

Red Pill — User's Guide

Windows Edition

Welcome!

Red Pill provides the necessary tools to do high-quality work. With Red Pill you can create original works or manipulate existing images with ease.

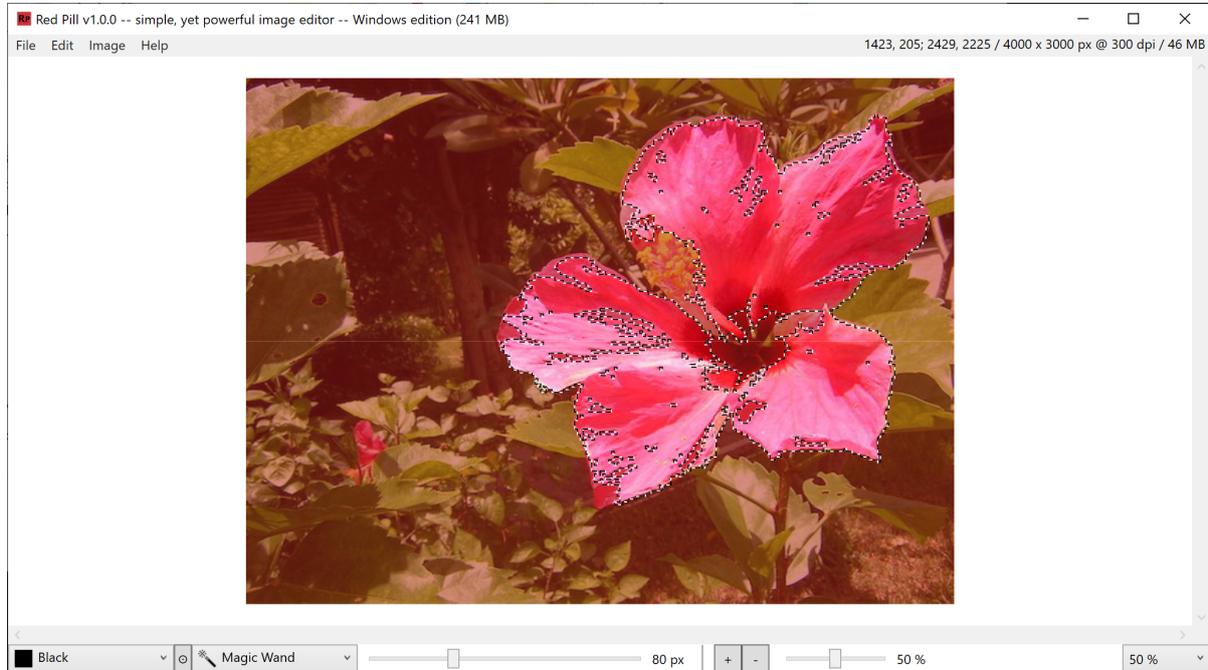


Figure 1. Overview & the usage of the magic wand tool

Toolbox

Marquee

Use this tool to make a straight rectangular selection or make a oval selection by holding down the *alt gr* key.

Holding down the *shift* key while using one of these tools will add to any selection that may currently already be in place. Holding down the *alt* key will cut out from the selection. To get a perfect square selection, hold down the *control* key after you have started your selection.

Lasso

This tool is similar to the marquee tool, it allows you to select an arbitrary shape. Click and hold down the mouse button. You can add to or subtract from the current selection by holding down the *shift* or *alt* key. If you click and hold down the *control* key, this tool becomes a polygon lasso tool. You can click several times to create a polygon selection. Hit the return key to connect the last point with the first point.

Magic Wand

The magic wand tool works by selecting a single pixel, and then expanding that selection out to neighboring pixels that match the same color. You can adjust the tolerance so that there is a little bit more freedom in determining if a neighboring pixel should be selected or not.

Brush

The paint brush tool applies paint. The brush size can be adjusted with the tool slider. Various brush types can be chosen (see figure 2).

Pencil

This is your most basic tool for getting new pixels down on the canvas. The pencil size can be adjusted with the pen size slider. Hold down the shift key to draw a straight line.

Eraser

The eraser is good for removing pixels from the bitmap image. It replaces the pixels with a clear color (alpha channel = 0).

Paint Bucket

The paint bucket tool fills an area with the fill color. Adjusting the circular slider you can determine the percentage of spread (0 - 100 %). Choosing a high percentage of spread fills the document. With a lower percentage of spread, the paint bucket fills until it reaches a boundary or object.

