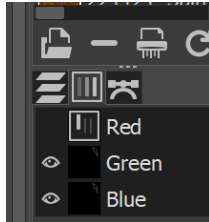


create mask of MN for analysis

1. download GIMP: <https://www.gimp.org/downloads/>
2. navigate to **merged tiff** image in file-explorer
3. right-click on **image** -> **open with** -> **GIMP**
4. select in upper toolbar: **Windows** -> **dockable dialogs** -> **channels**
5. at the right side a small window appears which allows to switch off the red channel of the tiff by **pressing at the eye** left of the label "Red":



6. press **P** to select pencil tool
7. hold **ctrl+alt** and **roll the mouse wheel** to decrease pencil size to minimum (1 px)
8. draw with **white color** a line around the neuron (if default color is not white press **x**)
9. also set a single point to the center of the neuron
10. press **shift+o** to select by color
11. click at one of the white pixels which were drawn before
12. press **ctrl+i** to invert selection
13. press **del** (background should now be black)
14. select pencil tool again (press **P**) and select black as color (press **x**)
15. paint everything except the drawn line and the middle of the neuron black (! also the scale bar !). At the end the image has only the border of the neuron and the dot in the middle, **everything else must be black**
16. now go to **file** -> **export as** and export the new image as .tif (by changing the file ending from .png (default) to .tif). If there are several neurons on that image **add** a identifier to the filename, but keep everything before! e.g.: xxx_mn1.tif