

Photoshop

Barcode

Design Using

Layers

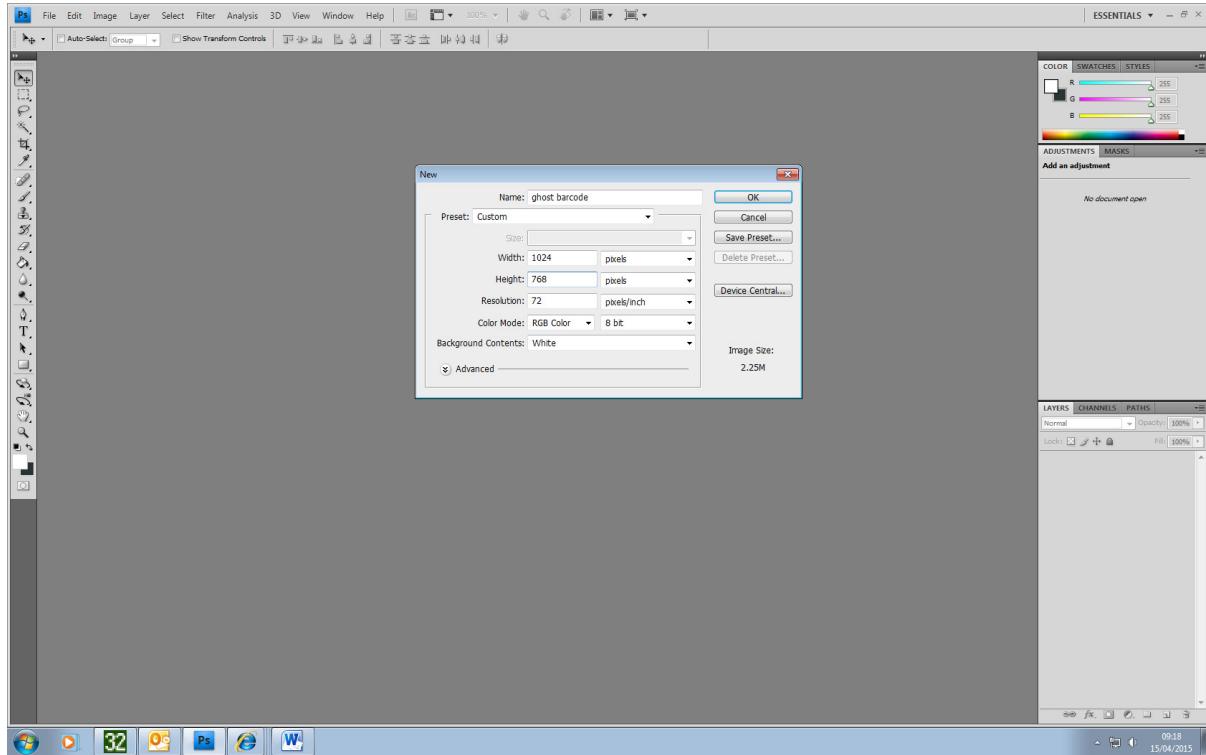


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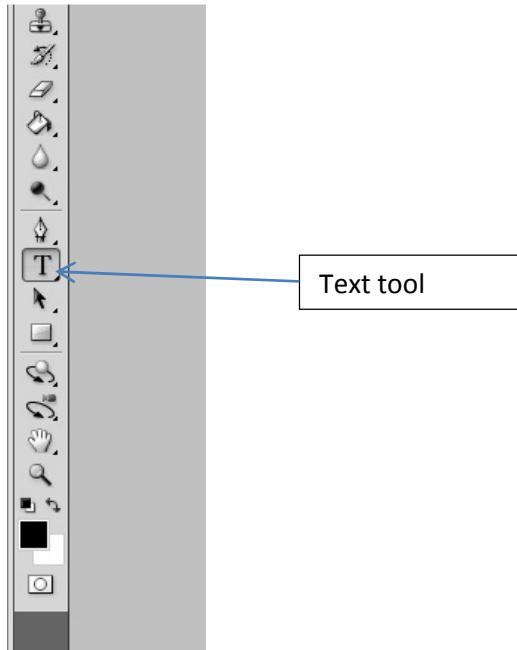
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Creating a Barcode

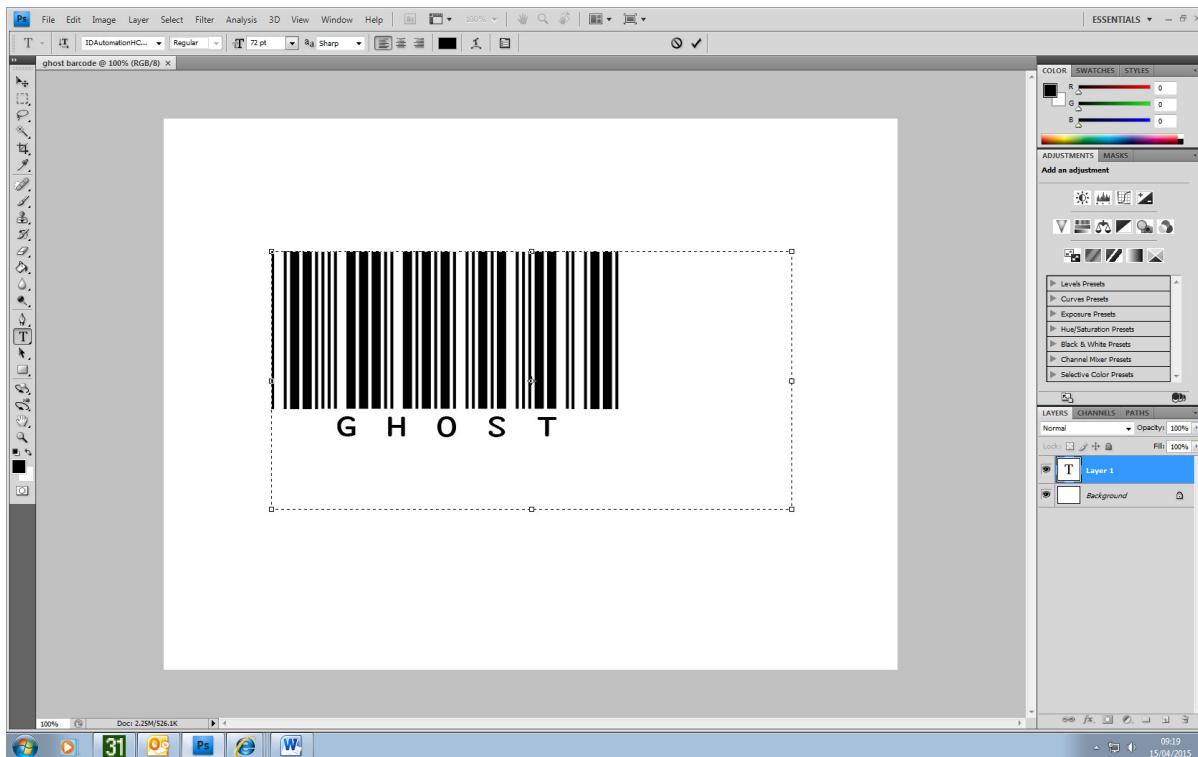
Create a new Photoshop document -- 1024 x 768 pixels is a good size -- and give your document a name:



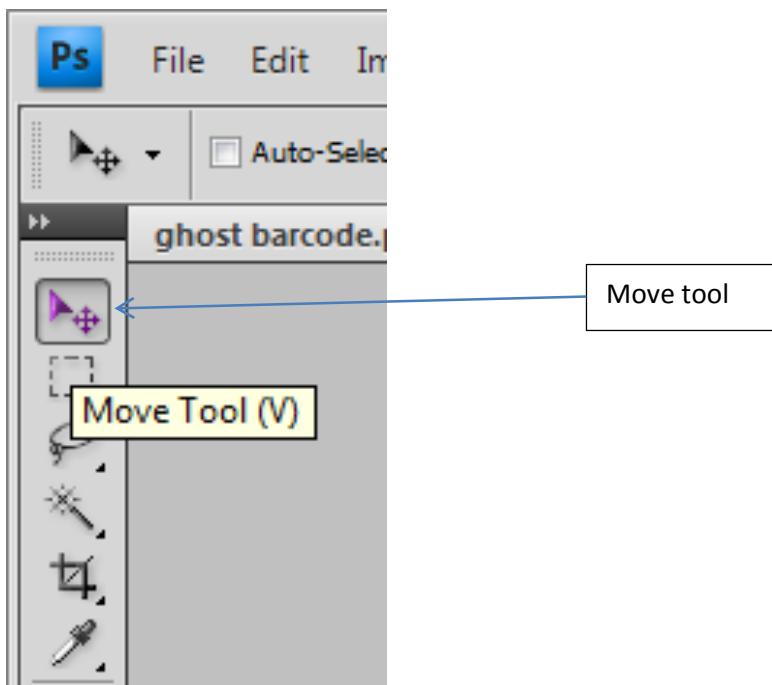
Click on the text tool:



Choose the font ID Automation and type some text related to your theme, idea or product:

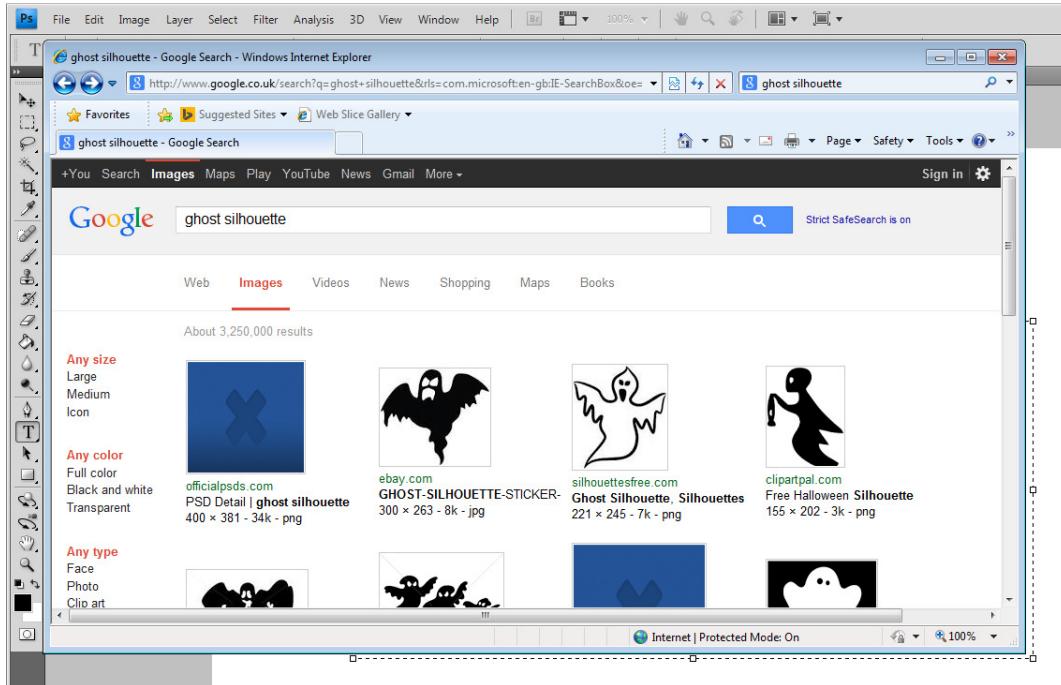


Make sure the text is big and central. Point size 48 to 70 works well. Use the move tool to fine-tune positioning:

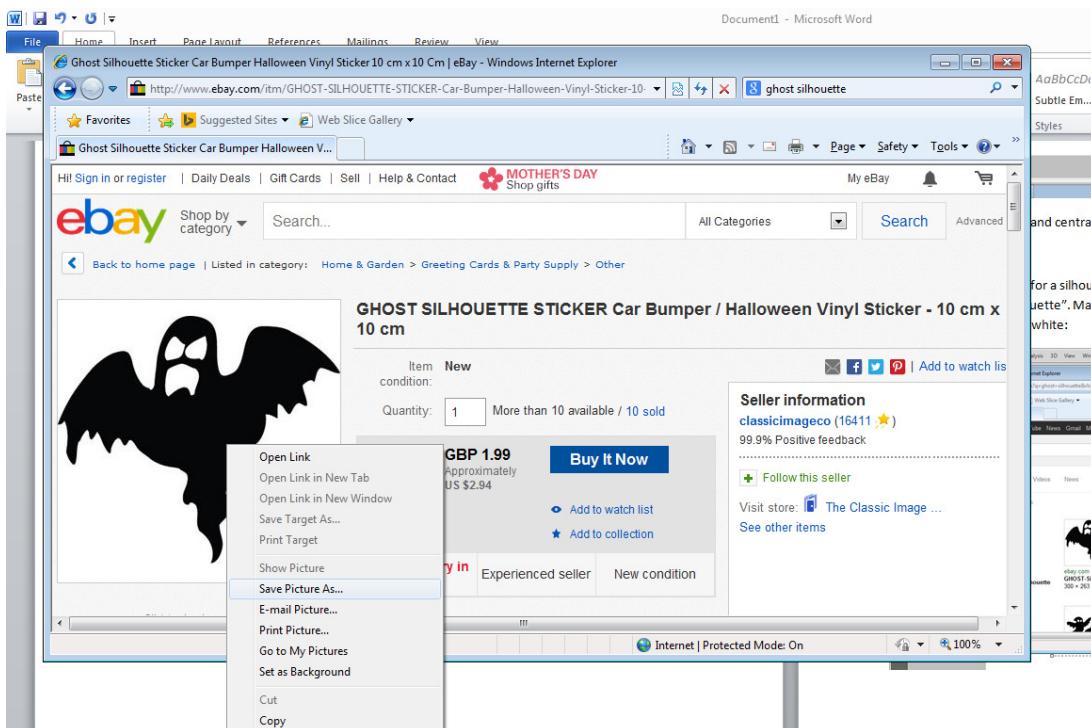


Creating a Silhouette Layer

Go to Google and search for a silhouette of an image to go with your barcode. For example, I have searched for “ghost silhouette”. Make sure the image you pick is a plain colour on a plain background like black on white:

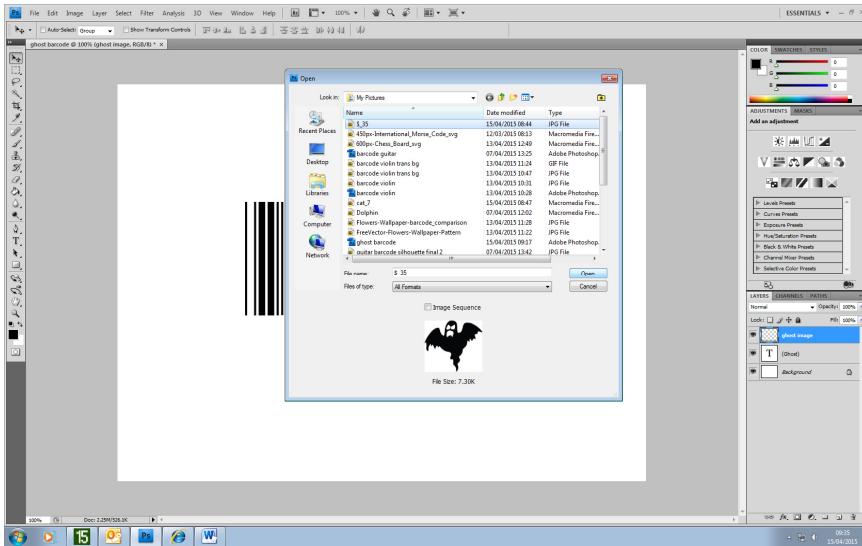


When you have found your image, download it by right-clicking and choosing Save Picture As...:

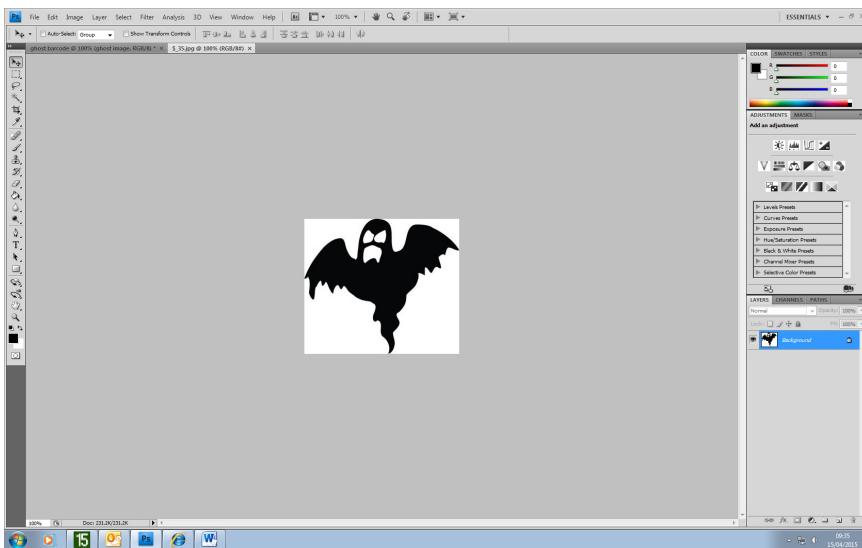


Remember that the bigger the image you download, the better quality it will be.

