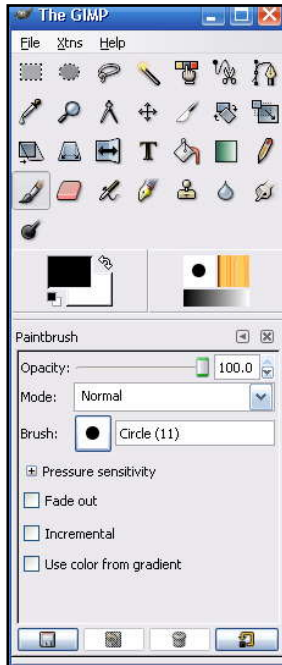
The **GIMP window** is a very important window. When you click on a tool, its options appear in the bottom half of the window.
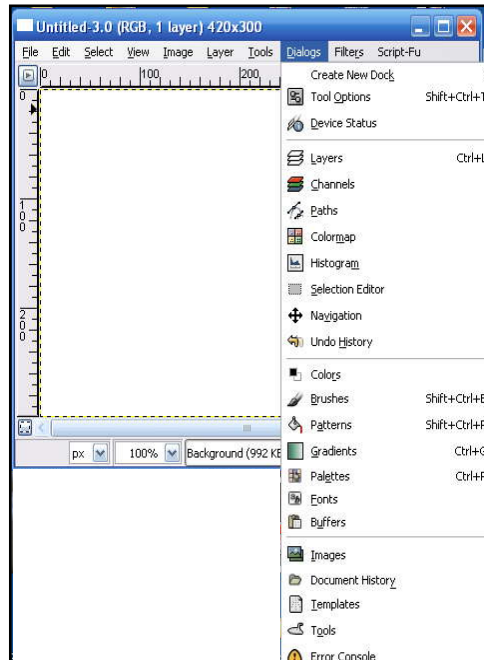

This window becomes available when you choose **File** | **New** from the main menu. To access windows in order to perform various tasks, click on **Dialogs** from the main menu and choose your window.

Let's Begin!

6. Create a blank canvas to create your masterpiece by choosing **File** | **New** from the main menu.
7. When the following window appears, type in **500 X 500** pixels for the dimensions.
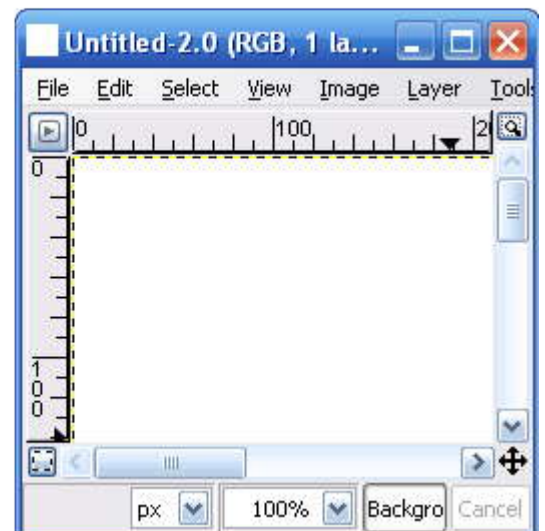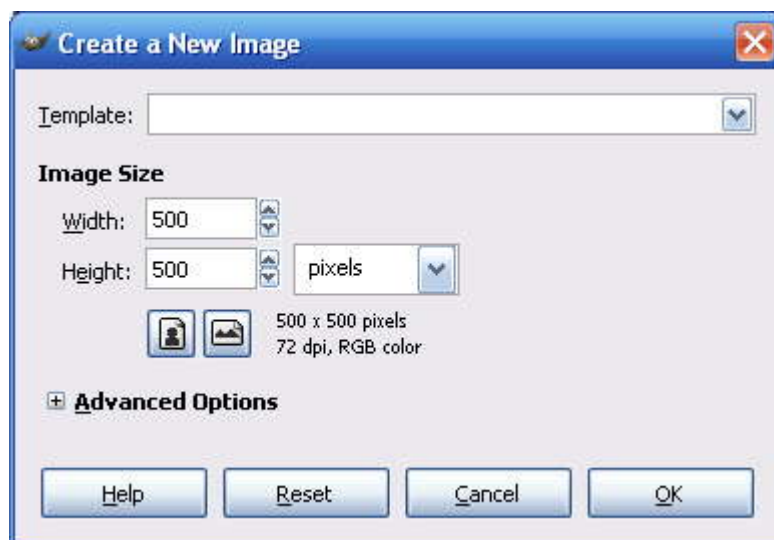
8. Save the new window by choosing **File | Save As** from the main menu.
9. When the following window appears, type in **collage** in the **Name** section as shown below.
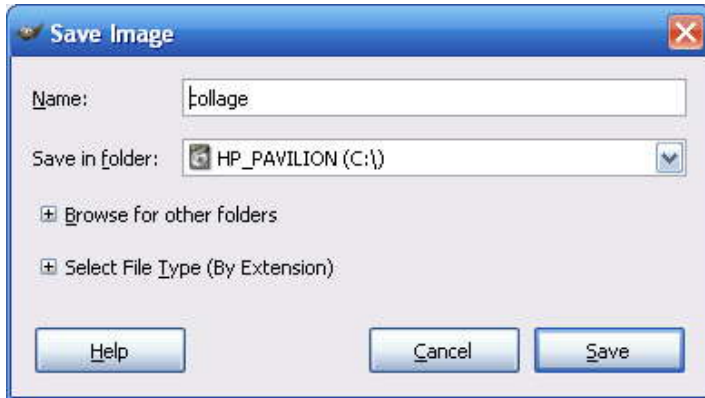
10. To place the collage in the **gimp** folder, click on the **Browse** for other folders option and locate the **gimp** folder. In order to open and **edit** this collage in **GIMP**, save it as **collage.xdf**. Note that the file chosen was **GIMP XCF image (*.xdf)** If saved with the **xdf** extension, you will be able to open it in GIMP. Without an extension, you won't be able to save.

