

Paint.Net for beginners: changing colors

by **HandyBob** on October 2, 2009

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Intro: Paint.Net for beginners: changing colors

For this instructable we're going to turn this guys blue jacket to ... well any color you want.

This is still a beginners guide for the simple fact that I'm a beginner, but thanks to some very good plugins it's a breeze (even for me).



step 1: Things you need

So what do we need this time

Paint.Net of course

For the plugins I've downloaded 2 packs

BoltBait's Pack

Ed Harvey Effects

(or download below)

These give you lots of effects to play with ;-)

We're going to use, besides the standard tools available to us,

Color Tint (Ed Harvey Effects)

Extract Channel (Ed Harvey Effects)

Color Balance (BoltBait's Pack), this one's under the Adjustments menu instead of the Effects menu.

And most important, a photo you need or want to edit.

No I didn't fly all the way to China to take a nice photo. I found this photo on [openphoto.net](#), it's free to use under the Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike license, so perfect for this instructable.



File Downloads



BoltBaitPack.zip (71 KB)

[NOTE: When saving, if you see .tmp as the file ext, rename it to 'BoltBaitPack.zip']



EdHarvey-Effects-20080826.zip (127 KB)

[NOTE: When saving, if you see .tmp as the file ext, rename it to 'EdHarvey-Effects-20080826.zip']

step 2: Lets get started

There are many ways to get the effect we want. It basically comes down to getting a selection around the object you want to change and then changing that selection only.

One possibility is to duplicate the original to a different layer. Erase the bits you don't need (use the Selection tool to erase larger parts) Apply an effect, I played with the **Color Balance** here, to the remaining bit and flatten the image

As you can see this is a painstakingly slow process, but I guess for small images it would get the job done. Also, if there's more than 1 color, then it gets even more difficult.

It works, although the edges are not great and the letters turned out orange. But that's because I didn't erase the letters and didn't zoom in close enough to erase closer to the edges.

Like I said this is a pain in the *ss to get it right.



Image Notes

1. Duplicate the layer

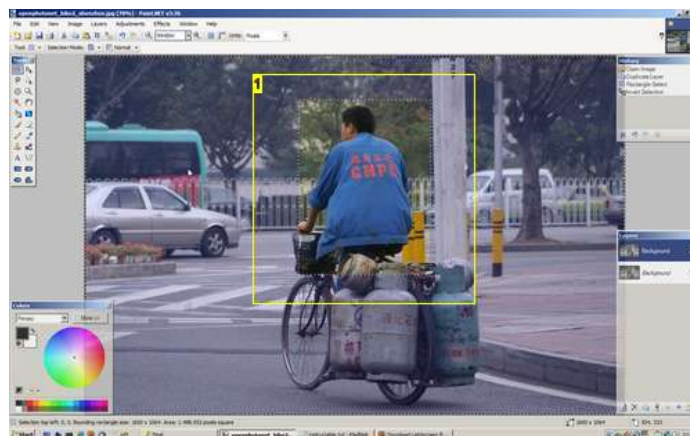


Image Notes

1. Make a selection, then invert the selection (Ctrl+I) and delete

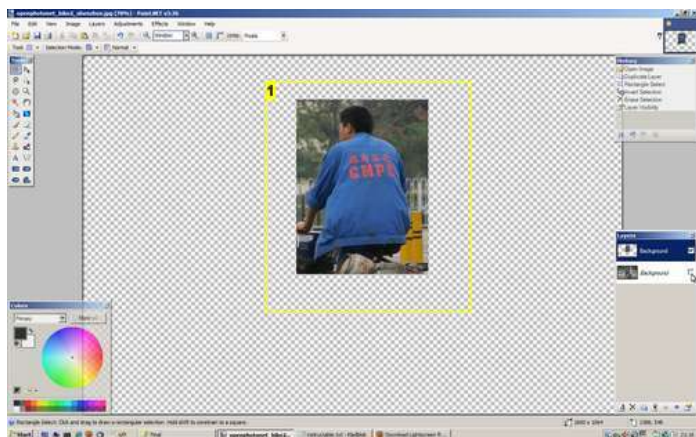


Image Notes

1. You need to keep the canvas the same so you can overlay the pictures

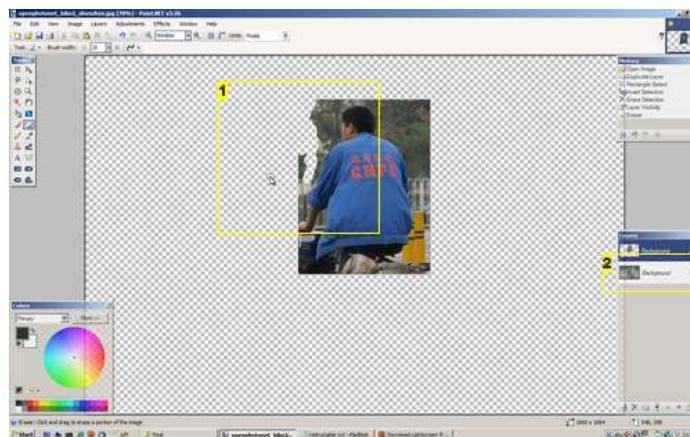


Image Notes

1. start erasing what you don't need
2. Make the main picture invisible, so you can see what to erase

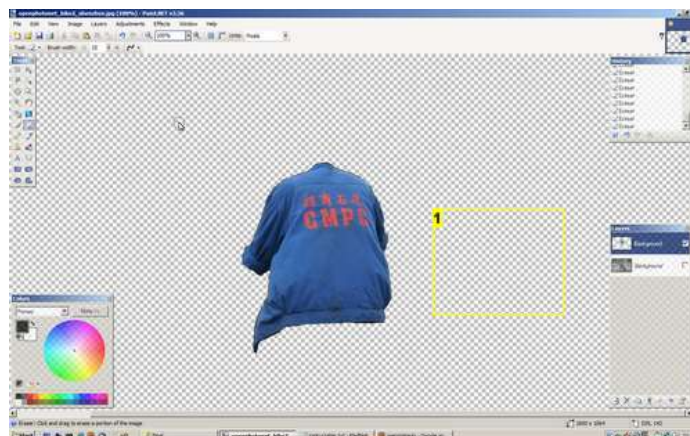
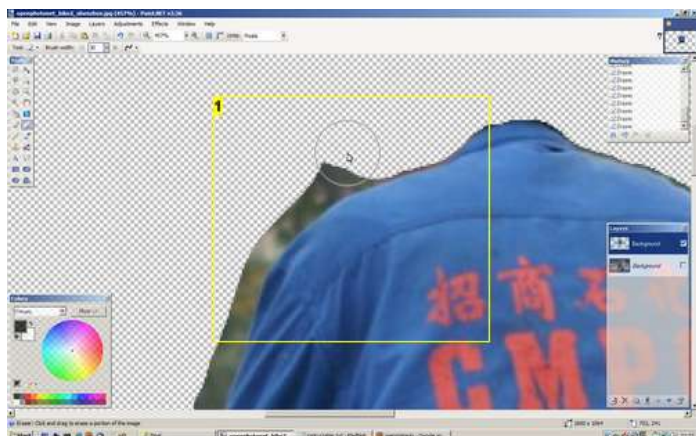


Image Notes

1. Zoom in to get closer to the edges

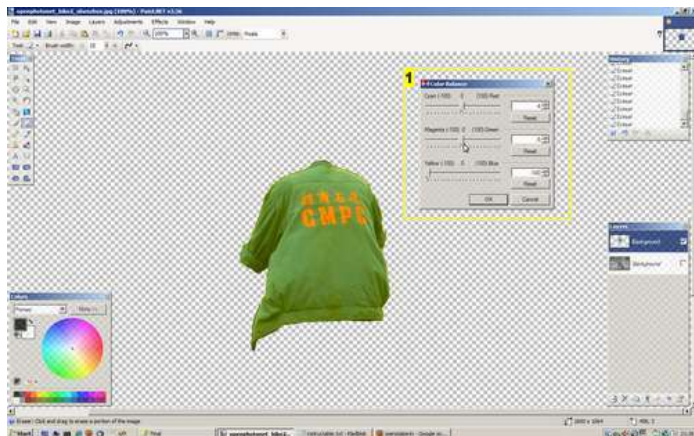


Image Notes

1. Look ma, no hands or head ;-)



Image Notes

1. Apply Color Balance only to this layer

Image Notes

1. Make the background visible again to see the result.

step 3: There's got to be an easier way

And there is.

