

Creating a Speedometer in Excel – part 1.

by George Lungu

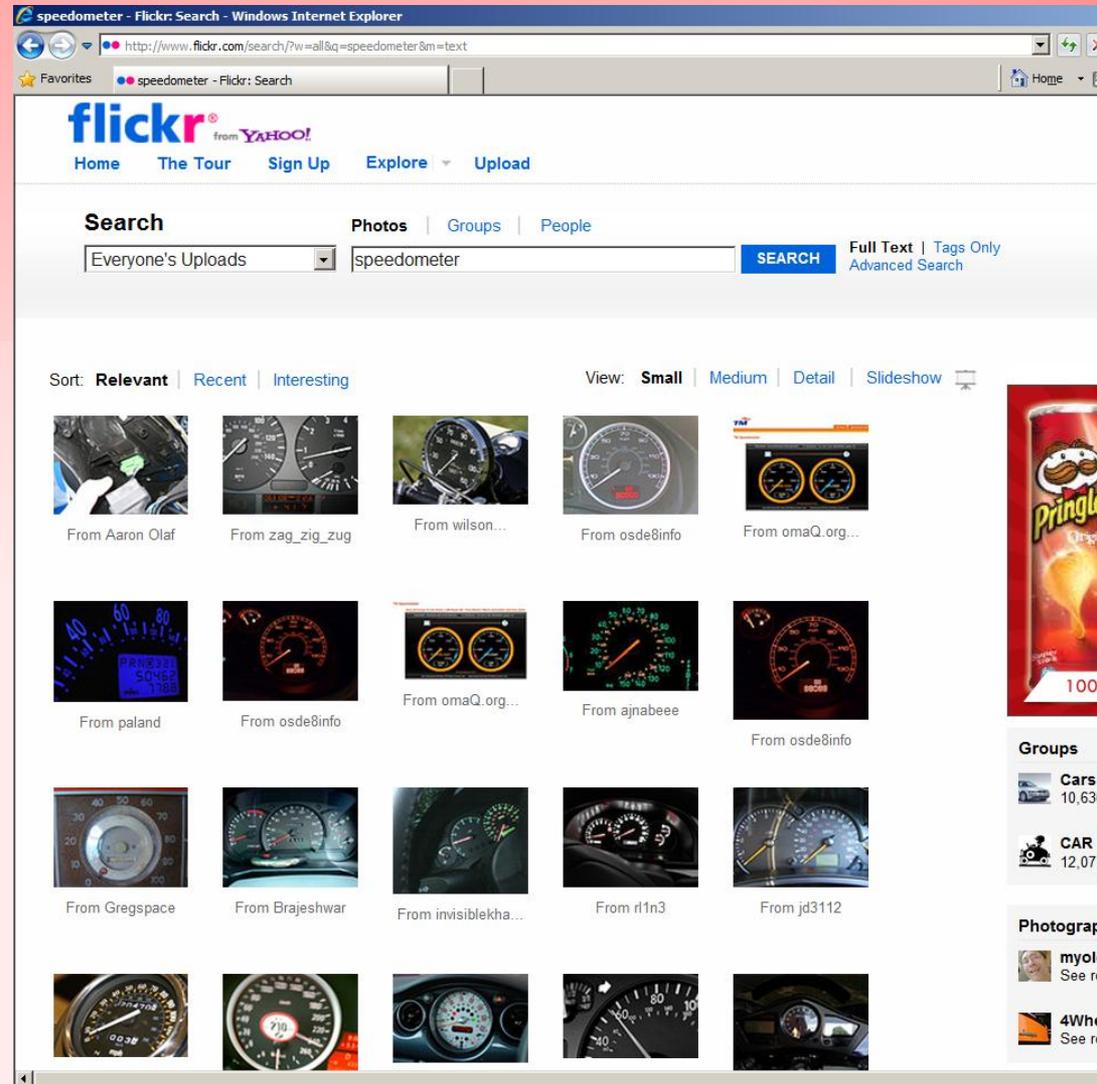
- This tutorial explains how to create a speedometer in Excel.
- The model is essentially a 2D scatter chart having as background the picture of a speedometer dial downloaded from www.flickr.com
- Before using the picture you need to erase the needle from the picture using Photoshop or other photo editing software (I downloaded **Gimp** an open source program with pretty nice features)
- In the model we will replace the deleted needle from the picture with a moving one created from a chart line
- The tutorial will not show you how to use Photoshop but it will casually introduce you to a free Photoshop substitute called Gimp.
- The underlying formulas used for rotating the speedometer needle will be explained in the next tutorial

