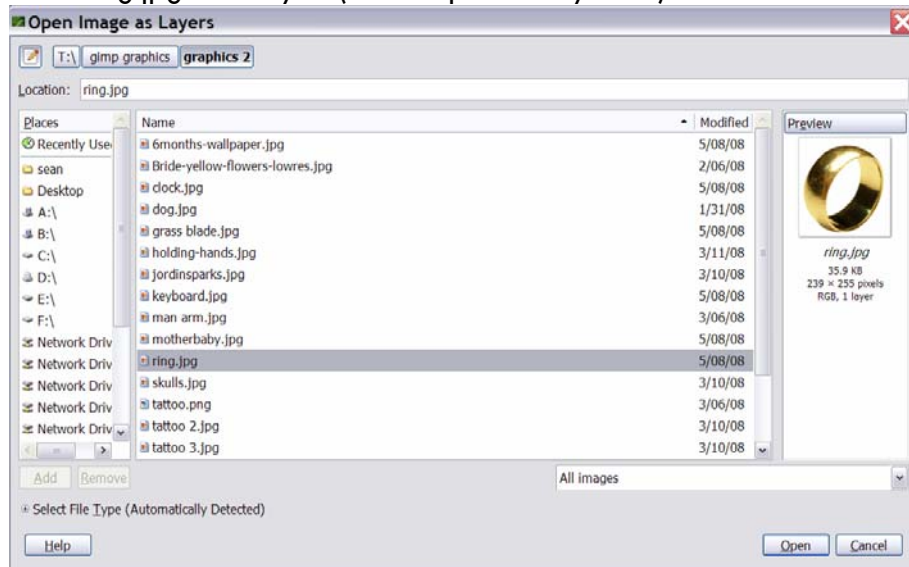


RING AROUND BLADE OF GRASS

1. Download ring.jpg and grass.jpg and save to a folder on your computer.
2. Edit grass.jpg with the GIMP.
3. Insert ring.jpg as a layer. (File->Open as Layers...)



4. Flip the ring layer horizontally. (Layer->Transform->Flip Horizontally)
5. Move the ring using the Move Tool so that it is positioned as if the blade were to pass through it.



6. We now need to make the white area transparent. To do this we will use a layer mask.

7. Using the Fuzzy Select Tool click on the white area surrounding the ring.



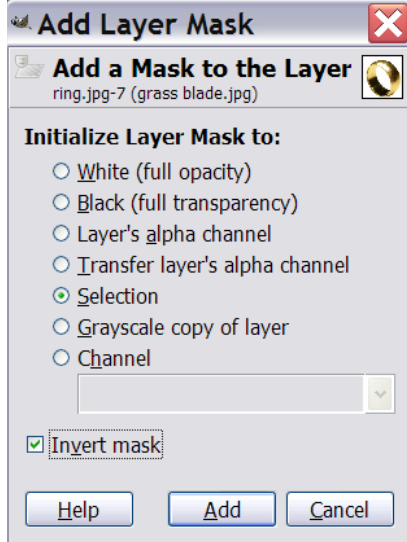
8. We also need to select the inside of the ring. Hold the Shift key and click inside the ring.



9. The selection is not quite large enough. That is, there is a white area between the selection and the ring. We will grow the selection by 2 pixels. (Select->Grow)



10. Now we need to remove the white by adding a layer mask. (Layer->Mask->Add Layer Mask...) Choose selection and Invert mask as seen below.

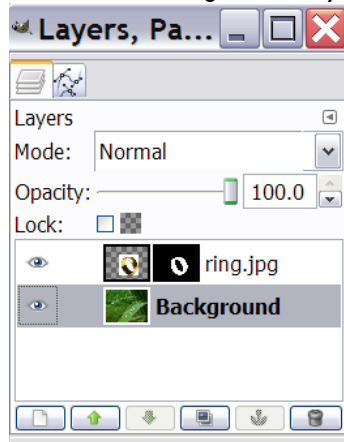


11. Click the Add button and you will see:

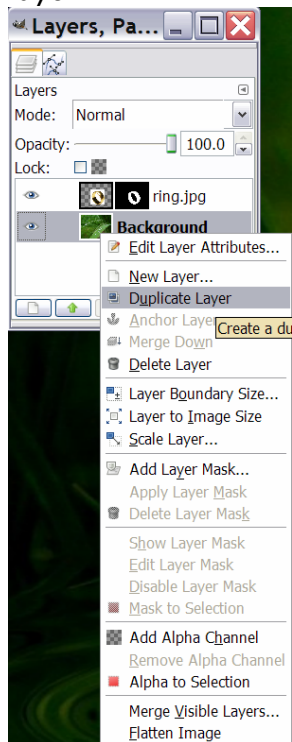


12. Remove the current selection as it is no longer needed. (Select->None)
13. Now the blade of grass needs to go through the ring. We do this with another layer mask. But first a few preliminary steps.