Tip:

You will be able to insert your final image production into word documents, websites, etc. when you save it as a **JPEG** or **GIF**. To continue editing the image with layers in GIMP, continue to save it with an xdf extension.
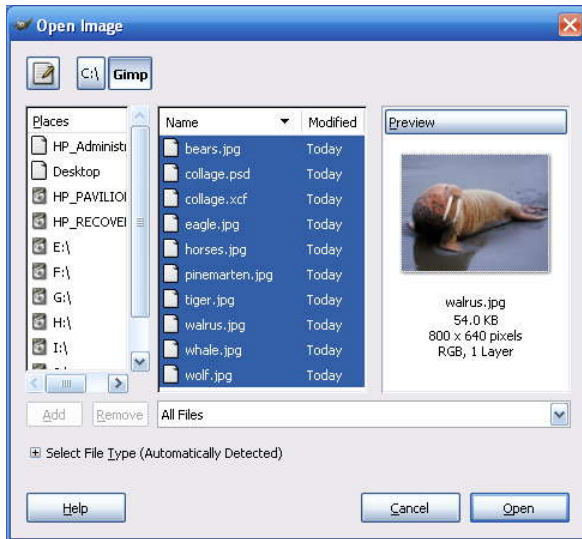
Examples:

collage.xdf; pic.xdf; dog.xdf

11. Once the blank canvas is saved, you can **open** up the **images** you previously saved in the **gimp folder**.
12. You might want to temporarily paint the background since a painted background helps determine the boundaries on the canvas.
13. Click on **Tools | Paint Tools | Bucket Fill** or click on the **Paint Bucket icon** in the **GIMP window**.
14. Pick a solid temporary color by clicking on the **FG color fill** under **Fill Type** and double clicking on the **Foreground & background colors** icon to access colors.
15. Once you have a solid color, click on the canvas and it will be painted.

16. To open images, choose **File** | **Open** from the canvas menu. Navigate to the **gimp folder** and **select** the images. To select more than one image, hold down the control key. Once the images are selected, **click** on the **Open** button.


Now, that is a lovely creature!

Let's put images on the collage!

17. To select part of the image in order to copy it and paste it on the collage, choose **Tools** | **Selection Tools** | (**Select from the tool that will best suit your needs**)

Selection choices
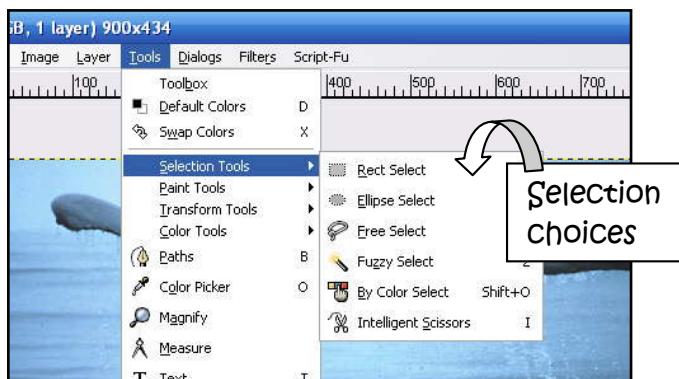
The following example used the **Intelligent Scissors**. **(1)** using the mouse, click and move around the image continuously until the entire image is selected. **(2)** Click anywhere after the selection to make the selection complete. **(3)** Provide a feather effect by choosing **Select** | **Feather** and click **OK**

