



PhotoLine 17

Powerful image processing doesn't have to be expensive. PhotoLine is proving that for many years now. Through its steady progress - in near contact to our users - it offers all modern tools needed for enhancing images.

We simply wish, that you like our application, and are looking forward for your suggestions in our user forum.

General Comments

Main focus of the new version 17 is image processing.

In addition, various functions are now faster and many minor improvements have been made.

Common Functions

Simple Browse

The Simple Browse window is a simplified variant of the normal Browse window. All parts with the exception of the file list have been omitted. The result is a space efficient panel which can stay open all the time.

In order to allow navigation, Simple Browse is listing folders in the file list, too. The folder "." has a special meaning and is used for leaving the current directory. Furthermore the title bar of Simple Browse offers an expandable folder tree.

Additionally the context menu of the file list provides access to most important commands of the Browse panel.

Trim Image

Trim Image removes the transparent edges of an image and thus reduces its size.

Export Color Profile

You can use this function to save the color profile embedded in a document.

Selective Color Correction

Selective Color Correction is used for adjusting colors in an image. It originally comes from the prepress industry and therefore the correction is limited to the printing colors cyan, magenta, yellow and black. Colors



In the menu:

*Layout > Image >
Trim Image*

In the menu:

*Tool > Color > Export
Color Profile*



controls which colors will be corrected. You can modify several colors without leaving the dialog.



In the menu:

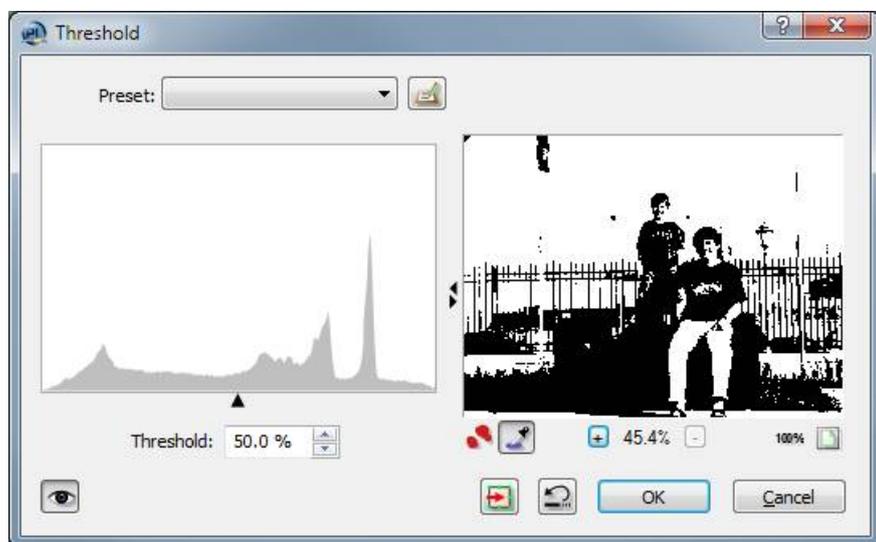
Tool > Color > Selective Color Correction

Threshold

The function Threshold converts an image to pure black and white. You can define a threshold value, and the parts of the image brighter than that threshold will become white, and the rest black.

In the menu:

Tool > Color > Threshold



Function for "Smart" Removal

PhotoLine has two tools for "smart" removal:

- the Remove Brush

You mark the area you want to remove with the Remove Brush. It is mainly used for small areas.

- Remove Object

Remove Object removes the selection. As it offers additional features to influence the result, it is better suited for large areas.

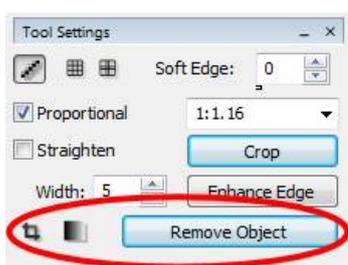
If you apply one of these tools, PhotoLine will search for matching image parts in the neighborhood and will insert them instead of the original content. This is a random process, so if you are not satisfied with a result, you can use Retry in the Tool Settings, and you might get a better result.

The Remove Brush

The Remove Brush is mainly intended for small corrections.

The Remove Brush can work with multiple layers. If you create a new empty layer with transparency above the one you want to correct, you can paint all corrections directly into this new layer. The original image will not be modified.

