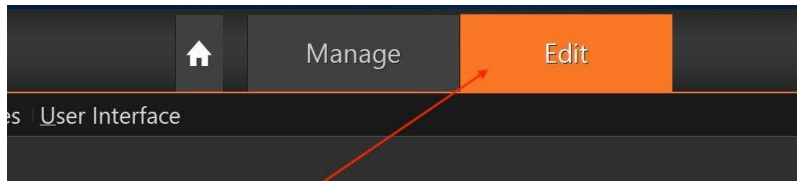


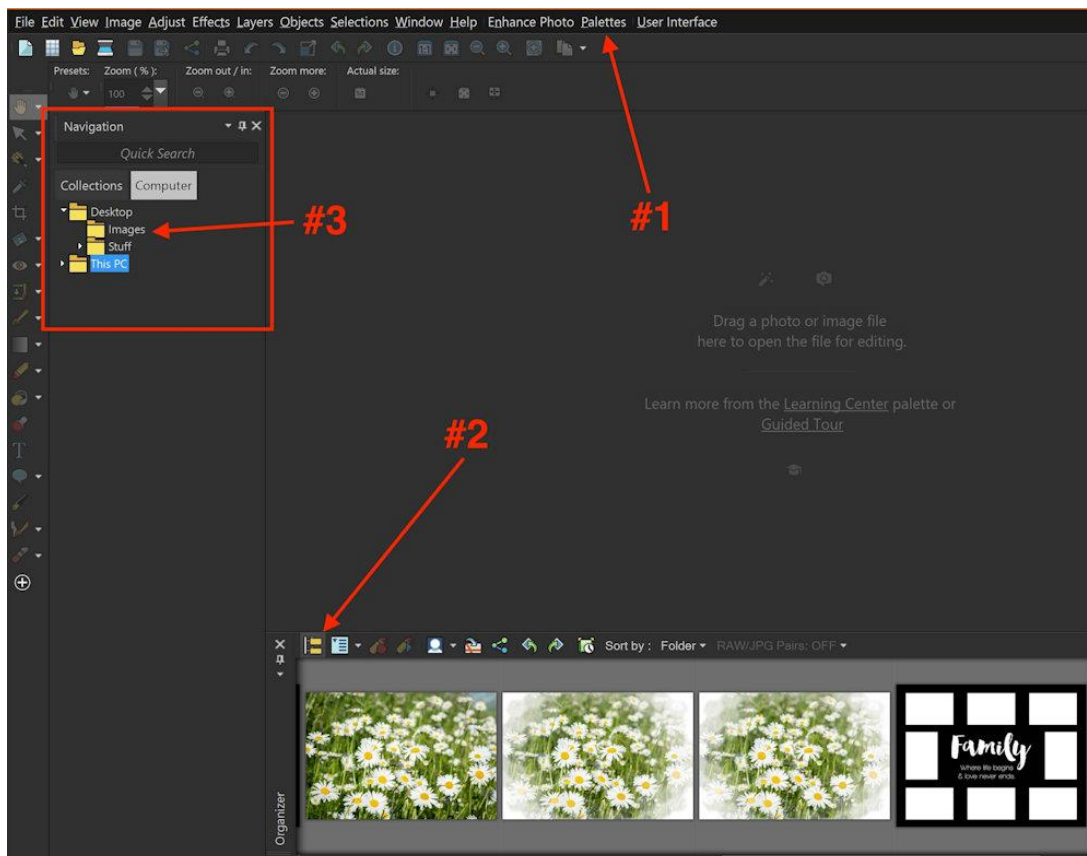
Understanding Transparency in PaintShop Pro

PaintShop Pro has many levels of photo transparency capabilities. This tutorial will help you understand transparency, learn what tools are available and see what's possible to create with transparencies.

