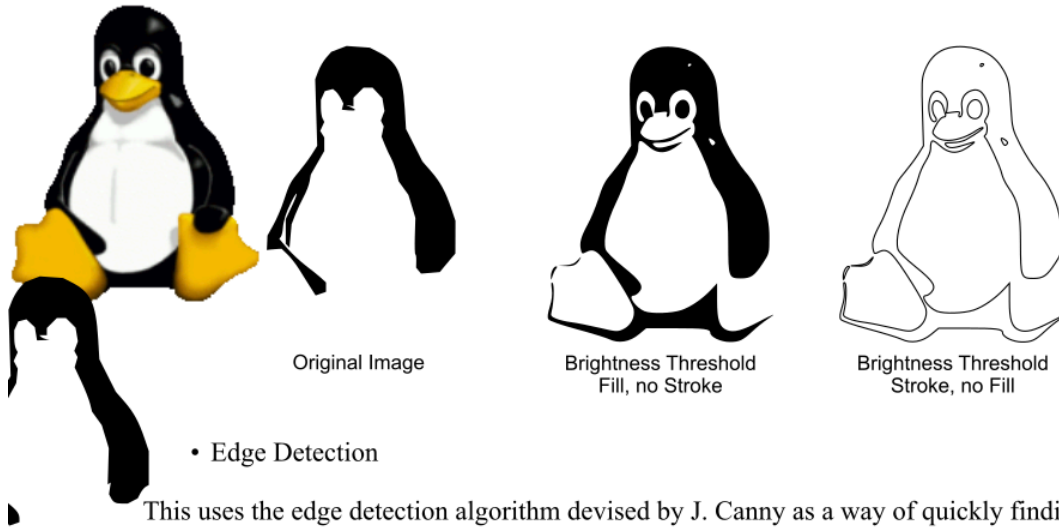# Introduction to 2D Design for Laser Cutting

- Brightness Cutoff

This merely uses the sum of the red, green and blue (or shades of gray) of a pixel as an indicator of whether it should be considered black or white. The threshold can be set from 0.0 (black) to 1.0 (white). The higher the threshold setting, the fewer the number pixels that will be considered to be "white", and the intermediate image with become darker.

Original Image

Brightness Threshold
Fill, no Stroke

Brightness Threshold
Stroke, no Fill

- Edge Detection

This uses the edge detection algorithm devised by J. Canny as a way of quickly finding

After tracing, it is also suggested that the user try Path⇒Simplify (**Ctrl**+**L**) on the output path to reduce the number of nodes. This can make the output of Potrace much easier to edit. For example, here is a typical tracing of the Old Man Playing Guitar:

Original Image

Traced Image / Output Path
(1,551 nodes)