*The feather could be set before the selection.*
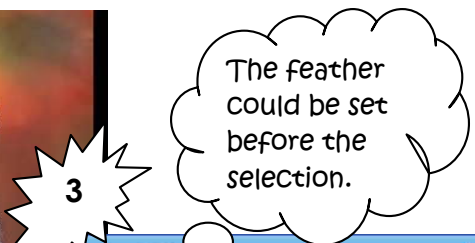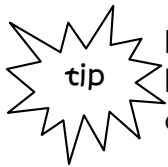
tip If the selection doesn't occur, select the **layer** in the **Layer's window** and hit the **Enter key** on the keyboard. If the Layer's window isn't showing, choose **Dialogue | Layers** in the menu of the image you are selecting.

18. Once the selection is made, you can choose **Edit | Copy** in order to copy the selection.
19. Open or access the collage canvas and choose **Edit | Paste** from the menu.
20. Since the image pasted is taking up the majority of the collage canvas, it needs to be resized to roughly 200 pixels wide. **See number 19**.
21. Choose **Layer | Scale Layer** from the menu. Click on the **drop down arrow** of the **Width** option and set it to roughly 200 pixels. The Height should adjust accordingly, so don't worry about adjusting it if it changes as you adjust the Width.
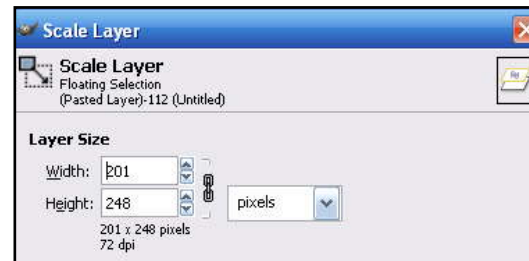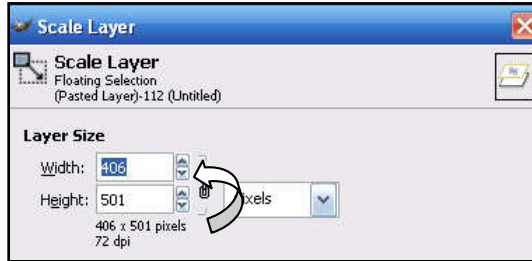
22. The following is an **example** of before and after resizing the layer.
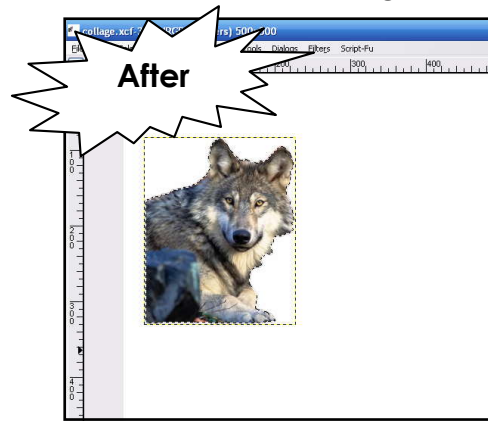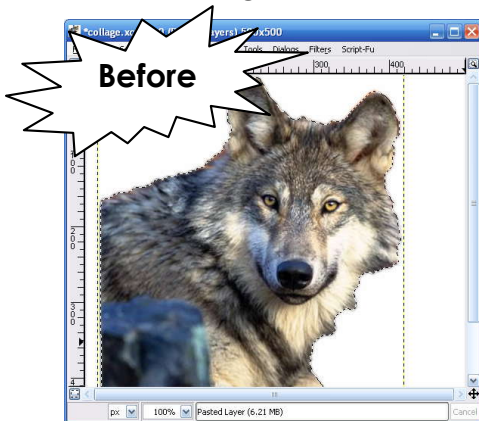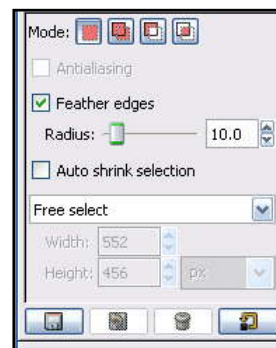
23. To move the image, make sure you are on the correct layer. Select the **Move tool** from the GIMP window and move your image.
24. Continue getting the other images by using the selection tool of your choice. You can click on the selection tools in the **Tools** window (known as **The GIMP**) or choose **Tools | Selection Tools | (selection)**
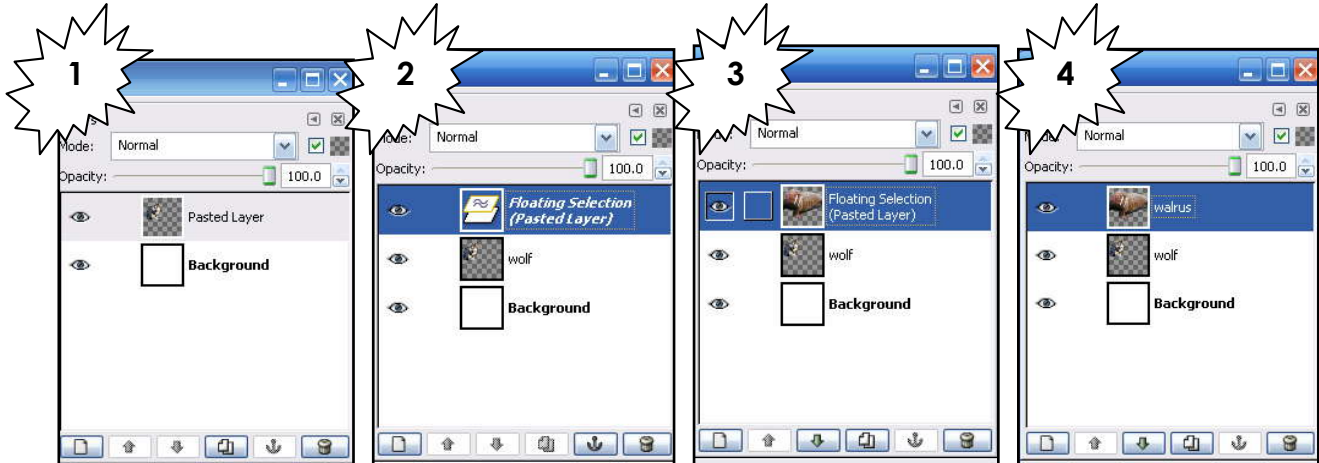
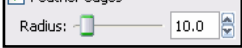Top half of tools window shows the tools.