Downloading the picture

- You can find many sources of royalty free images but one of the most popular is

Flickr: www.flickr.com

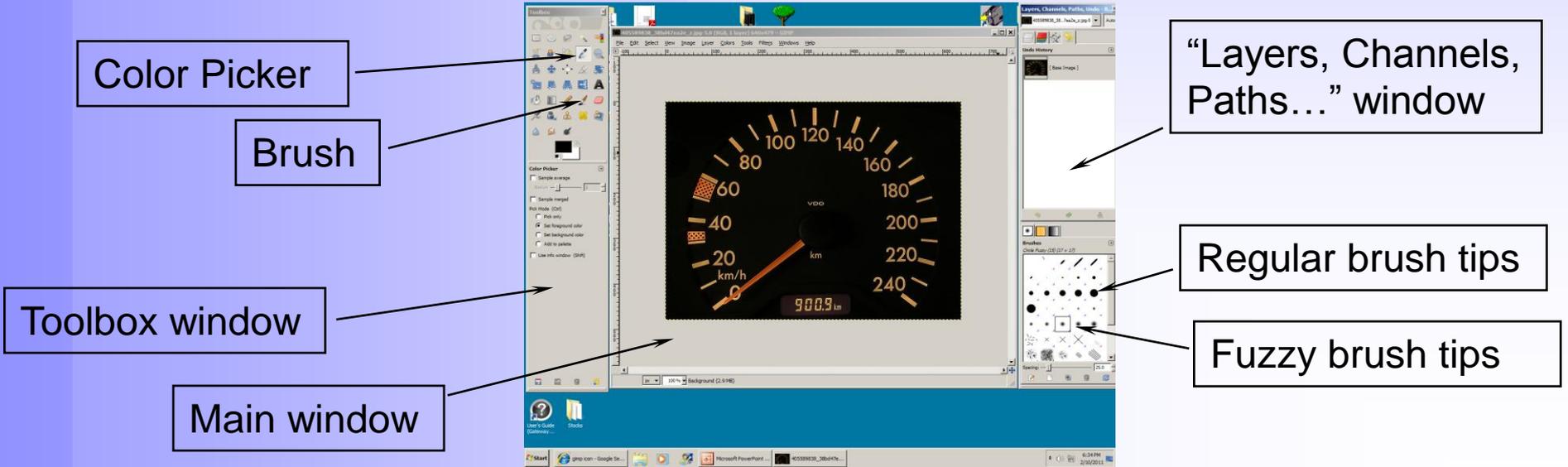
- Navigate to the site and type “speedometer” in the search box
- Choose one with a full dial and with a needle positioned away from any digits (so that we need to reconstruct as little of the dial as possible after the erasure of the needle).
- Right click the photo and select the resolution after which click “Save Picture As...”





Using Gimp to mask or remove the speedometer arm

- Download Gimp (from www.freeze.com or other source)
- After downloading start the program, then click: File -> Open, then select the file
- Click View -> Zoom In on the main central window (there are a total of 3 windows)
- The right window is called “Layers, Channels, Paths...” where you can select the type of brushes (I like to use regular small brushes or fuzzy brushes)
- The right window is called “Layers, Channels, Paths...” where you can select the type of brushes (I like to use regular small brushes or fuzzy brushes).
- The left window is called “Toolbox” and you will use two different type of tools: the brush and the color picker

