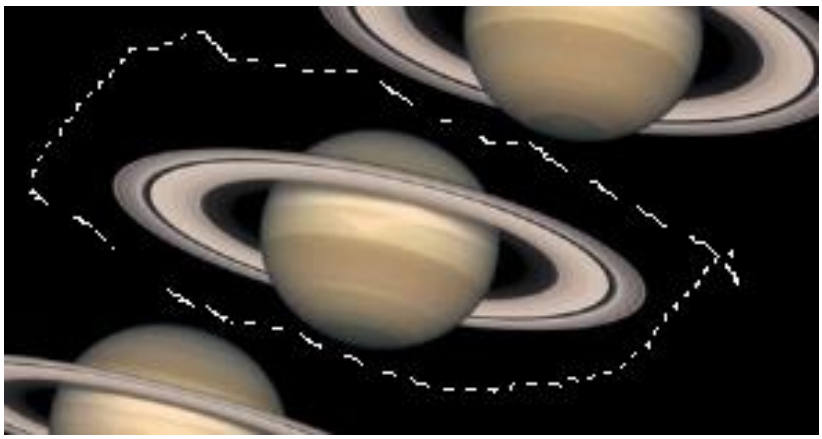
GIMP Lab 3.0 - Introduction to the Layers

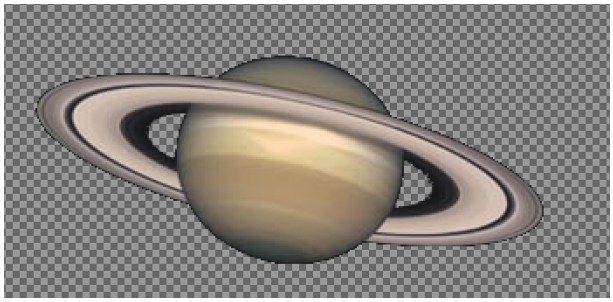
Selections - By Colour

Selecting by colour allows us to make quick and sometimes precise selections within an image at ease. The tool is ideal when making a selection from an image with a background that has little to no variation in colour.

- Open the file **saturn.jpg** and single out the middle image of Saturn using the **Free Select Tool.**



- Use **Copy (CTRL+C)** and then **Paste as New Image (CTRL+SHIFT+V)**. This shortcut creates a new gimp file.
- Save the new image as **sat1.xcf**
- In **sat1.xcf** you now want to get rid of the remaining black background.
    1. To begin, use the **Select**->**By Colour** menu option **(SHIFT+O)**.
    2. Click on the black sky in the image.
    3. Now use **Edit -> Clear** to end up with a transparent Saturn.
    4. Save the file again.
        - NB: If the layers edges look rough, complete steps 1, 2 and 3. Before proceeding the step 4 – apply a feather to the selection. To do this, go to **Select -> Feather** leave the default setting of 5PX and click Okay. One this this is done complete parts 4 and 5.



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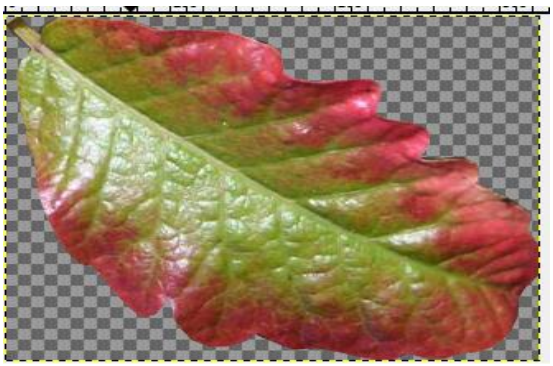
Selections - Bezier Paths

In GIMP, Bezier paths allow us to make precise selections on an image. Unlike the lasso tool, when we draw nodes around an object, the user can return the node and move, reshape or refine the selection with ease. It's highly recommended for making more precise images around content.

- Open the files **leaves.jpg.**
- Use the **Paths Tool** to define a path around one of the leaves in the image.

  1. It works better if you zoom in before starting your path.
  2. Click in the image window and select the points you want to connect.
  3. The more points you have the more accurate your selection.
  4. Clicking and dragging on a point allows us to make "arcs" from the previous node.
  5. When you have gone all the way around the leaf, **CTRL+LeftClick** on the starting point to close the path.
- To turn the path into a selection, press **Enter** on the keyboard or use the **Select -> From Path** option.

- Use **Copy (CTRL+C)** and then **Paste as New Image (CTRL+SHIFT+V)** to create a new image.
- Save the new image as **leaf.xcf**



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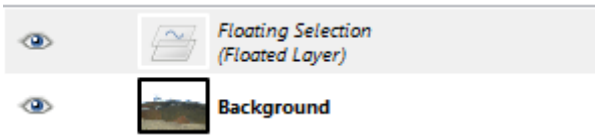
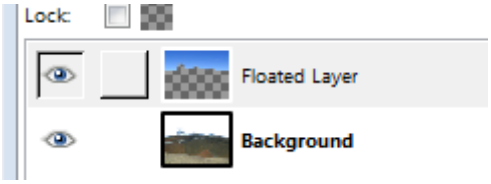
Selections - Selection Modes

In this section, you will use the fuzzy select tool to select an area of the image which has a similar colour. In addition, the you will explore the use selection modes to increase or decrease the range of your selection.

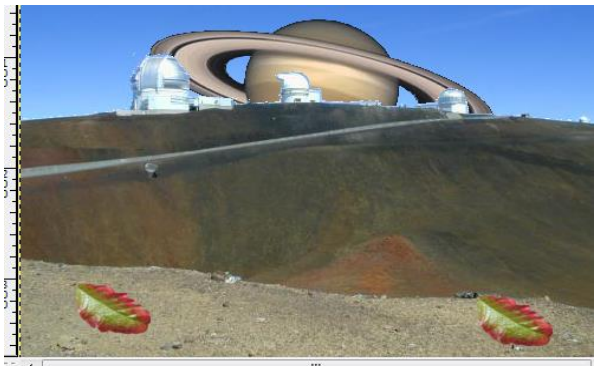
- Open the file **domes.jpg.** Use the fuzzy select tool  on the sky in this image to select the sky.
- Not all the sky will be selected initially, so you need to hold down the **shift key** and **add** to your selection.
  Note: You can also hold down the CTRL button to subtract areas from the selection.
- When all of the blue area in the sky is selected, use **Select-> Float**.



- Right click on "floating selection" in the **Layers Dialog** and select **New Layer** (or press **CTRL+SHIFT+N**). The sky is now is in a separate layer.



- Next we need to make a selection of the earth and buildings together. To do this:
  1. Make a selection of the sky again – This time you can right click on the Sky layer and select "**Alpha to Selection**". This makes a selection of all visible content on that layer, in other words – It selects the blue area we previously cut out.
  2. Invert the selection by pressing "**CTRL+I**" or going to the **Select->Invert** option in the menu.
  3. Click on the background/base image and make a new layer from the selection (**CTRL+SHIFT+L**)
- Save the file as Lab3.xcf.
- Now add in the Saturn image as a layer between the foreground and the sky.
- Add some leaves in the foreground. Save your file. You will only need to submit this final file Lab3.xcf



- Upload your files to Moodle

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