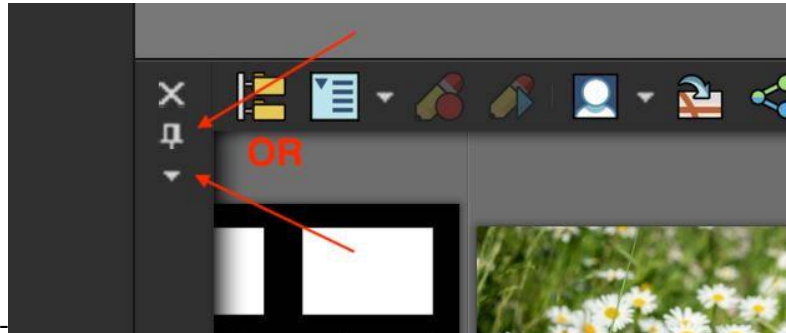
Open PaintShop Pro into the **Edit** tab.



1. Under the **Palettes** menu, select **Organizer** (or press **Shift+F9**)
2. In the **Organizer**, click the **Show/Hide Navigation** icon to bring up the **Navigation** window along the left side of the interface
3. Navigate to the folder of images you downloaded for this tutorial. These images should now appear in the **Organizer**.



In the upper left corner of the **Organizer**, click either (A) the push pin so it lays down, or (B) the downward-pointing arrow and choose **Auto Hide**. The **Organizer** will now hide from view when not being accessed.



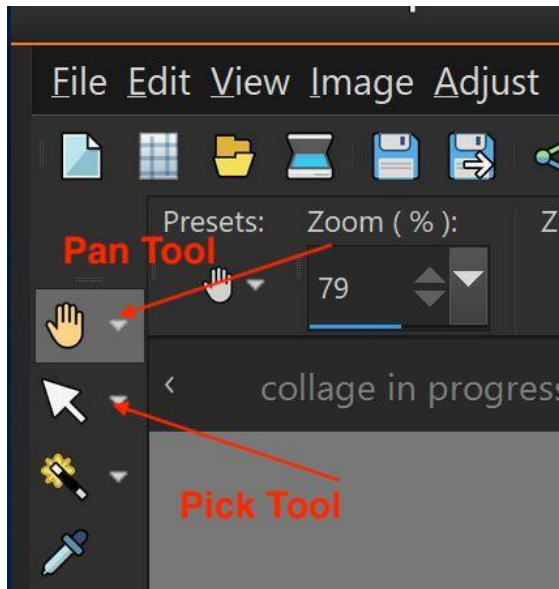
Using a Collage Template with Transparency

We'll start by creating a collage of multiple images in one frame using the **CollageTemplate.PNG** file provided with this tutorial.

Open the collage template file. The most important items to note are the grey and white checkerboard patterns in each of the "windows". These patterns indicate the transparent parts of this image. Using layers, you can put photos inside each of these windows and they will show through, because the windows are clear portions of the template.



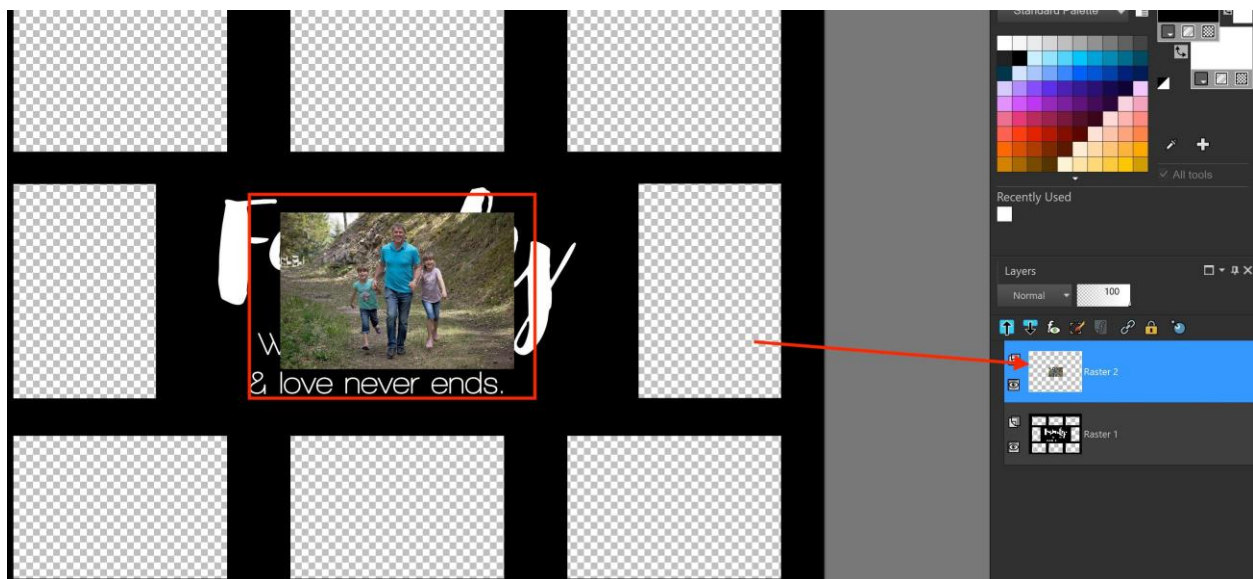
Now open the sample images **CollageSample1.JPG** and **CollageSample2.JPG**. Activate the **Pan** tool.