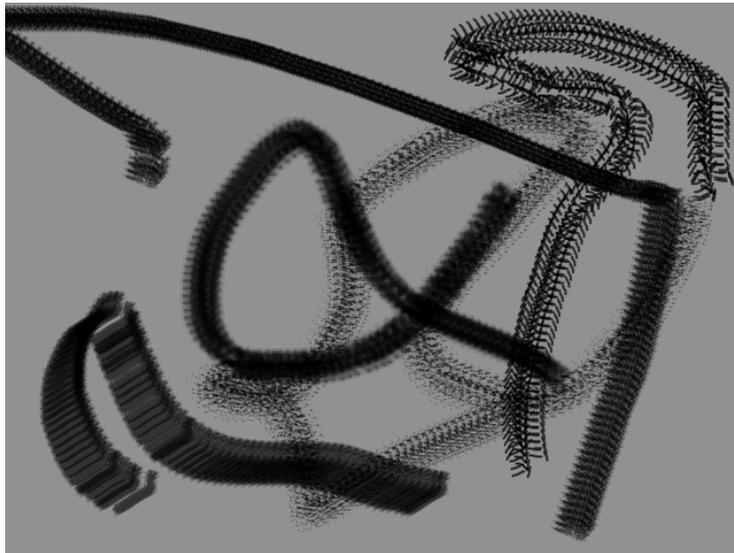


Figure 2. Various brush types

Eyedropper

The Eyedropper tool lets you pick a color from the document.

Type

The type tool lets you add text to the bitmap. Click somewhere in the image to create a selection with the string 'Hello World!'. Then press the backspace key to remove the last character of this string if necessary and re-enter some text. Of course, you can change the font and text style. You can reposition the text by clicking somewhere else in the image. If you are satisfied, you can convert the text to a unmodifiable selection by clicking the 'Done' button. In order to apply the text to the bitmap choose 'Fill' from the 'Edit' menu.

Clone Stamp

The clone stamp tool paints a copy of a document from a point you choose anywhere else in that document. Determine that source point in the document by clicking while holding down the *alt* key.

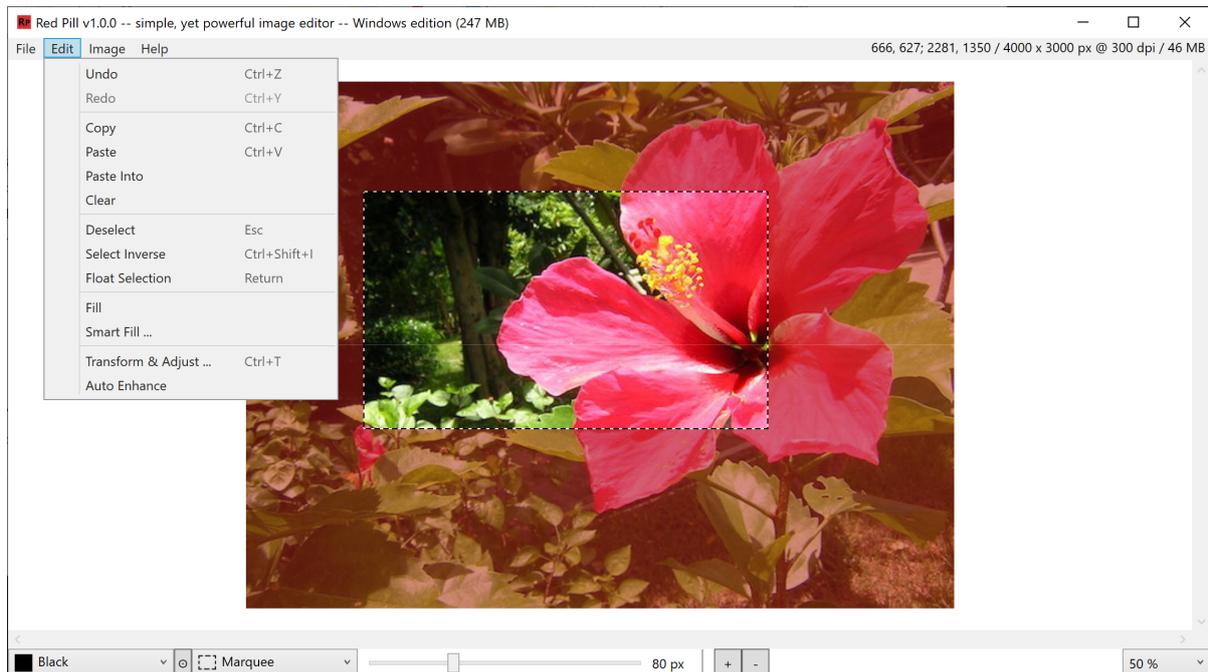


Figure 3. Rectangular selection & the Edit menu

Menu

‘File’ ▶ ‘New’ / ‘File’ ▶ ‘Open ...’

