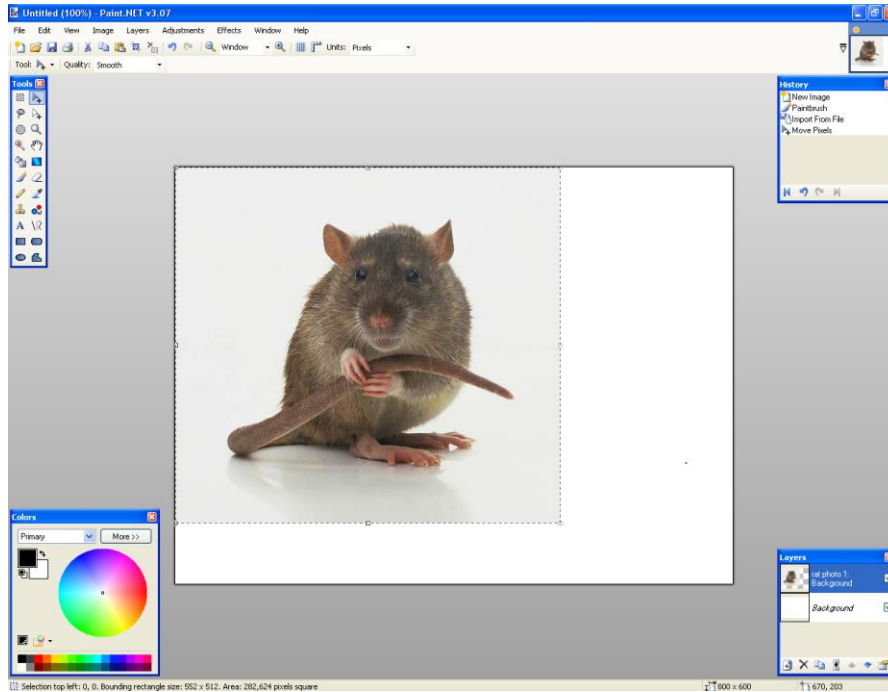


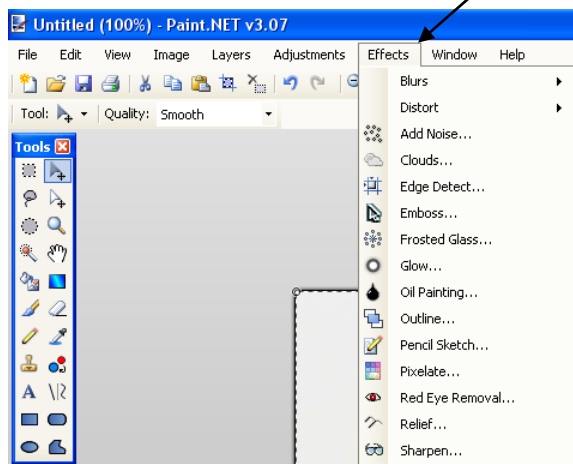
# PAINT.NET

## Paint.net: Effects

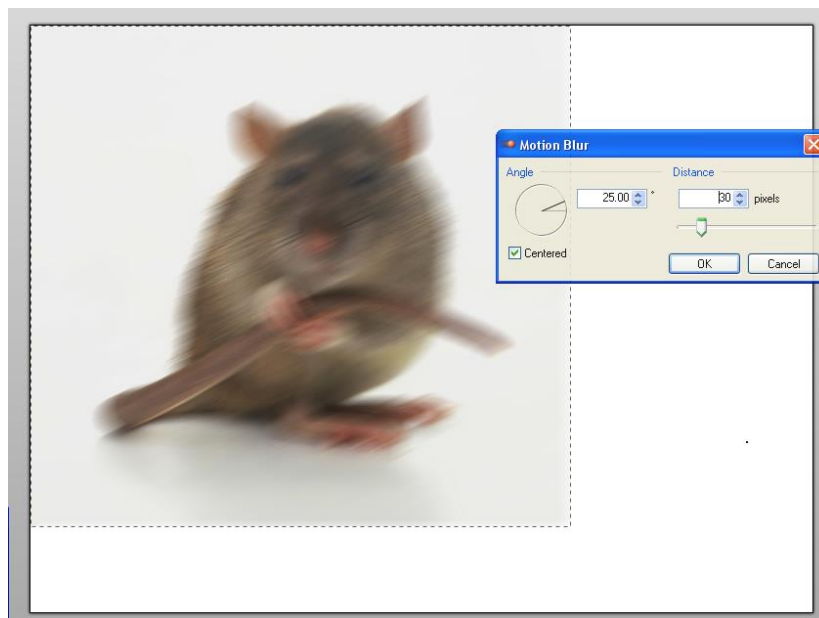
I've opened up Paint.net and used the **Layers > Import from file** option to import a picture of a rat.



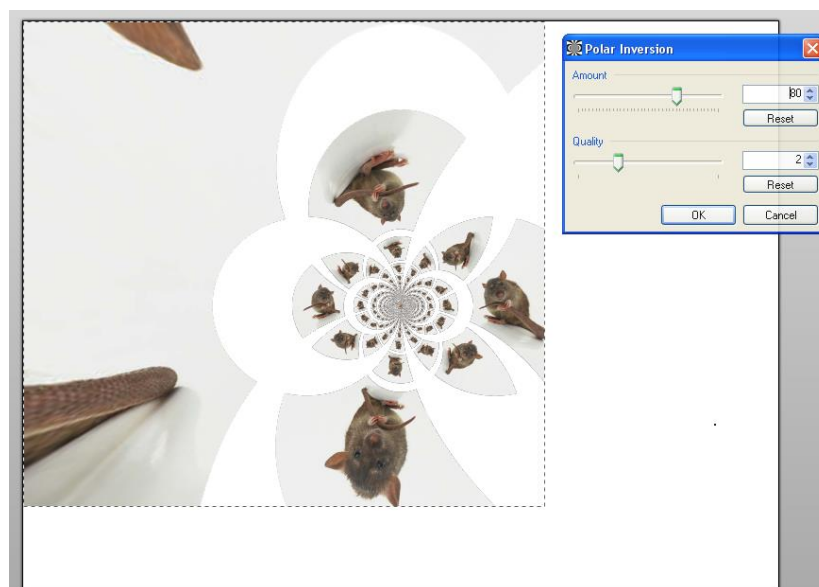
Effects are a pretty useful tool in Paint.net. Several effects are available - to see what is there click on the Effects menu option.



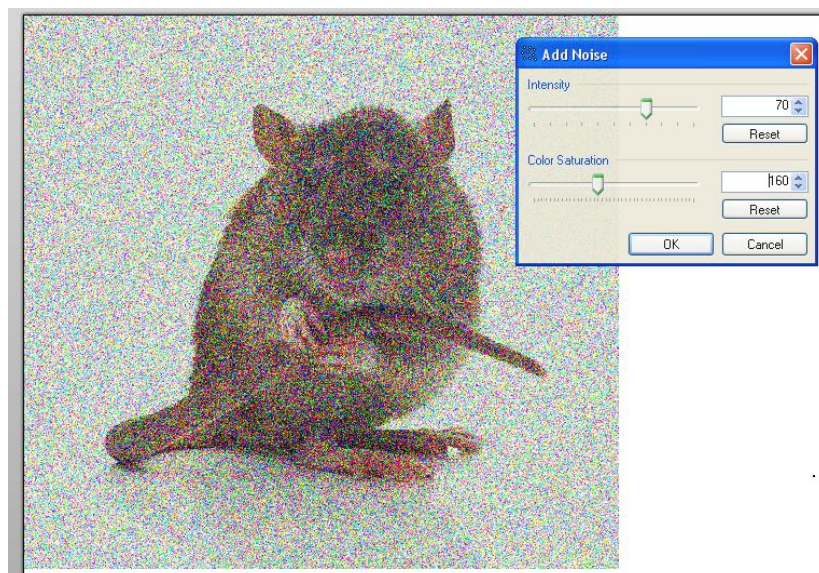
Effects results – some examples:



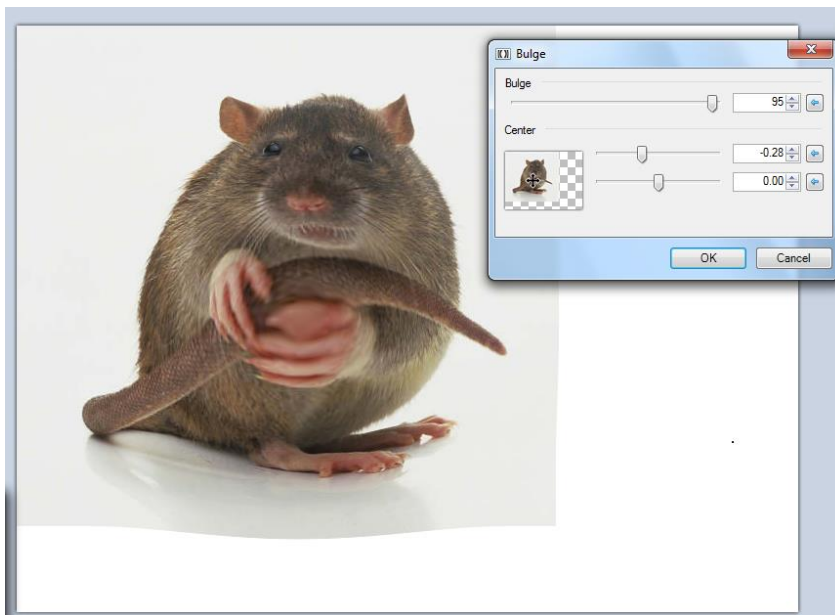
Motion Blur rat.



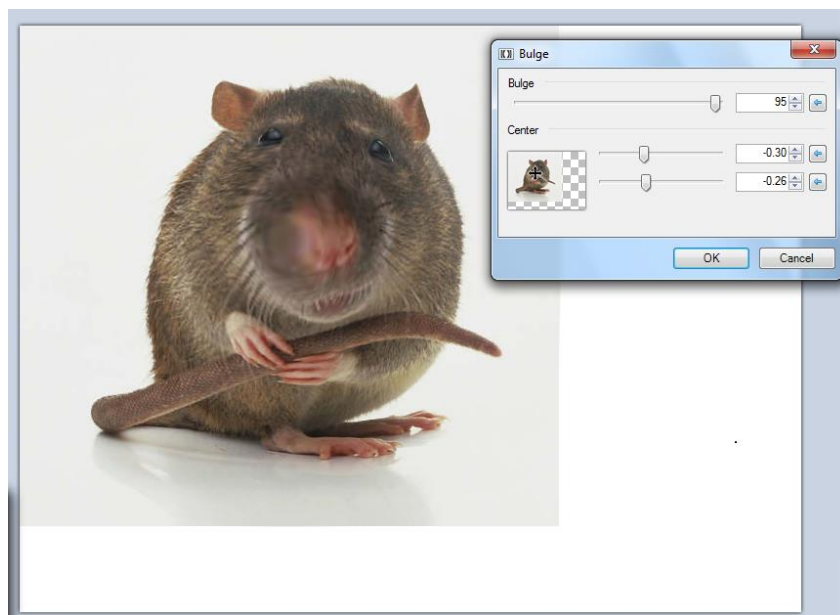
Polar inversion rat.