Duplicate the Background layer and cut out a selection like in step 2.

Use the **Sharpen** tool (Effects->Photo->Sharpen...) to get a better contrast between the letters and the jacket. I used the maximum value, but maybe for other color it could be less.

Duplicate this layer a couple of times. One will be used to isolate the letters, another for the jacket, maybe one for backup, just in case.

Zoom in on the letters for easier working. Use the Magic Wand tool with Selection Mode: Global and select a red part. Invert the selection and delete.

There's still a little blue edge, so repeat a global selections on a blue bit and delete to get a nice cut.

On to the jacket.

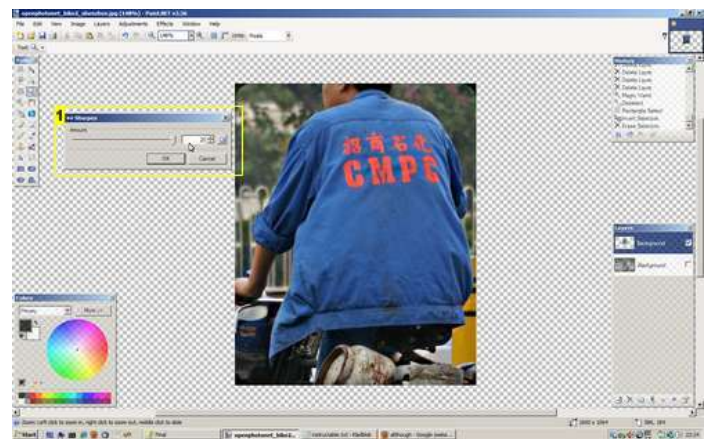
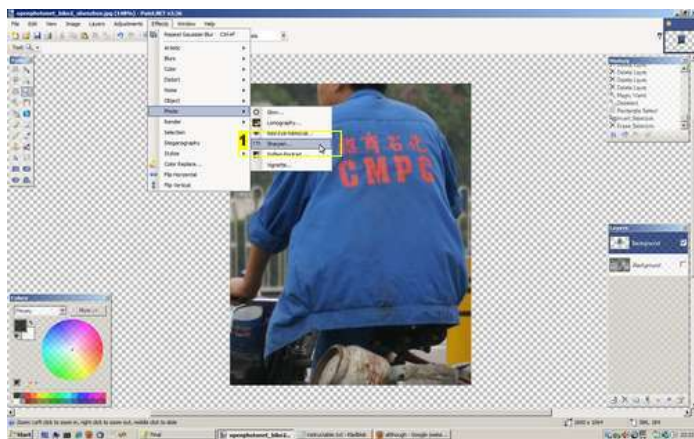


Image Notes

1. Sharpen the layer for a better contrast

Image Notes

1. maximum value used here

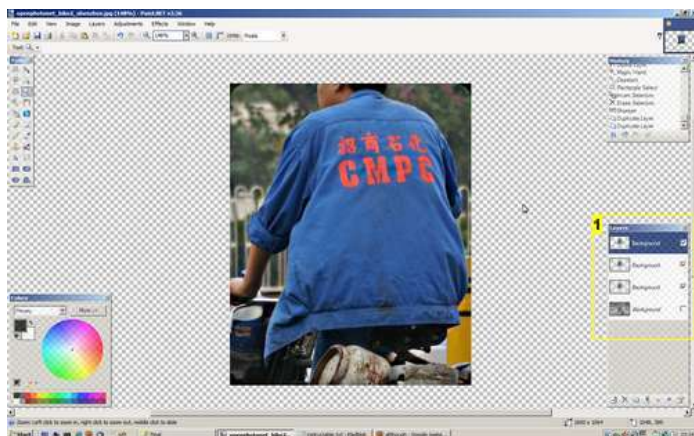


Image Notes

1. Duplicate the layer a couple of times

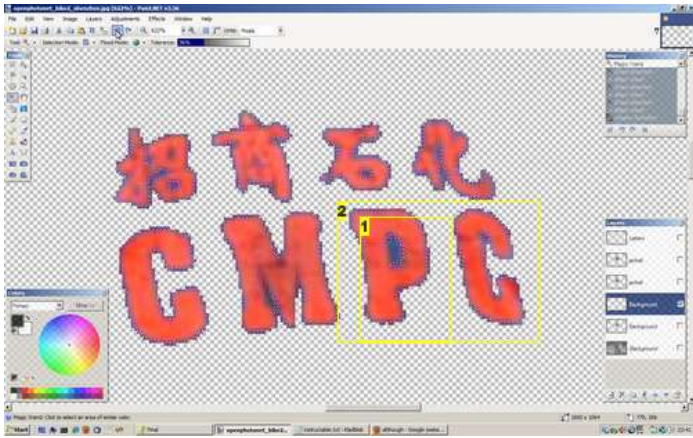


Image Notes

1. Still some blue left after the first selection
2. Still some blue

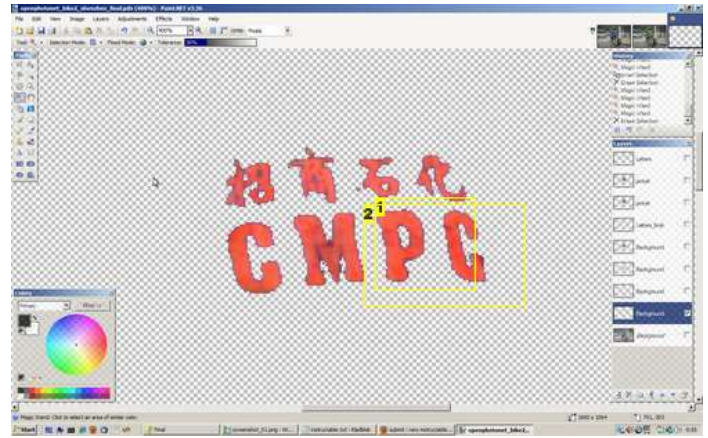


Image Notes

1. Much better
2. a little magic and it's gone

step 4: Cut the jacket

Select another layer and apply the **Extract Channel** tool. I use this to get a better contrast for selection.

The CMYK-Cyan channel gave a good result. Use the **Magic Wand** tool to select the jacket, there will be some extra selected, but it'll be minimal and easy to erase with the **Eraser** tool.

Use the **Extract Channel** tool and the **Magic Wand** tool to get an as close cut as possible. This takes a little practice, but it ain't rocket science ;-)

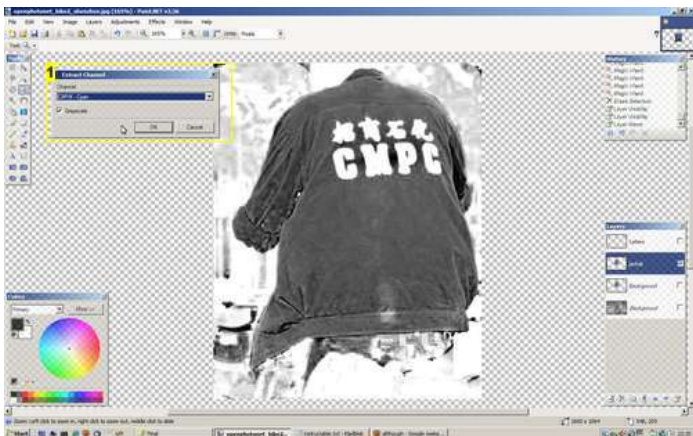


Image Notes

1. Extract channel: CMYK-Cyan

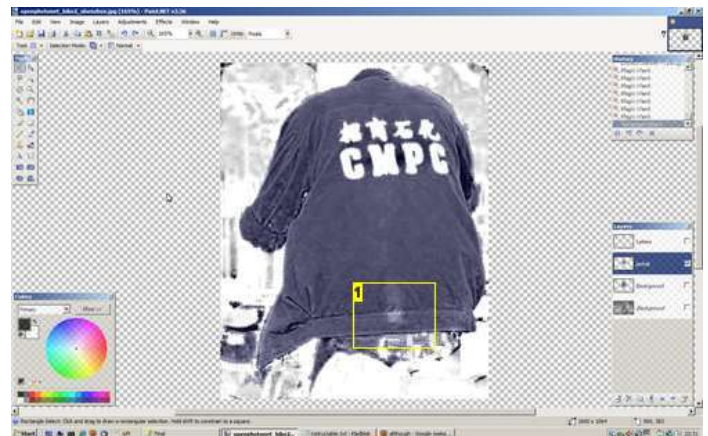


Image Notes

1. Small white spot that didn't get selected

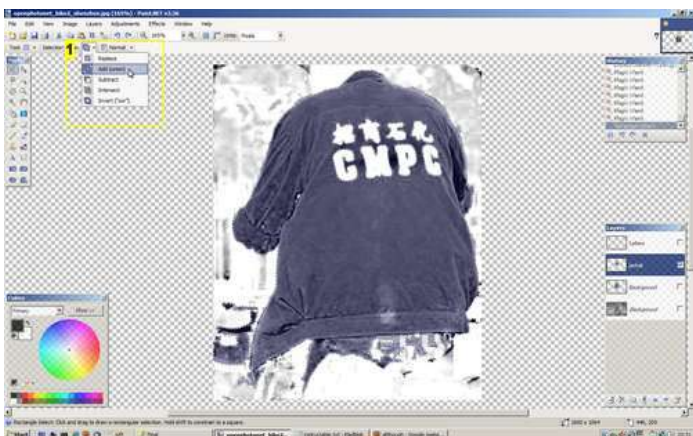


Image Notes

1. Use Selection Mode: Add (union) to add selections together

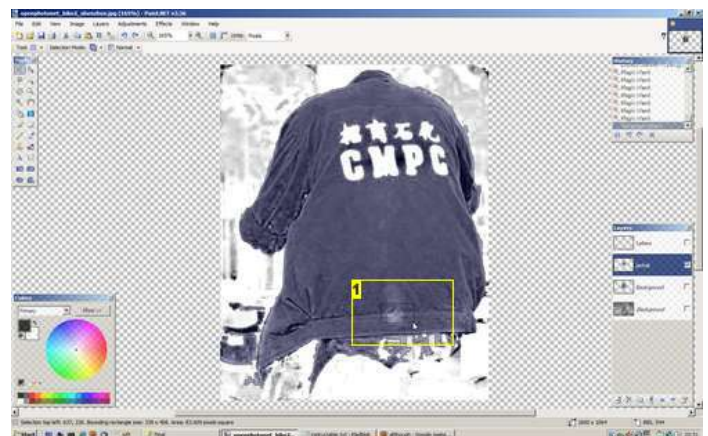


Image Notes

1. Little white spot added to selection

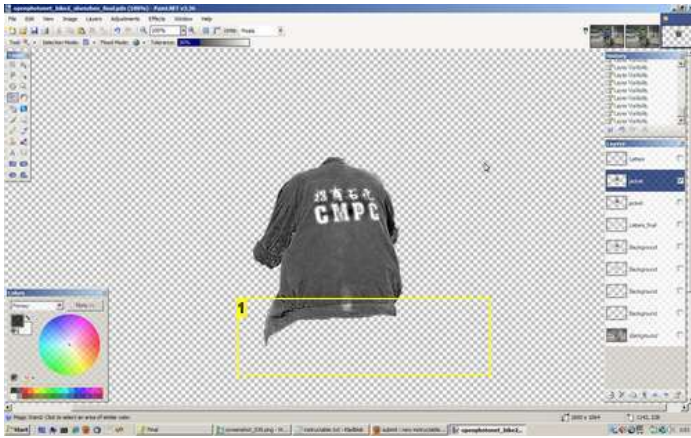


Image Notes

1. Erased the little bit extra

step 5: Lets put things together

You should now have a layer with just the letters, a layer with the outline of the jacket and 2 original layers (or just a part in one).

With the jacket layer selected, use the **Magic Wand** tool in **Flood Mode: Contiguous** and select outside the jacket.

Then select an original and delete the selection.

