
Working Below the Visible Top Layer

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Courtesy of pdphoto.org



Plugins
Feather Object

AAs_Assistant

When it comes to eliminating unwanted elements in an image many people swear by the Clone Stamp tool.

Many *more* people swear *at* the Clone Stamp tool!

Fortunately, there is an alternative. Copy/Paste.

This tutorial shows a way of working with copy/paste that can save a lot of time that might otherwise be wasted on cutting, trimming, erasing and so on in an effort to get the pasted bits to blend in well.

So, here is the mantra:

Erase

Feather

Change Layers

Select

Copy/Paste into a New Layer

Position Pasted Selection

Esc (Or use your favorite other way of deselecting.)

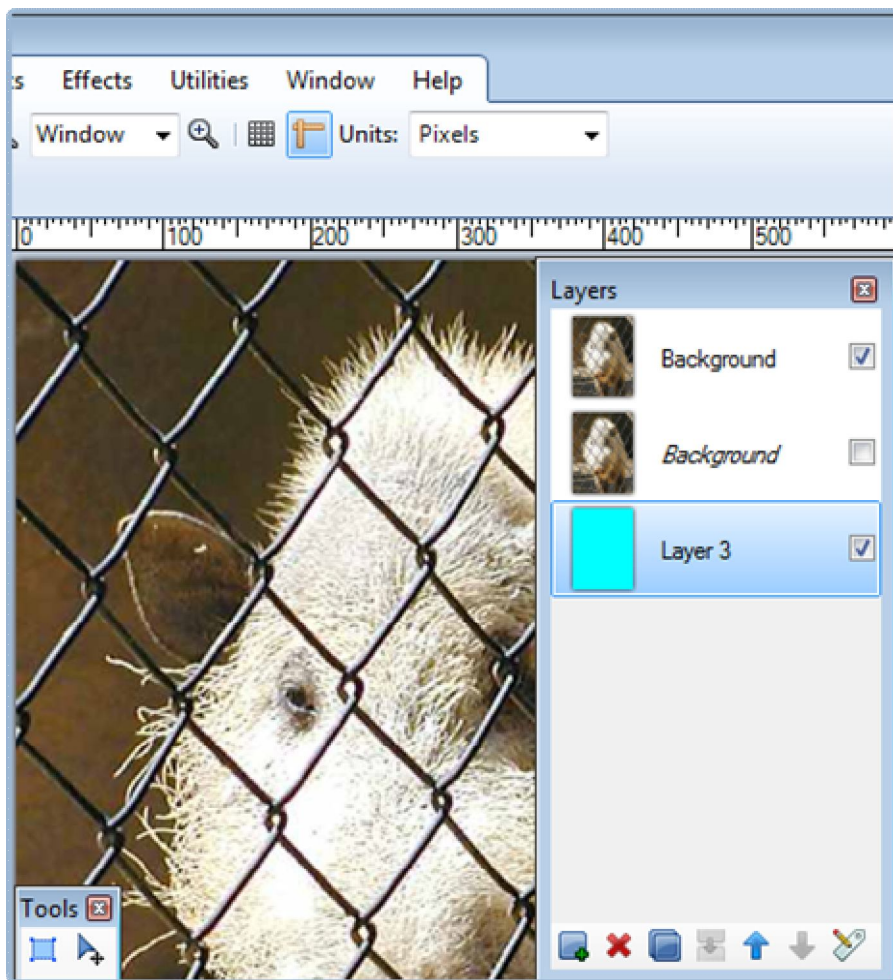
Merge top layer down onto the pasted-into layer.

Repeat as needed.

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Hmmm... that seems like a lot of steps, but once you get the concept down, it flows pretty smoothly.

Here's how to set things up.