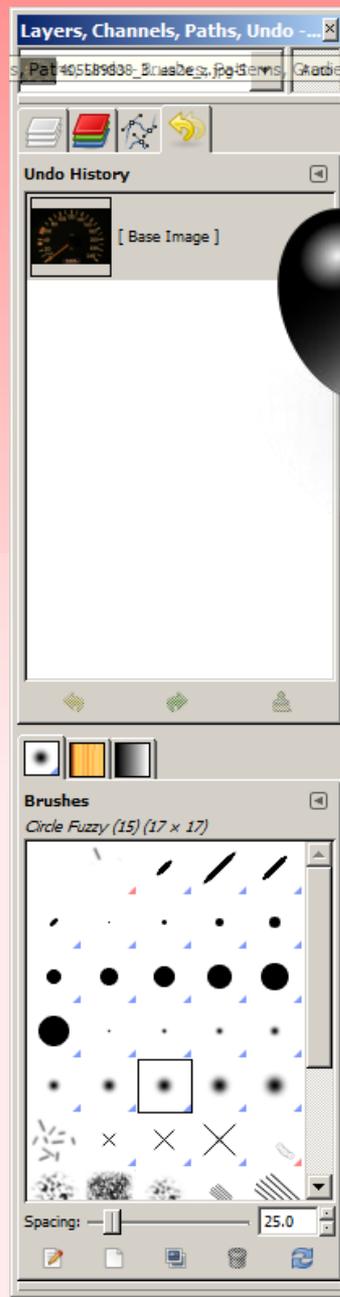


Color
Picker

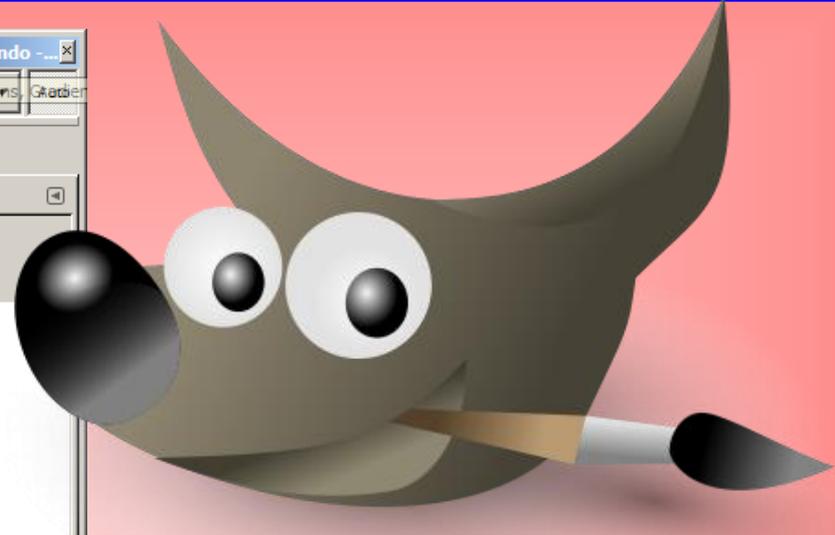
Brush



Toolbox window



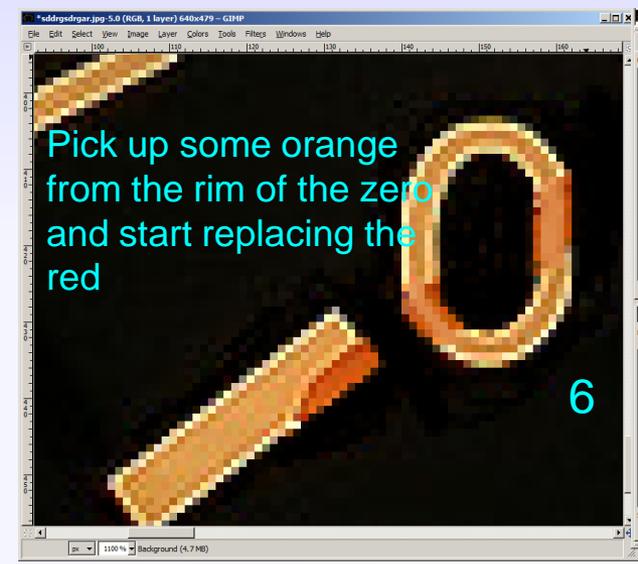
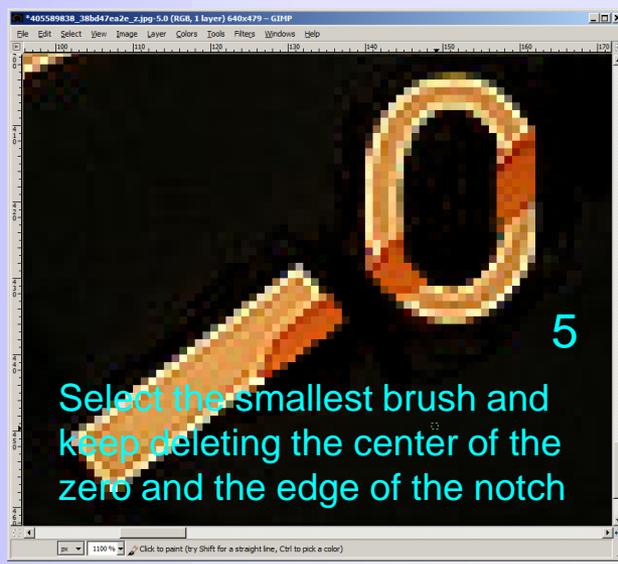
