

Now with
4 Secrets

3 Secrets to Creating Fancy Graphics Like Nicholas Exner

December 12, 2017

Disclaimer

Nicholas Exner is not a graphic designer or even a classically trained artist which explains his deep love for apps like Microsoft Paint. What he does have is a very particular set of skills acquired over a very long career of using GIMP. Skills that make him an image hacker for people like you. The opinions presented here are his own and may not be the optimal way to achieve certain results.

Please attempt to try this at home.

Overview

Today's presentation is aimed at equipping you with the skills needed to quickly create and edit your own graphics using GIMP, the open source image editor.

- Secret #1 – Embrace the Essentials
 - Why GIMP
 - Get GIMP
 - Opening, saving, toolbox view, resizing, cropping, adding text
 - Example – quickly annotate defects
- Secret #2 – Newer is Always Better
 - Images from scratch, selections, filters
 - Example – quickly generate placeholder icons
- Secret #3 – Lots of Layers
 - Example – communicate present state of an application
- Secret #4 – Take it to the HNL
 - Animations, Scaling, Image Filters
 - References

Why GIMP

- Free
 - Open Source
- Cross-platform
 - MacOS, Linux, Windows
- Mature
 - First released in 1995-11
 - Latest stable release 2017-05
- Capabilities
 - Image editing, file format exporting, sports a cool mascot

Get GIMP

- Work (PC)
 - SFNet → SF Forms → Workstation Enhancement
 - Search for GIMP
- Work (Mac)
 - Self Service
 - Search for GIMP
- Home
 - Navigate to <https://www.gimp.org/downloads/>

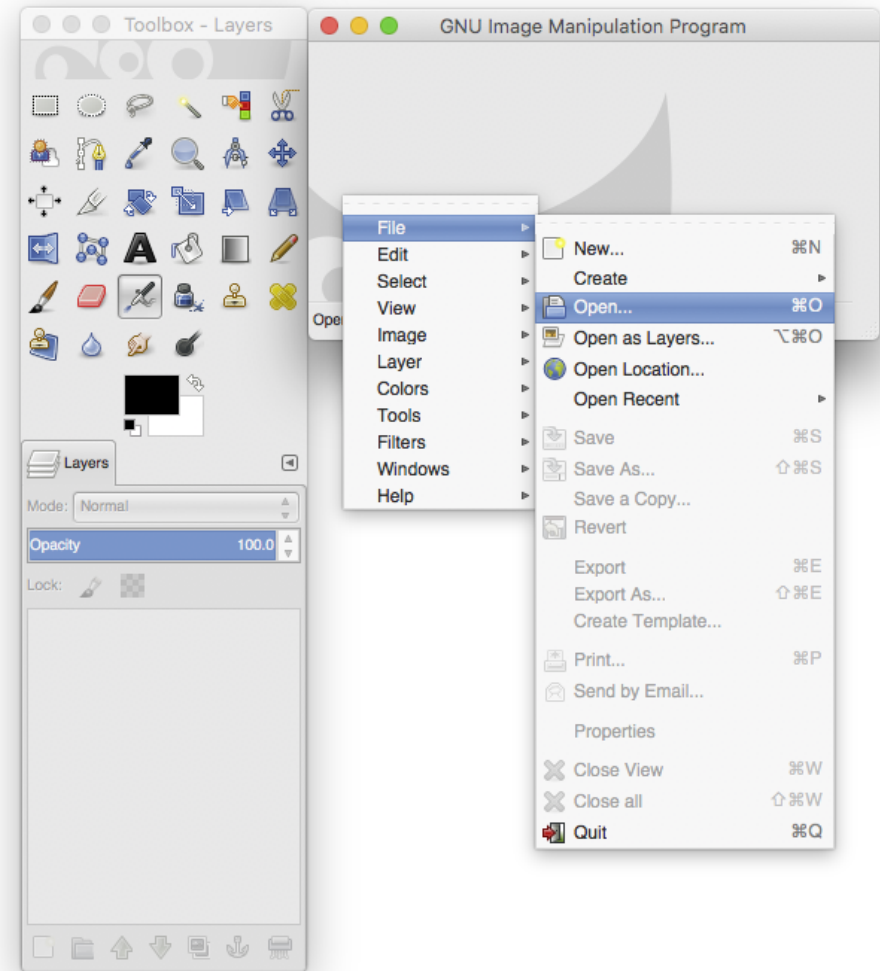
What's in the Toolbox?