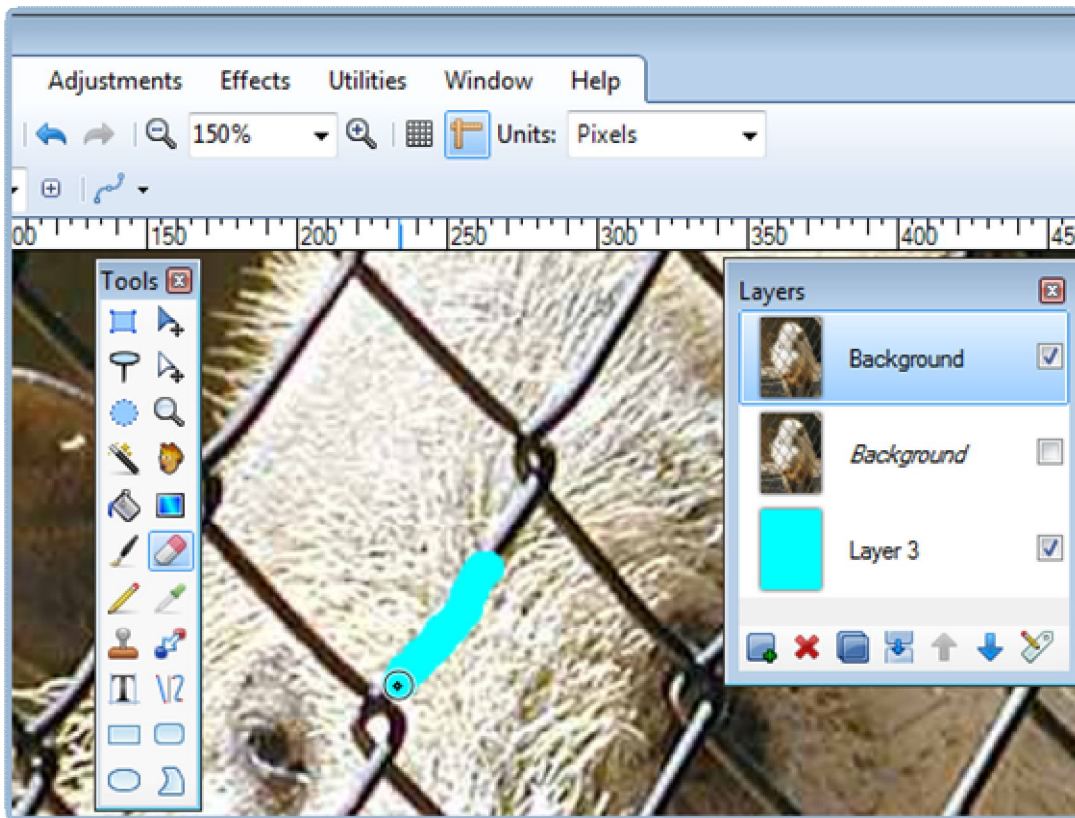
1 --- Bottom layer is a solid color that will contrast with the colors of your working image.

Next two layers are your working image duplicated.