Open your image from within Photoshop using File/Open:



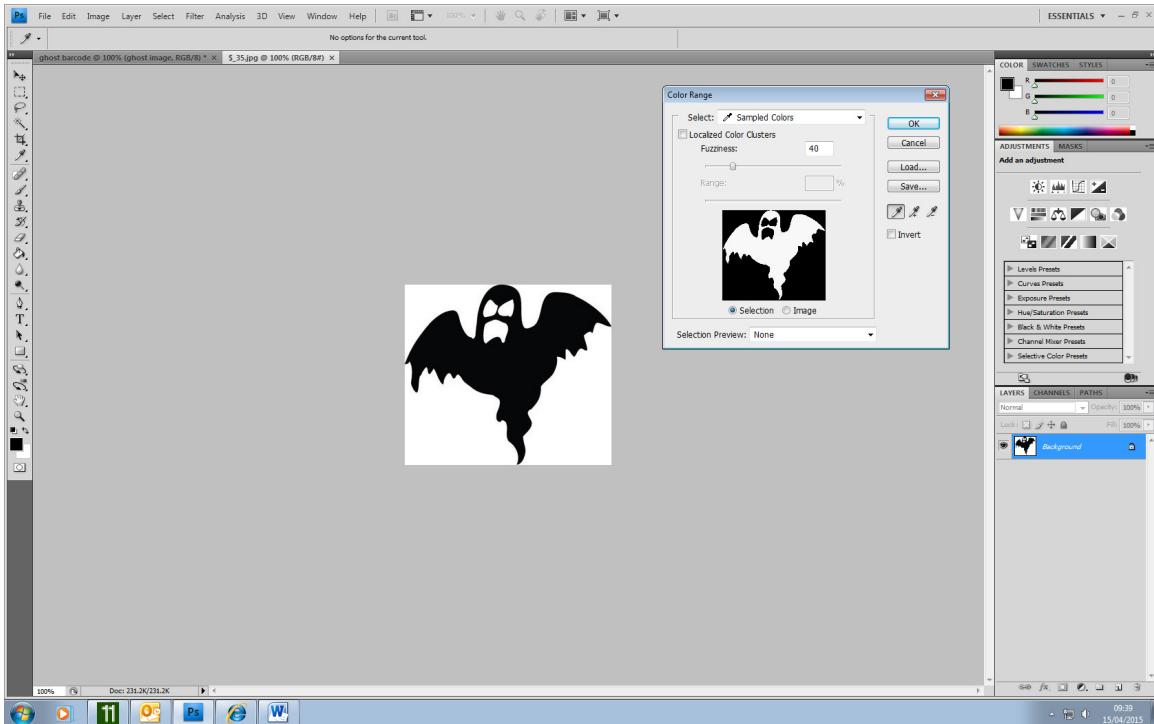
Photoshop will create a new document for this image:



At the moment, the ghost image has a white background that would ruin the barcode *if* I placed it over the top:



This is not what I want so I am going to select only the black ghost silhouette. To do this, click on Select/Colour Range:

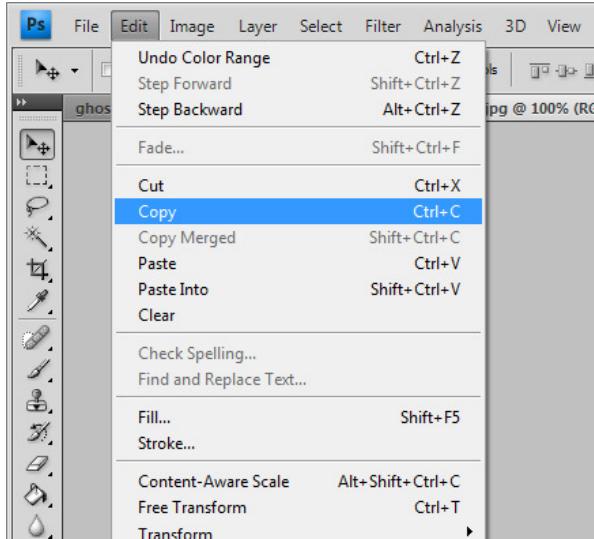


I can use the eyedropper tool to **select the colours I want to copy**. In this case, I want to copy the black parts of the image so I will click on my black ghost. The main image should appear white in the Colour Range preview window.

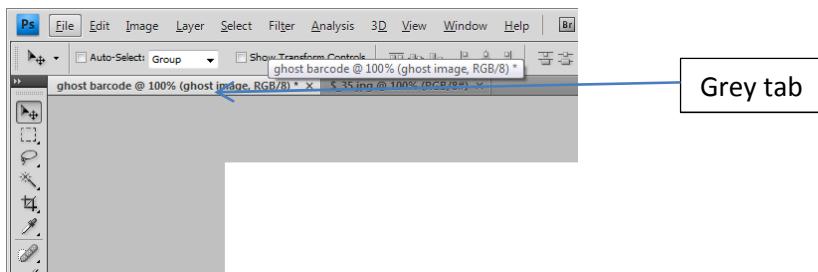
Now click OK and you should see your image highlighted by a moving dotted line:



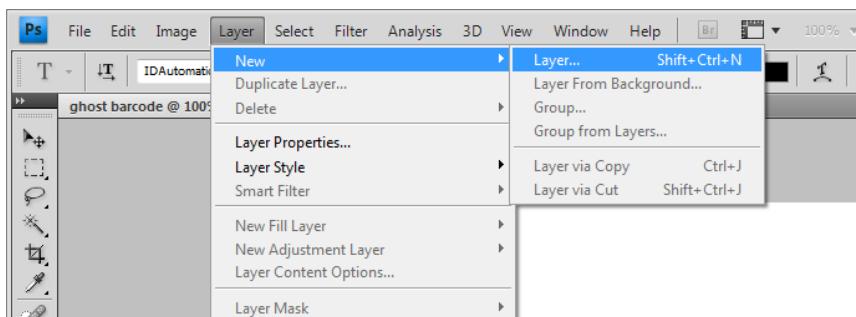
Copy your image by clicking on Edit/Copy:



And switch back to your barcode using the grey tab at the top of the Photoshop window:



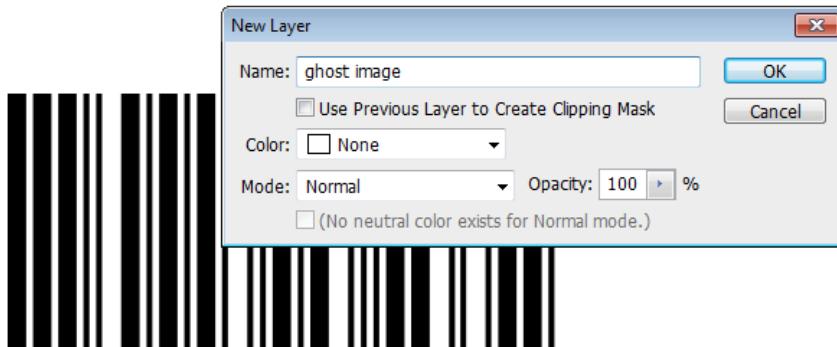
Now, create a new layer to go on top of your barcode. You do this by clicking on the Layer menu and choosing Layer/New Layer...