- Selection Tools
 - Rectangular, Ellipse, Free, Fuzzy, Color, Scissors, Foreground, Paths
- Transform Tools
 - Rotate, Scale, Sheer, Perspective, Flip, Cage
- Paint Tools
 - Bucket, Blend, Pencil, Paintbrush, Airbrush, Clone
- Other Tools
 - Text, Zoom, Eraser, Smudge & More

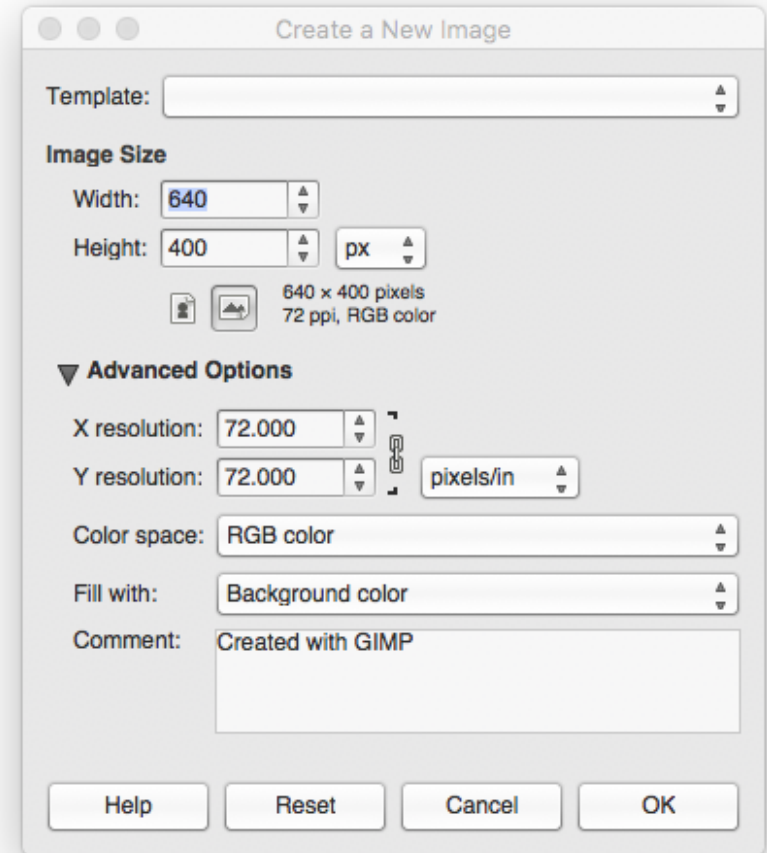
Secret #1- Embrace the Essentials

- Start by opening a file or creating a new image
- End by saving a file (XCF) or exporting to one of >34 formats (JPG, PNG, GIF, etc.)
- If the toolbox isn't visible, it can be shown by going to Windows → Toolbox
- Starting up GIMP the first time on MacOS can be slow



Secret #2- Newer is Always Better

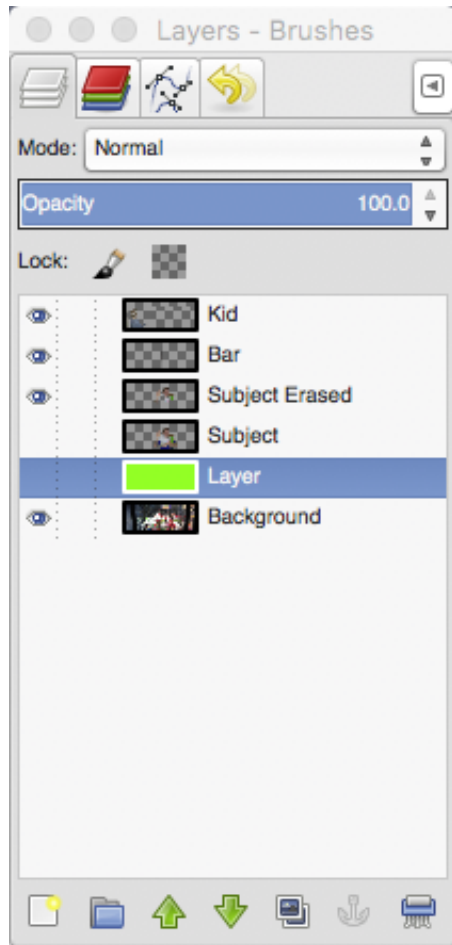
- Start by opening a file or creating a new image
- Select the size
- Select the background color
- <TODO: selections, filters>