You can create a new bitmap image by choosing the ‘New’ command. If you have an image in the clipboard, the width and height from that image are used for the new image. Otherwise, an image with a size of 4000 by 3000 pixels at 300 dpi will be created (filled with gray color). One can afterwards revise the image size by using the ‘Resize’ command.

The ‘Open ...’ command lets you open image files stored on disk. Red Pill (Windows edition) supports JPEG and PNG image file formats.

‘File’ ▶ ‘Save’ / ‘File’ ▶ ‘Save As ...’

One can choose to save an image as JPEG or PNG file. Whereas PNG is a lossless file format and supports an alpha channel, JPEG is lossy and does not support an alpha channel. Every image you create with Red Pill is stored in memory in a 32-bit pixel format – 8 bits per channel (RGBA). When the user saves the image as JPEG, the alpha channel is lost. Thus, the Red Pill image editor always stores the alpha channel data in a separate file next to the ‘.jpg’ file with the file extension ‘.alp’ (incidentally, the alpha data is stored lossless using RLE).

‘Image’ ▶ ‘Resize ...’

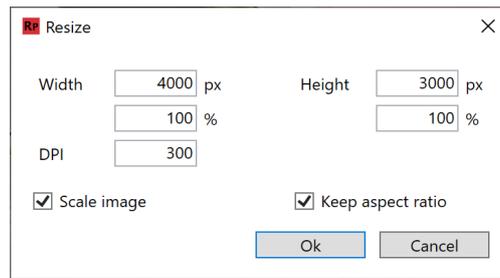


Figure 4. *Resize dialog*

The ‘Resize’ command opens a dialog box (cf. figure 4) where the width and height may be changed by entering new pixel or percent values. Unchecking the ‘Keep aspect ratio’ checkbox enables width or height to be changed independently. Check the ‘Scale image’ checkbox if you want the image to be scaled to fit the new canvas size. The resolution of the image (in dots per inch) can be altered, too. The DPI value does not influence neither the pixel size of the image, nor the file size, but it modifies the display size on screen.

‘Edit’ ▶ ‘Float Selection’ / ‘Anchor Selection’

A selection can be floating over the canvas (cf. figure 6) or can be anchored. Press the *return* key to float or anchor a selection. You can also float a selection by holding down the *control* key while moving a selection. You can always change the opacity of the floating selection by moving the opacity slider in the color picker.

If you hold down the *shift* key when you choose the ‘Anchor Selection’ command, the selection image will be copied to your image, but the selection itself will be preserved.

If the selection is floating, press the arrow keys to accurately move this selection (hold down the *shift* key to move the floating selection by 5 pixels instead of 1 pixel).

‘Edit’ ▶ ‘Undo’

The ‘Undo’ command allows you to reverse the actions you perform in a document. Red Pill provides multiple levels of undo. You can undo unlimited of the last operations performed in a document, in reverse order. If you open another image, the undo cache is cleared. If you save an image, the undo cache is not cleared. When a gray point appears on the left-hand side of the zoom popup menu, Red Pill is preoccupied saving snapshots for the undo functionality.

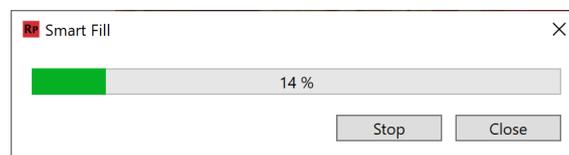


Figure 5. *Smart Fill command*

‘Edit’ ▶ ‘Transform & Adjust ...’

A selection can be scaled and rotated (or blurred). Choose ‘Transform & Adjust ...’ from the ‘Edit’ menu and adjust the appropriate sliders. Importantly, the command only works if a selection exists. The command at first implicitly makes the current selection floating if

necessary. After closing the dialog one can then anchor the still floating selection by pressing the *return* key.