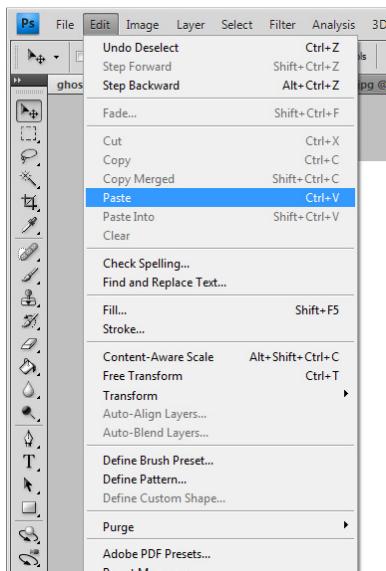
...or by clicking on the layer options button and choosing New Layer:



Give your layer a name describing briefly what the image you have just downloaded is:



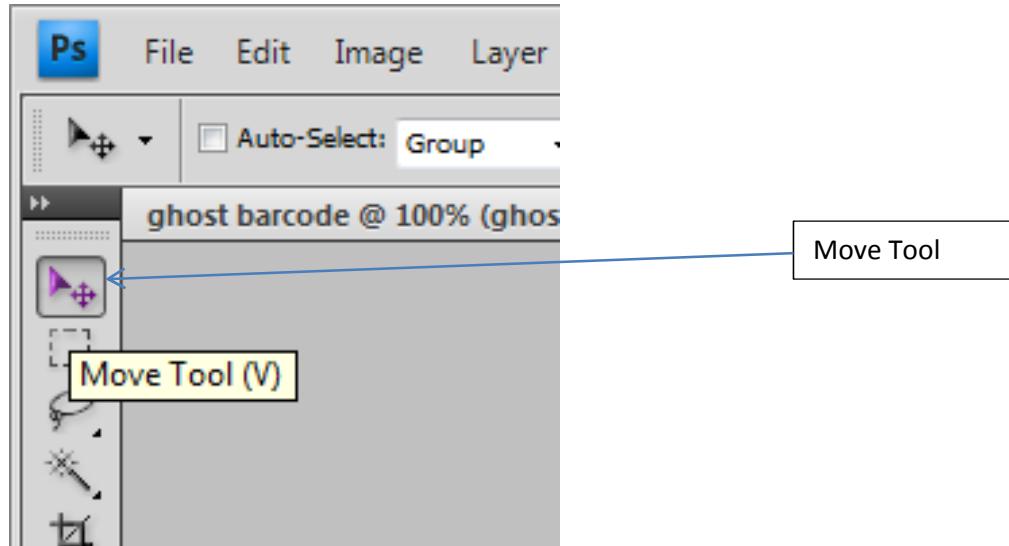
To place your copied silhouette image over the top of the barcode, click on Edit/Paste:



Your image should now appear on top of your barcode:



Position your image layer using the Move Tool:



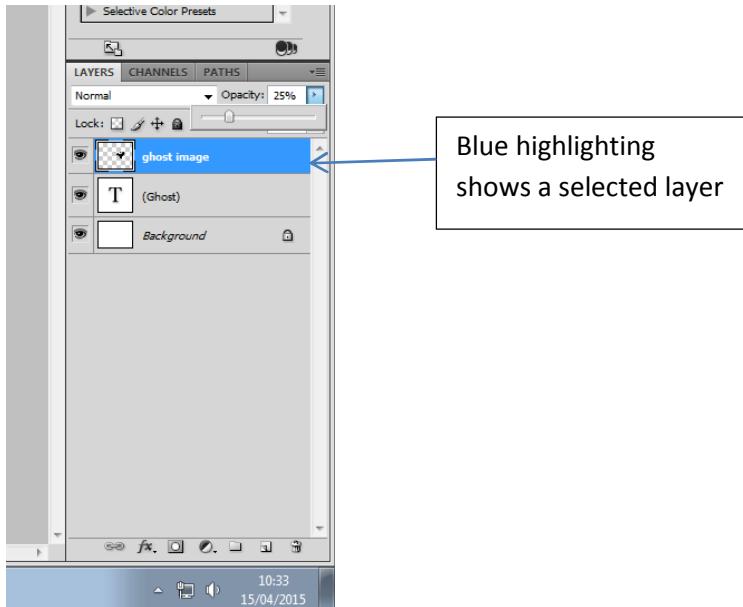
Remember that you will need to leave a clear row of barcode strips somewhere for a barcode scanner to successfully read it:



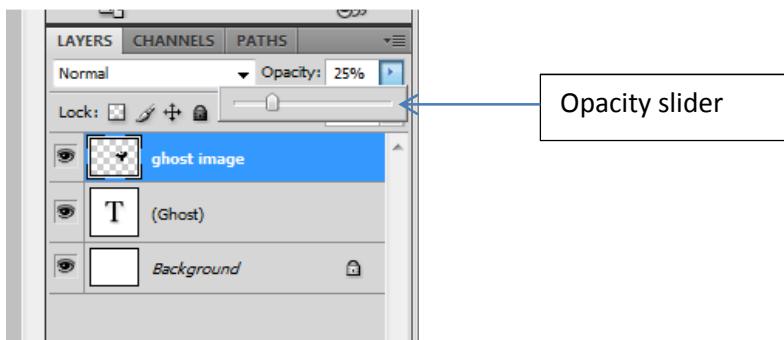
Layer Opacity

To make my ghost more ghostly, I can make him faint by following these steps.

First, make sure my ghost layer is selected (the layer should be highlighted in blue):



Then I can simply click on the opacity dropdown and adjust the slider:

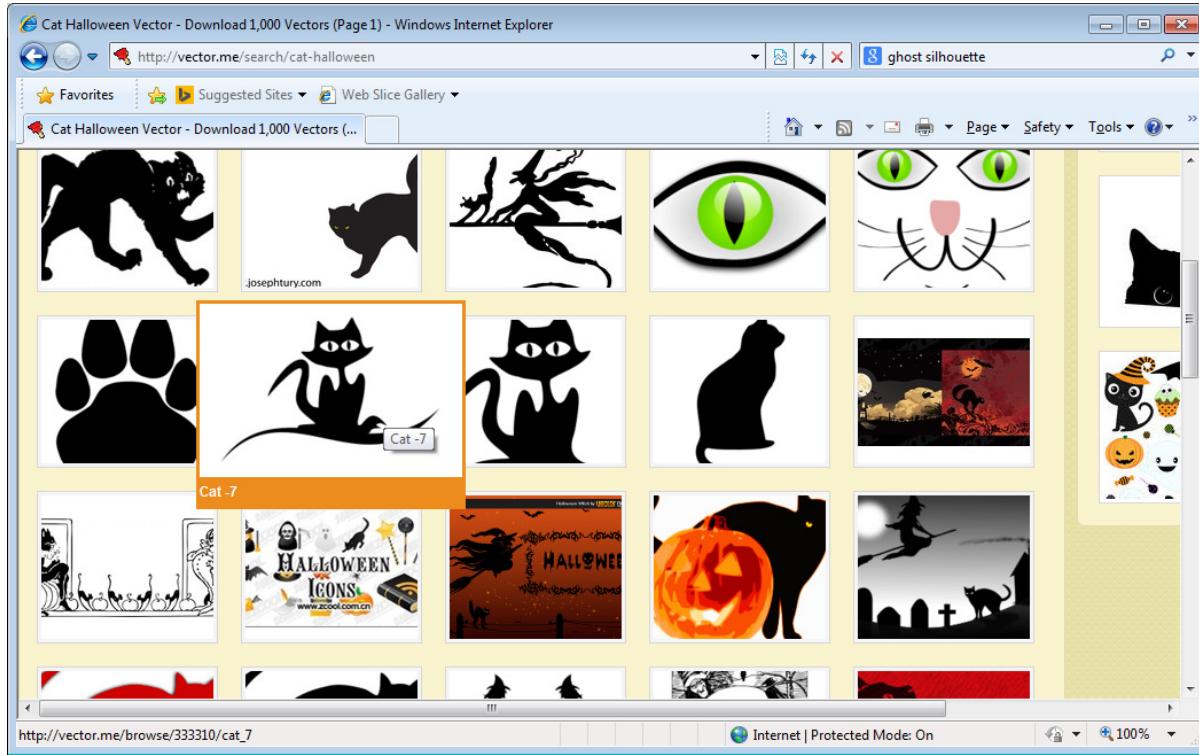


This allows more or less of the image(s) below the layer being adjusted to show through:

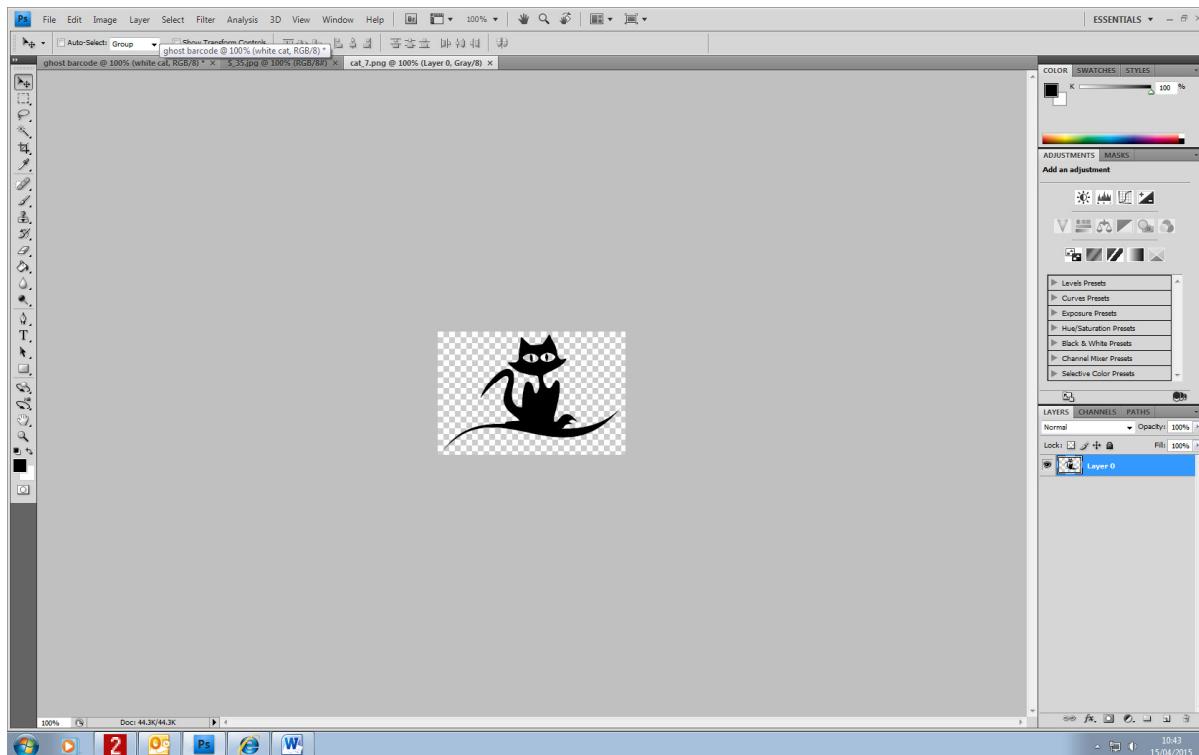


Selection with Colour Range

I am going to block out some of my barcode using a white image. I found a picture of a cat silhouette that I like:

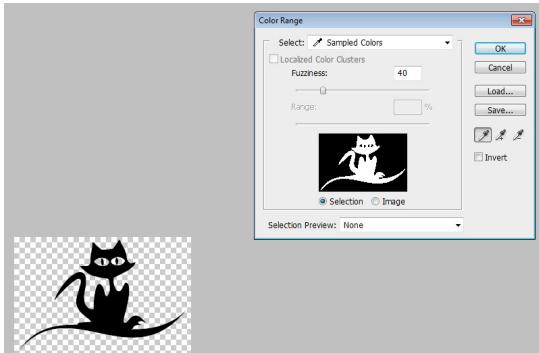


I have downloaded it and opened it in Photoshop:

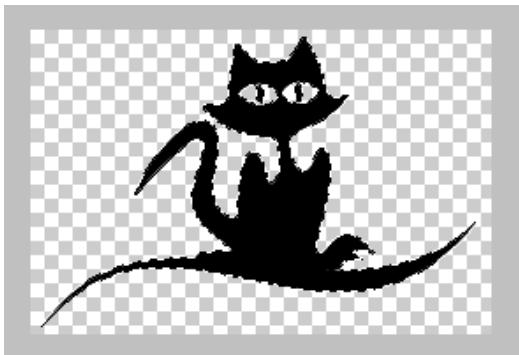


At the moment, the cat is black. To make the image white, do the following...

First, select the black parts of the image using Select/Colour Range as you did previously:

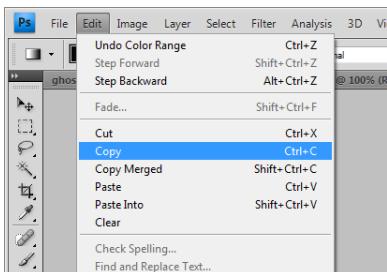


Click on the black part of the image with the eyedropper tool and click OK:



The black part of the image is highlighted to show your selection.

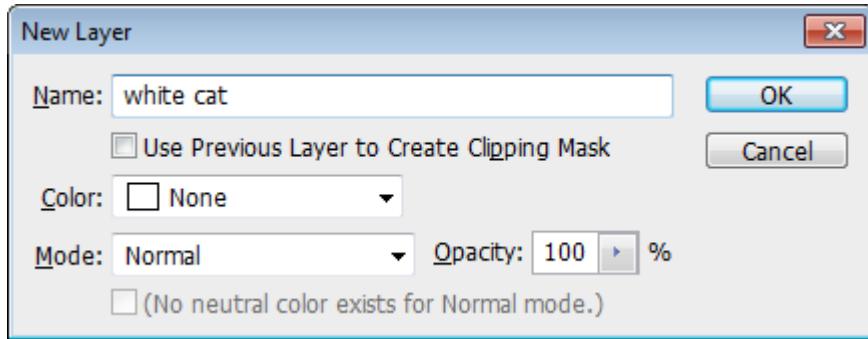
Click on Edit/Copy:



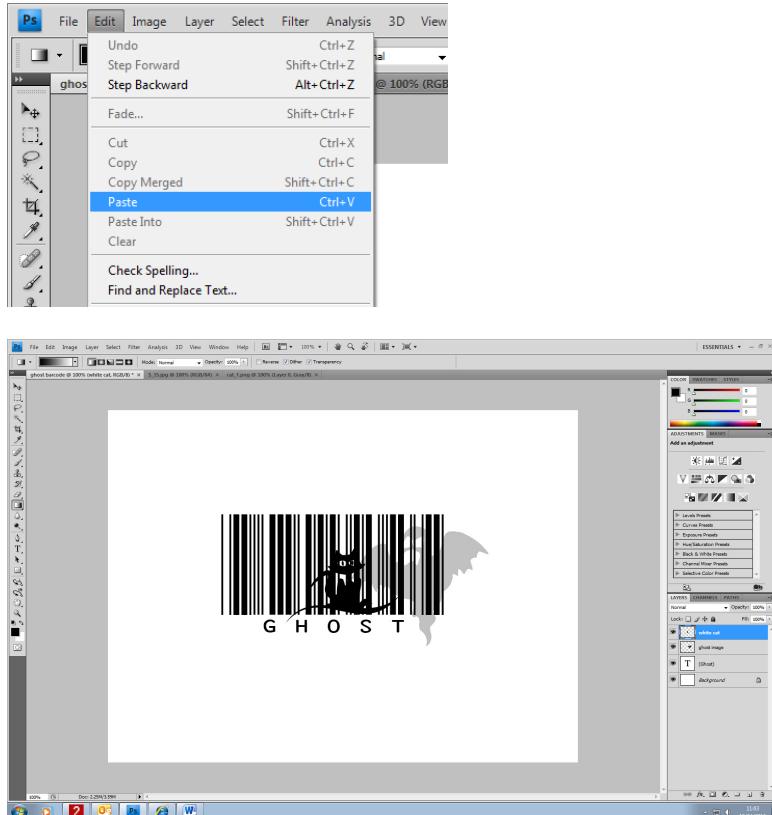
And now switch back to your barcode image:



Create a new layer and name it:



Now paste your new image into the layer:

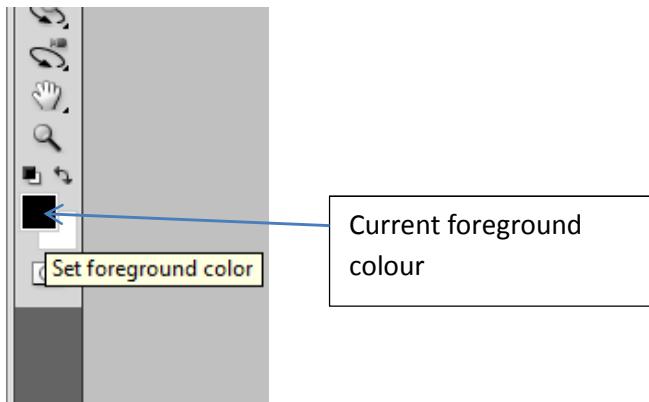


Drag the image using the Move tool so it is well-positioned:

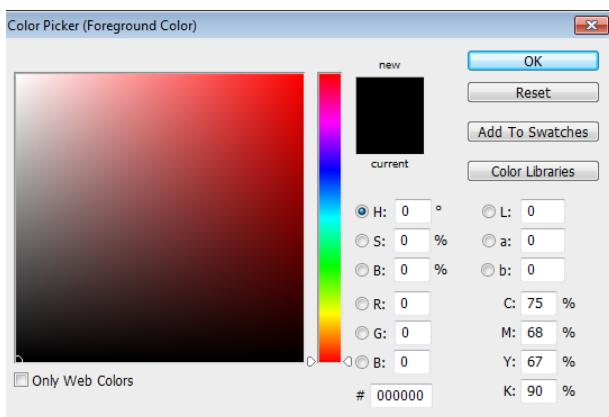


Paint Bucket tool

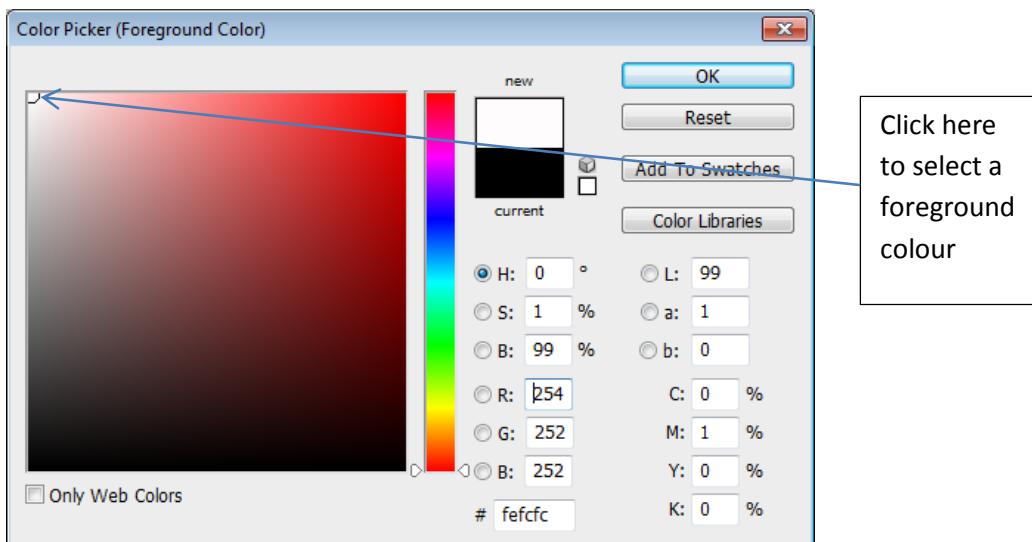
Make sure your foreground colour is set to white. To do this, click on the small set foreground colour box:



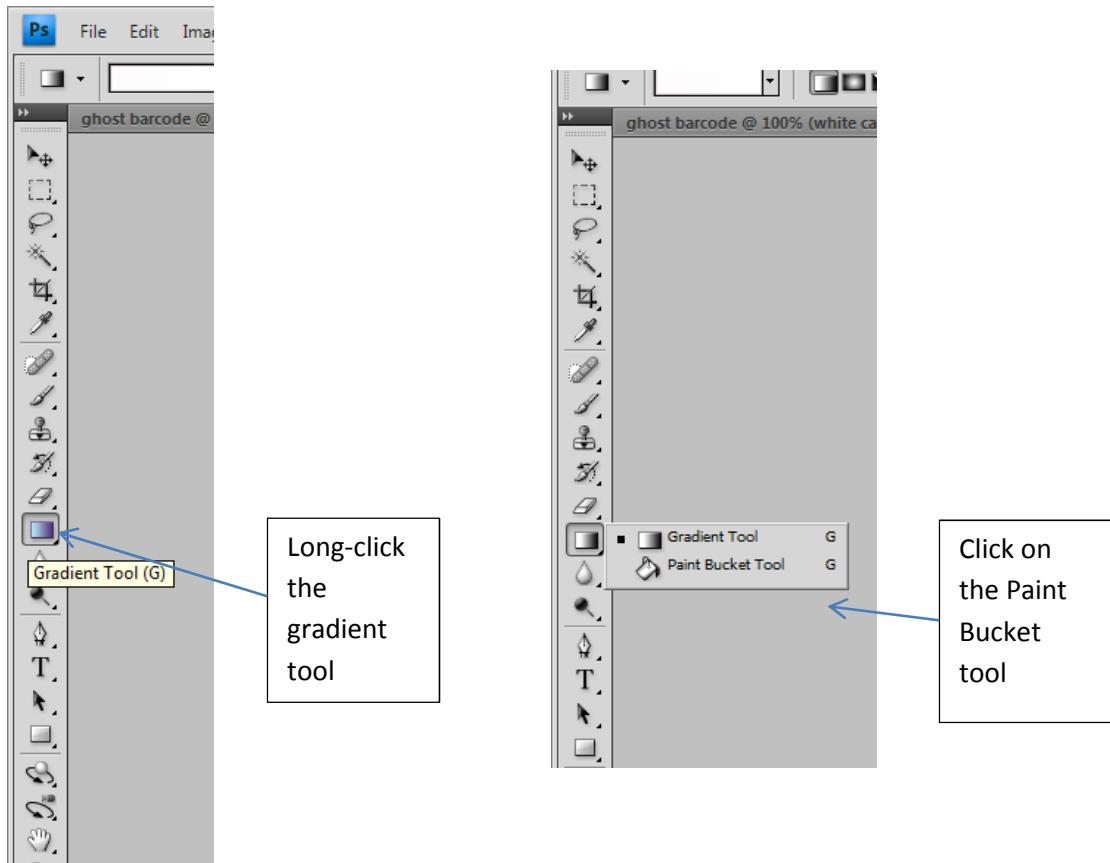
This will open the foreground colour picker:



Now click in the top-left corner of the colour window to choose white and click OK:



Next, click on the Paint Bucket tool. If it is not visible, you will find it if you long-click on the Gradient tool:



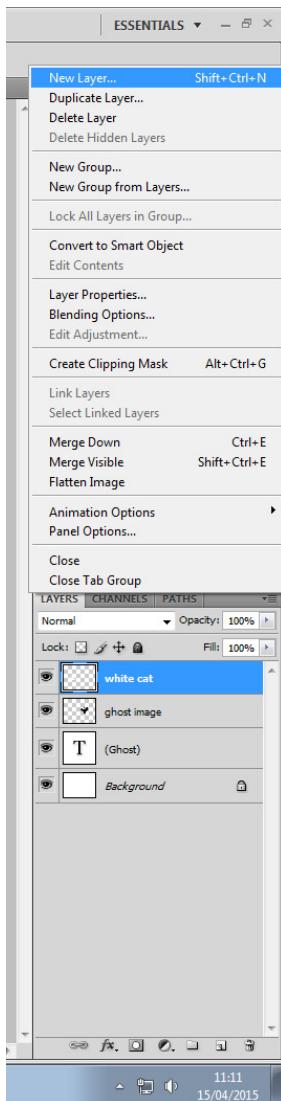
Fill your image with white using the Paint Bucket by clicking on it:



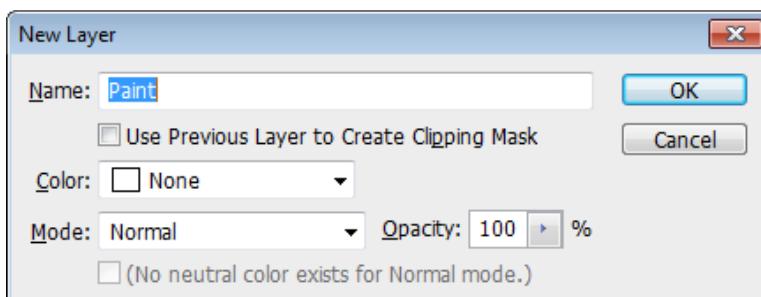
Touching up the Barcode

To touch-up areas of the barcode, I can paint directly on top of it.