Quickly Generate Placeholder Icons

- In mobile development, it is quite common for new devices to be released that support different icon size requirements.
- Our final media resources are provided to us by our designers, but creating temporary image assets allows us to code against placeholders while the final versions are being perfected.
- For this example, we will

Secret #3 – Lots of Layers



Just like Ogres and Parfait's, GIMP has layers.

- CMD+L brings up the Layers view
- Common layer operations:
 - Reorder
 - Duplicate
 - Delete
 - Transparency adjust
 - Create

Layers Example

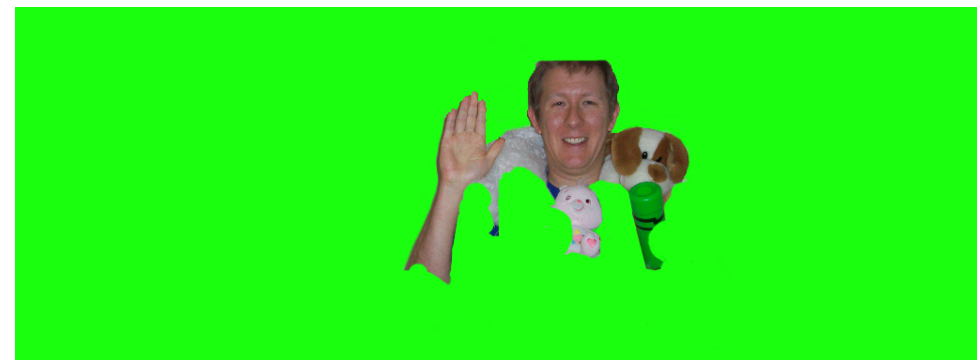


“My son wanted what was in the claw machine, I wanted to be in it.”

Layers Example

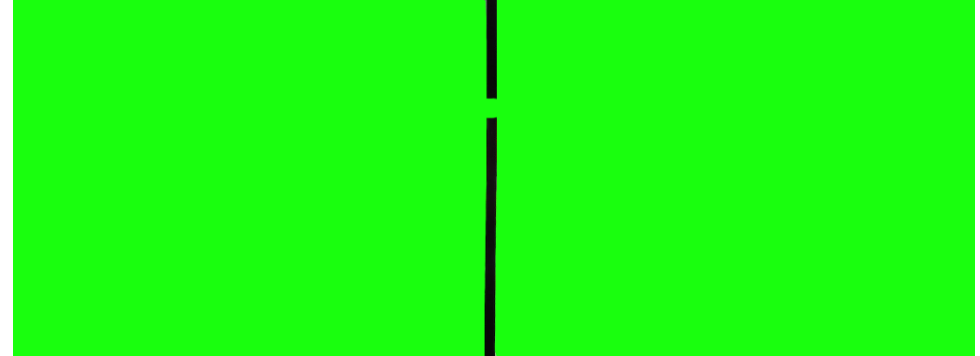
Image editing can take many steps, layers often help organize some of those steps.

- Clip out the subject
- Add the background
- Duplicate the subject layer
- Adjust the transparency
- Erase parts to show overlapping



Layers Example

- Next add a vertical bar covered by the hand
- Add other details like a kid outside of the claw machine



Secret #4 – Take it to the HNL



Animations can be created by using each layer as a frame.

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References

- <https://www.gimp.org/downloads/>
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/GIMP_version_history