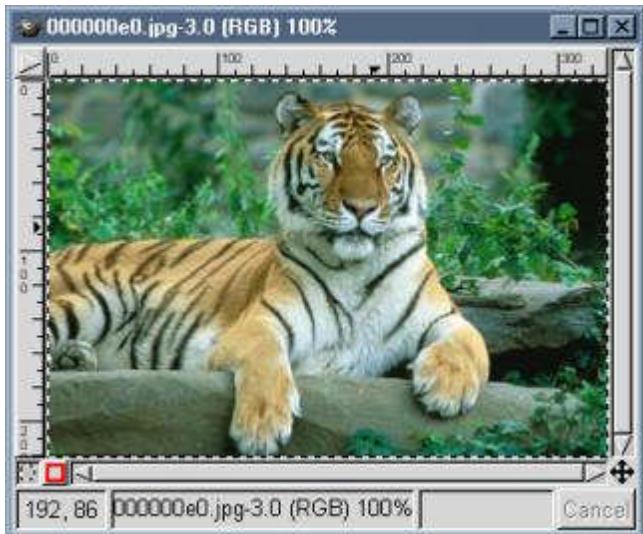
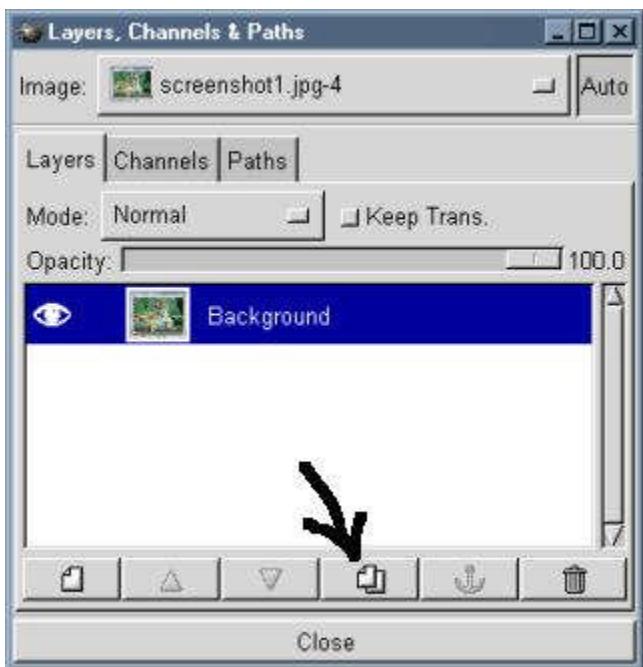


CREATE A VIGNETTE USING GIMP

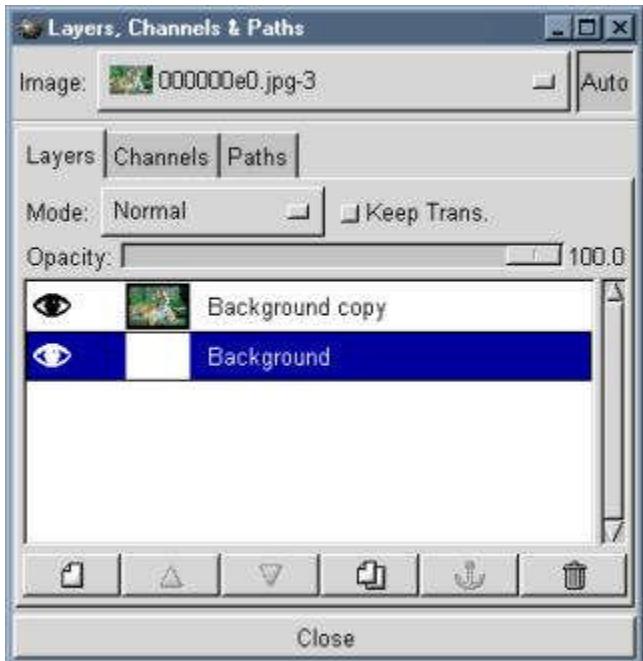
The following short tutorial will teach you how to put a nice soft edge around your favorite images.