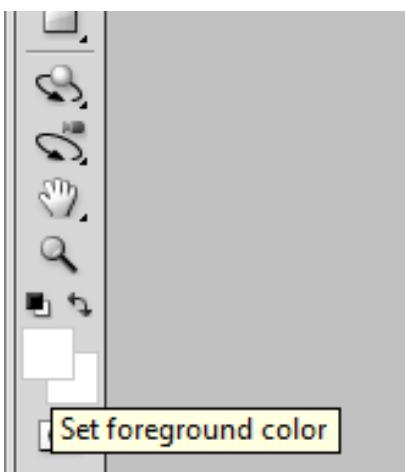
First, create a new layer:



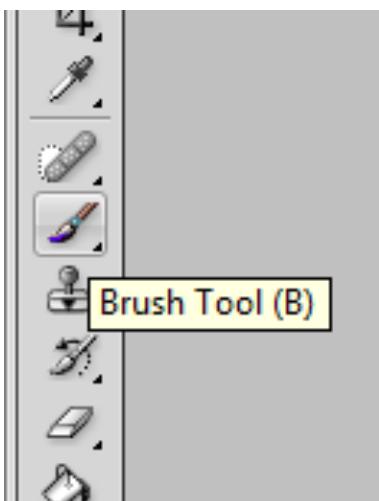
Name the layer:



Choose your foreground colour:



Choose a Paint Brush tool:

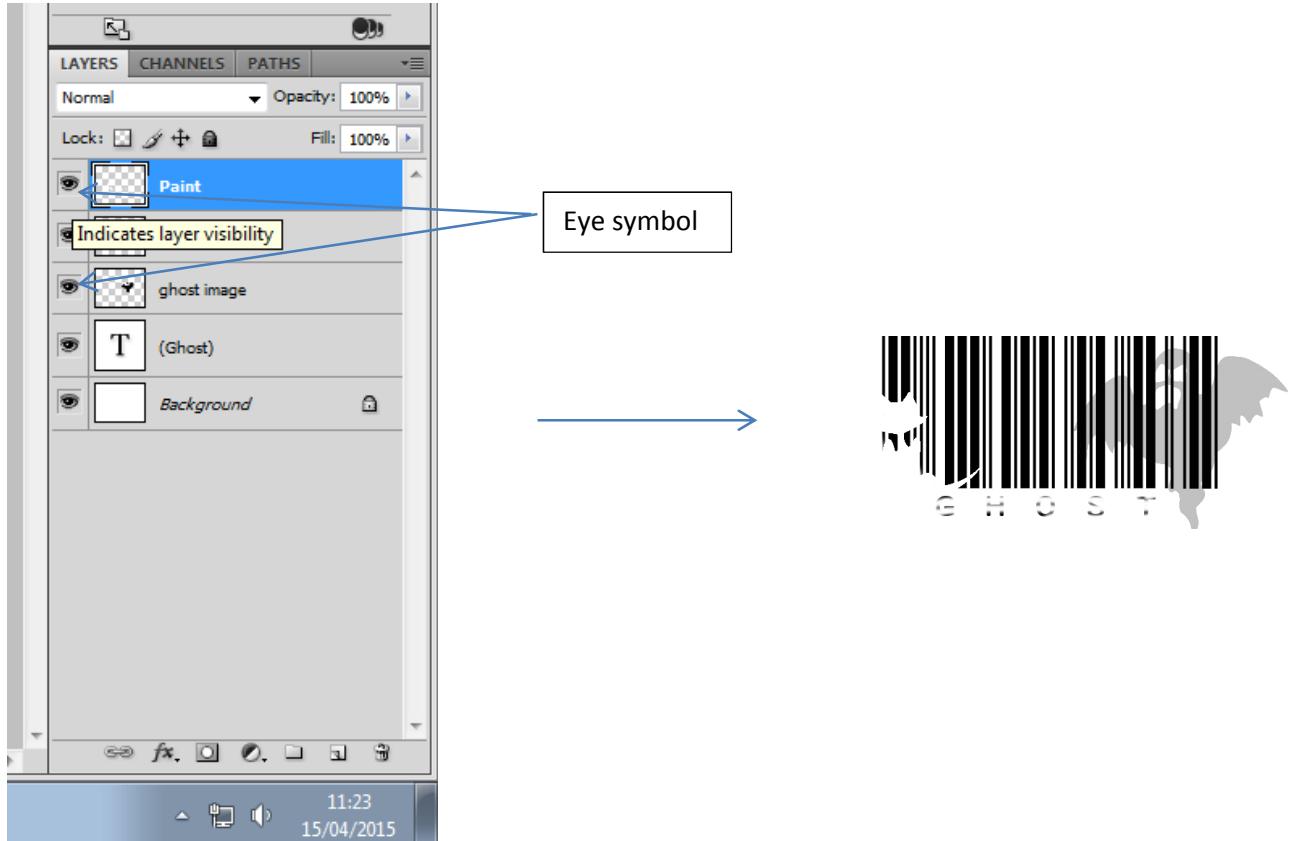


Now, simply paint over areas you want to touch-up or block out:

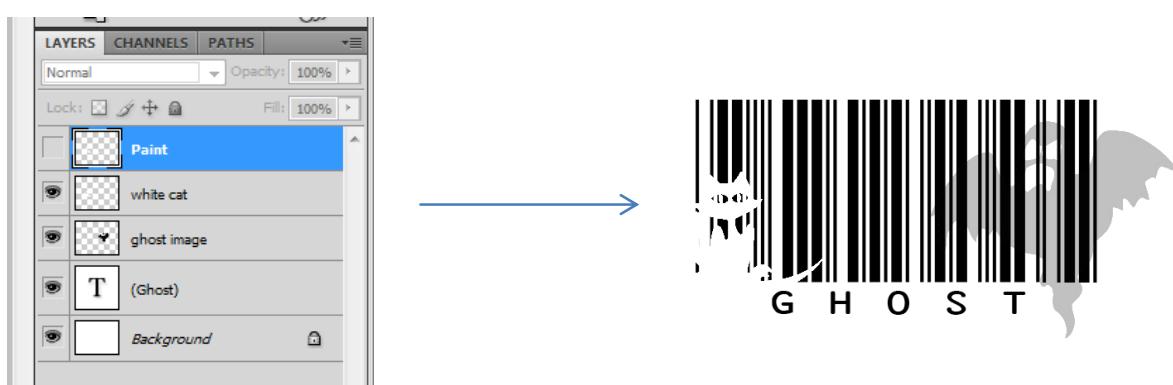


Hiding Layers

To compare what your overall image looks like with and without certain layers, you can simply hide individual layers by clicking on the eye symbol next to a layer:



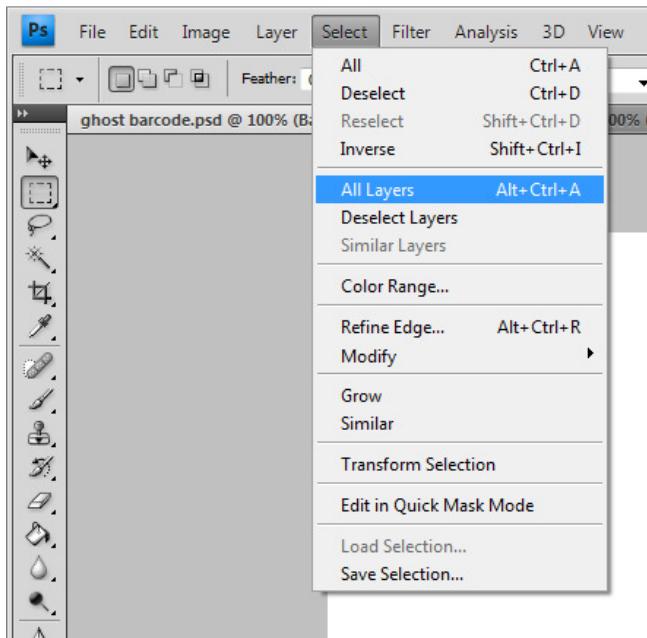
For example, to view my image without my paint layer, I can hide it:



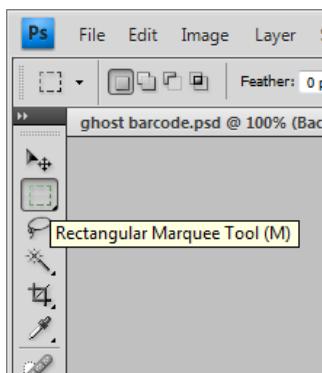
Cropping

To get rid of white space around your image, you can use the rectangular selection tool to crop your final image. The selection tools only work on a single layer. This means you will either need to reduce your image to a single layer (called flattening) or select multiple layers before selecting.