You can use this tool to remove pimples and moles with a single click:



Remove Object

Remove Object deletes the selection. Usually you just have to create a selection and apply the function. In more difficult situations you can control, where PhotoLine should search for replacing image parts.

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Example



You have found a nice scene, but the gondola and the mast are disturbing.



At first you are deleting the gondola with the Remove Brush tool.



After that you are deleting the cables the same way. You don't have to delete a whole cable at once. Instead you can remove it piecewise.

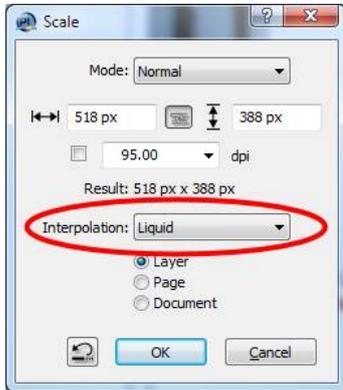


Because the mast is quite large, it is better to select it using the Free Lasso and to delete it with Remove Object.

Mission completed!

In the menu:

Layer > Scale Layer

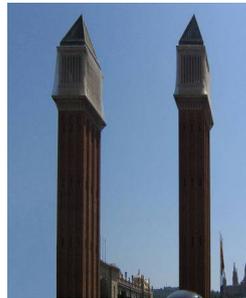


Scale Layer With "Liquid" Mode

"Liquid" will not scale the image equally, but instead it will try to keep the size of the important parts and to scale only the unimportant ones. You can create a selection to define the important parts by yourself. The quality of Liquid scaling heavily depends on the scene of the photo.



The original image.



The image horizontally scaled by 50% in a "normal" mode.



The image horizontally scaled by 50% in "liquid" mode.

As you can see, with liquid scaling the width of the towers nearly stayed the same. Most of the scaling happened in the place in-between.



New and Enhanced Tools for Creating Cut-Out Masks

New tools make it easier to create cut-out masks:

- The Mask Brush
Using the Mask Brush you can directly edit the mask. It is mainly used for fixing minor glitches.
- The Quick Selection
The Quick Selection is used for semi-automatic creation of cut-out masks.
- The Border Matting Tool
With the Border Matting tool you can cut-out translucent parts of an object. Usually it is used to post-process an already existing selection.

Aside from that there are a view helper functions:

- A Magnifier.
- Selections can be copied with automatic removal of color fringes.
- Extract Selection can be used to enhance the edge of a selection.

The Mask Brush

The Mask Brush is used to edit an existing mask. You don't have to turn on the mode "Edit Mask" in order to do this.

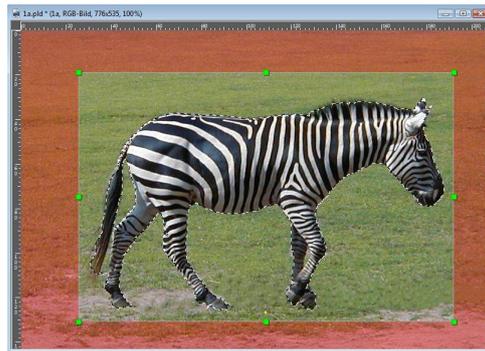
The Mask Brush has two subtools. The brush allows editing parts of an image and is adding them to the selection this way. The eraser protects image parts from editing and removes them from the selection. You can access the eraser quickly by holding Alt. You can use the right mouse button, too, if you have configured PhotoLine that way (in the preferences see "Clear with right mouse button").





The Quick Selection Tool

You use the Quick Selection tool in two steps. First you create a rectangle enclosing the object. PhotoLine will then automatically start computing a first proposal for the selection. In the second step you repeatedly place object and background marks, until you are satisfied with the result.



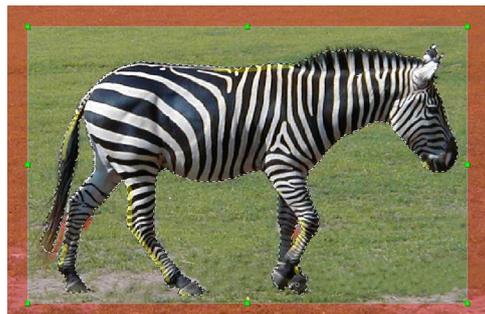
First step: Select the object with a rectangle. PhotoLine will calculate a first selection afterwards.



