

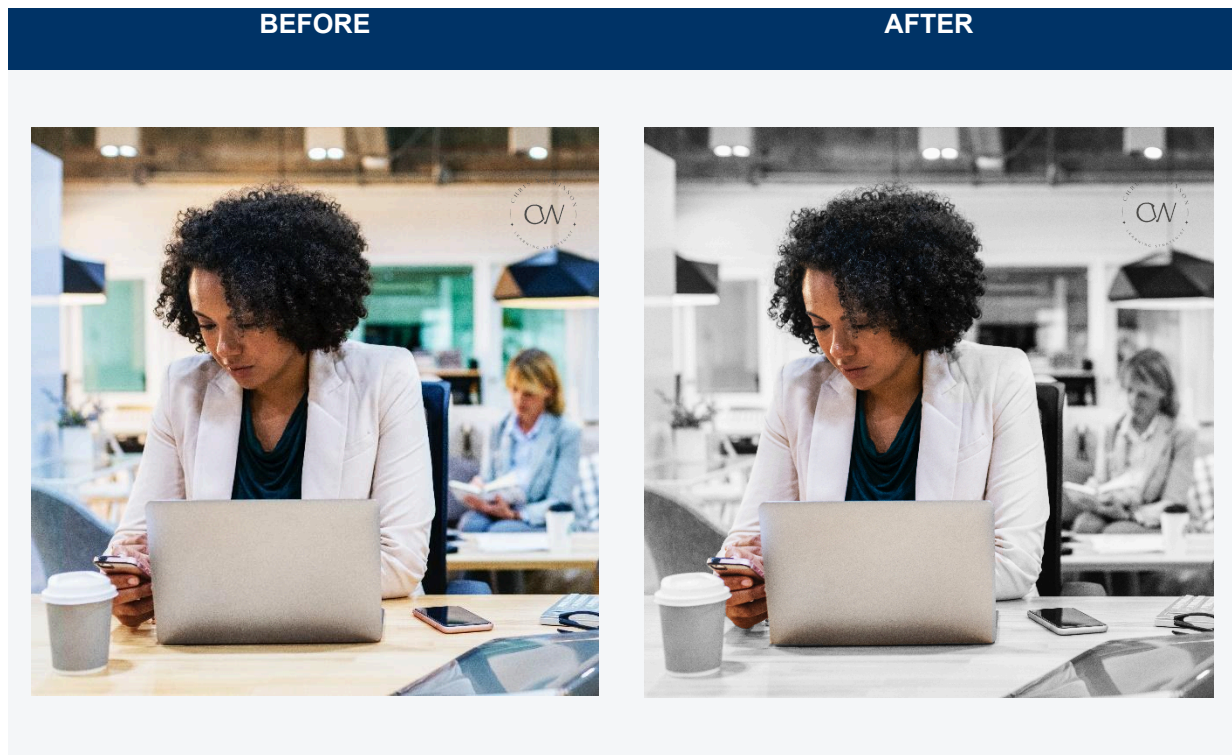
#32 Selective Colorization using GIMP

Part of the “Kicking it up a notch” series

Colorizing an image kicks up the professionalism of a document. It also helps the reader's eye focus exactly on what and where you want it to focus.

The steps presented here use the free GIMP (GNU Image Manipulation Program) available at <https://www.gimp.org>

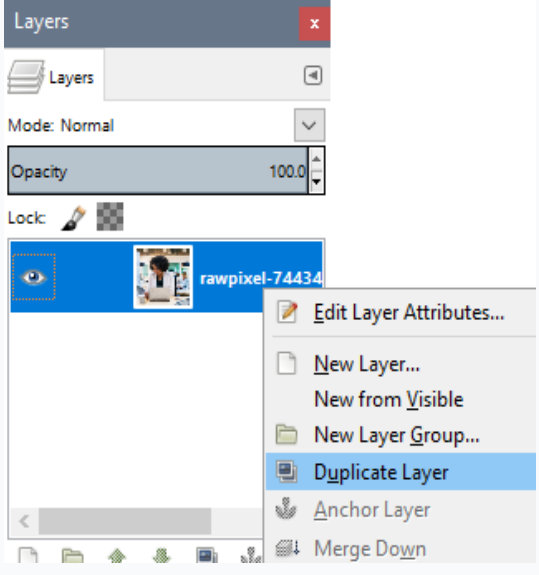
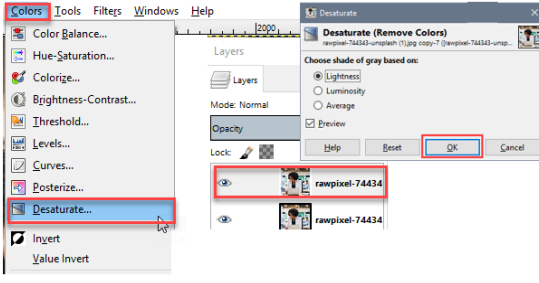
Visual Comparison