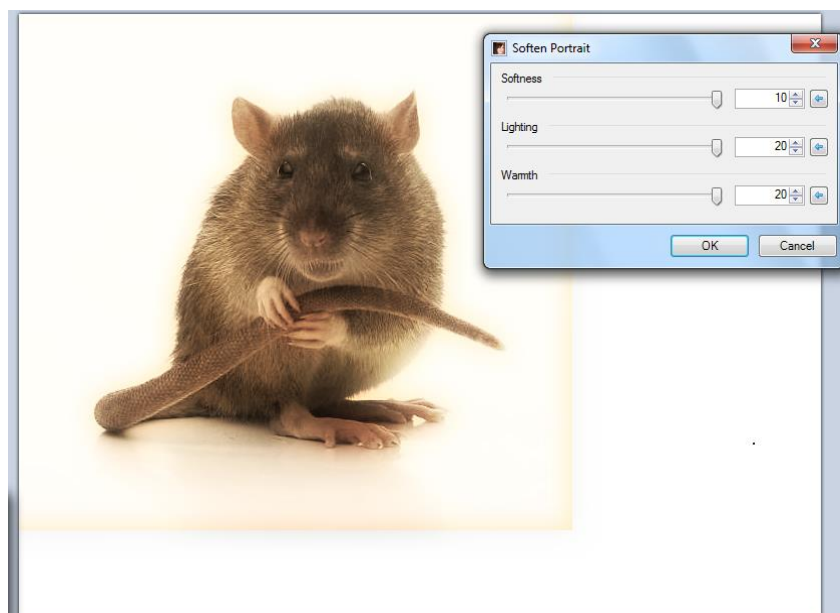
Rat with noise added.



Bulge distortion rat.

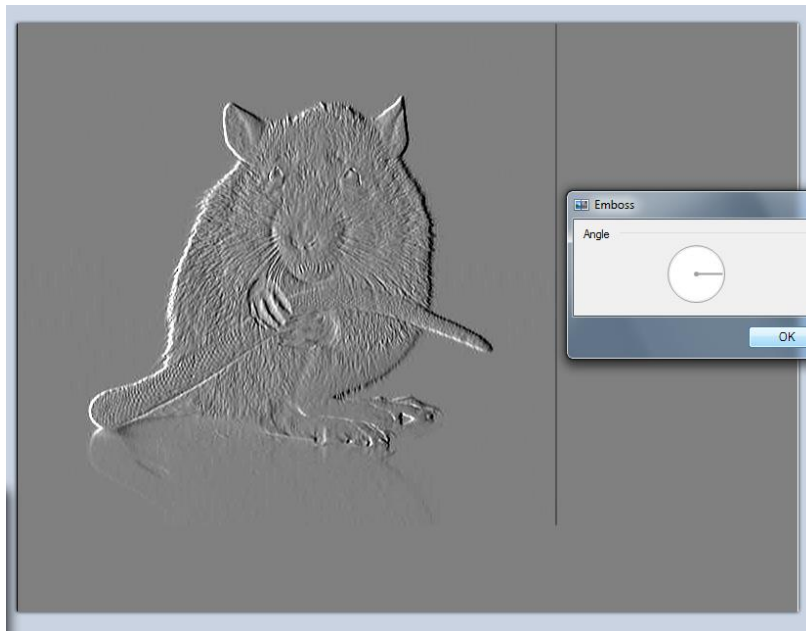


Bulge distortion rat (different settings).



Soften portrait rat.

Emboss rat.



Download two or three different photos or images and try the different effects on them. You can add more than one effect to an image...

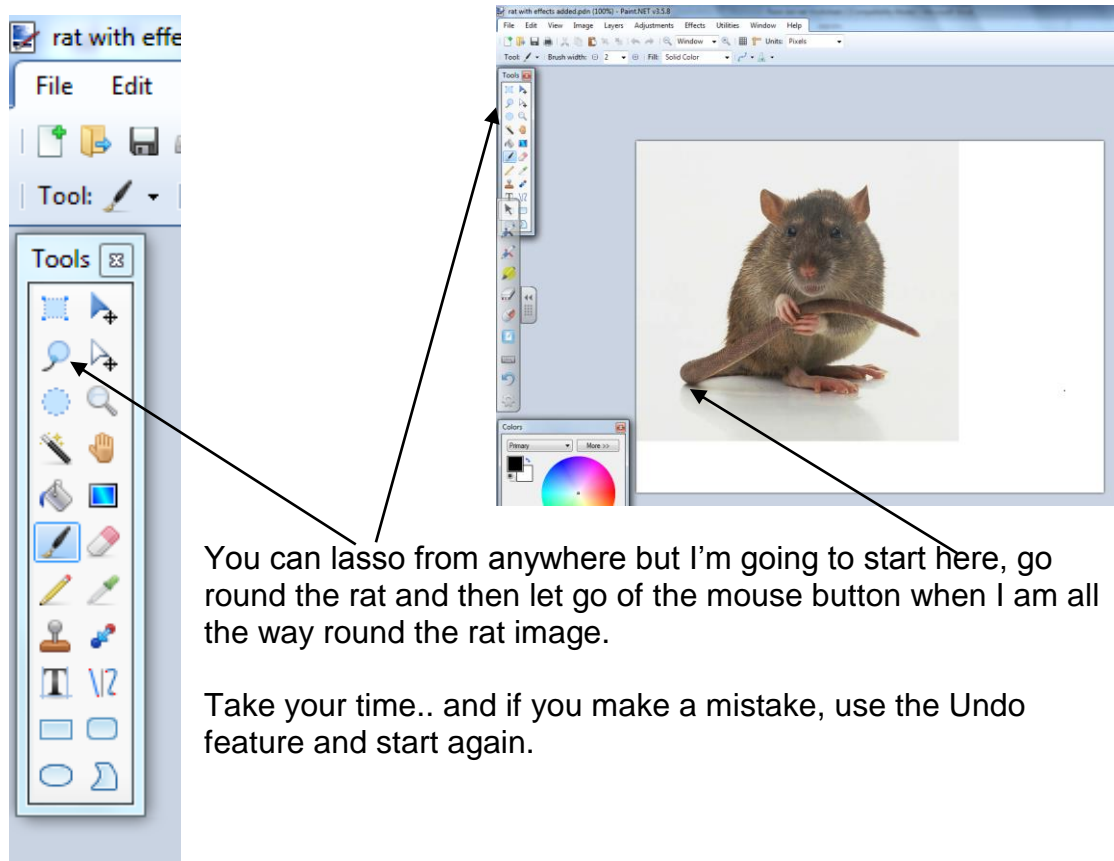
This is an oil painting rat with the frosted glass effect also added.



## Cutting images out using the Lasso tool

To use the *Lasso Select* tool, you just click and hold the mouse button, while moving the mouse to describe the shape that you want. As you draw, the selection that is being made is identified by a thin border line and a transparent blue overlay that defines the selected area.”

In order to select your rat (or other image), I’m going to select the lasso tool and start by clicking on the rat (on the top of an ear, or anywhere else) and then work around the outline of the rat to select my outline.

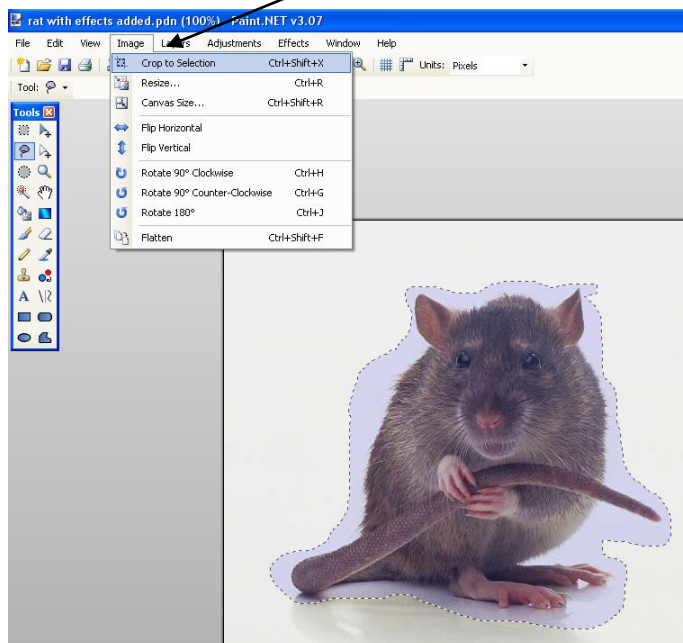




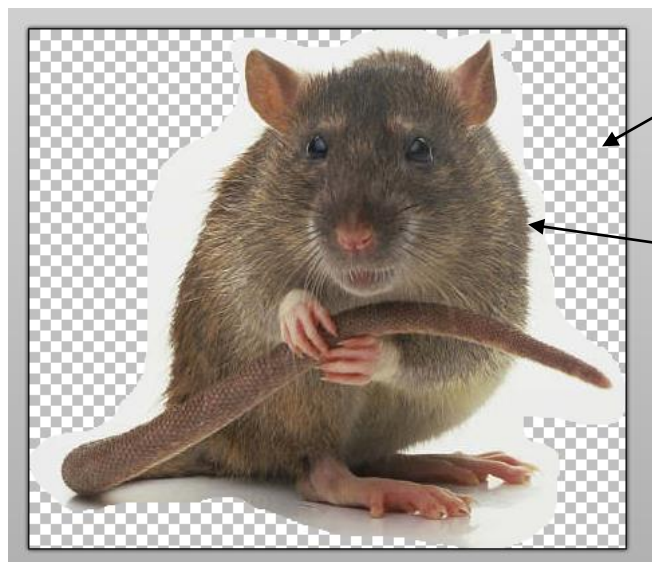
As you can see, I could get closer to the rat. This is not as good as I could get it but it shows the lasso tool working, so...