14. Select the Background layer in the layer dialogue.



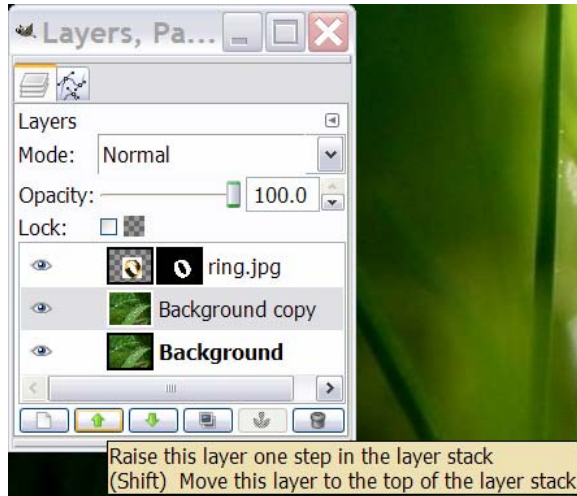
15. Duplicate the layer by right clicking on the Background and choosing Duplicate layer.



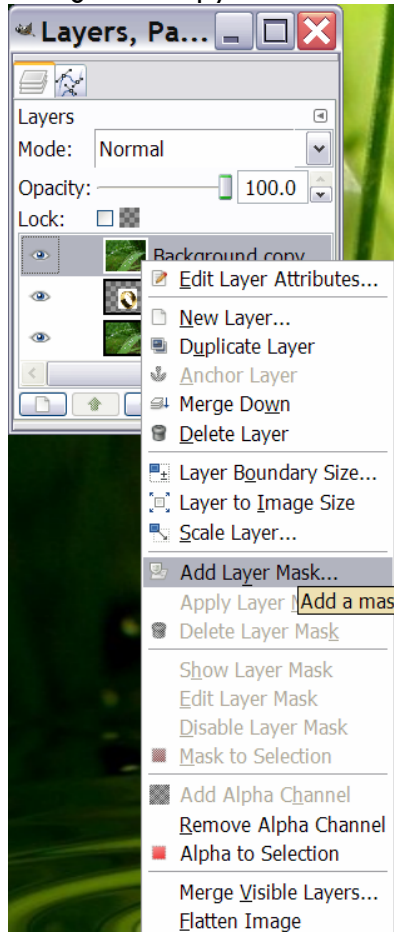
16. Move the Background copy layer above the ring layer. By clicking on the



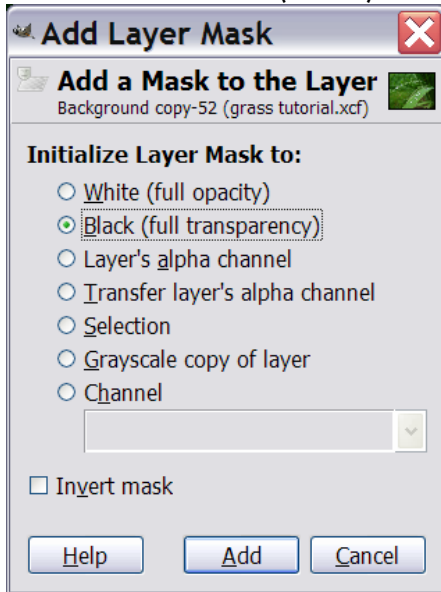
button.



17. The ring disappears behind the grass or Background copy. We now need to make most of the top grass layer transparent.
18. With the Background copy selected in the layers dialogue, right click on the Background copy and select “Add Layer Mask...”.



19. On the dialogue box choose “Black (full transparency)” and make sure “Invert mask” is not selected (below). Then click the Add button.



20. You will now see the ring again.
21. With the “Paintbrush Tool” selected change the foreground colour to white.
22. Colour in the area where the ring intersects the blade of grass and the ring will slowly disappear.



23. With some more finessing of both of the layer masks the image will look more realistic. For example, the edges of the ring need some work. Your final result might look like picture below.

