**Aquiplicity 2025 User Manual by Tracy Rose**

Welcome to **Aquiplicity 2025**, a friendly and intuitive tool for creating stunning composite images from multiple layers! Whether you're blending photos, patching specific areas, or adding creative gradients, Aquiplicity makes it easy and fun. This manual will guide you through every step to operate the software like a pro, with clear instructions and tips to spark your creativity.

**Table of Contents**

1. Getting Started
2. Interface Overview
3. Uploading Images
4. Adjusting the Threshold
5. Composing Images
6. Editing Your Composition
   * Patching Areas
   * Blending Regions
   * Applying Gradients
7. Removing Images
8. Undoing Actions
9. Saving Your Work
10. Resetting the Application
11. Using the Tracy Rose Preset
12. Tips for Best Results
13. Troubleshooting

**Getting Started**

Aquiplicity 2025 runs directly in your web browser—no installation required! Simply open the application in a modern browser (like Chrome, Firefox, or Edge) to begin.

* **Purpose**: Combine multiple images into a single masterpiece by blending, patching, or overlaying them based on color differences.
* **Best For**: Photographers, digital artists, or anyone looking to creatively merge images.
* **Requirements**: A computer with a modern browser and images ready to upload (JPEG, PNG, etc.).

**Quick Start**:

1. Upload at least two images.
2. Adjust the threshold (if desired).
3. Click **Compose!** to create your composite image.
4. Use editing tools to refine your creation.
5. Save your final image.

**Interface Overview**

The Aquiplicity interface is designed to be clean and user-friendly. Here's what you'll see:

* **Top Marquee**: A scrolling message with helpful tips (e.g., how to patch, blend, or undo).
* **Control Panel** (top):
  + **Upload Images**: Button to select multiple images.
  + **Compose!** : Starts the image composition process.
  + **Undo**: Reverts your last edit.
  + **Reset**: Clears everything to start fresh.
  + **Threshold Slider**: Adjusts how images are blended (0.01–1.0, shown as a percentage).
  + **By Tracy Rose**: Applies a preset threshold for optimal results.
* **Thumbnail Strip** (left): Shows small previews of your uploaded images. Each has an "X" to remove it.
* **Working Area** (center):
  + **Canvas**: Displays your composite image or the current state of your work.
  + **Save Master Image**: Downloads your final image.
  + **Status Bar**: Shows messages like "Upload images to begin" or progress updates.

**Uploading Images**

To start creating, you need to upload images.

1. **Click the "Choose Files" button** in the control panel.
2. Select multiple images from your computer (up to 15 images, in formats like JPEG or PNG).
3. Wait as the images load. The status bar will update (e.g., "Loading image 1 of 3").
4. Once loaded, thumbnails appear in the left strip, showing each image.

**What Happens Next?**

* If you upload one image, it displays on the canvas.
* If you upload two or more, Aquiplicity automatically composes them into a single image based on the current threshold.
* Each thumbnail shows the layer number and file name (e.g., "Layer 0: photo.jpg").

**Tips**:

* Use images of the same size for best results.
* If an image is very large (e.g., over 4000x4000 pixels), you’ll see a warning about possible slow performance.

**Adjusting the Threshold**

The **Threshold** controls how Aquiplicity decides which parts of each image to use in the composite. It’s based on color differences between images.

* **Location**: The slider in the control panel, labeled "Threshold (% Diff)".
* **Range**: 1% to 100% (default is 15%).
* **How It Works**:
  + A **lower threshold** (e.g., 5%) makes the composite stricter, keeping more of the base image unless differences are significant.
  + A **higher threshold** (e.g., 50%) allows more mixing, pulling in areas from other images even with smaller color differences.
* **Adjusting**:
  1. Move the slider left (lower %) or right (higher %).
  2. The percentage updates instantly (e.g., "15%").
  3. Click **Compose!** to apply the new threshold to your images.

**Tip**: Experiment with different thresholds to see how they affect your composite. Smaller changes (e.g., 10% to 13%) can make a big difference!

