

# A Brief Introduction To GIMP

Using the GNU Image  
Manipulation Program

# What is GIMP?

"GIMP" stands for "GNU Image Manipulation Program."

"GNU" is a recursive acronym for "GNU's Not Unix" and is nerdy to the point that you probably shouldn't even think about this, for fear of suddenly becoming a Star Trek fan.

The short answer is that GIMP has roots in Linux, with its first release in 1995, but it is currently available for Windows, Mac OS X, and Linux platforms.

GIMP can be downloaded at:  
<https://www.gimp.org>



# What is GIMP?

GIMP is an open source alternative to Photoshop, the software nearly everyone immediately thinks of when image manipulation and editing software is mentioned. Why? Well, Photoshop is extremely powerful, flexible, and is generally accepted to be the industry standard in terms of design, both for print and web.

GIMP has the power and flexibility you will find in Adobe Photoshop, but can be downloaded for free.



# Open Source vs. Commercial Software

Let's take a moment to talk about Open Source Software vs. Commercial Software. Some issues to consider when determining what works best for you:

- Cost (free vs. expensive)
- Support (web forums, support telephone lines, etc.)
- Name Recognition (Friends and coworkers who might be able to help, books at Tattered Cover, Barnes and Noble, etc.)

Don't forget that your non-profit will often qualify for reduced costs for software licenses, either through Tech Soup or software companies themselves.

Let's take a look at GIMP...

# The GIMP Workspace



Toolbox – Tool Options

Layers - Brushes



# The GIMP Workspace

What makes GIMP a little strange to users of more traditional Windows (and Mac) applications is that its workspace is made up of free-floating windows filled with tools and options. You can add or remove windows with the following path:

Windows -> Dockable Dialogs

In most cases you'll want the Toolbox and Layers Docks, but everyone's needs will be slightly different. Experiment and see what works for you!

To get a more traditional, "connected" workspace, try:

Windows -> Single-Window Mode

# Expanding GIMP

GIMP can be expanded with plug-ins adding new brushes, scripts, filters, and effects. Like GIMP, these tools are typically free and available for download on the internet. For example, tools can be added to do things like stitch together photos to create panorama images, add watermarks, automatically adjust contrast, draw arrows, etc.

FX Foundry is a collection of 100+ image processing scripts. GIMP Paint Studio offers additional brushes, palettes, patterns, and more.



# Expanding GIMP

Let's keep in mind that installing plug-ins is usually a manual process and can be tricky. You will often need to find specific folders within your GIMP installation and move files into multiple spots within GIMP's file structure.

# What if I already have Photoshop “muscle memory?”

GIMP has been used to duplicate Photoshop's tool layout and keyboard shortcuts using different “fork” applications. For example, you can use Gimphoto to get the Photoshop experiences, with GIMP “under the hood.” Gimphoto is also open source and freely available for Windows, Mac OSX, and Linux.

<http://www.gimphoto.com/>

Keep in mind that GIMP “forks” often introduce a lag between new GIMP releases and releases like Gimphoto.

# What about GIMPshop?

GIMPshop was the first attempt at mirroring the Adobe Photoshop interface/shortcuts, but has not been updated since 2017. While it is not currently supported, it is still available at:

<https://sourceforge.net/projects/gimpshop.mirror/>



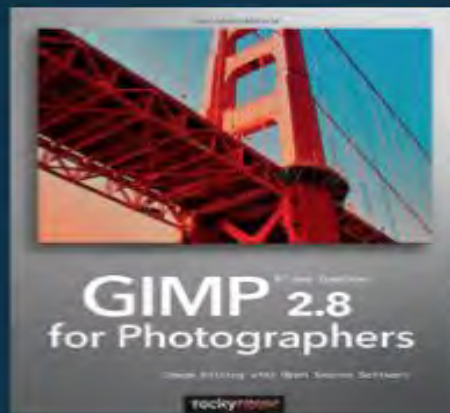
Please be aware that you should not use the following link, as its download contains malware:

<http://www.gimpshop.com>



# Want to learn more?

I strongly recommend the following book. It's a little expensive, unless you get it online, but when you consider that the software is free... its a great investment!



**GIMP 2.8 for Photographers, by Klaus Goelker**

# Other Open Source Tools To Consider



## **Scribus**

An open-source alternative to desktop publishing software like Adobe InDesign.

<https://www.scribus.net>



## **Inkscape**

An open-source vector graphics editor similar to Adobe Illustrator.

<https://inkscape.org/>

# Other Open Source Tools To Consider



**Darktable**

An open-source application to edit and work with RAW files.

<https://www.darktable.org/>



# Contact Information

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