Bottom half of tools window shows options associated with that tool.

25. Before copying and pasting a selection, make sure your **Layer's Window** is showing. If the Layers window isn't showing, choose **Dialogue | Layers** from the menu of the collage. **(1)** The window will look something like the following example. **(2)** When you choose **Edit | Paste**, the Layers window will have added a layer that says, "Floating Selection (Pasted Layer) **(3)** When you hit the Enter Key on the keyboard a couple of times while on the Floating Layer, it will show the Walrus. **(4)** Rename the layer, by double clicking on the layer and typing in an appropriate name.
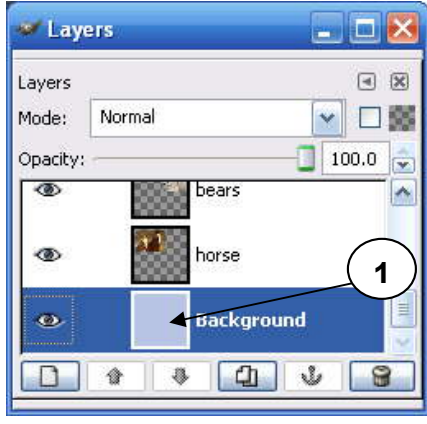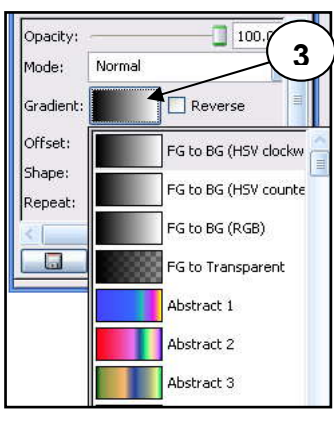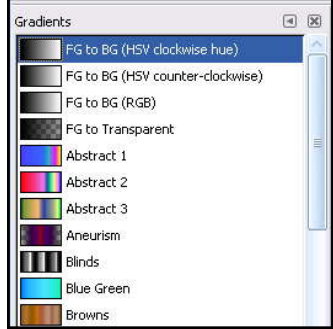
1

Mode: Normal
Opacity: 100.0

Pasted Layer

Background

2

Mode: Normal
Opacity: 100.0

Floating Selection (Pasted Layer)

wolf

Background

3

Normal
Opacity: 100.0

Floating Selection (Pasted Layer)