At problematic parts of the image you have to place red marks, if that part should not be part of the selection.



If a part should be selected, you have to mark it yellow.

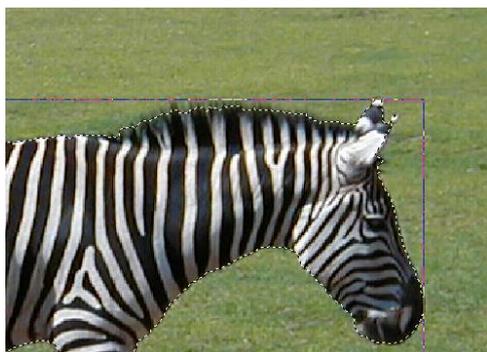


In a short time you will get a perfectly selected object (zebra).

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The Border Matting Tool

The Border Matting tool is used to create cut-out masks for semi-transparent areas like hair. Usually you first create a basic selection with another tool - i.e. the Quick Selection tool or the automask - and enhance that with the Border Matting tool in the critical areas.



First you create a basic selection.



Then you mark the critical areas: In this example that is the mane of the zebra.



PhotoLine will calculate a soft transition in that area.

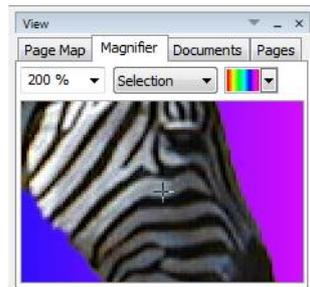


In the menu:

View > Panels > View

Magnifier in the View Window

The Magnifier shows an enlarged view of the piece of the document at the current mouse position. It has three working modes. Document shows the whole document, Layer the active layer and Selection only the current selection. The modes Layer and Selection allow to define a background color. This is especially useful for the mode Selection, because by choosing an appropriate background color you can control the quality of your selection more easily.



In the menu:

Edit > Copy Without Colored Edge

Copy Without Colored Edge

Copy Without Colored Edge copies the selection of the active image layer. On copying the colors of the background will be removed from the edge of the selection depending on the mask values. This way the result can be inserted in a new document without a disturbing colored fringe.

In the menu:

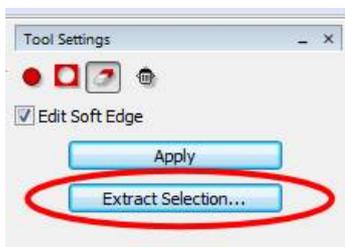
Tool > Lasso > Extract Selection

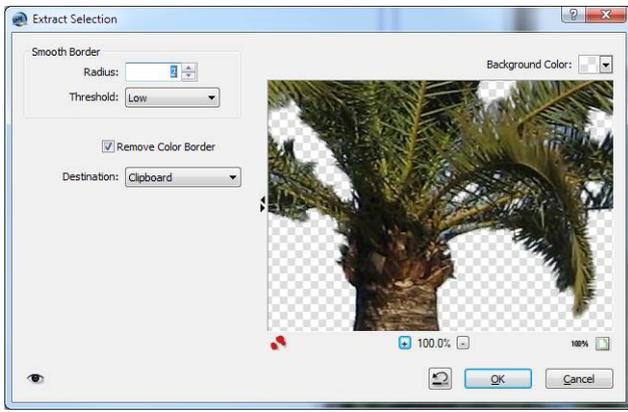
Extract Selection

Extract Selection has 3 subtasks:

- You can smooth the edge of the mask. This doesn't use simple blurring, but instead filters the edge according to the content of the selection. Smoothing is mainly useful as a post-processing step after using the Border Matting tool.
- The edge of the selection always contains colors of the background, too. These are disturbing, if the selection is copied to another picture. Therefore they optionally can be removed.
- The result of the Extract Selection can be placed on the clipboard or a new layer or document can be created. If you don't remove the background colors, you can replace the active mask, too.

In the Tool Settings of the Border Matting Tool:





The dialog allows to define a custom background color for the dialog preview. This way you can better check the effect of your settings.