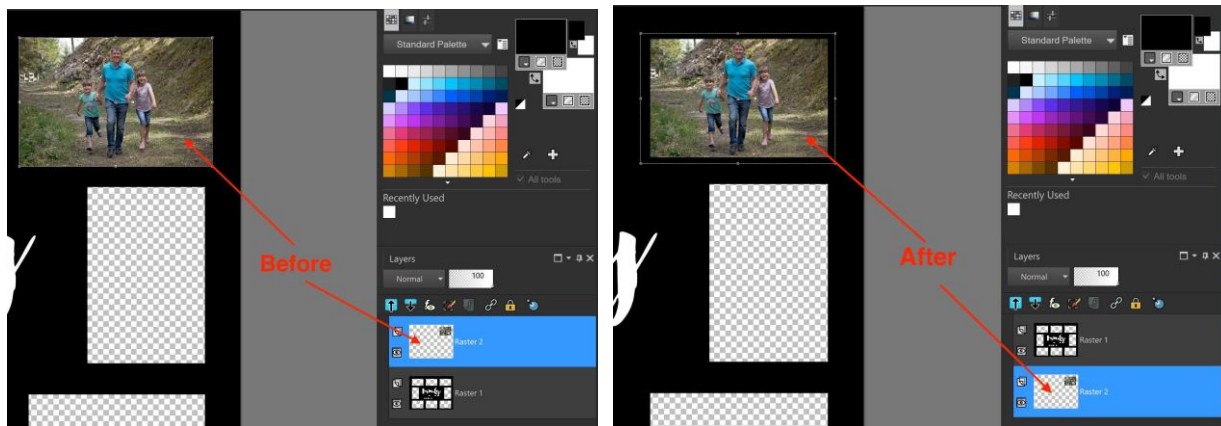
Right-click on the sample 1 image and select **Copy** (or use **Ctrl+C**). Go to the collage template, right-click and select **Paste > Paste as New Layer** (or use **Ctrl+V**).

TIP: You can also find copy and paste commands under the **Edit** menu.

Collage sample 1 should appear somewhere on top of the collage template. Your **Layers** palette should also contain a new layer of the sample image (**Raster 2 layer**) above the template (**Raster 1 layer**).