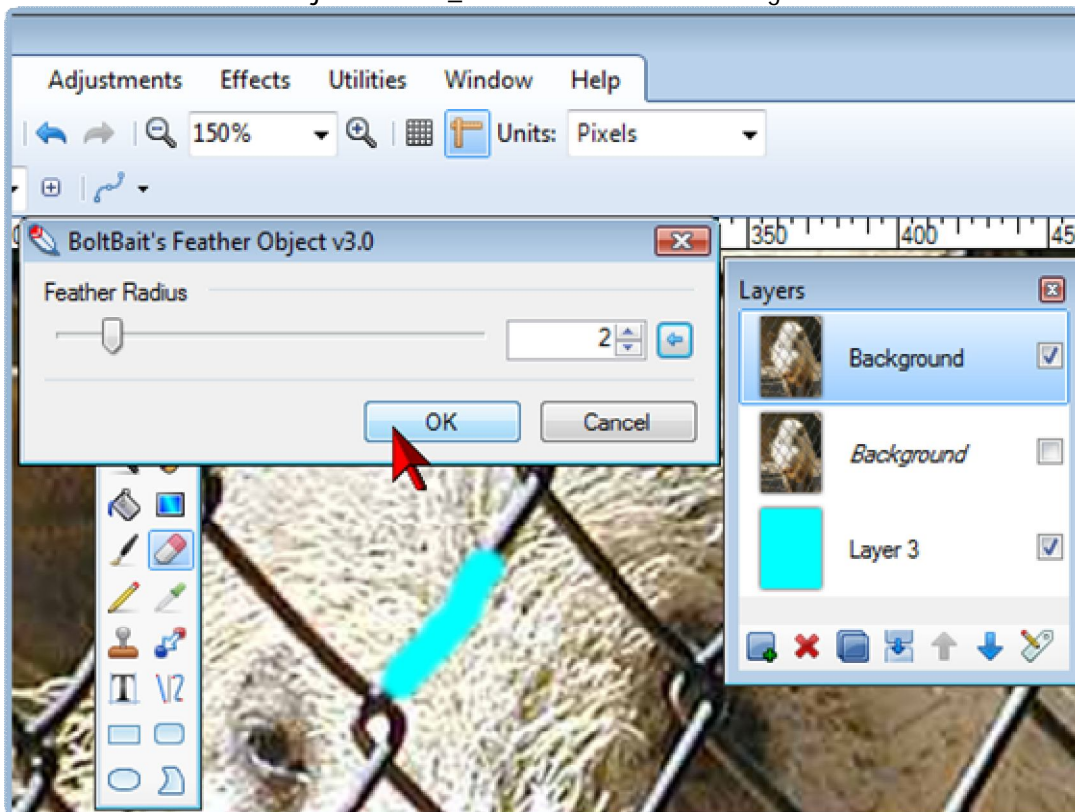
The middle layer is unchecked in the Layers window. It remains not visible throughout the process.

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2 --- Once you have your layers set up, the first step is to erase something on the top layer that you don't like.

