

Working With Layers

1. Open GimpShop
2. Open Santana.jpg from the Digital Photography folder.
3. Click on Layer and Duplicate Layer. This makes two copies of the current picture one on top of the other. The titlebar of the photo should now include the text “2 layers”.
4. Also notice that there are two layers listed in the Layers palette, one is labeled Background, one is labeled Background copy. The one that is highlighted is the layer that is currently selected. Make sure you are always aware of the layer you are working on!!
5. Make the image black & white by clicking on Image, Mode, and Grayscale.
6. With the Background copy selected, use the Intelligent scissors tool to select the outline of Johan Santana. Once you have gone all the way around the picture and connected the ends of your selection, click once inside the picture to change it into a highlighted selection.
7. Click Edit and Cut. It might have looked like you didn’t do anything, but click on the eye icon in front of the background layer and you’ll notice that the piece of the picture you just selected has been removed.
8. Now get rid of the original layer, which is called background by selecting it and clicking on the trashcan icon in the layer palette.
9. Now click on Image, Mode, and RGB. This makes the image “color” again. The part we see doesn’t change back to color, but anything we add from now on will be in color.
10. Click on File, Open as Layer... and open the Santana.jpg picture again. This opens our original picture as a layer on top of the black and white layer where we cut Santana out.
11. Now for the final step, make sure the Santana.jpg layer is selected. Then click the Lower Layer button, which is the down arrow on the Layer palette.
12. There are have it! A colored Santana in a black & white background. This is called selective colorization and this is just one method and one thing we can do with it. It is frequently used to show a colored flower in a back and white picture.
13. Save the picture as Santana-cutout.jpg.
14. Another thing we can do is give a picture the look on some of it being colored with brush strokes and other parts being left black and white. Open Mauer.jpg from the Digital Photography folder.
15. Click on Image, Mode, and Grayscale to make the photo black and white.
16. Click on the Duplicate Layer button on the Layer Palette.
17. Select the Background copy layer.
18. Select the eraser tool from the tool palette, second from the right in the forth row.
19. Erase all over Mauer’s body. You won’t notice anything different, yet...
20. Now change back to colored mode by clicking on Image, Mode, and RGB.
21. Now click on File, Open as Layer... and open the original Mauer.jpg picture. Again this will open the original picture as a layer on top of the black and white layer.

22. Now, make sure the Mauer.jpg layer is selected. Then click the Lower Layer button.
23. Your picture should be mostly black and white, but with Mauer in color from where the eraser removed part of the black and white layer.
24. You can also choose different shapes and sizes on the eraser to get different effects when you put the layers together. Also, if you want to make sure that you color certain areas, you can hide the Background layer by clicking on the eye in front of that layer. Then you will see exactly what you are erasing. Personally, I think you get a more interesting look if you don't know exactly what you're erasing, try some different things and see what you like.
25. Save this picture as Mauer-erase.jpg
26. Now play around using these new skills and skills you have learned in lessons to do some selective colorization to some of the objects you took photos of this week!
27. For next time, take a series of pictures that either tell a story, or show the process of doing something.