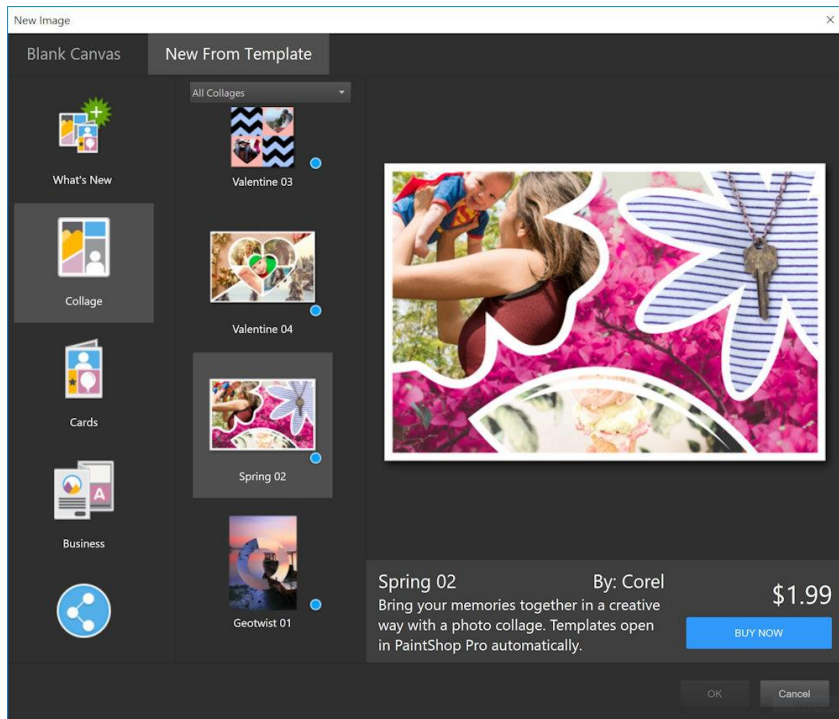
Activate the **Pick** tool and use it to move the sample image into one of the landscape-oriented windows. Now you need to place the image behind the template frame. In the **Layers** palette, click and drag the top layer (**Raster 2**) underneath the template layer (**Raster 1**).



Repeat the same steps with **CollageSample2.JPG** to copy and paste it into the collage template, only this time place it in a vertical-oriented window.

NOTE: When you copy and paste images into a collage template, or any other PaintShop Pro file, they will be placed in the center of the screen. Depending on the size of your pasted image, and where it is in the layer order, it might not be immediately visible because it is hidden behind a non-transparent area of the collage template. If you activate the **Pick** tool and the layer of your pasted image, you will see the outline and corner handles of the image, even if it is hidden underneath another layer. You can also drag this layer to the top of the layers palette in order to better see it and move it into a collage window.

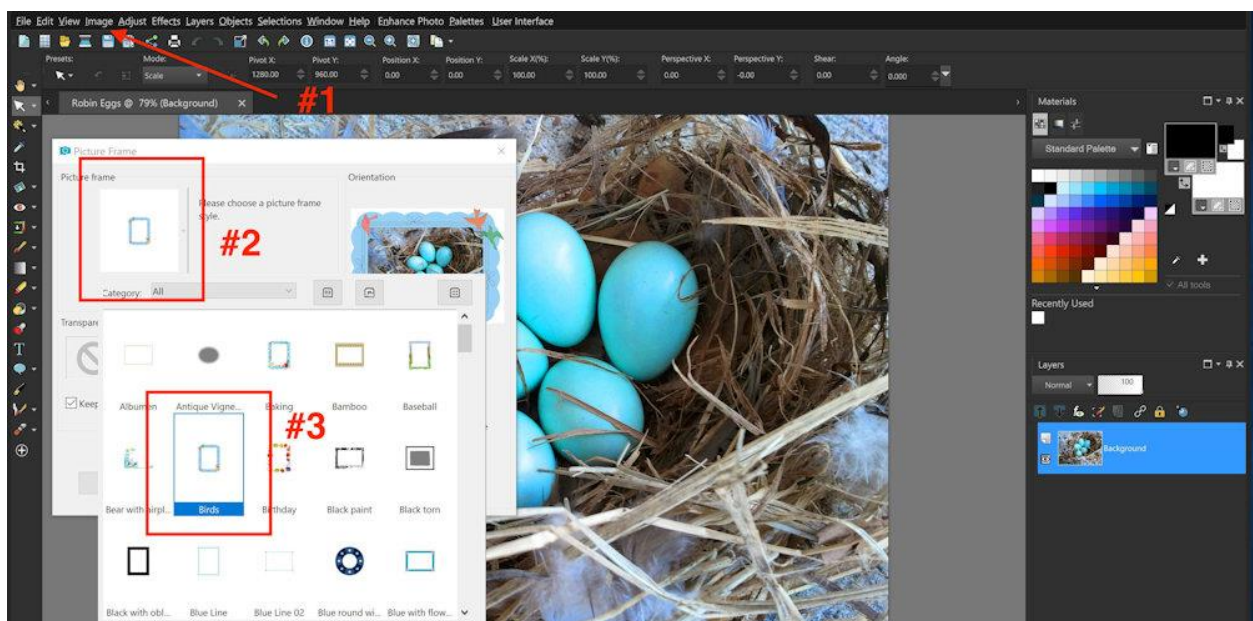
If you are looking for more collage templates, go to **File > New From Template** and browse the various categories. All these templates have transparent windows that you can place your photos into. Some of these templates are available as a free download.