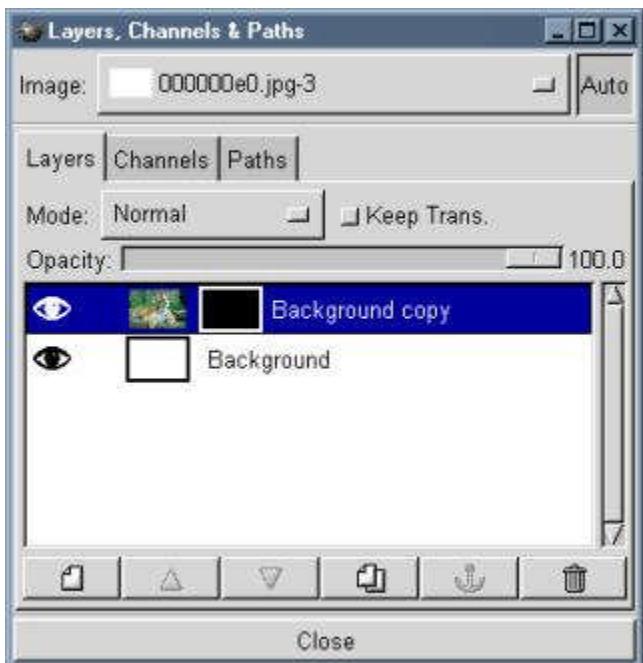
STEP 1. Open an image for editing. This image of the lazy tiger has been provided with the kind courtesy of the [US Fish and Wildlife Service](#).



STEP 2. With the focus on the image, open the Layers dialog box. This shows that there is one layer, the background layer. Duplicate this layer using the *Duplicate Layer* button at the bottom of this dialog. To find the correct button, hover the mouse over each button until the tooltip says "Duplicate Layer".....



STEP 3. Click on the lowest (background) layer to set the focus on this layer. Select the entire layer, and then fill this layer with the background color (should currently be white). The illustration on the left shows what the layers dialog should now look like.



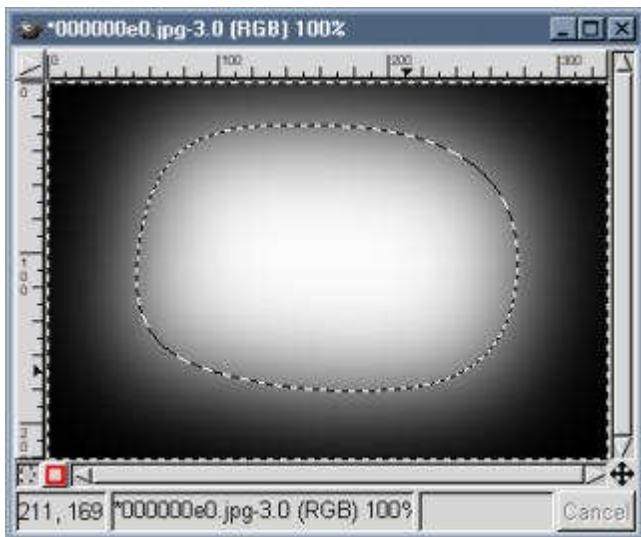
STEP 4. (1) Still in the layers dialog, left-click the topmost layer. Next, right-click, and select "Add Layer Mask" from the context menu. When the *Add Mask Options* dialog appears, click the "Black (Full Transparency)" option, and then click OK. The layers dialog should now look like the image on the left.

(2) The layer mask appears to the right of the thumbnail, and is "all black". The actual image appears "all white", this is because the black mask has made the layer completely transparent.

(3) Alt-click the layer mask thumbnail to make it visible in the image window. The actual image now appears "all black". On my machine, the mask thumbnail now has a green border



STEP 5. Select the *lasso* tool from the GIMP toolbox. In the illustration to the left, it is the tool in the top row that looks like a lasso.



STEP 6. Important : Firstly, remove any existing selections, by pressing **Ctrl-Shift-A**.

Then, with the mouse or other drawing tool, sketch a closed loop to roughly approximate the shape of the vignette. Right-click the image, and select the *Feather* option from the *Select* submenu. On the *Feather* dialog, select about 100 pixels and click **OK**. Finally, fill with the background color (should be white). Your image should now look like the image on the left.

Note : at this stage, save your work :

- (1) Right-click the graphic and select *Save* from the *File* menu.
- (2) Save it as an XCF file (e.g. call it "tiger.xcf"). This is the GIMP file format that retains all of the layer information (it is the equivalent to PSD in Photoshop). This means that you will be able to go back and experiment with the layer mask.



STEP 7. Almost there !!

- (1) Alt-click the layer mask thumbnail again to make the original picture visible in the image window again. Your final result should look like the image on the left.
- (2) Save the image as a JPG file : select *Save As* (*note : not "Save"*) from the *File* menu (e.g. call it "tiger.jpg").

NOTE : Because you have saved your work as an XCF file, you can now experiment to your heart's content with the layer mask and come up with a variety of results.