Now select 'Crop to Selection'...



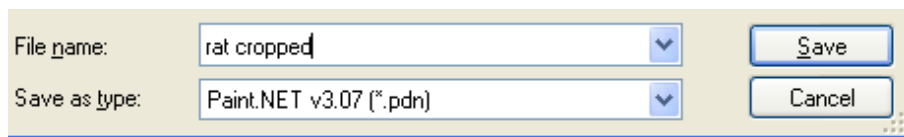
And you end up with...



Transparent background.

Rat image (cropped).

Save your cropped (rat) image as a Paint.net .pdn file. (File > Save As... give the file an appropriate name).



## Combining cropped images

Now try this:

Use the Layer > Import from file option to add an image such as this (eg a tower block)

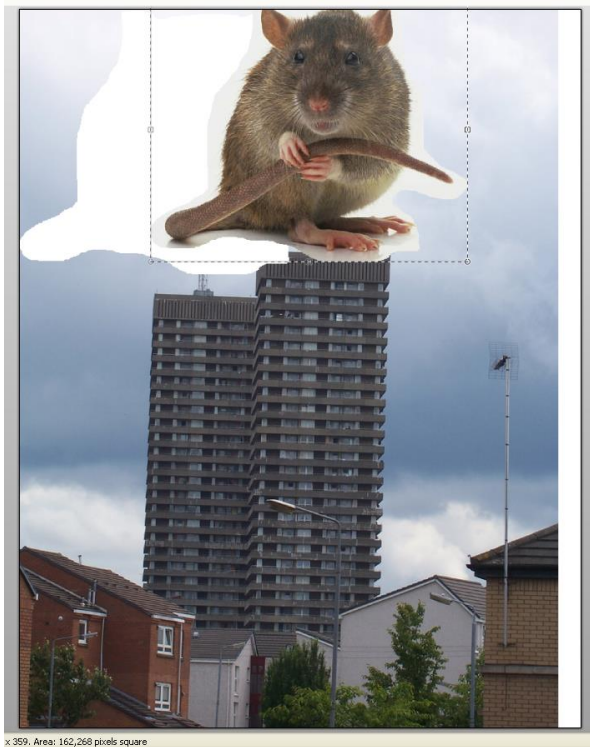


And then...

Find your cropped rat image and import it (Layer > Import from file)







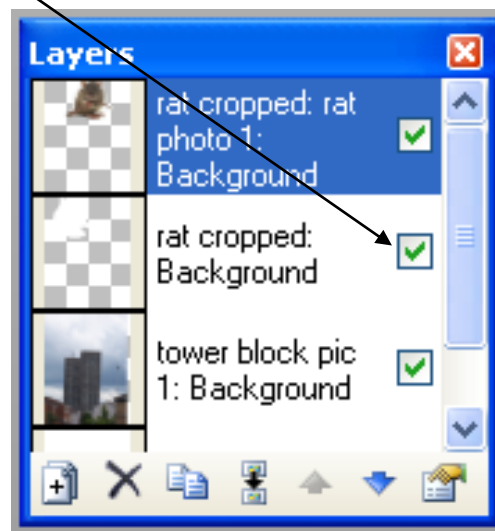
And then use the mouse to locate your rat.

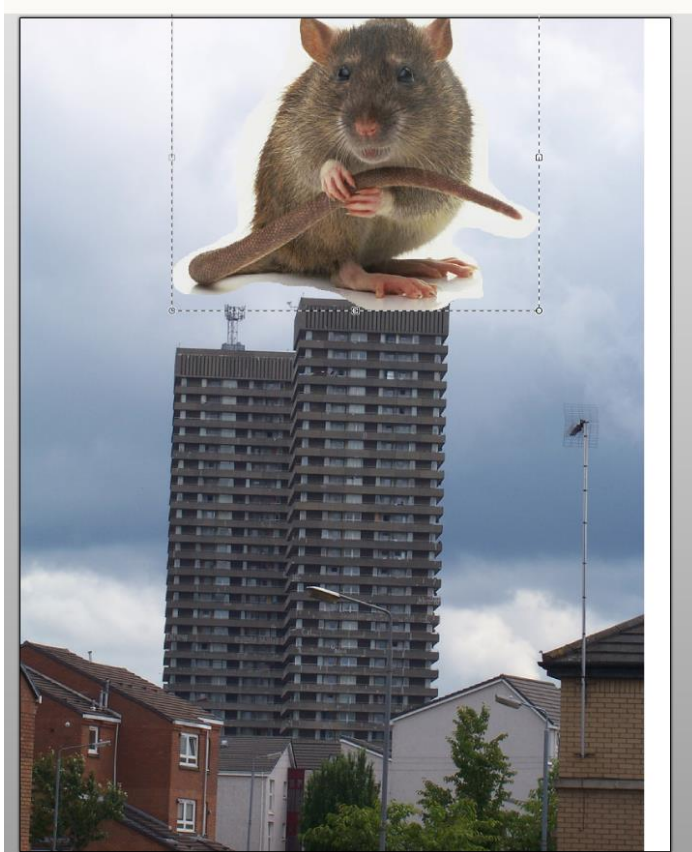
There's just one problem. There's a white background where the rat was...

We can get rid of that...

It's a layers issue.

Turn off this layer by unchecking the check box...



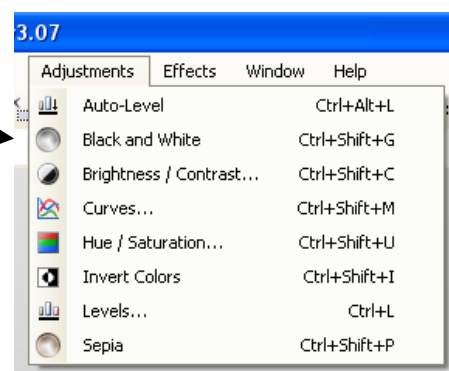
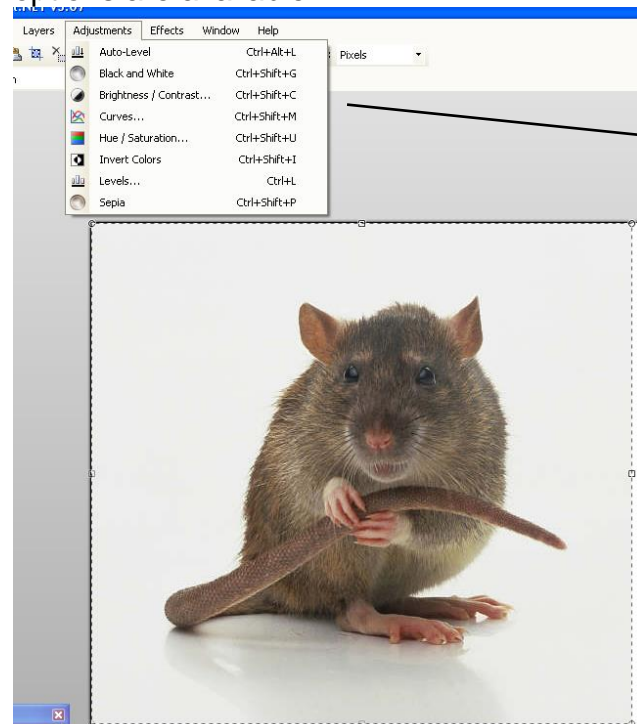


It's not perfect but it's a start.

Note that if you are more careful with your lasso tool the join will be less visible.

## Adjustments

Adjustments adjust the colours etc of an image, as you can see various options are available.

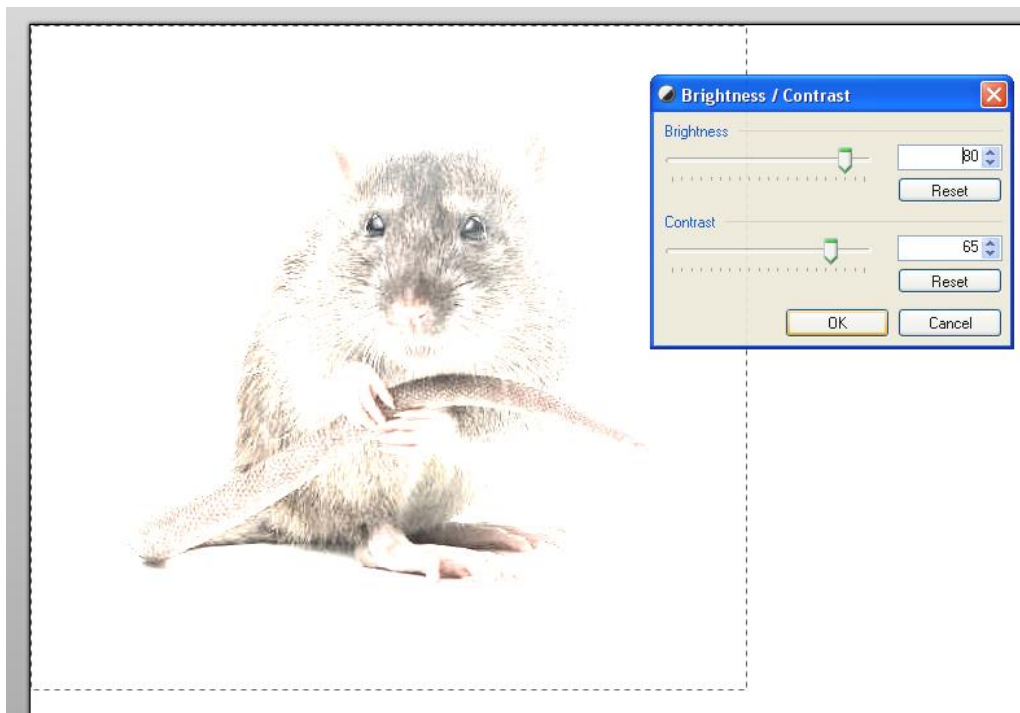


Let's have a look at what some of these options do:

Black and white (fairly obvious):

