

# Using GIMP Tools

## LESSON SKILLS

- Selection Tools
- Moving the Selection
- Transforming Tools
- Retouching Tools

GIMP is an image processing tool that helps us to enhance an image using various tools to select, resize, and touch up photos. In this chapter, you will learn to select certain parts of an image, edit them, add effects to them, and enhance them using various tools. The need for editing the digital photos arises when the clicked photograph may not be suitable for printing or uploading on a website due to various reasons such as:

- Only some part of image may be required.
- Image size might be too large for uploading.
- Brightness, contrast or colour effects may need to be edited.
- Need to rotate, scale or retouch the image to enhance it.

## Selection Tools

Digital images consist of tiny, solid color squares called **pixels**. To edit specific pixels in your image, you must first select them by using one of the GIMP's selection tools. You can move, delete, or stylize the selected area using various GIMP commands.

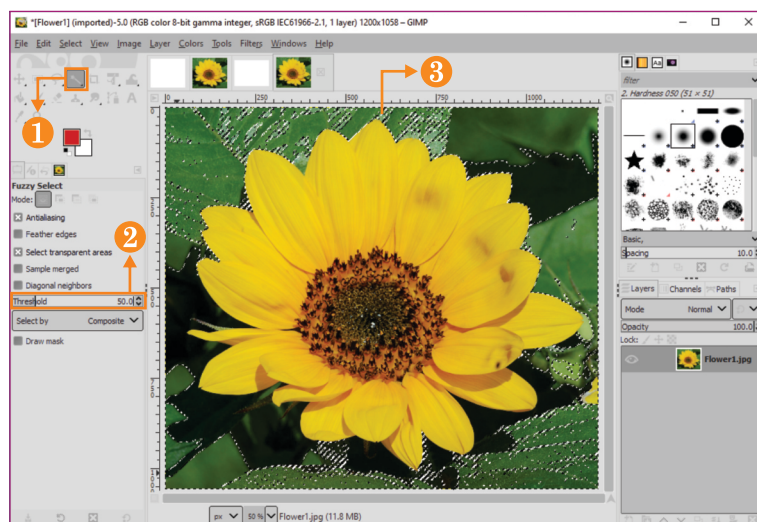
The different Selection Tools in GIMP are:

### Fuzzy Select Tool

Fuzzy Select Tool is used to select the groups of similarly colored pixels. It works best on solid colour background. When this tool is used at an area, the adjacent pixels based on their colour values get selected.

To use Fuzzy Select tool, follow the given steps:

1. Click on **Fuzzy Select Tool** from the toolbox. The mouse pointer changes to the shape of a magic wand, hence this tool is also known as the **Magic Wand Tool**.



Using Fuzzy Select Tool

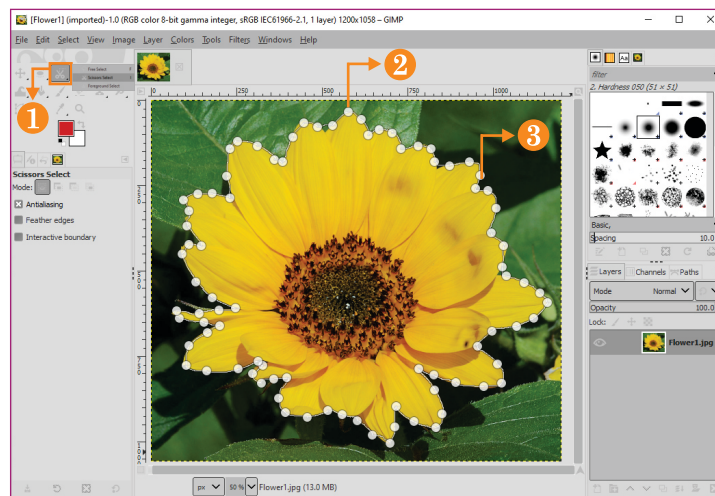
## Scissors Select Tool

Scissors Select Tool is used to select elements of your image that have well defined edges. This tool can be accessed from **Tools→Selection Tools→Intelligent Scissors** option.

To use Scissors Select Tool, follow the given steps:

1. Select the **Scissors Select Tool**.
2. Click on the edge of the element, you want to select, to create the beginning anchor point.
3. Drag the cursor along the edge of the element. Scissors Select Tool snaps on the edge of the element as you move mouse and click, to add anchor points as you go along.

Click on the beginning anchor point to finish your selection. GIMP selects the image.



Using Scissors Select Tool

### Tech Tip




The shortcut key to use Rectangle Select Tool is R, Ellipse Select Tool is E, Free Select Tool is F, and Fuzzy Select Tool is U.