wolf

Background

4

Normal
Opacity: 100.0

walrus

wolf

Background
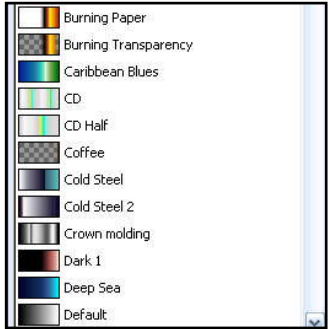
26. You can resize the recently copied image by repeating steps **18** and **19.** The width and height will vary depending on the image being resized. In the **walrus** example, the width was set to roughly **400 pixels wide**. It all depends on what effects you want.
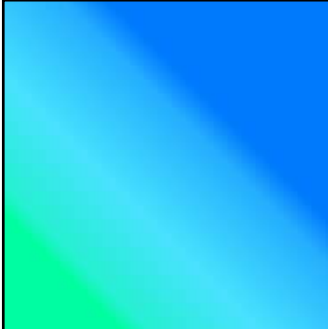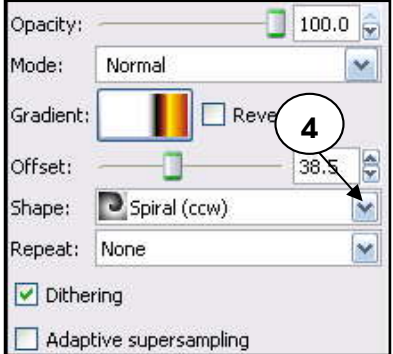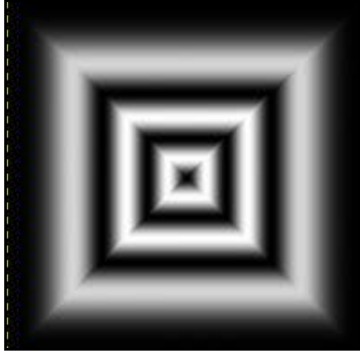
Examples of different selection tools: Tip, set the feather edges ☑ Feather edges Radius: [10.0] before using the following selection tools. This becomes available in the **GIMP window** when you click on the **selection tool**. Setting the **feather** gives **softer edges** around the selected image. Drag the selection tools around the part of the image you want to copy. Once it is selected, choose **Edit | Copy** from the main menu or **Ctrl + C**

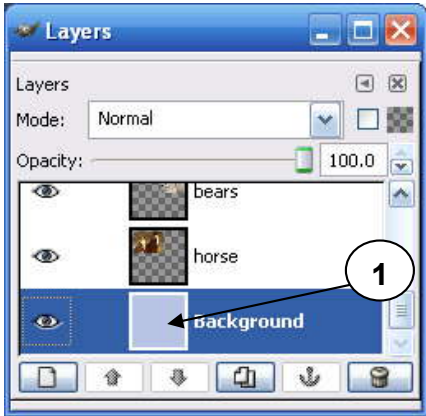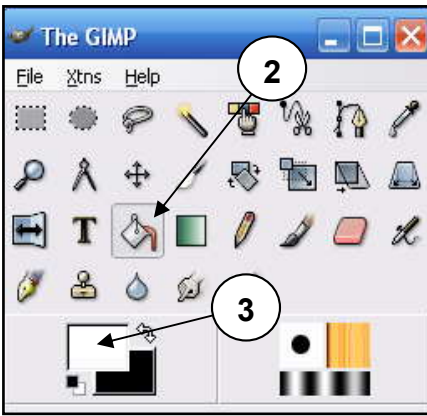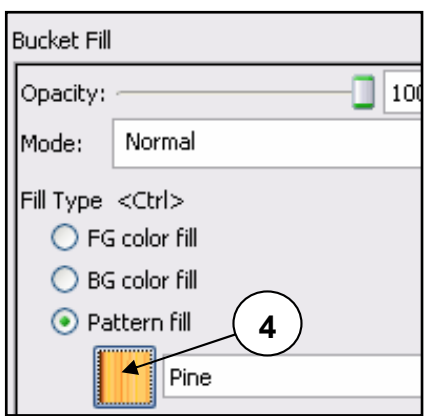|	Rec Select	Ellipse Select	Free Select
Icon			
Steps	Choose **Tools	Selection Tools	Rect Select** from the main menu. You can also click on the on the **icon** of the **GIMP window**.	Choose **Tools	Selection Tools	Ellipse Select** from the main menu. You can also click on the on the **icon** of the **GIMP window**.	Choose **Tools	Selection Tools	Free Select** from the main menu. You can also click on the on the **icon** of the **GIMP window**.
Results			

Adding a Background with Gradient Effects

27. The following steps show how to use the **Gradient** tool to create a background. **(1)** Make sure you have selected the **background layer**. If the Layer's window isn't showing, choose **Dialog | Layers** from the menu. **(2)** Select the **Gradient tool** in the Tools Window **(3)** Click on the gradient options to get a variety of choices. **(4)** Change the shape of the gradient if you choose.