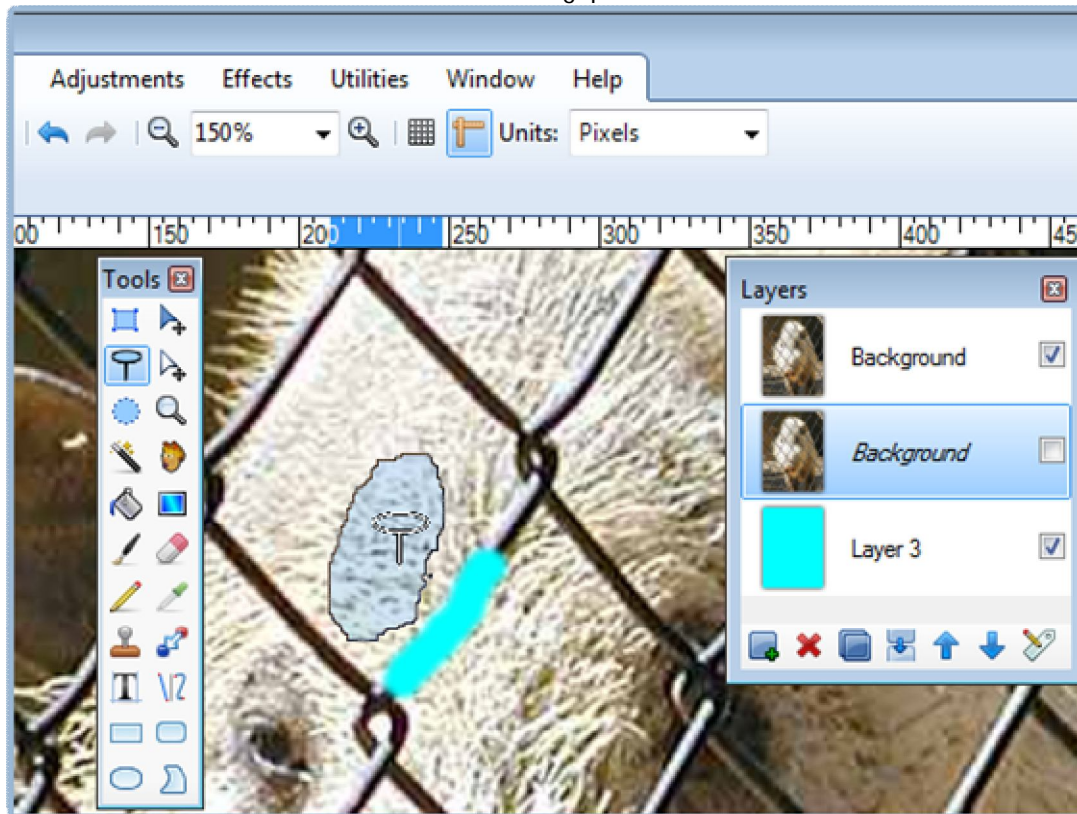


3 --- Then use Feather Object or AA's_Assistant to soften the edge.



4 --- Now, in the Layers window click the middle layer,

then use the Selection tool of your choice,
and select a suitable area to fill in the erased gap.

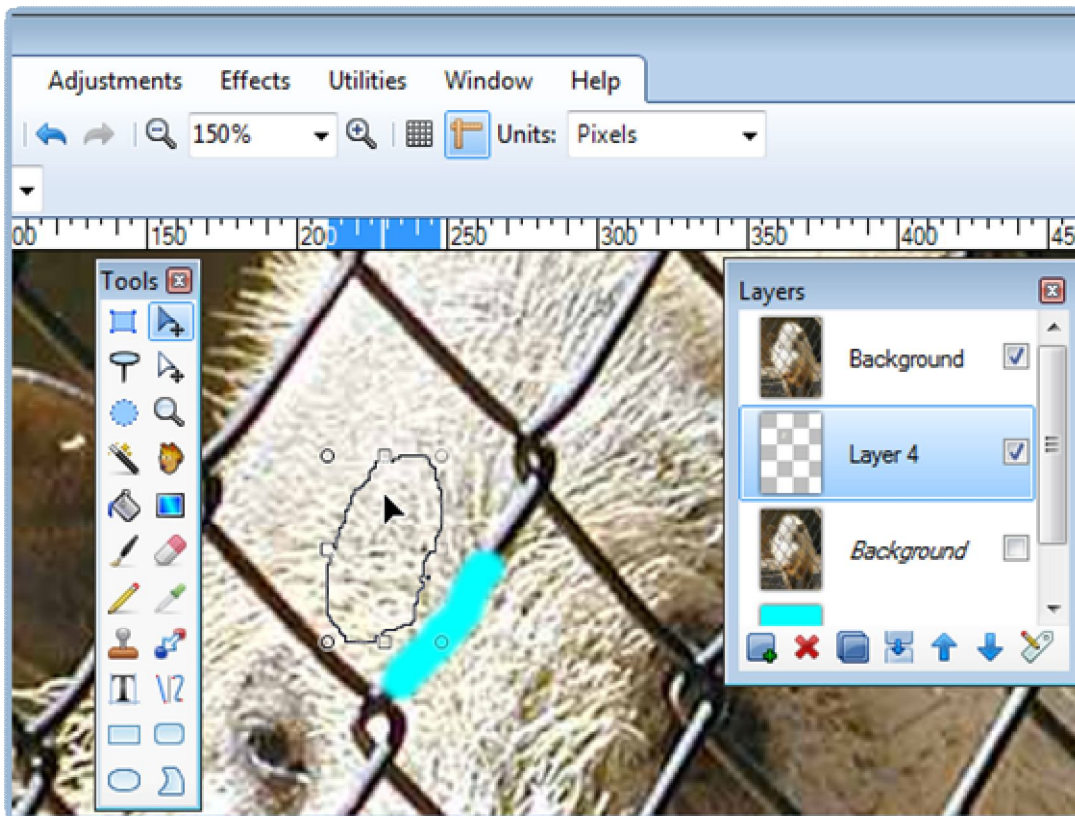


5 --- Press:

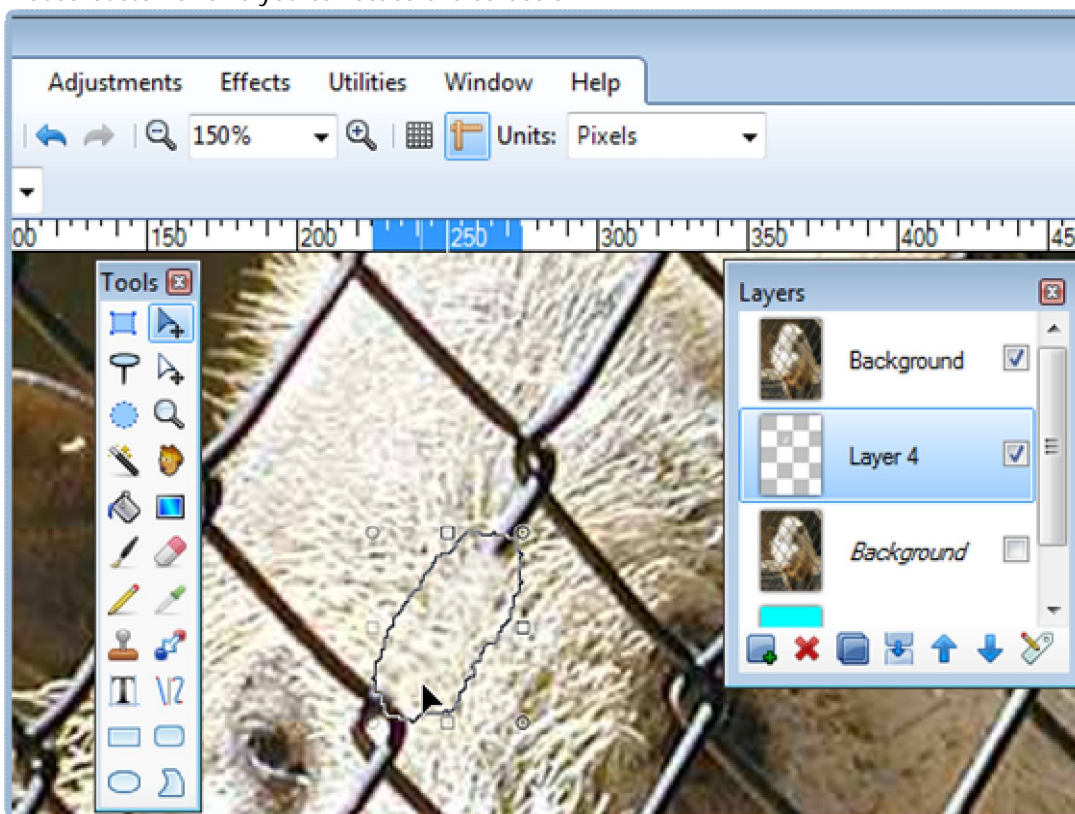
Ctrl C

Ctrl+Shift V

This copies and pastes the selection into a new layer.



6 --- Use the mouse to position the pasted selection where you want it. Remember, using the right mouse button allows you to rotate the selection.



7 --- Use your favorite way of deselecting,

then merge top layer down onto the pasted-into layer.

8 --- Repeat as needed.

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Sometimes the pasted-and-moved pieces
will blend better with some minor adjustments of
brightness, contrast and/or saturation.

Sharpen or blur is sometimes helpful for better blending.

(These would need to be done *before* merging layers. 😊)

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This method may take longer than running roughshod with the Clone Stamp,
but it allows greater control and often gives a much better end result.

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