**Composing Images**

Composing blends your uploaded images into a single image based on the threshold.

1. Ensure you have at least two images uploaded (the **Compose!** button will be enabled).
2. Adjust the threshold if desired (see above).
3. Click **Compose!**
4. The status bar will show progress (e.g., "Smoothing layer 1 of 3", "Processing pixels... 50%").
5. When finished, your composite image appears on the canvas, and the status bar confirms completion (e.g., "Composition complete. Threshold: 15%").

**Automatic Composition**:

* When you upload multiple images, Aquiplicity composes them automatically.
* To recompose with a new threshold or after editing, click **Compose!** again.

**Tip**: If the result isn’t what you expected, try adjusting the threshold or removing an image (see below).

**Editing Your Composition**

Aquiplicity offers three powerful tools to refine your composite image: **Patching**, **Blending**, and **Gradient Overlays**. These are done directly on the canvas.

**Patching Areas**

Patching lets you replace a small area with pixels from another layer.

* **Patch Click** (No Modifier):
  1. Ensure you’ve composed at least two images.
  2. Click anywhere on the canvas.
  3. A small square (2x2 pixels) is replaced with pixels from another layer, based on the composition’s layer matrix.
  4. The status bar confirms (e.g., "Patched 4 pixels in 2x2 region from layer 1").
* **Patch Lasso** (Ctrl + Click/Drag):
  1. Hold **Ctrl** and click on the canvas, then drag to draw a shape.
  2. A green outline shows your lasso as you draw.
  3. Release **Ctrl** or the mouse to apply.
  4. The area inside the lasso is replaced with pixels from another layer.
  5. The status bar confirms (e.g., "Applied patch lasso from layer 2 (500 pixels)").

**Tip**: Use Patch Lasso for larger or irregular areas. If the lasso is too small (less than 3 points), it’s cancelled.

**Blending Regions**

Blending smooths an area by averaging nearby pixels, creating a feathered effect.

1. Hold **Alt** and click on the canvas, then drag to draw a shape.
2. A yellow outline shows your lasso.
3. Release **Alt** or the mouse to apply.
4. Pixels inside the lasso are blended based on surrounding colors (within a 2-pixel radius).
5. The status bar confirms (e.g., "Applied blend/feather effect (300 pixels)").

**Tip**: Blending is great for softening harsh transitions between layers.

**Applying Gradients**

Gradient Overlay adds a smooth color transition across an area, perfect for creative effects.

1. Hold **Shift** and click on the canvas, then drag to draw a shape.
2. A pink outline shows your lasso.
3. Release **Shift** or the mouse to apply.
4. A gradient is applied inside the lasso, blending colors from one side to the other (horizontal or vertical, based on the shape).
5. The gradient uses 25% opacity to blend with the original image.
6. The status bar confirms (e.g., "Applied gradient overlay effect (400 pixels at 25% opacity)").

**Tip**: Draw a longer lasso for a smoother gradient. Horizontal shapes create horizontal gradients; vertical shapes create vertical ones.

**Important**:

* You can’t edit while composing (the status bar will say "Cannot interact").
* Release the modifier key (Ctrl, Alt, Shift) before releasing the mouse, or the action is cancelled.
* All edits can be undone (see below).

**Removing Images**

If an image isn’t working in your composite, you can remove it.

1. Hover over a thumbnail in the left strip. A red "X" button appears in the top-right corner.
2. Click the "X".
3. The image is removed from the stack, and its thumbnail disappears.
4. The status bar updates (e.g., "Removed image layer 2. 3 images remaining.").

**What Happens?**

* If only one image remains, it’s shown on the canvas.
* If two or more images remain, you need to click **Compose!** to update the composite.
* If no images remain, the canvas clears.
* Remaining thumbnails update their layer numbers automatically.

**Note**: You can’t remove images while composing. If you try, the status bar will warn you.

**Undoing Actions**

Made a mistake? No problem! You can undo most edits.