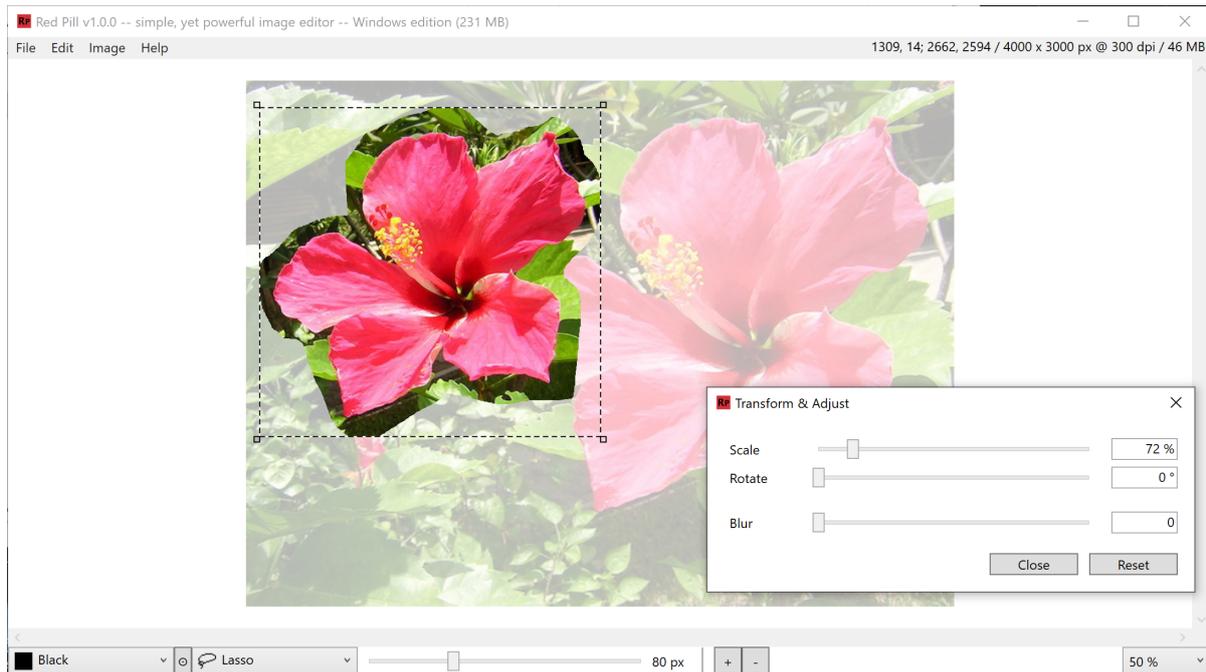


Figure 6. Transform & Adjust a floating selection

‘Edit’ ▶ ‘Paste Into’

By choosing the normal ‘Paste’ command you get a floating selection with the content of the clipboard. The ‘Paste Into’ command is a bit different and extremely powerful. It puts the content of the clipboard into the current selection, keeping its original proportions. The marquee lines show the shape of the pasted image, and it can be moved to position the portion wanted to show through the selection. You can also transform the pasted image using the ‘Transform & Adjust ...’ command.

‘Edit’ ▶ ‘Smart Fill ...’

The ‘Smart Fill ...’ command (cf. figure 5) is really powerful. If there is an object in your image you want to remove, make a rough selection of the object with the marquee or lasso tool and then invoke the ‘Smart Fill ...’ command. The object will be removed from the image by extending surrounding texture to cover it. Depending on the image dimensions this operation takes a while to be calculated (and needs a lot of memory, too) but the result is incredible — give it a try.

Red Pill is not only capable of removing an object from an image, but also of extracting an object. To do this, check the ‘Copy removed object to clipboard’ option in the ‘Smart Fill’ window. The program then will extract the object and put it to the clipboard, where it is ready to be pasted.

‘Edit’ ▶ ‘Auto Enhance’

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This command allows you to enhance a photo's impression. The internal algorithm is secret, but you can start out from the assumption that it does what people do manually with other programs to improve the distribution of the brightness in the image's histogram.

By the way use the '+' and '-' keyboard shortcuts instead of the zoom popup menu in order to zoom the image from 12.5 % to 800 %. And also press the number keys '1, 2, 3 ...' to switch the active tool.

As every software product, Red Pill also has some issues — known and unknown. If an error occurs when you use this piece of software, please send in the corresponding log file (C:\Temp\Red Pill Log.txt) together with a short report.

Since we want to keep the effort building this product as low as possible, it is distributed without an installer.

http://www.timesforfun.de/Red_Pill.html

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