Using a Picture Frame with Transparency

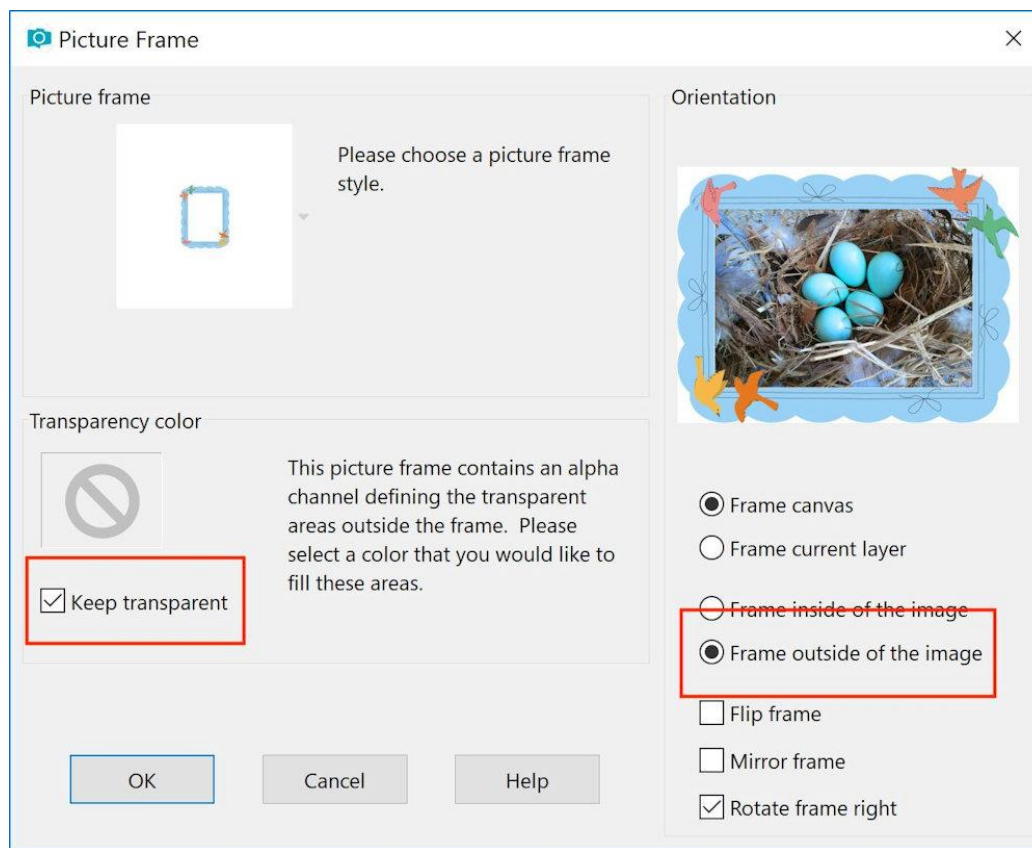
Let's now try using a PaintShop Pro picture frame. In the **Organizer**, locate and open the image **Blue Eggs.JPG** (you can double-click on it or drag it into the main window).

Go to **Image > Picture Frame**. From the Picture frame dropdown list, locate and select the **Birds** picture frame



Note: If you can't see the Birds frame in the picture frame library, go to the **Welcome Book** (by clicking on the house icon at the top of the PaintShop Pro interface). Click on **Get More** in the left menu then select the **Creative Content** tab. Scroll down to the bottom and select the **Creative Content Pack**. Click on the **Download** button and it will automatically install a collection of PaintShop Pro add-ons, including picture frames. Once you have installed this bonus content, the new picture frames will be visible in the picture frame library.