1. Click the **Undo** button in the control panel (or press **Ctrl + Z**).
2. Your last action (e.g., patch, blend, gradient, or patch lasso) is reverted.
3. The status bar confirms (e.g., "Undo successful").

**Limits**:

* You can undo up to 15 actions.
* Undo is disabled during composition or if there’s nothing to undo.
* Removing an image clears the undo history, as it changes the composition fundamentally.

**Tip**: Save your image before making big edits, just in case you need to start over.

**Saving Your Work**

When you’re happy with your composite, save it to your computer.

1. Click **Save Master Image** below the canvas.
2. Your image downloads as a PNG file named "Aquiplicity\_Master\_OrigRes.png".
3. The status bar confirms (e.g., "Master image saved as Aquiplicity\_Master\_OrigRes.png (1920x1080)").

**Notes**:

* The saved image is at the original resolution of your composite.
* You can’t save while composing or if there’s no composite image.
* If saving fails (e.g., due to a very large canvas), the status bar will show an error.

**Tip**: Rename the file after saving to keep track of different versions.

**Resetting the Application**

Want to start fresh? Reset clears everything.

1. Click **Reset** in the control panel.
2. All images, thumbnails, and edits are removed.
3. The canvas returns to a blank state (300x150 pixels).
4. The threshold resets to 15%.
5. The status bar says, "Application reset. Upload images to begin."

**Tip**: Use Reset when you’re done with one project and ready for a new one.

**Using the Tracy Rose Preset**

The **By Tracy Rose** button applies a tried-and-true threshold setting for great results.

1. Click **By Tracy Rose** in the control panel.
2. The threshold sets to ~13% (optimized for balanced blending).
3. The status bar confirms, "Tracy Rose preset applied (Threshold ~13%). Click Compose to apply."
4. Click **Compose!** to update your image with this setting.

**Tip**: This preset is a fantastic starting point if you’re unsure about threshold values.

**Tips for Best Results**

* **Image Selection**: Choose images with similar lighting and resolution for seamless composites.
* **Threshold Tweaking**: Small threshold changes (e.g., 12% to 15%) can dramatically alter the result. Experiment!
* **Editing Precision**: Use Patch Lasso (Ctrl) for precise control over larger areas.
* **Gradient Creativity**: Try Gradient Overlay (Shift) to add artistic color washes, like a sunset glow.
* **Performance**: For large images (over 4000x4000 pixels), expect slower processing. Use smaller images if speed is a priority.
* **Undo Safety**: Make bold edits knowing you can undo up to 15 steps.
* **Save Often**: Download your image after key edits to preserve versions.

**Troubleshooting**

* **"Compose! button is disabled"**: You need at least two images uploaded. Check the thumbnail strip.
* **"Cannot interact" message**: Wait until composition finishes (watch the status bar).
* **Lasso cancelled**: Ensure you hold Ctrl, Alt, or Shift until you release the mouse. Lassos need at least 3 points.
* **Slow performance**: Large images or many layers can slow things down. Try fewer or smaller images.
* **Error loading images**: Check that your files are valid images (JPEG, PNG) and not corrupted.
* **Save fails**: Very large canvases may cause issues. Try composing with smaller images.
* **Thumbnail "X" doesn’t work**: You can’t remove images during composition. Wait until it’s done.

If you hit a snag not covered here, check the status bar for specific error messages, or reset and try again.

**Happy Creating!**

With Aquiplicity 2025, you’re equipped to blend images into unique creations. Upload your photos, play with thresholds, and use patching, blending, and gradients to bring your vision to life. If you’re feeling inspired, try the Tracy Rose preset for a quick win, and don’t forget to save your masterpieces!

Got questions or ideas? The marquee at the top has handy reminders, and this manual is here whenever you need it. Now, let’s make something amazing!

*This manual is tailored for Aquiplicity 2025 (Single Threshold - Original Resolution). Enjoy your creative journey!*