## Moving the Selection

With the help of Move Tool, you can move objects which let you rearrange the elements of your image.

To move the selection, follow the given steps:

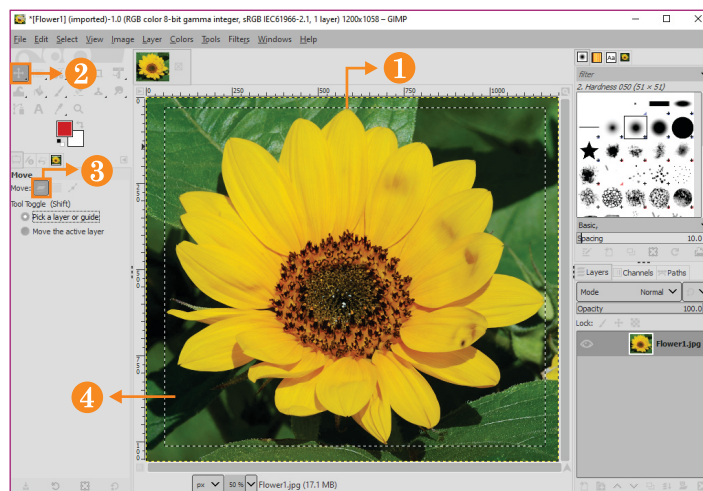
1. Make a selection with any of the selection tools.
2. Click on Move tool.
3. In the tool options, you can click any of the following move options.

Layer  Moves the entire image  
Selection  Moves the selection only  
Path  Moves the selected path only

Here we have selected, Layer option.

4. Click inside the selection and drag.

GIMP moves the selection.



Moving the Selection

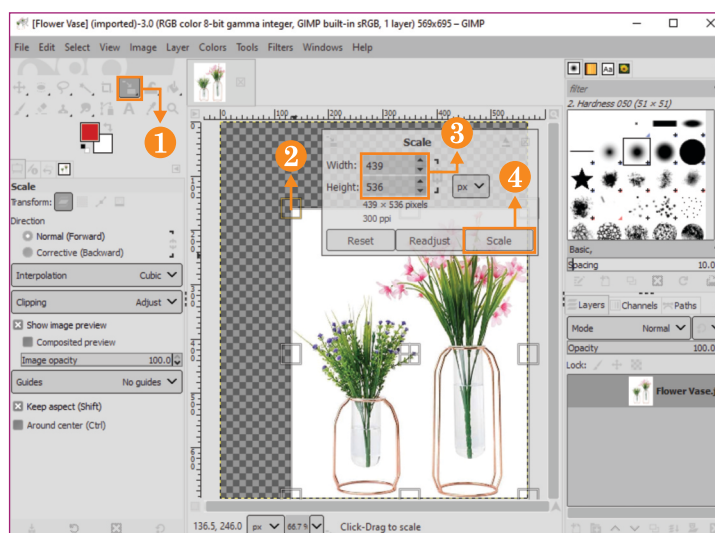
2. Place the mouse pointer anywhere on the image. Click and drag it in any direction. The **Rotate** dialog box appears where you can set the angle and coordinates for the rotation.
3. Release the mouse button at the desired angle and click on **Rotate** button. The image will rotate accordingly.

## Scale Tool

One of the features of GIMP is that images edited can be resized in it by enlarging or reducing their size. This is known as **scaling** an image. Generally, the images are reduced in size but there is an option to enlarge them as well. This tool can be accessed from **Tools→Transform Tools→Scale** option.

To scale an image, open the image that needs to be scaled, and follow the given steps:

1. Click on the **Scale Tool** from the toolbox.
2. Click on the image. Square boxes known as **Size Handlers** appear on all corners, sides and center of the image as shown in figure. At the same time, the **Scale** box also appears.
3. Click and drag the **size handlers** to achieve the desired size of the image. Alternatively, the desired height and width of the image can also be entered in the **Scale** box.
4. Click on **Scale** button. The image is scaled to the desired size.