It is preferred to select multiple layers by clicking on Select/All Layers:



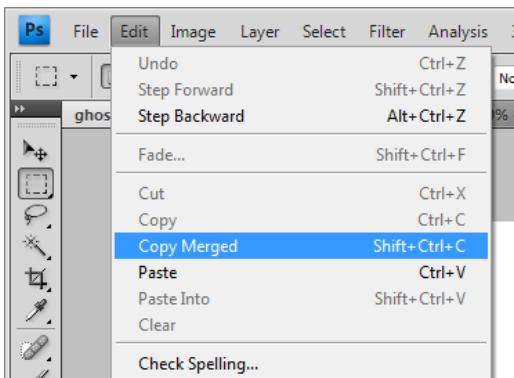
Then use the Rectangular Selection tool...



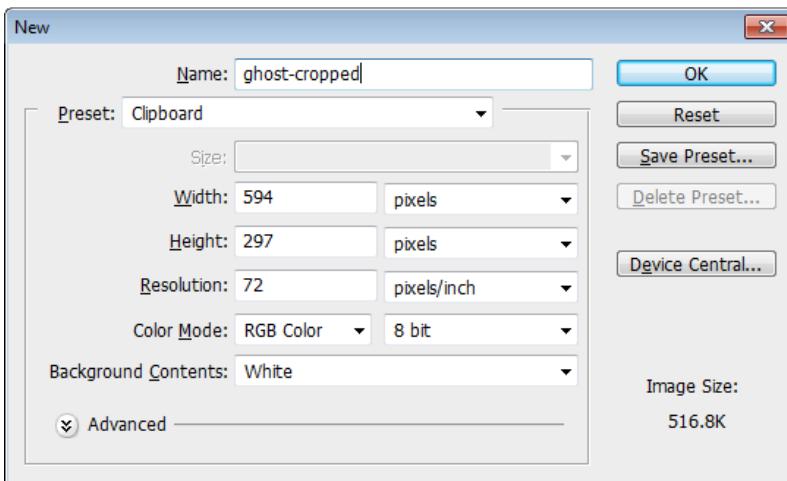
...to draw a rectangle around the image:



Once this is done, click on Edit/Copy Merged...



...and then create a new document. Don't worry about the size of the document as Photoshop will suggest a size that fits the image you have copied.



Name the document and click OK.

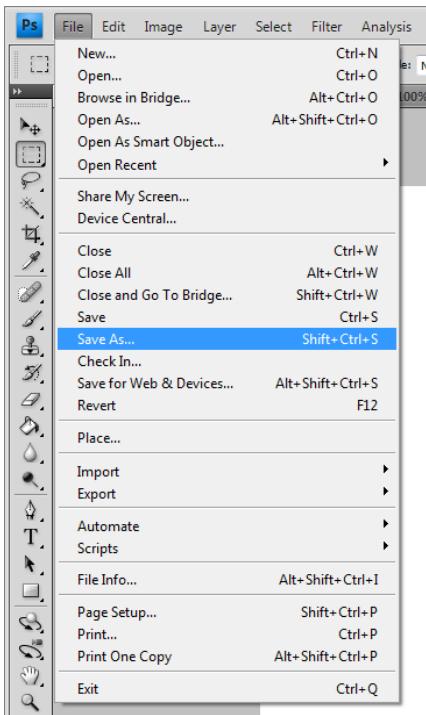
Now paste your image into the document:



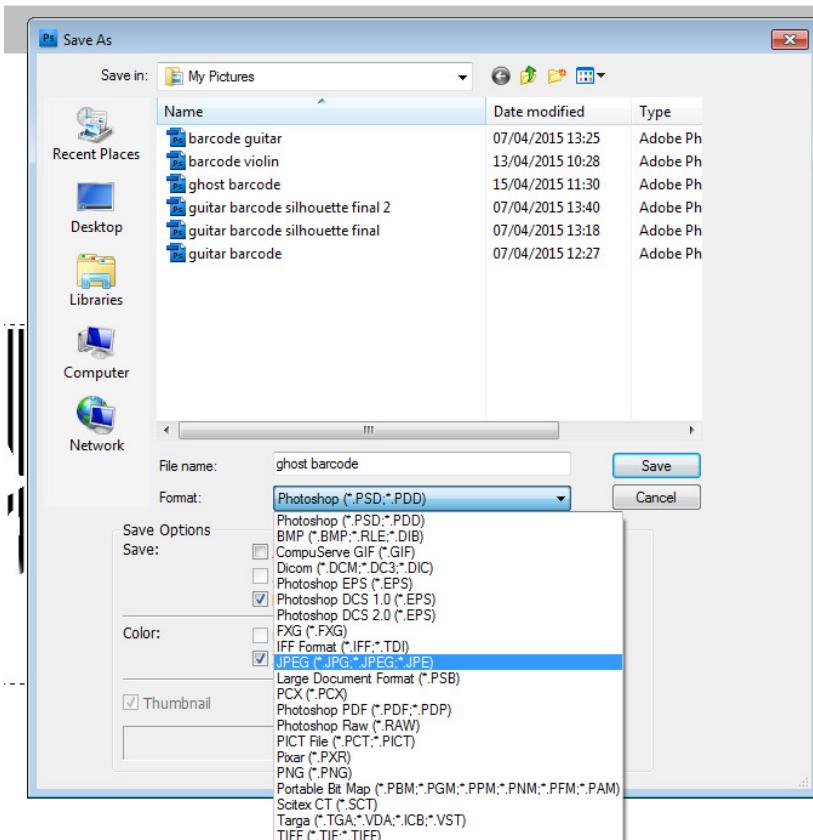
Your new document is a cropped version of your original and your original is still intact.

Save As

Save your final image by going to File/Save As:



Choose a file format such as a PNG, JPEG or a GIF. These are very small and flexible file types that can be used within other documents and on websites:



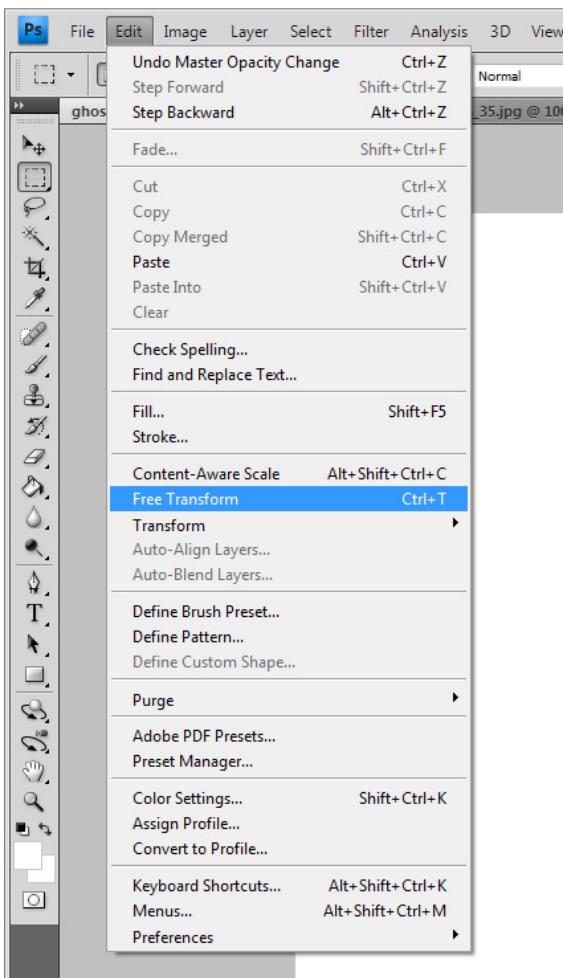
Rotating and Resizing

Sometimes you will need to resize and rotate an image. This is possible using the Free Transform tool.

For example, to transform my ghost image...



...I first click on my ghost image layer and then select Edit/Free Transform in the menu:



I can reposition the image by clicking on it and dragging...



...resize it by dragging the resize handles...



...and rotate it using the rotation arrows that appear when the mouse is *near* the transform box:



Press Enter on the keyboard when you are done to fix the transformation:



When you are finished manipulating the layer, you can continue editing your document as usual:

