

Jasc® Paint Shop™ Pro® 8 The most complete photo and graphics editor

Removing Image Elements with the Clone Brush


This tutorial will demonstrate the use of the Clone Brush in making an unwanted image element seemingly disappear. You'll also be making Tool Options palette settings and adding a new layer used to make the necessary edits.

Starting and Ending Images


Shown below on the left is the image we'll use for the tutorial, and on the right is the resulting image.



Let's get started.

- 1 If they're not already displayed, make sure the Tools toolbar, Tool Options palette, and Layers palette are displayed.
- 2 Open the image Clone_Before.bmp.
- 3 Create a new raster layer by clicking the New Raster Layer button  on the Layers palette toolbar, or by choosing Layers > New Raster Layer. In the New Raster Layer dialog that appears, click OK to accept the default settings.

Near the end of the tutorial, after the edits are completed, we'll merge the new layer with the background layer.

- 4 From the Tools toolbar, choose the Clone brush .

Tip: Use new layers to make edits. This prevents the original layer (Background layer) from being altered.

Note: The Clone brush covers "target" pixels with "source" pixels. To use this tool, right-click over the desired source area, and then drag (with the left mouse button) over the target area. You'll be painting over it with source area pixels.

- 5 Make the following Tool Options palette settings for the Clone brush:
 - Set the Shape to Round.
 - Set the Size to 32, the Hardness to 50, and the Step to 25.
 - Set the Opacity to 100 and the Blend Mode to Normal.
 - Mark the Aligned Mode check box.
- 6 With the new layer from step 3 active, let's begin using the Clone brush to remove the black plastic bag from the photo. Start by right-clicking the grassy area in front of the bag as shown by the blue circle below - this defines the source pixels.



- 7 Move the cursor over the bag, hold down the left mouse button, and drag over the bag to begin painting with the source (grass) pixels. Use slow, careful strokes, making sure not to paint over any part of the sandbox with the grass. Here you can see the bag being painted over. Notice the crosshair (located just below the brush outline) indicates the current source position. The source moves in tandem with the Clone brush as you paint.



- 8 Continue painting like this until only the portion of the bag covering up the wood of the sandbox remains. We'll change Tool Options settings to deal with this portion. At this point, your image should look something like this:



- 9 Now you're ready to cover up the rest of the bag. But first, we'll have to make some changes in the Tool Options palette as follows:

- Set the Shape to Square.
- Set the Hardness to 100.

- 10 Remove the tiny portion of the bag extending beyond the sandbox edge. Right-click in the grass, and then paint just up to the edge of the wood like this:



- 11 All that's left to remove is the portion of the bag at the corner of the sandbox. Choose the source pixels by right-clicking the wood as shown here:



Tip: A brush's **Hardness** setting determines how sharp its edges are. We set this to 50 when painting with the grass to create more of a blending look. We set this to 100 when painting with the sandbox's wood because the wood has a sharp, solid edge.

- 12** Carefully paint over the rest of the bag, making sure to keep the brush on the wood up to the edge of the sandbox like this:



Summary

After completely removing the bag from the photo, you could choose to merge the layers and save the file, or retain both layers, and toggle their visibility on and off to see the full effect of your Clone brush work.

If you'd like to see the basis for this tutorial, start up the Paint Shop Pro 8 Product Tour (in the application, choose Help > Product Tour), and in the Photo Features section of the Tour, choose the Clone Brush movie.