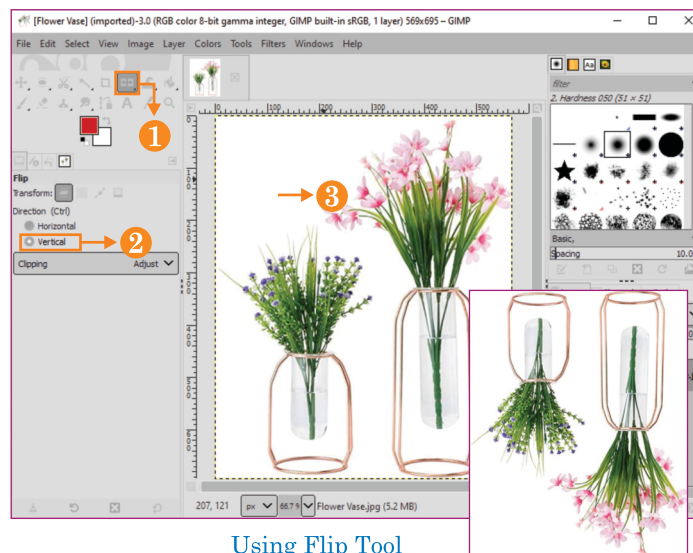
Using Scale Tool

## Flip Tool

The Flip Tool is used to reverse a selection or flip an image vertically or horizontally. The Flip Tool can be accessed from **Tools→Transform Tools→Flip** option.

To flip an image, select the image or a part of the image that needs to be flipped and follow the given steps:

1. Select the **Flip Tool** from the toolbox.
2. From the **Direction** section in the toolbox, select either the **Horizontal** or the **Vertical** radio button from the tools option area on the toolbar.



Using Flip Tool

Image Flipped Vertically



To use Dodge/Burn Tool, open the image and follow the given steps:

1. Select the **Dodge/Burn Tool** from the toolbox.
2. From the tool options section of the toolbox, click either the **Dodge** or the **Burn** option from the **Type** section. Here we have selected **Dodge** option.
3. Select the desired brush size and shape from the **Brushes** box on the right side of the GIMP window.



Using Dodge/Burn Tool

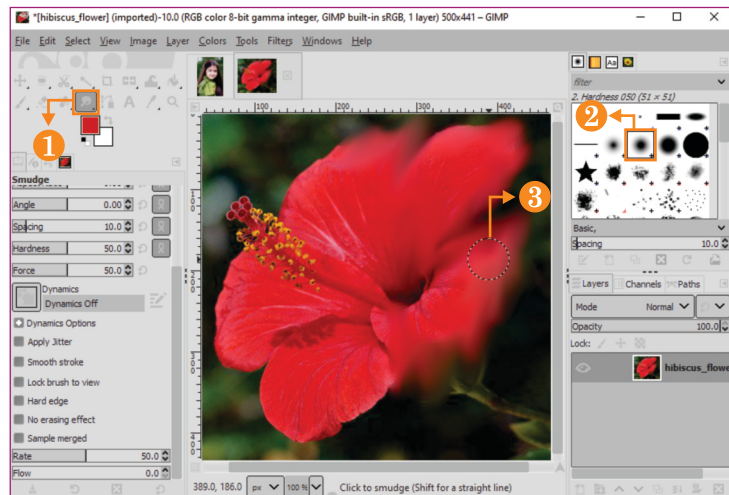
4. Click and drag on the image. The area being dragged will be lightened as shown in the figure. Similarly, **Burn** option can be used to darken the area of an image.

## Smudge Tool

The Smudge Tool is used to mix or smudge the colours of an image using a brush. The Smudge Tool can also be accessed from **Tools→Paint Tools→Smudge** option.

To use Smudge Tool, open the image and follow the given steps:

1. Select the **Smudge Tool** from the toolbox.
2. Choose the desired brush size and shape.
3. Click and drag on the portion of the image that is to be smudged. The colours of the image will get smudged as shown in figure.



Using Smudge Tool

### Tech Tip

You can lock the Smudge tool in place to create a straight line. To achieve this, click once on your image and then hold down Shift key. Next, move your mouse in the direction you'd like to apply the tool and click again to smudge the layer.

## Zoom Tool

You can change the magnification of an image or the desired part of an image with the help of the **Zoom Tool**. It helps you see small details in an image. You can use **Zoom In** option to increase the magnification of an image and **Zoom Out** option to decrease magnification of an image.



3. Select the **brush size** and **type** from the tool options.
4. Change the value of **Opacity** to change the opacity of the brush strokes.
5. Click and drag to apply the foreground color to the image.

## Pencil Tool

Pencil Tool is used to draw free-form and straight lines of color in GIMP. The Pencil Tool can also be accessed from **Tools→Paint Tools→Pencil** option.

