

The Disintegrating Subject

You can create a shot like the one in *figure 1* adding **Layers**. Here's how-

Step 1: Load the main image you will end up with into Paint Shop Pro and IMMEDIATELY add it to the clipboard by choosing Edit→ Copy.

Step 2: The first step to making the target glow is by carefully creating a selection region around the subject and then set it to get bigger. Use the Freehand/Lasso tool for this. Then, to make the selected area “get bigger” choose Selections→ Modify→ Expand and select from about 10 - 20 pixels. Then feather the selection in the same manner...choose Selections→ Modify→ Feather and set the feather to 5 – 10 pixels.



figure 1.

Step 3: Adding the effect that will make the subject glow. Choose Colors→ Adjust→ Brightness/Contrast and jack the brightness up to the MAX! Click OK and you should see a pure white area where the subject used to be.

Step 4: You need to add the copy as a new layer into your image. Do this by selecting Edit→ Paste As New Layer. The glow will disappear since the copy of the original, unretouched image is now on top (Remember...Layers!) Reduce the layer's transparency in the Layer Palette dialogue box until you get the desired effect...about 10 – 30 percent ought to do it.

Step 5: The Phaser Blast. You can create a straight line in Paint Shop Pro by using the Draw tool and setting the Type as a Single Line, Width about 4, Line Style is up to you, and only have the Create as Vector box checked.

You can have some fun by getting some shots of people pretending to be shot by phasers and following the same procedure. You can also set up a mock light saber fight in front of a film editing screen (blue, black, green) so that the saber can be added more easily later. The main idea is to experiment and have fun!

Putting a Kid in a Jar

We will again be working with Layers. You will take or use a few pictures & combine them in layers within Paint Shop Pro and resize them to get the effect you are after. See *figure 2*.

Step 1: You will need a transparent jar for this. You can use a peanut butter jar, but any clear large container will do. Photograph someone peering curiously into it.

Step 2: You need to take a picture of the person who will be trapped inside the jar and pose him in front of a big backdrop...(blue screen-style backdrop just like in the movies ☺.) We will be using Pro-Boards (science fair project) for some of our photography to make the next step easier!



figure 2.

Step 3: Load the two images into Paint Shop Pro, but bring the trapped kid to the front to work on first.

Step 4: This next step will be easier if you photographed the subject in front of a blue screen/solid color backdrop. Use the Magic Wand tool until the entire background is selected and the target is “encased.” *You can use a subtle feathering in the Tool Options dialogue box will help you out later.

Step 5: Only when the entire background has been selected you then choose Selections→ Invert from the menu. (you can also use the Freehand set to SmartEdge selection tool if you had an irregular background in the photo.)

Step 6: Once the subject is selected, you then copy it to the Clipboard by choosing Edit→ Copy from the menu.

Step 7: Click on the Jar Photograph, bringing it to the front (active window.) Choose Edit→ Paste→ As New Layer from the menu.

Step 8: You now need to shrink the subject. Choose Image→ Resize from the menu. You will need to remove the check from **Resize all layers**, found near the bottom. In the **Percent of Original box**, you need to select a number you think will reduce the picture size of your subject to fit in the jar...trial & error ☺!

Step 9: Click on the subject & drag it on top of the jar to position it just right.

- The subject layer might still appear to be on top of the jar layer instead of looking like it is “inside” the jar. You can create another jar and Paste that image as a **New Layer**. The Subject will “disappear” and you will then need to play around with setting the transparency of the Subject to “bring them out.”