

Layers - Exercise

Function: Multiple images may be placed one on top of the other, allowing inclusion of many “bits and pieces” in the final image.

Uses: Excellent way to merge photos, or parts of different photos to make a composite image. Also useful for placing text, arrows, or other simple graphics on a photo.

Today’s problem: Staff Photo minus Photographer.

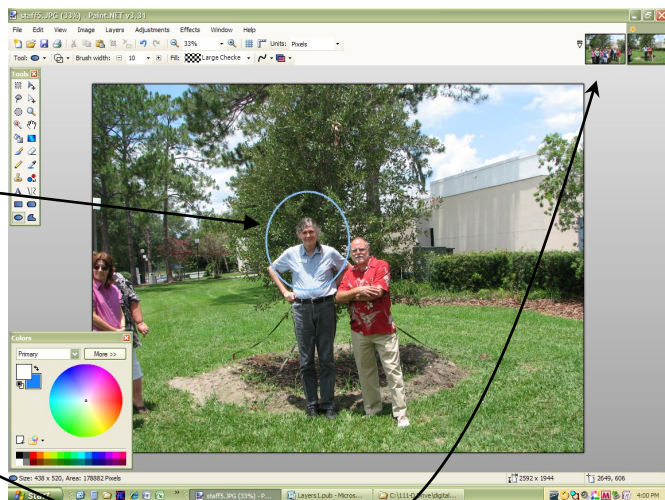
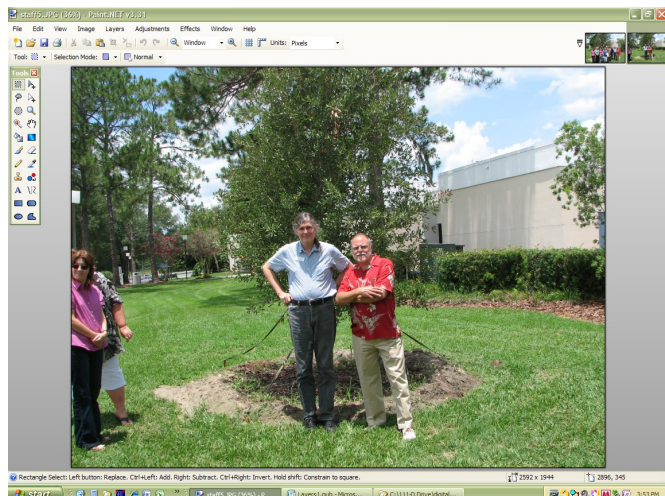
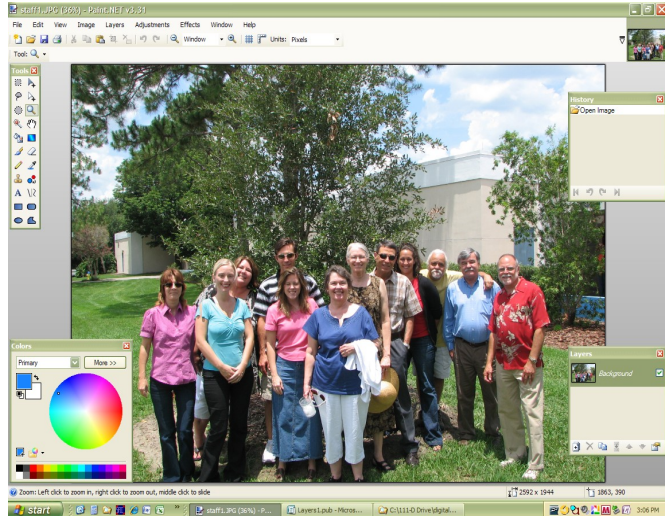
It happens to me a lot. I go to a meeting and show up with a camera. Invariably, I’m asked to take a group photo. I do so. Then someone observes that I am not in the picture. Well, that’s why I have the camera!

But if they insist, I’ll have the person take a photo of me so I can layer it in later.

Let’s do it!

1. Open “Staff-1.jpg” from your Digital Photo Resource Disk. You will find it under “Photos/Clone Tool - Layers” (If it’s not there, or you don’t have the disk, these photos are at: www.jamesyawn.net/photo)

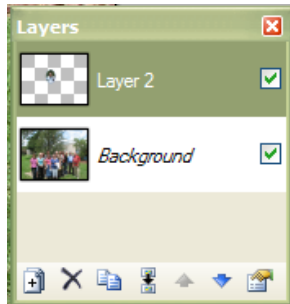
2. Open “Staff-2.jpg” This contains just me and a coworker, who is trying to get in the staff photo twice!
3. Use the ellipse selection tool to mark my face (I’m the guy with hair) and a bit of space around it, elbows to belt buckle.
4. Select Edit, then Copy. This places the selected area of the photo on the clipboard, where it is ready to paste.
5. Pull up Staff-1.jpg—just click on the thumbnail for it in the upper-right corner of Paint.NET



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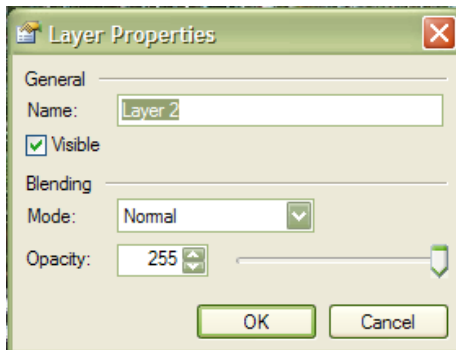
6. Select Edit, then “Paste as New Layer”
This will drop the ellipse you just copied from into the picture, as a new layer.

Look at the “Layers” box. Note that we now have two layers in this picture. The Background is the original Staff-1.jpg, the new pasted layer is titled “Layer 2.”



7. Double-click on Layer 2, and a new dialogue box will pop up in the middle of your screen. This lets you change some properties of this layer

We will change the name and the Opacity.



8. Click in the Name box, erase “Layer 2” and type in “Jimmy” That way we will know by the name what this layer is.
9. Slide the “Opacity” button to the left, until the Opacity value is about 150. This will make the Jimmy layer largely transparent.

Note that the Layers box now tells us that this layer is “Jimmy” and that it is highlighted in green means that it is the current active layer.