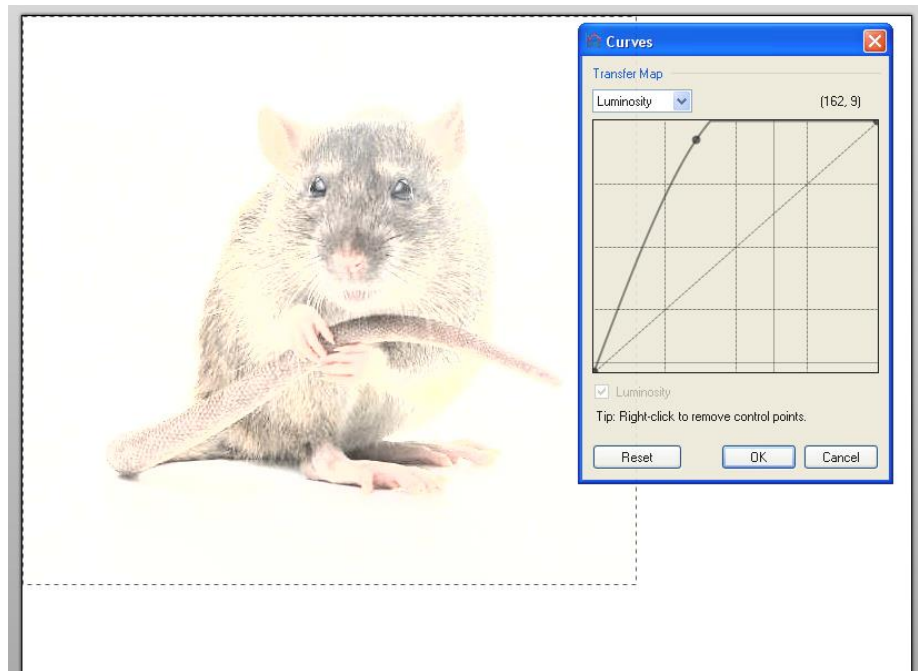


Brightness and contrast:



Curves:

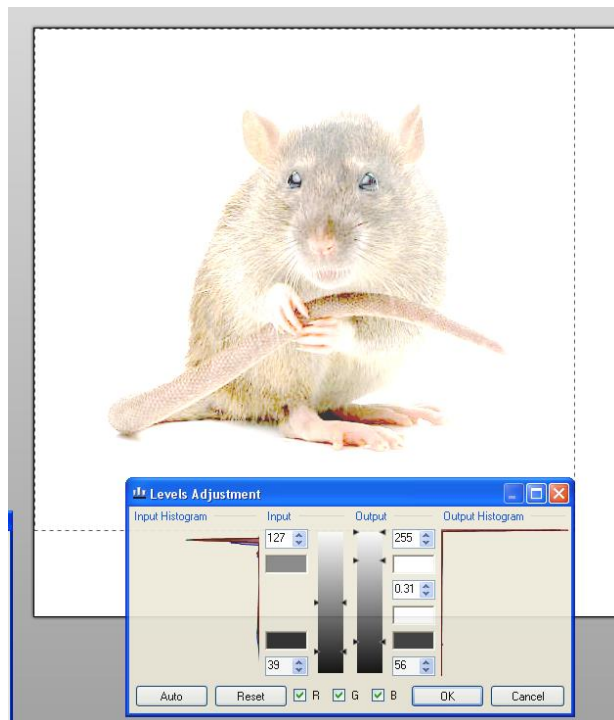
Use the mouse to change your image.



Invert colours:



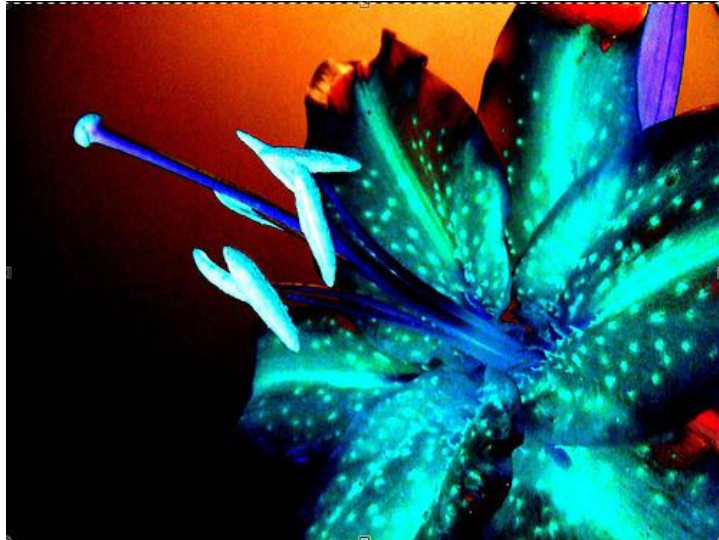
Levels adjustment:





## Adding text

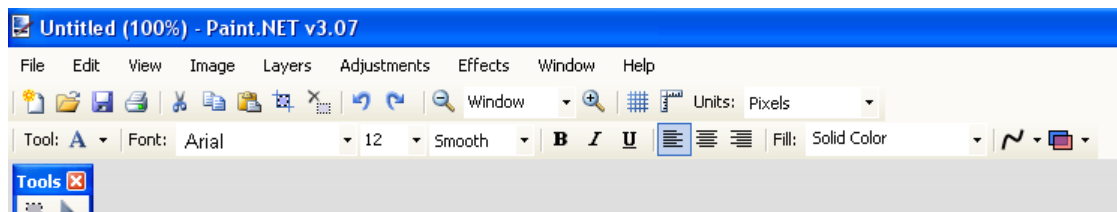
Use Layers > Import from file to add a picture to your Paint.net screen. Here's a copyright free image I found online... import any image that you would like to work with.



To add text there is a 'Text' tool in the toolbar.

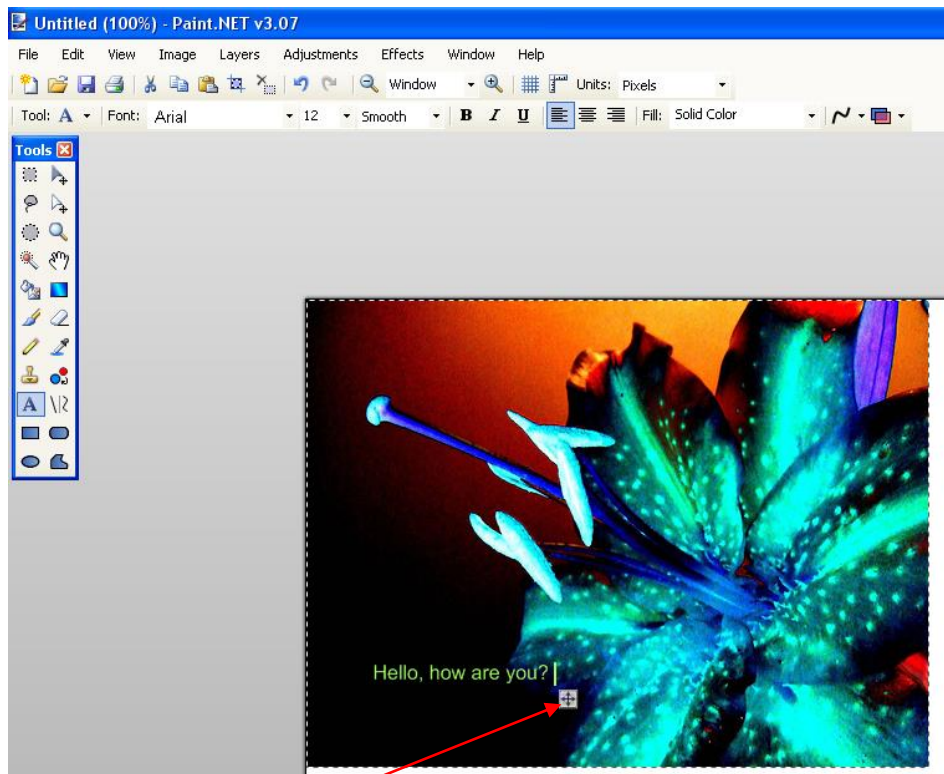
Click on that...

The text toolbar appears (select your font and font size). Pick a colour for your text by clicking in the Colours windows in the bottom left corner of the screen.



I have picked Arial, font size 12 and a green-ish colour.

Click on the image where you want your text to go and then type...



See this thing here? It allows you to move your text (drag and drop). Click on it and move your text.

Try adding different text to different images.