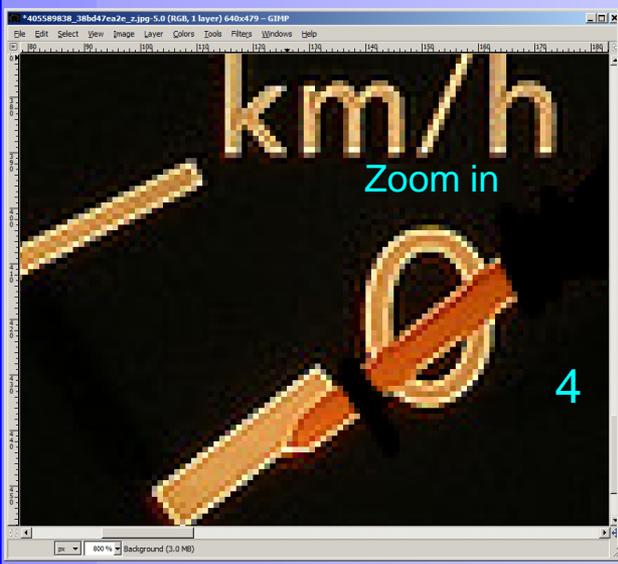
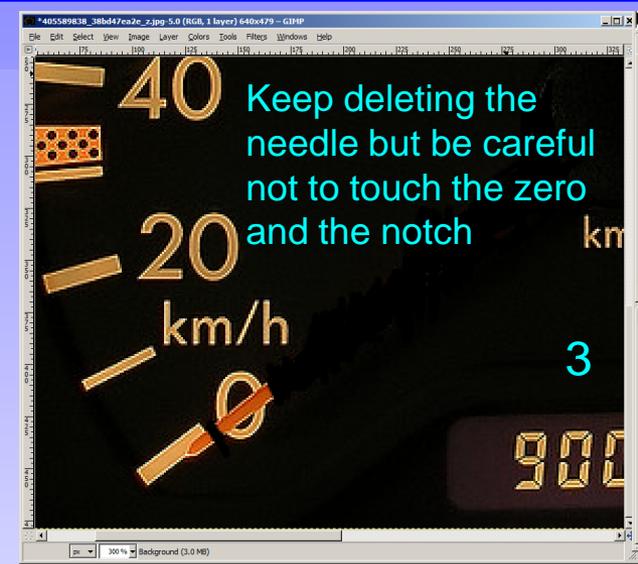
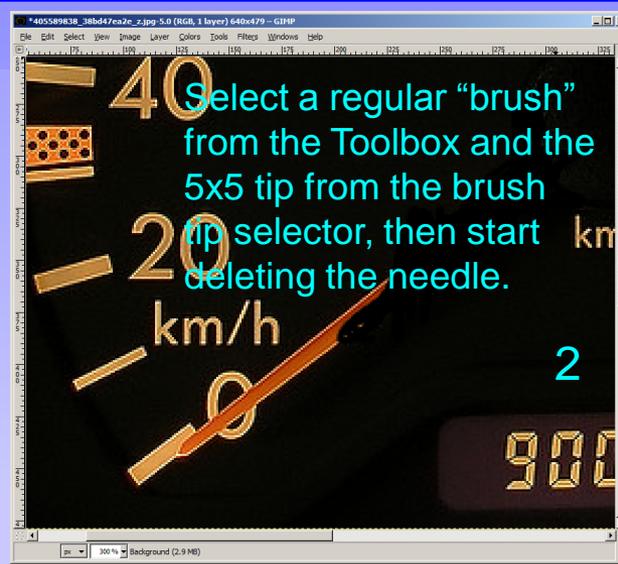
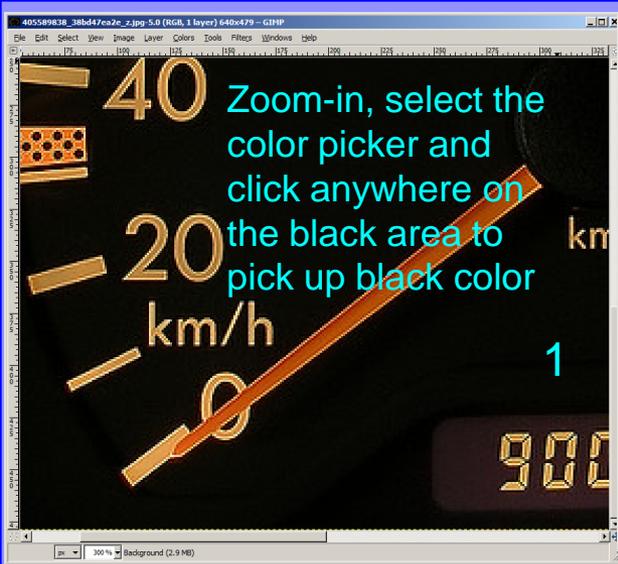
“Layers, Channels, Paths...” window