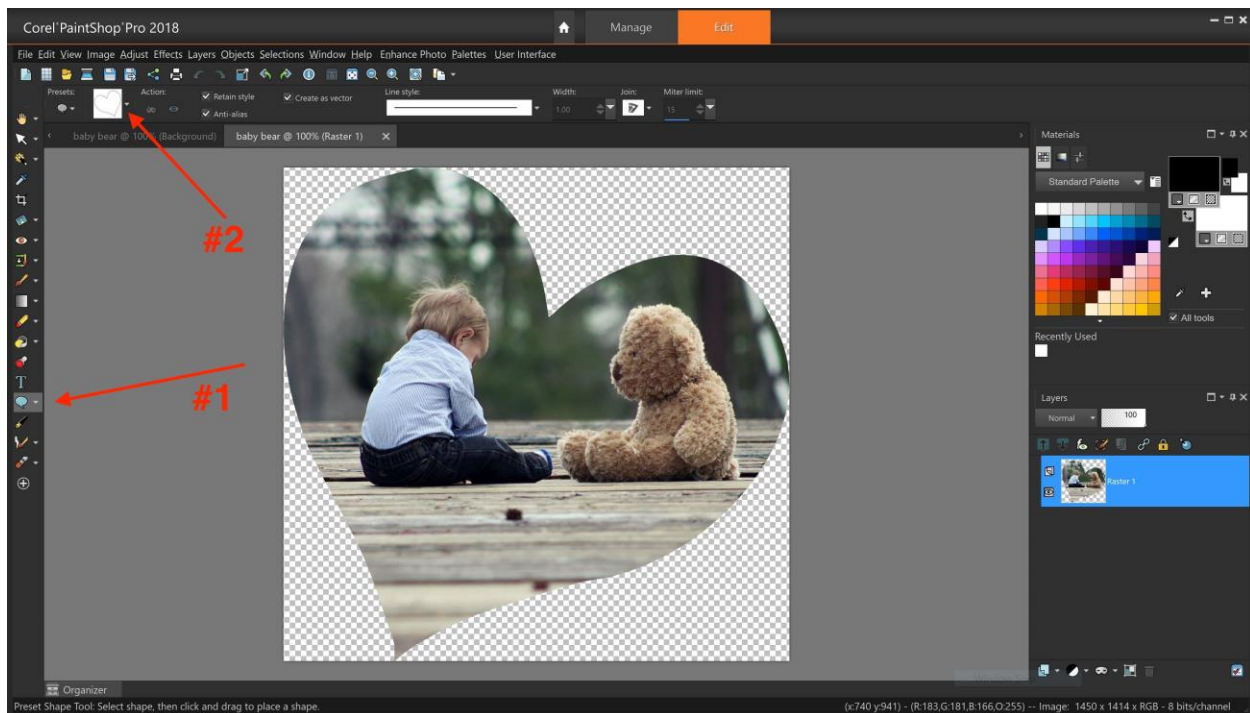
Once you have selected the Birds frame, check the options **Keep Transparent** and **Frame outside of the image**. Click **OK** to add the picture frame.



Note: You might see the blue eggs image extending beyond the outer edges of the picture frame. To fix this, activate the **Pick** tool and use it to reposition either the picture frame layer on top or the image layer underneath.

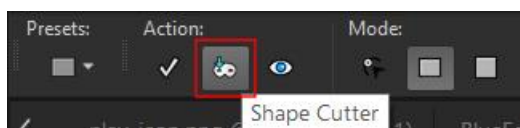
Preset Shapes and the Shape Cutter Tool

You can also use a preset shape to create a cutout image with a transparent background. There is even a special tool called the **Shape Cutter**, that greatly simplifies the process. In this example, we used the heart shape from the **Preset Shapes** library. You can find the preset shapes option as part of the **Shape tool group** flyout on the toolbar.



You can easily identify where the transparent regions are in both the bear image and in the **Layers** palette.