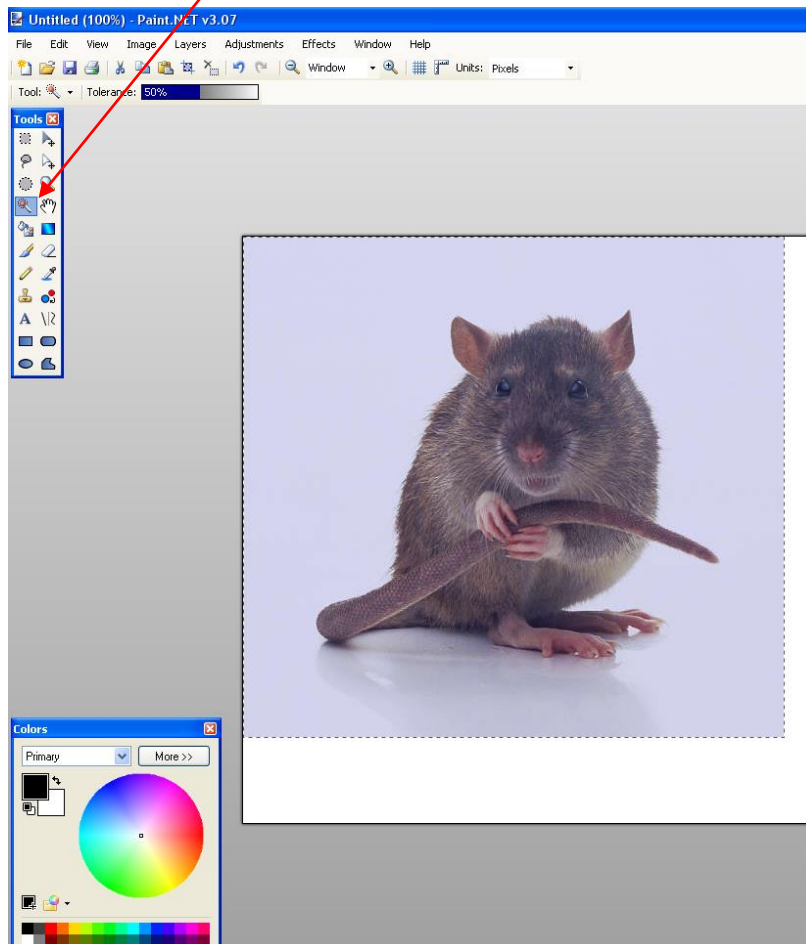


## Using the Magic Wand tool

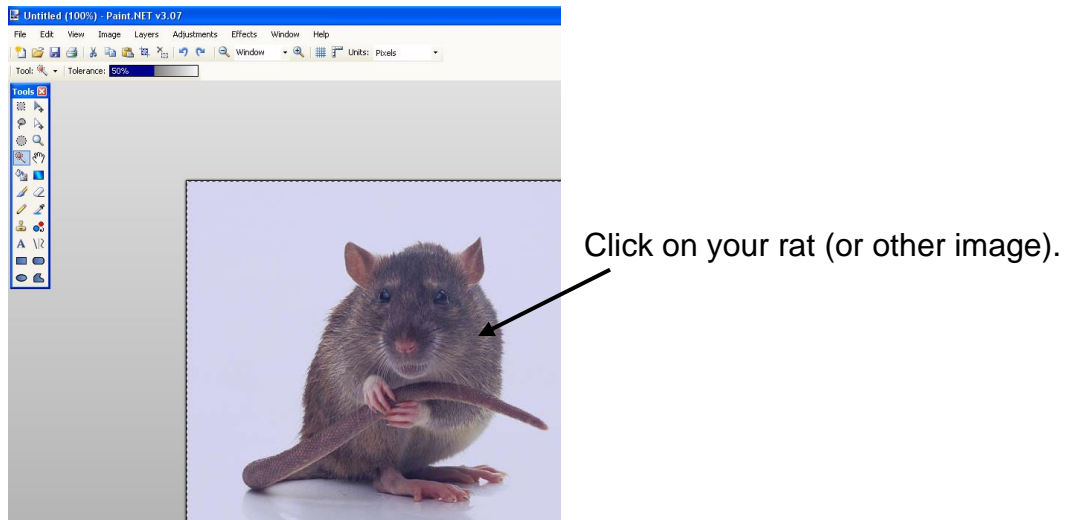
Cutting images out in Paint.net, using the lasso tool is a bit of a pain.  
Here's another way of dealing with that. Open an image (**Layers > Import from file**).



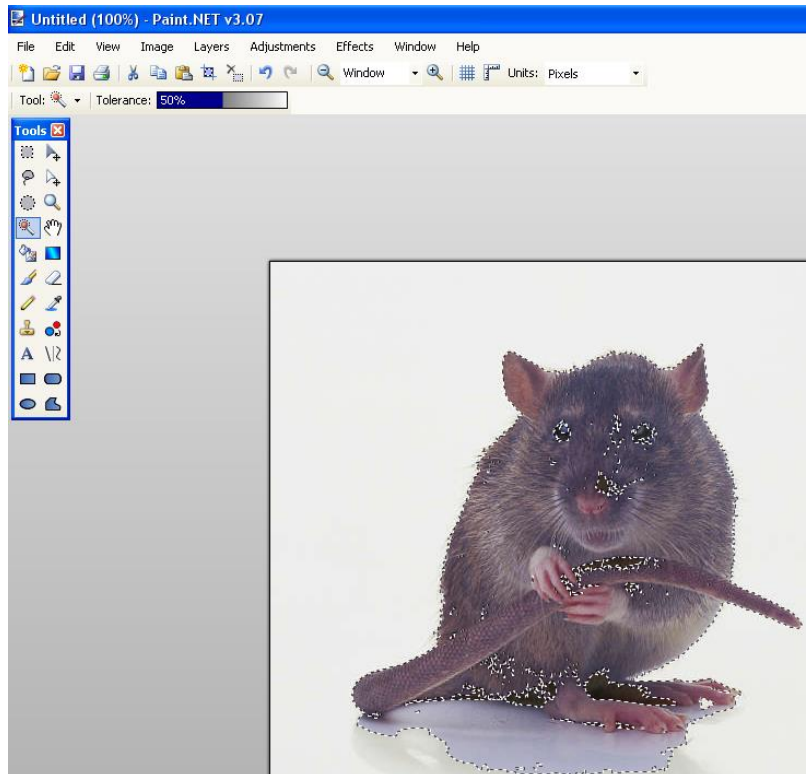
Click on the 'Magic Wand' tool:



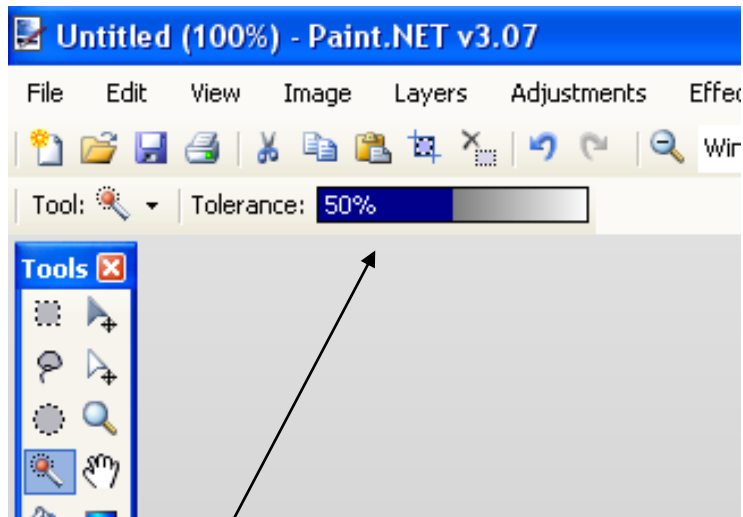
Right now, the rat isn't selected, to select the rat click on it.



The rat (or other image) is now highlighted (a flashing line is around it).

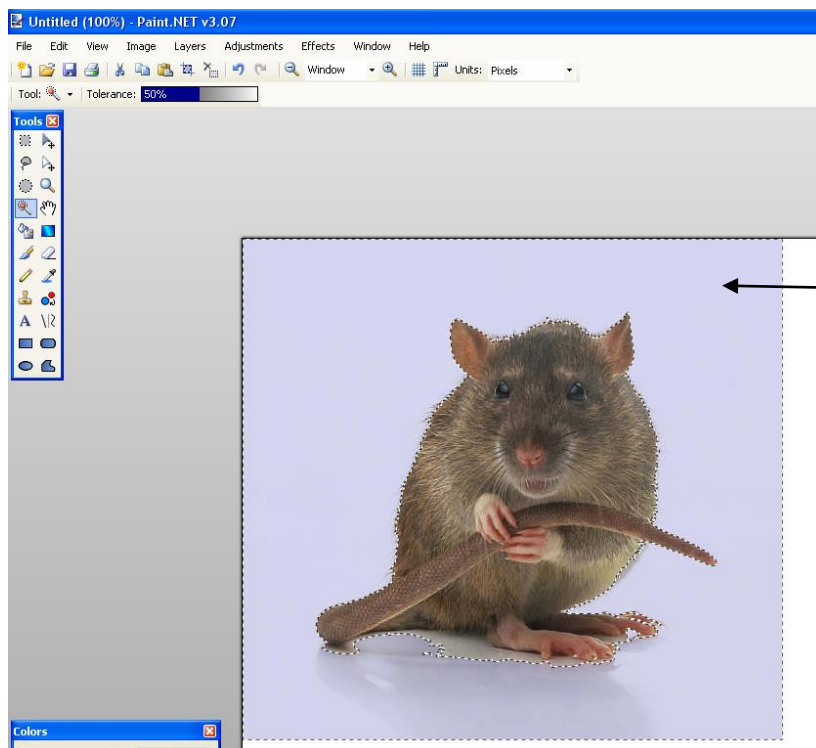


However, things might not look quite right. You might need to alter the tolerance setting.



Slide the tolerance up and down (drag with the mouse) until your wavy line is right for your cropping.

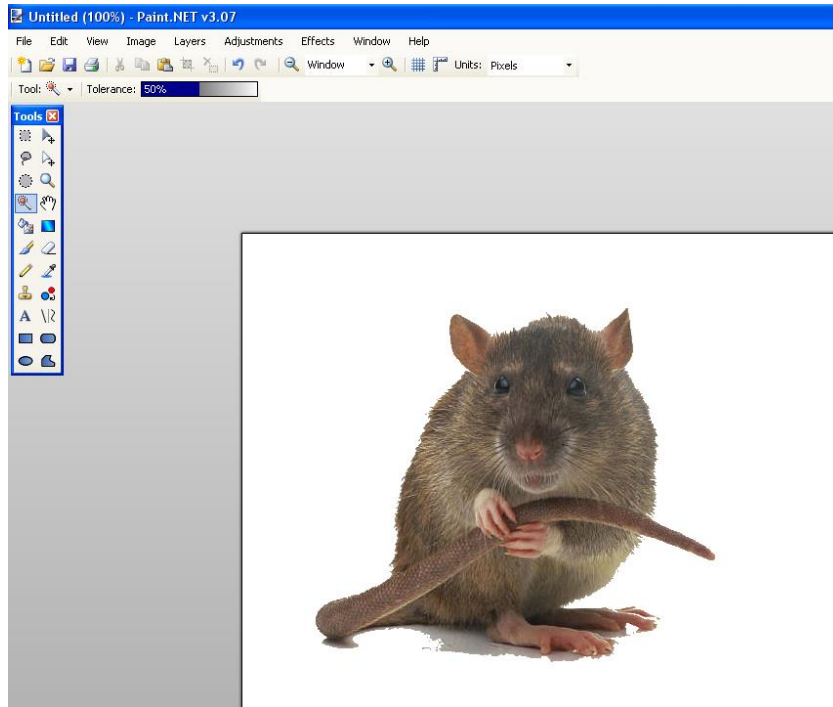
To do the crop, click on the background to highlight it.



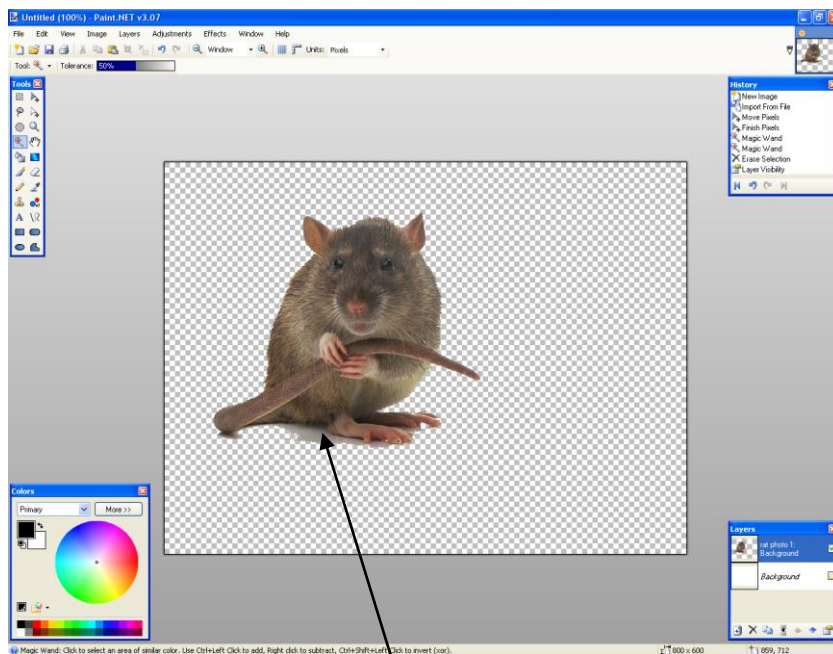
Click here (on the background, but off the rat)

Then hit the delete key, on the keyboard.





Now, uncheck the background layer.



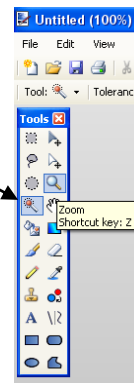
Uncheck here

The rat is now on a transparent background.

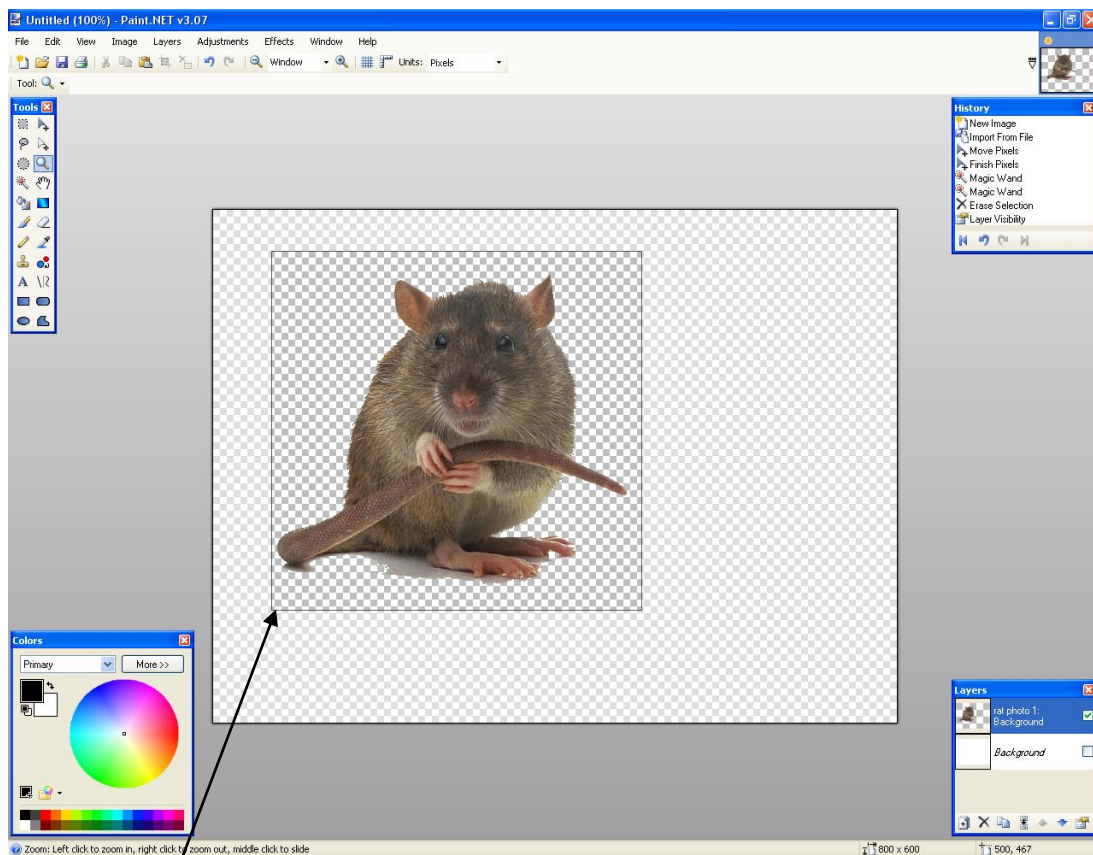
Can you see however, there might still be a bit of tidying up to do with our cropping?

Some rat pic background is still visible.

To deal with this, zoom in using the zoom tool (which looks like a magnifying glass).



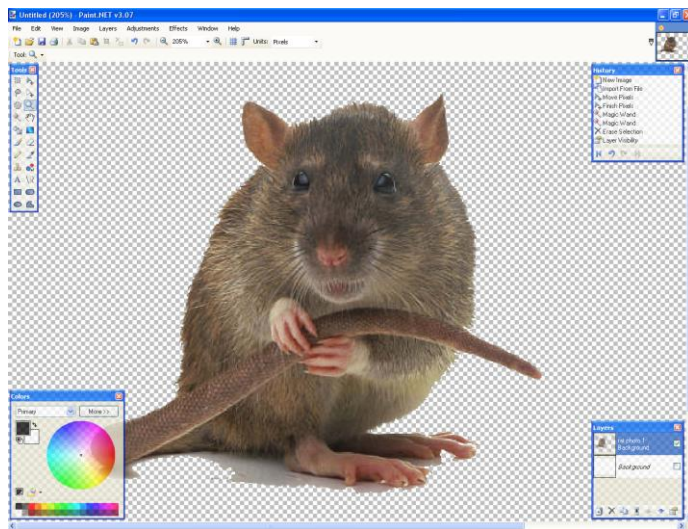
Click on the zoom tool and use the mouse to select your rat, for example:



Selected area

And then let go of the mouse.

Below: zoomed in rat:



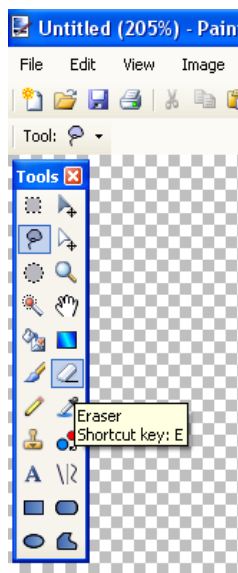
There are a few ways in which we can tidy up the image:

First: use the lasso tool to select an area,  
For example this bit down here

Then hit the delete key...

And that bit is removed.

Or second: use the 'Eraser', which is in tools,

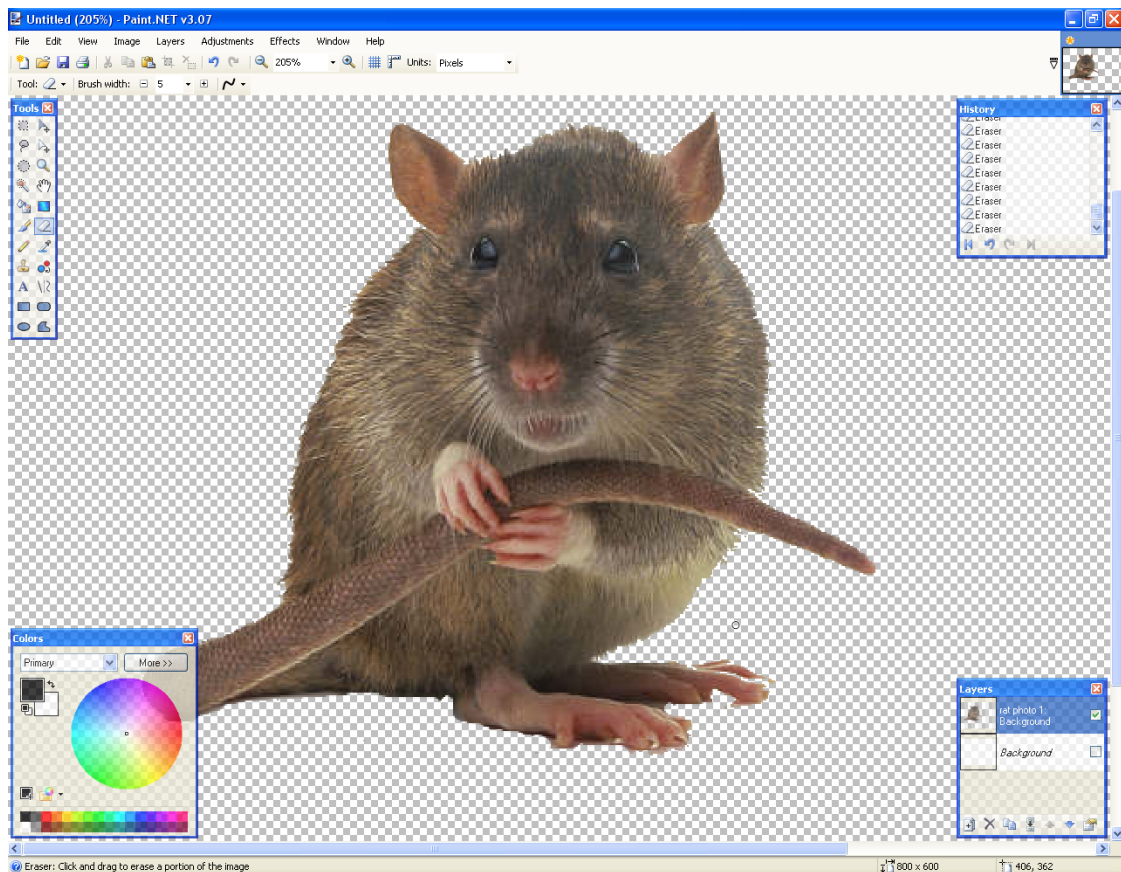


...and erase the image using the mouse.

You might wish to select a brush width (for your eraser) of say 10, or 5... then erase the bits of the image that you wish to get rid of.

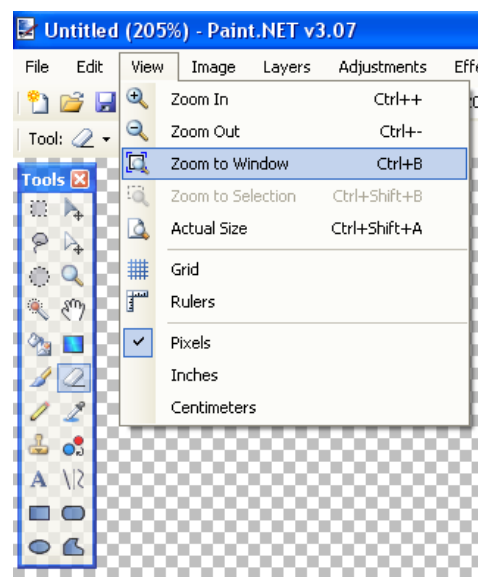
Take your time.