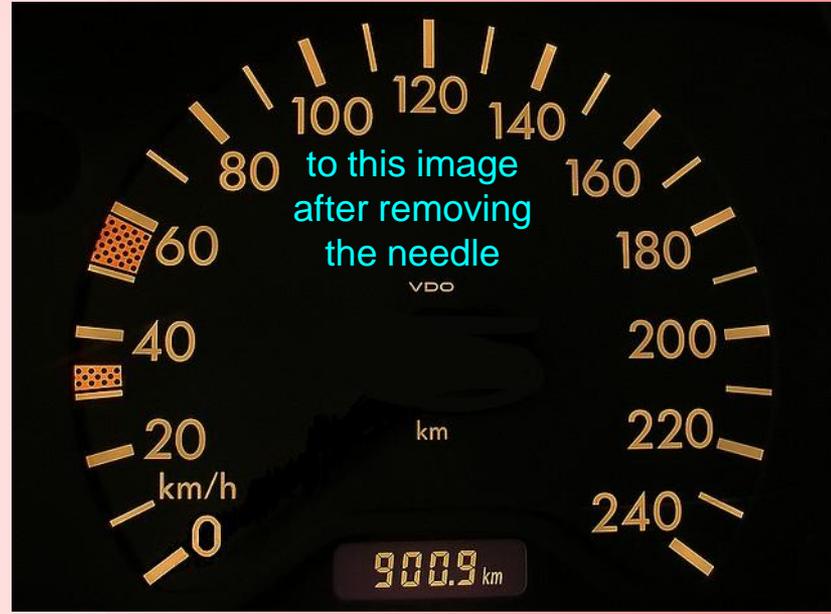
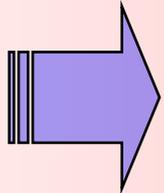
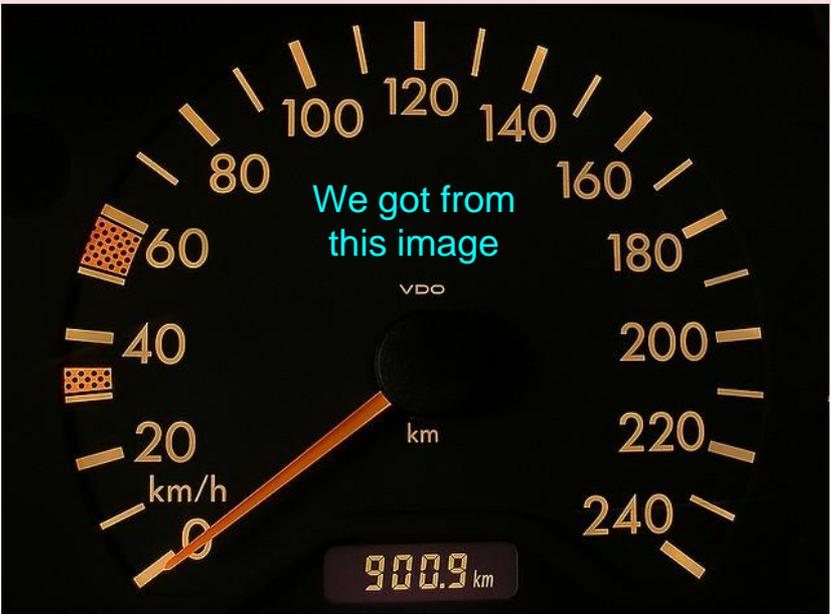
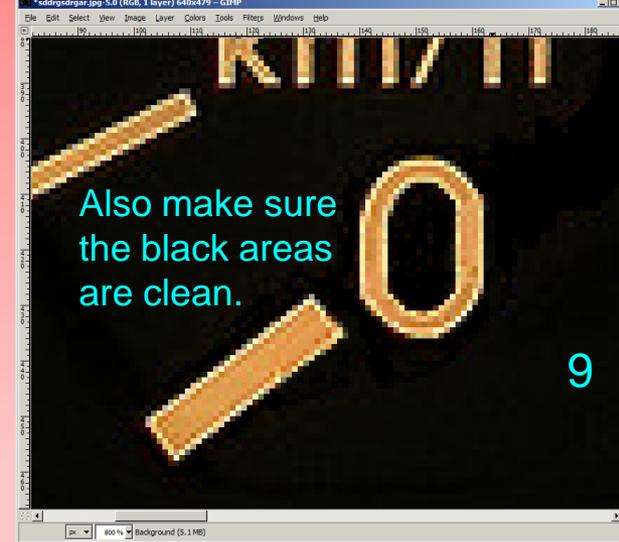