Process Overview

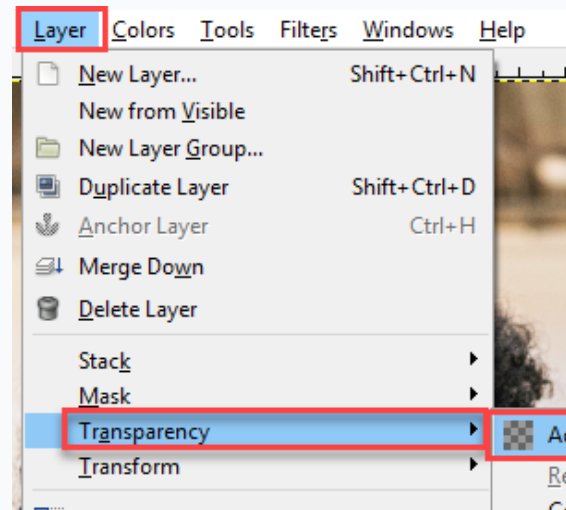
- Open the image in GIMP.
- Duplicate the layer.
- Desaturate the new layer.
- Add a transparent layer (Alpha Channel).
- In the duplicate layer, erase the layer to reveal the underneath color.

Detailed Walkthrough Steps

Task & Interface Action	Visual Reference Guide
1. Open Base Image Open your source image directly inside the GIMP work canvas.	<i>[Reader Context Panel: Main Image Loaded]</i>
2. Duplicate the Layer Right-click on your image layer inside the Layer Panel, then click 'Duplicate Layer' to create an identical top layer copy.	 The screenshot shows the 'Layers' panel in GIMP. A right-click context menu is open over the 'rawpixel-74434' layer. The menu options are: 'Edit Layer Attributes...', 'New Layer...', 'New from Visible', 'New Layer Group...', 'Duplicate Layer' (highlighted in blue), 'Anchor Layer', and 'Merge Down'.
3. Desaturate New Layer In the top toolbar menu, select Colors > Desaturate... Click OK in the configuration window to strip color and convert the duplicate layer to grayscale.	 The screenshot shows the 'Colors' menu open in the top toolbar, with 'Desaturate...' selected. To the right, the 'Desaturate (Remove Colors)' dialog box is open. It shows 'rawpixel-74434' as the selected layer. Under 'Choose shade of gray based on:', 'Lightness' is selected. The 'Preview' checkbox is checked. The 'OK' button is highlighted with a red box.

4. Add Transparency Channel

With the gray layer selected, navigate to **Layer > Transparency > Add Alpha Channel** to ensure transparency capabilities are enabled.



5. Final Phase: Selective Erasing

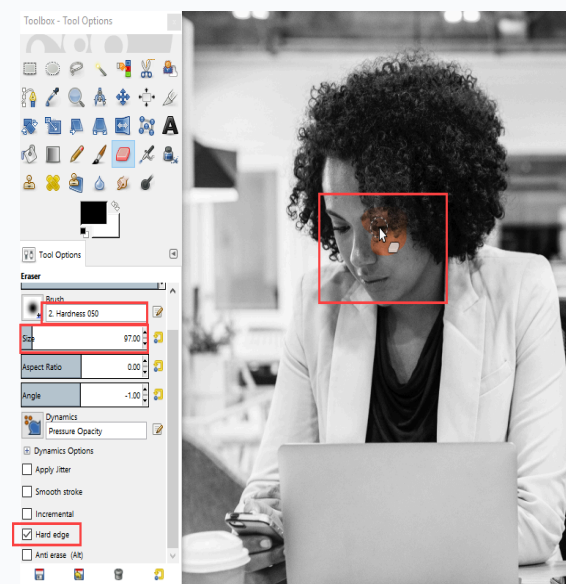
Click the **Erase Tool** icon from the primary toolbox panel.

Next, navigate to the **Tool Options** panel directly below it to precisely adjust brush parameters:

- Set the desired brush Size
- Choose the appropriate Shape and Hardness (e.g., Hardness 050)
- Ensure 'Hard edge' is configured based on your object boundary needs.

Apply the eraser brush over the gray duplicate layer.

This erases the grayscale mask, perfectly revealing the vibrant color layer sitting underneath.



Congratulations, you now have one more trick up your sleeve!