When you have erased everything, you should have something like this

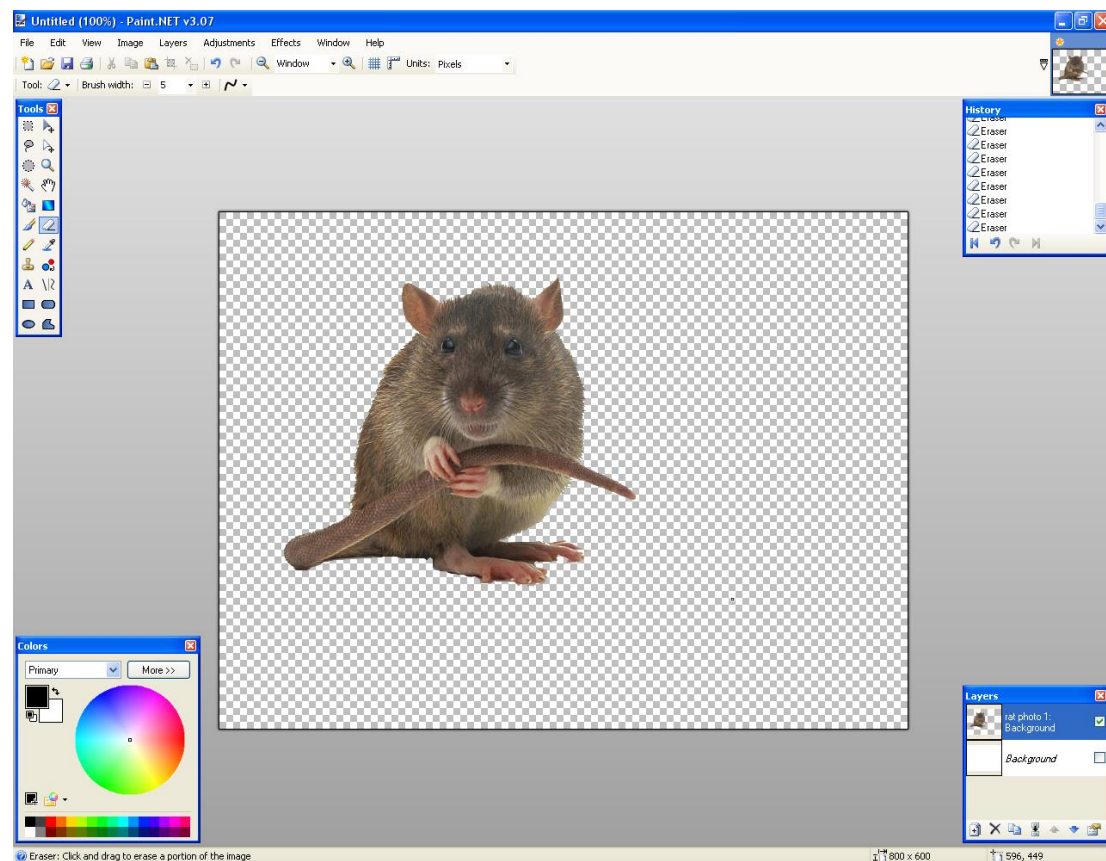


Note: you can erase using the magic wand, again and again, as opposed to use the eraser or lasso tools, but at the end of it try and get a clear image at the end of your erasing.

To resize your rat (or other image) click on View > Zoom to Window.



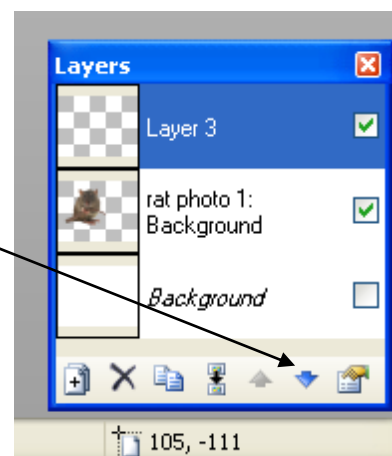
Below: zoomed to window cropped rat (better than with just the lasso tool!)



Let's finish this bit off:

Add a new layer. This may be called layer 3. Make sure it's highlighted in blue.

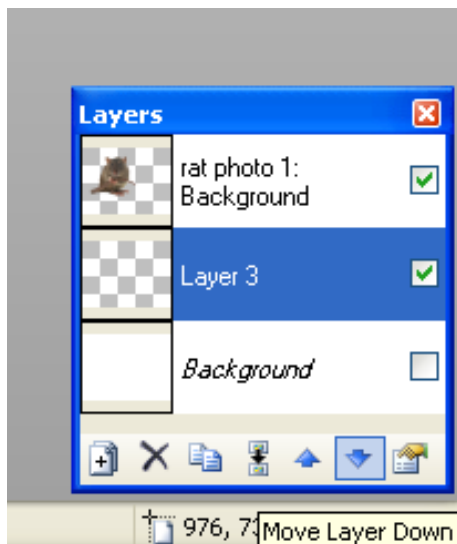
Move layer 3 down (so it's below your rat pic layer) by clicking here



Before: layer 3 is on the top...



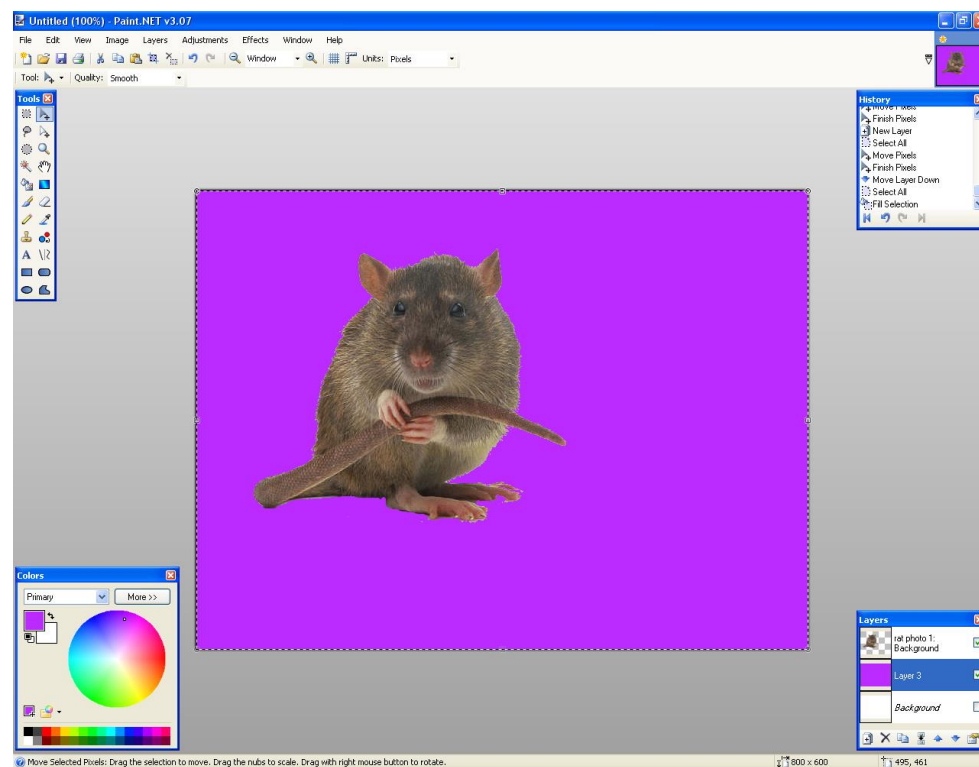
After: layer 3 is under the rat photo layer



Now, select a colour, eg a nice purple... then...

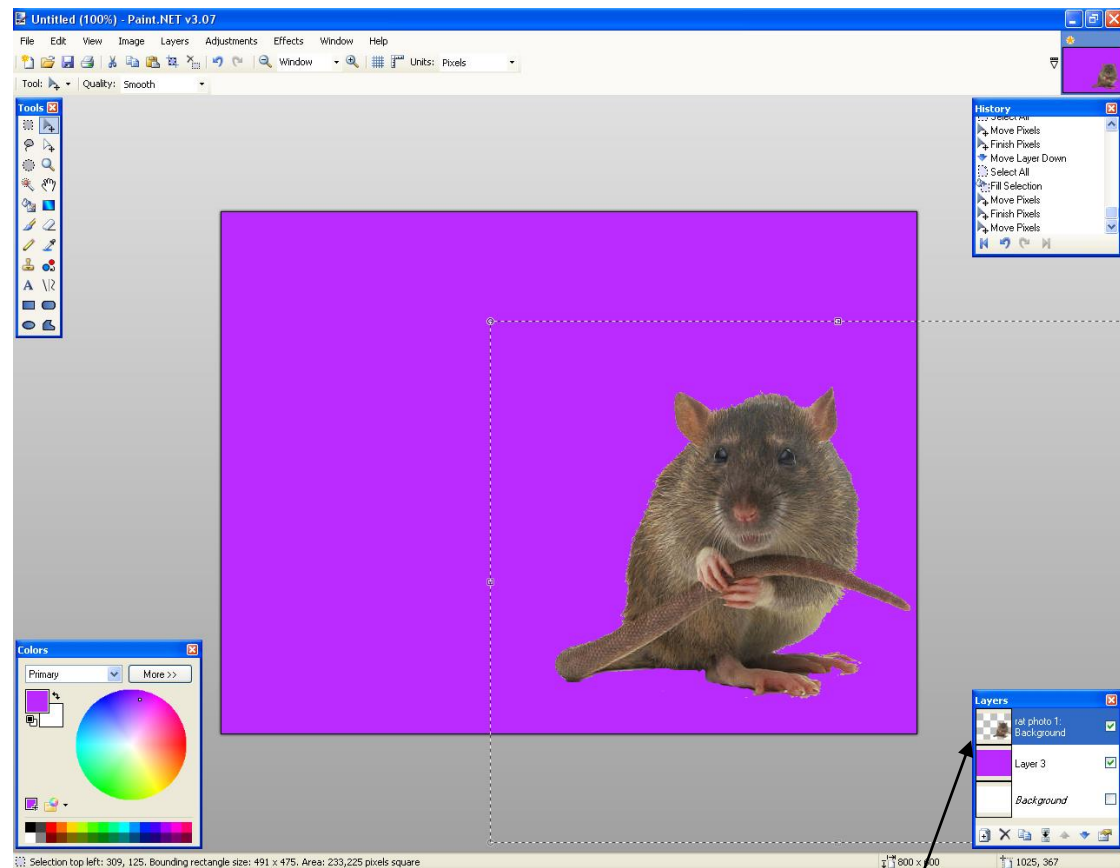
Click 'Ctrl + A' (hold down the Control key and click A, this means 'select all') with layer 3 still highlighted in blue...