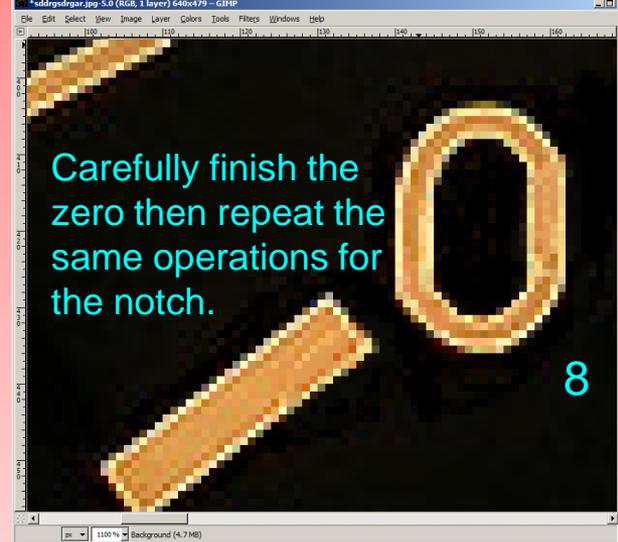
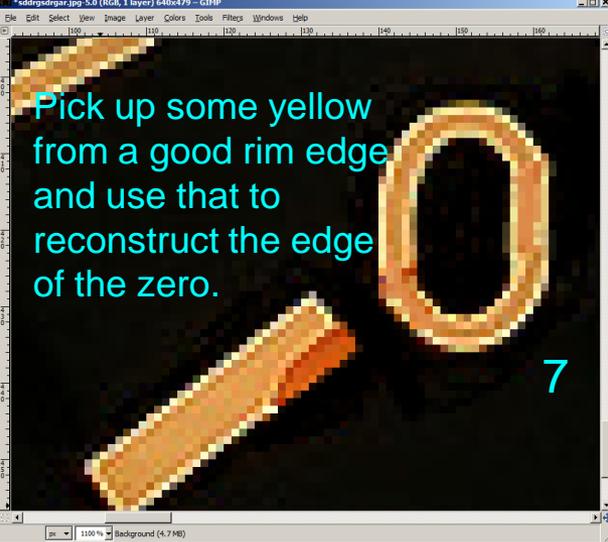


Gimp Logo

Regular brush tips

Fuzzy brush tips





To be continued...