To use the **Shape Cutter**, select your shape and drag your mouse to draw the shape on top of your image. If you need to resize or reposition your shape, activate the **Pick** tool to do this. When the **Shape** tool is activated, you will see the **Shape Cutter** icon in the property bar. Click this to cut your image shape.



If you want to learn more about the Shape Cutter tool, [watch this tutorial](#).

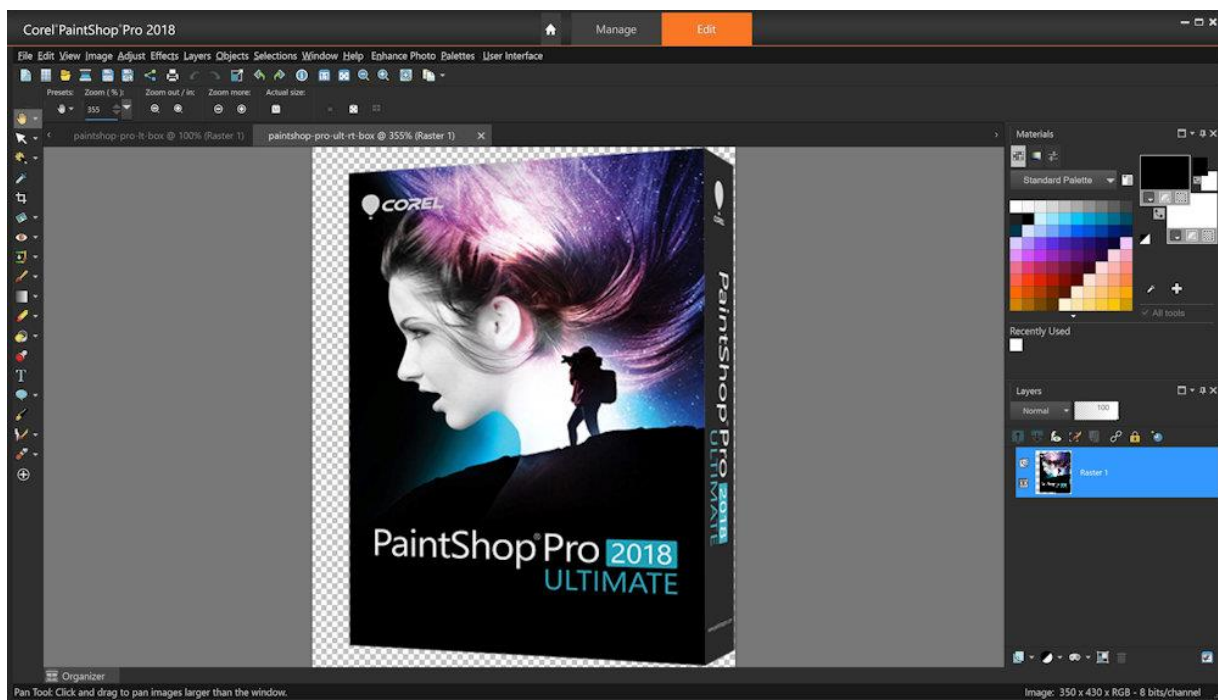
Using Transparency for Web Images

One of the key uses for transparency in digital images is to add them to a web page. One of the most web common uses is to place an image on a web page so that the web page's background becomes your image's background, such as a play button on a YouTube video, or your logo, or a product shot on your home page.

Go to the [PaintShop Pro web page](#) and you will see the product boxshots.



Right-click on either boxshot image and notice that it is an image (with options such as **Save image as ...** etc). Simply drag and drop either box shot onto your desktop, then drag and drop that image into an empty PaintShop Pro window. The transparent background is indicated by the grey and white checkerboard background.



In conclusion, it's very important to know what file formats will support transparencies, because not all do so. The most common format that supports it is PNG, which we've used here. GIF and JP2 (JPEG 2000) are also compatible. Regular JPGs do NOT support transparency. Once you've finished merging all your images into the final one, you can still save it as a JPG for sharing, but if you need to preserve the transparency you'll want to save as a PNG.