Then hit the backspace key on your keyboard. The result is:



To reposition your rat:

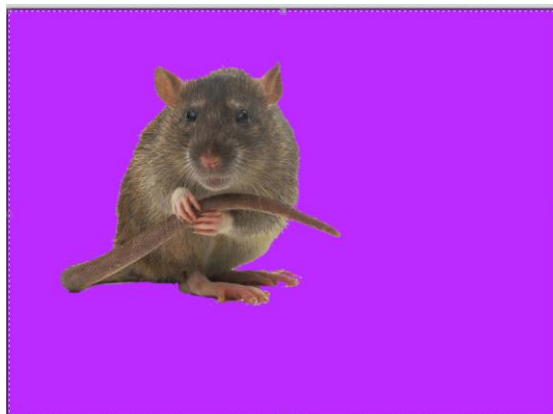
Click on the rat photo layer... then drag and drop your rat.



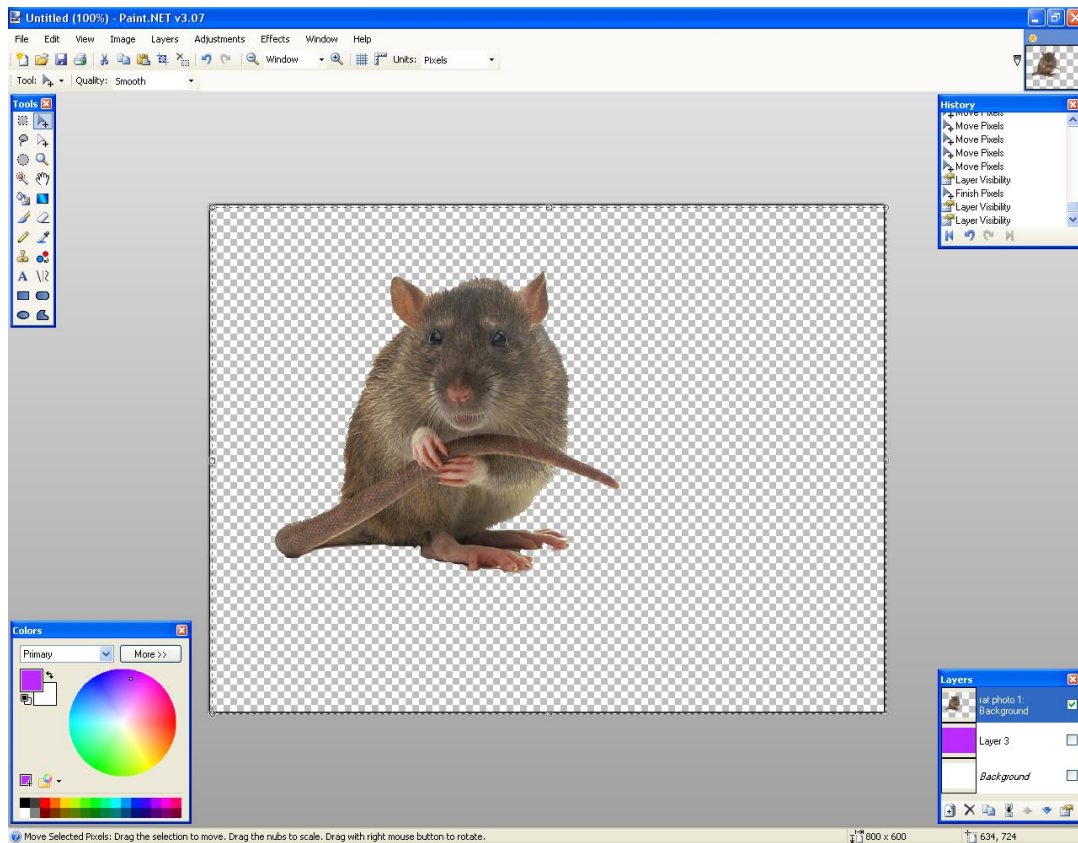
The rat photo layer is this one.

To put your rat on the moon:

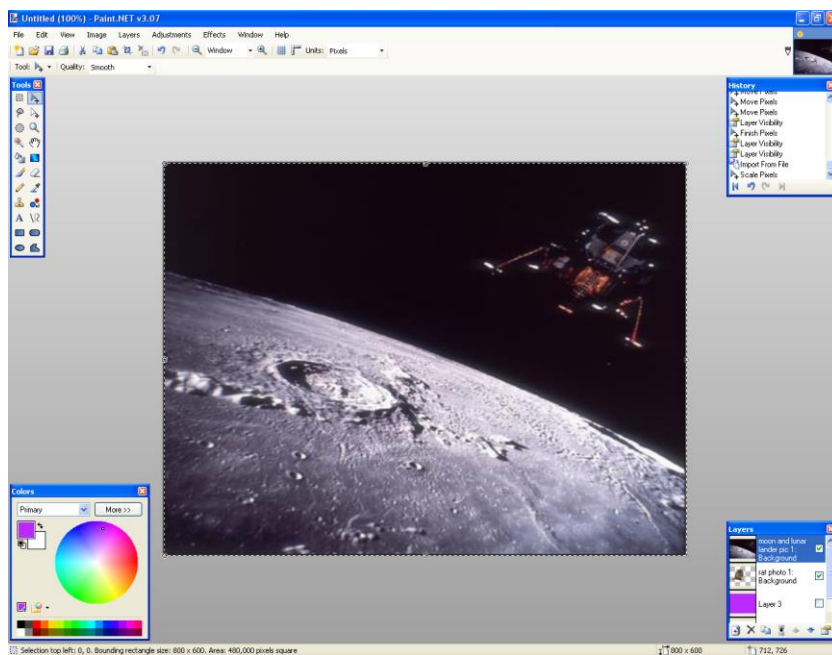
Move the rat back to where it started and also uncheck layer 3 to deactivate the layer.



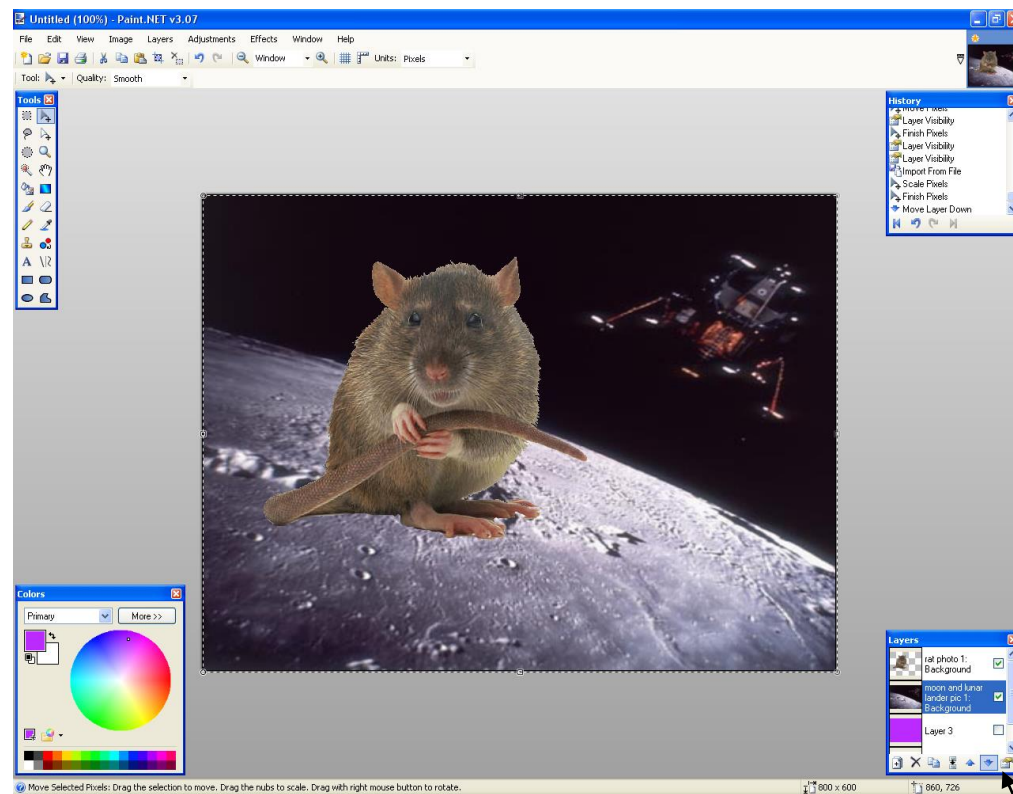
Unchecked layer 3:



Find an image of the moon and import it as a layer, resize the image as necessary.

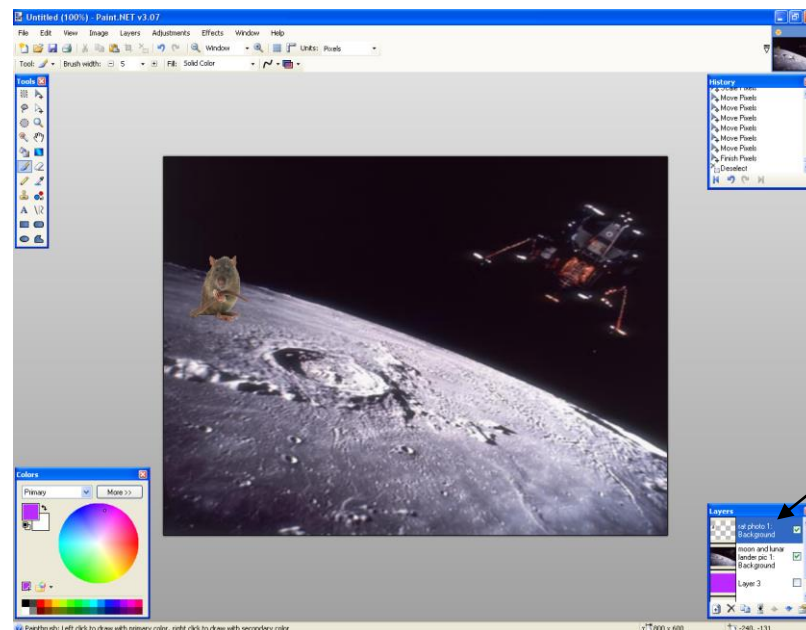


Move the moon image layer down.



Move the moon layer down here.

Select the rat image layer (so it goes blue) and move / resize the rat image.



The rat image layer needs to be selected, for rat moving and resizing.



Try this with a few different images.

Finally... save your work as a .pdn file. This is an editable file. The save your work as a .jpg file, flatten it as you save.

Your finished postcard will have two 'characters', text, effects and an unusual background.