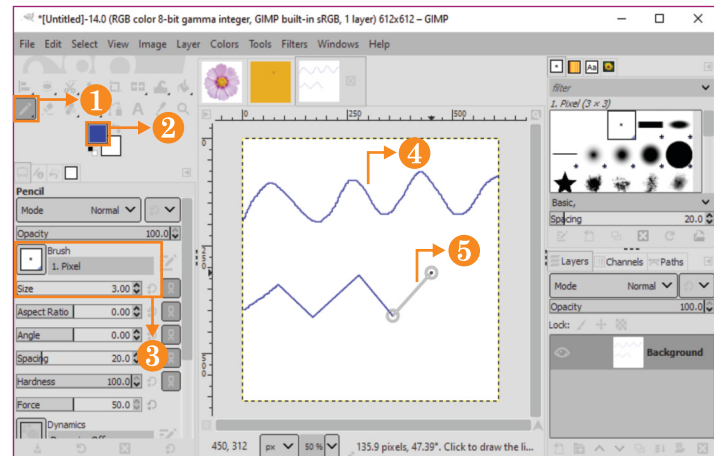
To use Pencil Tool, follow the given steps:

1. Select the **Pencil Tool** from the toolbox.
2. Select a **Foreground Color** to draw with.
3. Select the **brush size** and **type** from the tool options.
4. Click and drag the **Pencil Tool** to draw free-form drawing.

To draw straight line, press and hold **Shift** key on the keyboard.

5. Click on several places inside your image, without dragging.

GIMP draws both free-form and straight lines.



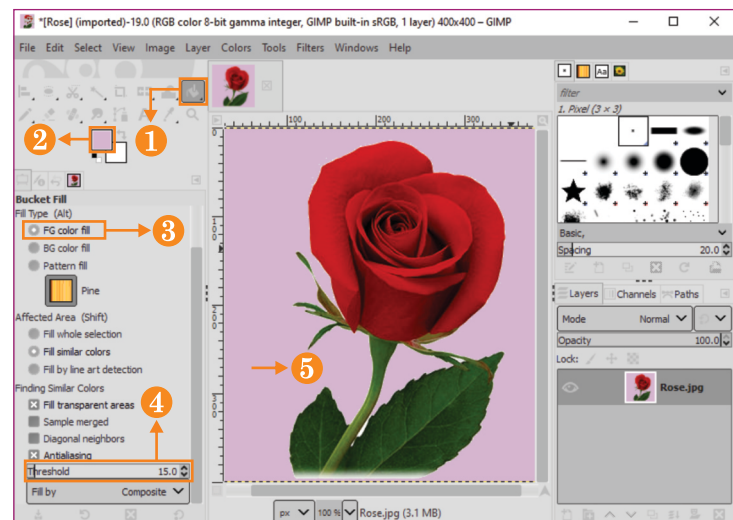
Using Pencil Tool

## Bucket Fill Tool

The Bucket Fill Tool is used to fill an area of the image with solid colors.

To use Bucket Fill Tool, select the area you want to fill with and follow the given steps:

1. Click the **Bucket Fill Tool** from the toolbox.
2. Select the **Foreground Color** for painting.
3. Select the **FG color fill** option in the tool options.
4. Set the **Threshold level** in tool options. Higher the threshold number, more color you can capture.
5. Click inside the image. GIMP fills an area of image with the foreground color. The Bucket Fill Tool affects the adjacent pixels in the image.



Using Bucket Fill Tool

## Exercises



### A Tick ☒ the Correct Answer

- The \_\_\_\_\_ is used to remove blemishes, scars, spots on the photograph.  
a. Fuzzy Select Tool ☐      b. Healing Tool ☐      c. Scale Tool ☐
- \_\_\_\_\_ is an extension of a GIMP file.  
a. .gmp ☐      b. .jpeg ☐      c. .xcf ☐
- The shortcut key to use Ellipse Select Tool is \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. E ☐      b. Shift + E ☐      c. Ctrl + E ☐
- \_\_\_\_\_ is also known as Magic Wand Tool.  
a. Free Select Tool ☐      b. Fuzzy Select Tool ☐      c. Scissors Select Tool ☐
- The \_\_\_\_\_ darkens the image.  
a. Burn Tool ☐      b. Dodge Tool ☐      c. Scale Tool ☐

### B Write (T) for True and (F) for False statement

- The Transform Tools option is present in the Image menu. ☐
- The shortcut key to rotate an image is Shift + R. ☐
- You can also drag the zoom tool on the image to magnify a portion of image. ☐
- Fuzzy Select Tool is used to select elements of your image that have well defined edges. ☐
- The Scale Tool allows the image to be resized by enlarging or reducing its size. ☐

### C Fill in the Blanks

**Hints:** Crop Tool, Pixels, Dodge Tool, U, Shift+F

- Digital images consist of tiny, solid color squares called \_\_\_\_\_.
- The shortcut key to use Fuzzy Select Tool is \_\_\_\_\_.
- The \_\_\_\_\_ is used to remove the unwanted portions of an image.
- The shortcut key to flip an image is \_\_\_\_\_.
- The \_\_\_\_\_ lightens the image.