Next select the Letters layer, again with the **Magic Wand** select outside the letters, but this time in **Flood Mode: Global**.

Invert the selection, select the original layer again and delete.

You should end up with a layer that just has the jacket with no letters.

Now using the **Color Tint** tool or the **Color Balance** tool.

To get the jacket white I needed to combine the two effects. First Color Balance as close to yellow as you can. Then with Color Tint go to white.

Delete the layers you don't need and you're done.

If you find that some edges are too sharp, use the **Gaussian Blur** effect to soften the edges a bit.

Ok, now it's up to you, practice and play with these effects.

Hope you enjoyed it, have nice day and don't forget to vote ;-)



Image Notes

1. Select the jacket

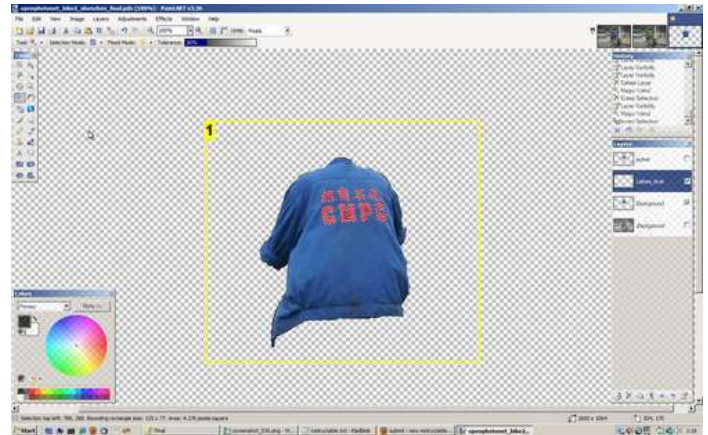


Image Notes

1. Jacket cutout with letters selected

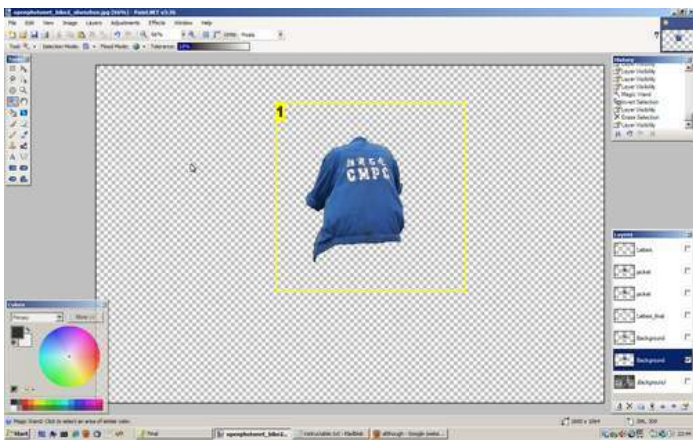


Image Notes
1. single cutout

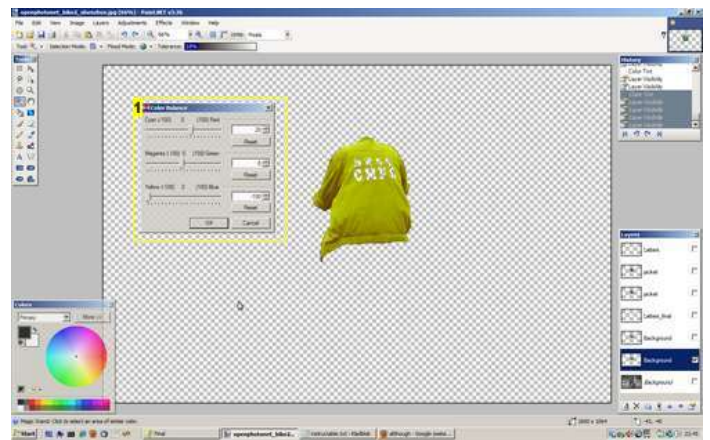


Image Notes
1. Color Balance effect

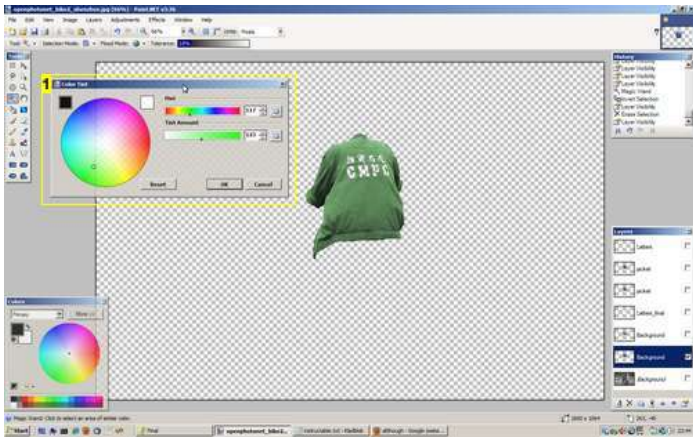


Image Notes
1. Color Tint effect

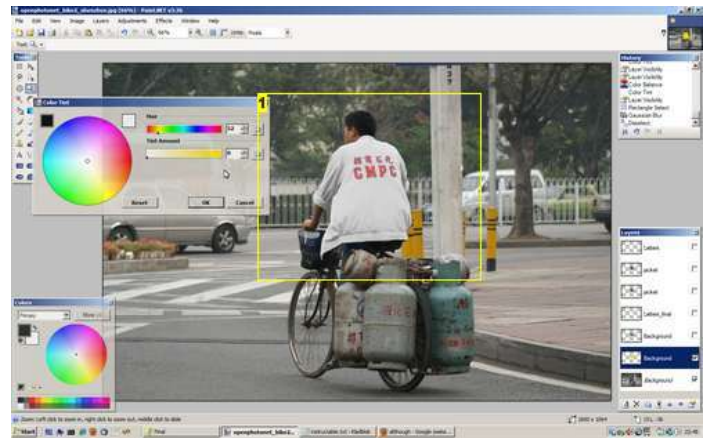
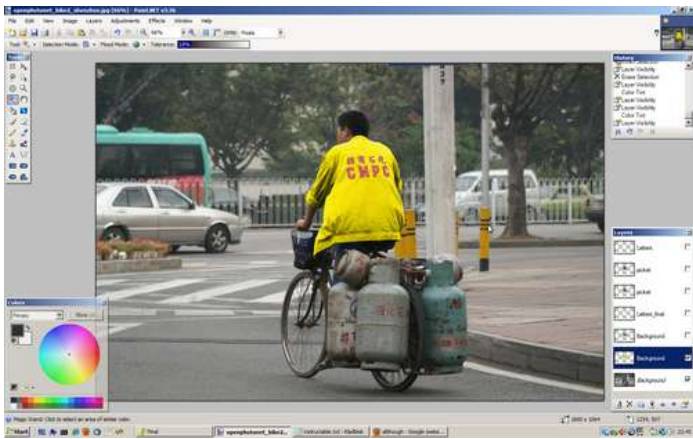
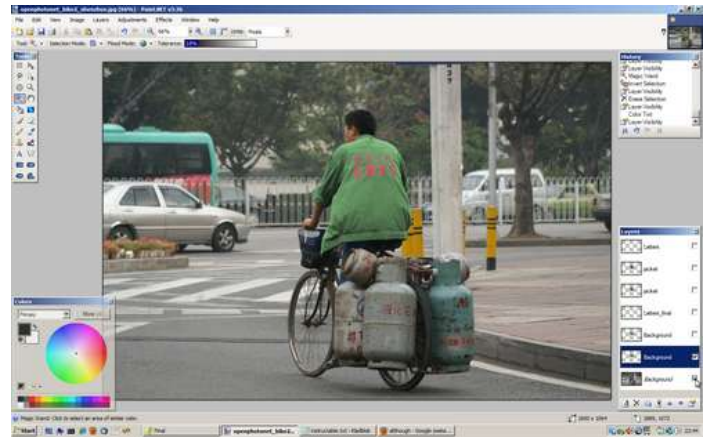


Image Notes
1. Needed to use Color balance first, then applied Color Tint

Related Instructables



Changing Colors In A Picture Using Paint.net by Shadow Dragon



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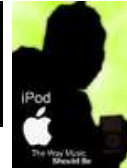
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