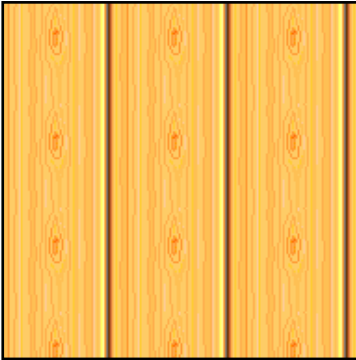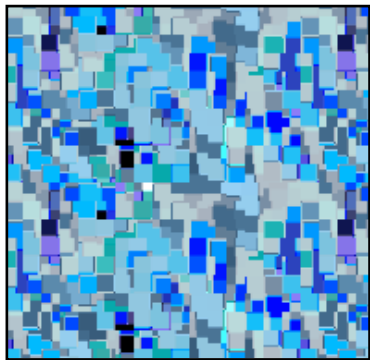| Background Layer	Gradients Tool	Gradient Options
Possible Gradients	Possible Gradients	Example of Gradient
Using the Shape option	Example of Gradient with a shape	Example of Gradient with a shape

Adding a Background with Paint Bucket Fill

28. The following steps show how to use the **Paint Bucket** tool to create a background. **(1)** Make sure you have selected the **background layer**. If the Layer's window isn't showing, choose **Dialog | Layers** from the menu. **(2)** Select the **Paint Bucket tool** in the GIMP Window **(3)** Click on the **Foreground & Background** options in the GIMP window to get a solid color or **(4)** Click on the **Pattern** fill option to get a variety of patterns to fill the background. The bubble of the **Pattern fill** needs to be selected or you won't be able to access patterns.

Background Layer	Paint Bucket Tool	Paint Bucket Options
Possible Fills	Possible Fills	Example of Fill
Example of Fill	Example of Fill	Example of Fill

# Adding Text

29. To add text, **(1)** select the **Text** tool in the **GIMP window**. **(2)** Change the Font Style, **(3)** Font Size, **(4)** and Font Color
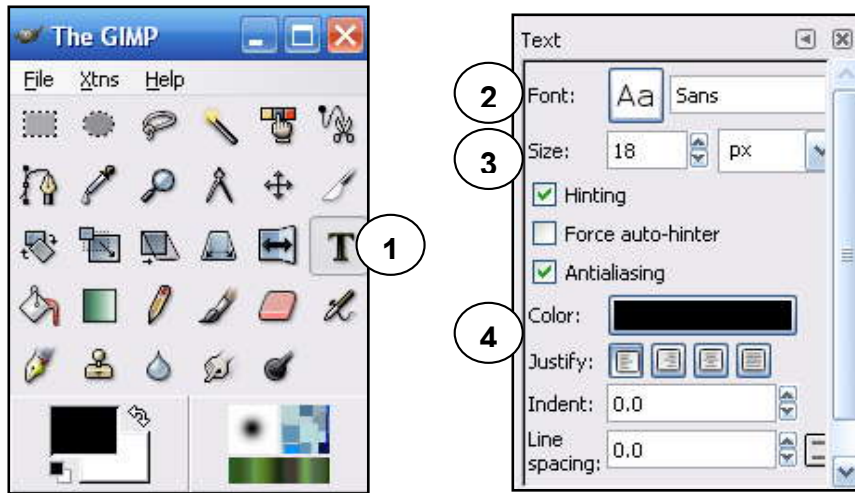
30. Click down on your canvas and **(1)** a window will appear for you to type in the text. **(2)** As you type in the window, you will be able to see if you like the font size, style and color. **(3)** You can make changes before accepting the text, by changing the color, font style and font size in the GIMP window.
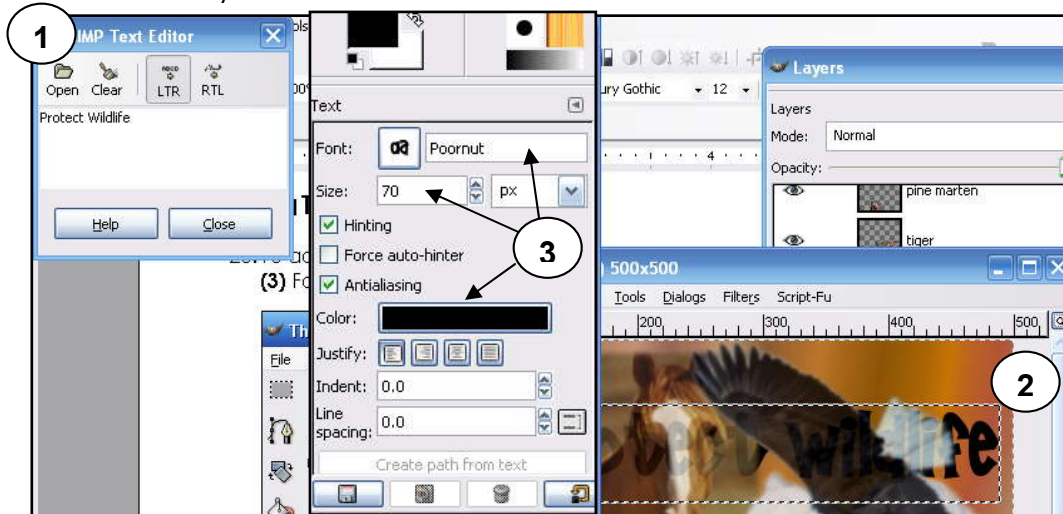
31. If the text is beneath other layers, simply **drag it and drop** it on top of the other layers in the **Layer's window**.
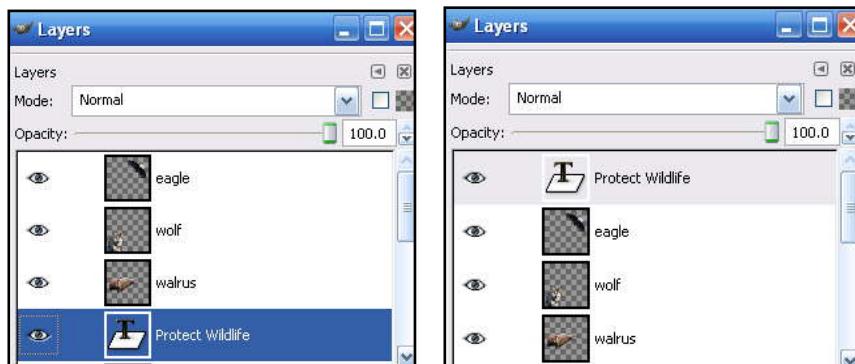
32. If you want to apply unique effects to the text, make sure you are on the **Text Layer** that you want to modify. Click on the drop down arrow of the **Mode** option in the Layer's window and experiment with your choices. The default is Normal.


Normal is over-rated!
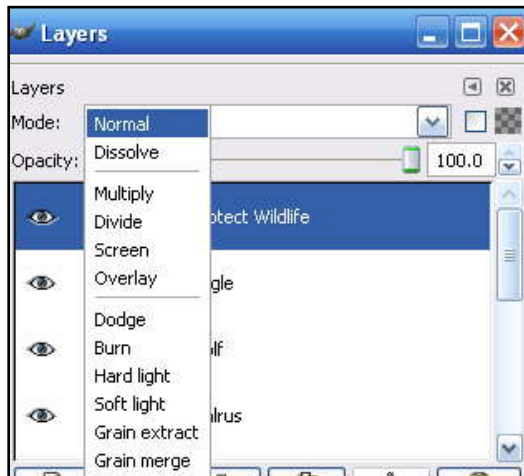
33. If you want to apply **filter** effects to the text, make sure you are on the **Text Layer** that you want to modify. Right click on the text of your collage and select **Filters**.
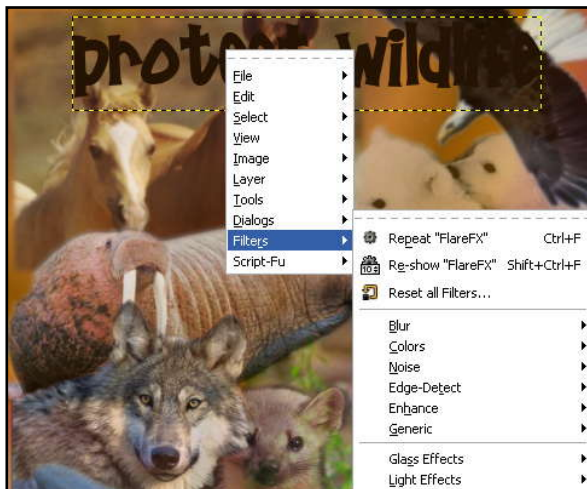
Tip!

There are several filters to choose from. **Experiment**! If you don't like the results, simply choose **Edit** | **Undo** or click on the **Ctrl** + **Z keys**. Keep in mind that you can apply the filter effect to images as well. That is probably more common.

34. The following example used **Filter** | **Distort** | **Wind**. It is important to experiment with the options in these windows to get the desired results.

I need protection!
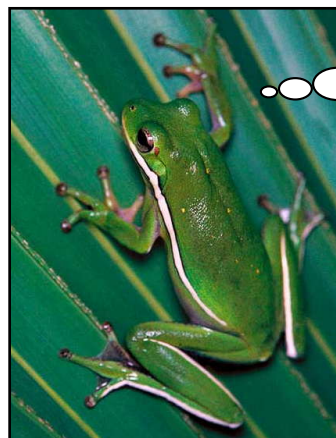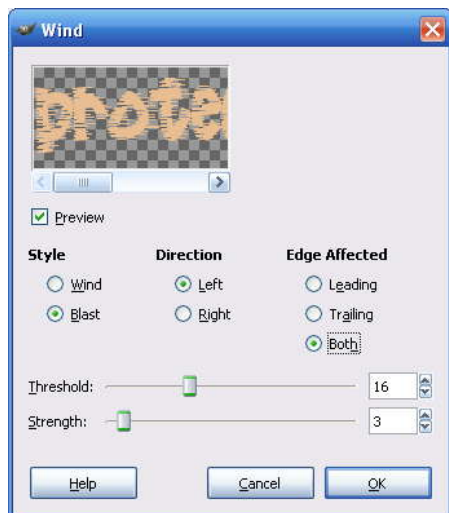
Fading images by changing the opacity of a layer.

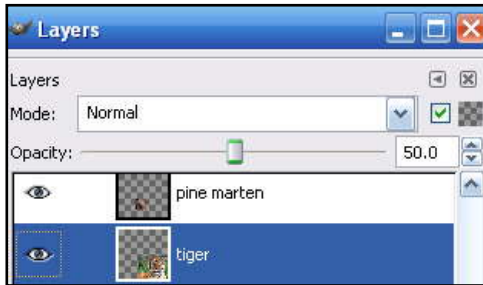35. Choose a layer to fade. In this case, the **Layer's window** was accessed and the tiger layer was selected.

100%

36. Locate **Opacity** and move the **leverage** until you are satisfied with the results of the transformation. In the example, the opacity was changed to 50%.

50%

More on Filter Effects

37. Click on the layer you want to apply a filter effect.
38. Right click on the image on the collage window and choose **Filter | (Choose from a wide range of choices)**

Filter | Artistic | Cartoon	Filter | Map | Paper Tile	Filter | Distorts | Wind
Filter | Artistic | Photocopy	Filter | Artistic | Oilify	Filter | Distorts | Emboss

Saving Image for other applications, such as a website

39. Make sure you save your collage with the layers before preparing it for other applications.
40. Choose **File** | **Save As** from the collage window.
41. Locate the folder you want to save the image
42. Select the File Type. In this case, since it is a photo intended for a website or word document, choose JPEG image which will add the .jpg extension to your collage. Clipart is usually saved as a GIF

I'm a GIF

I'm a JPEG
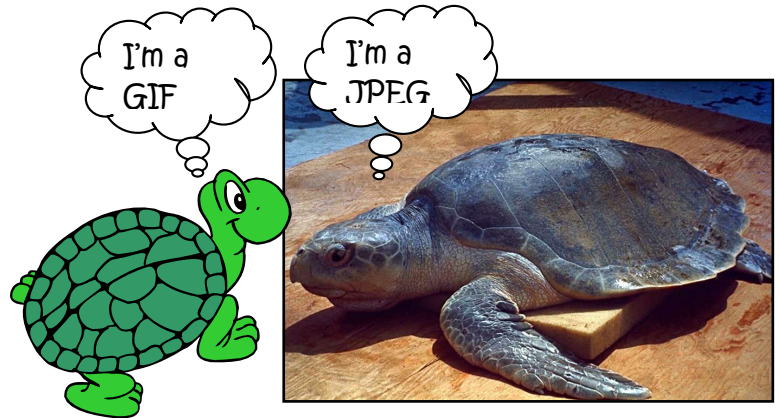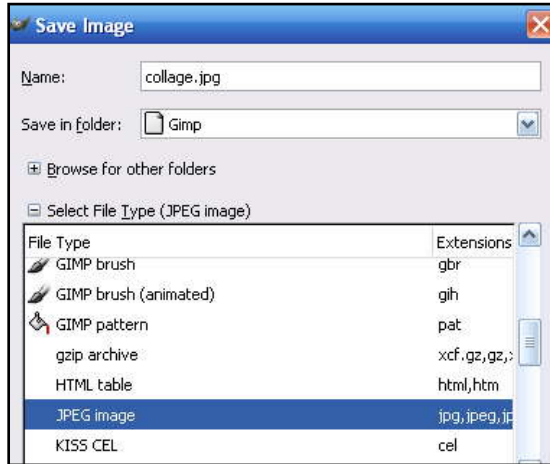
43. If the following window pops up, choose **Export**, since your image needs to be flattened.

I'm into Export!

44. When the following window pops up, unless you understand the specifications of quality, leave the default settings and choose OK.

Quality is important!

© Chris Clementi 2007 Clipart from Microsoft and photographs from Geek Philosopher

final product

protect wildlife

All Images on collage are from Geek Philosopher, a Public Domain site