Are you wondering if you can extract flames from one image and use them in another image? Of course you can! It's easy. It's simple. It's fun. And we will do it right now using the Extract feature in Adobe® Photoshop.® Here are the basics you need to know about extracting flames. Flames consist of shades of yellow to red. So we are going to use a special feature— Force Foreground—to force the foreground to be one of the shades in the flame. Here we go…
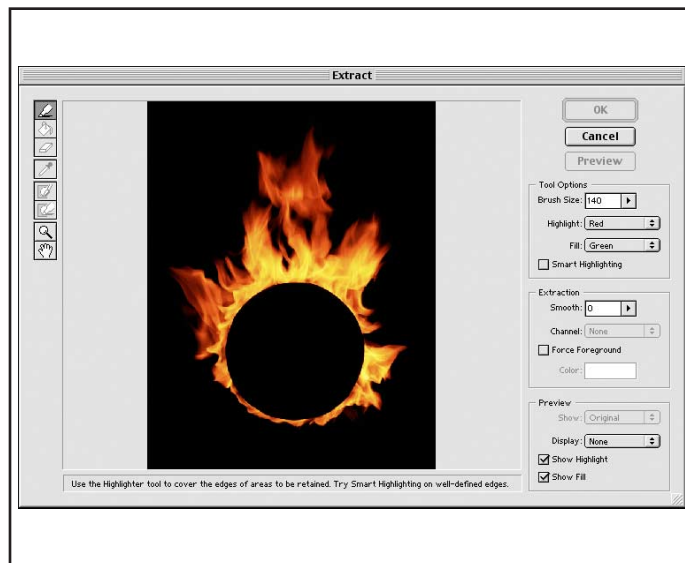
Russell Preston Brown of Adobe shows you a supper special feature in Adobe Photoshop.
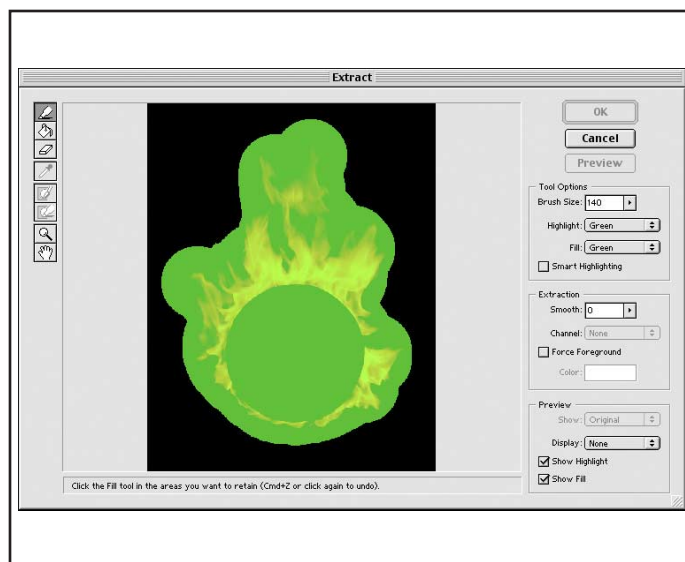**INTERMEDIATE**

EXTRACTING FLAMES

1. Open the flames in Photoshop. Choose Image > Extract to load the flames into the Extract window.
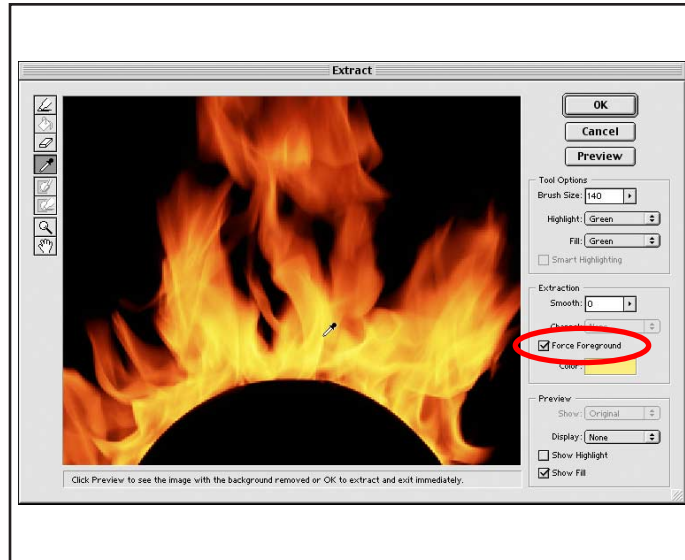

2. Select the edge highlighter tool and paint over the flames using a large brush, making sure no flames are poking beyond the highlighted area.
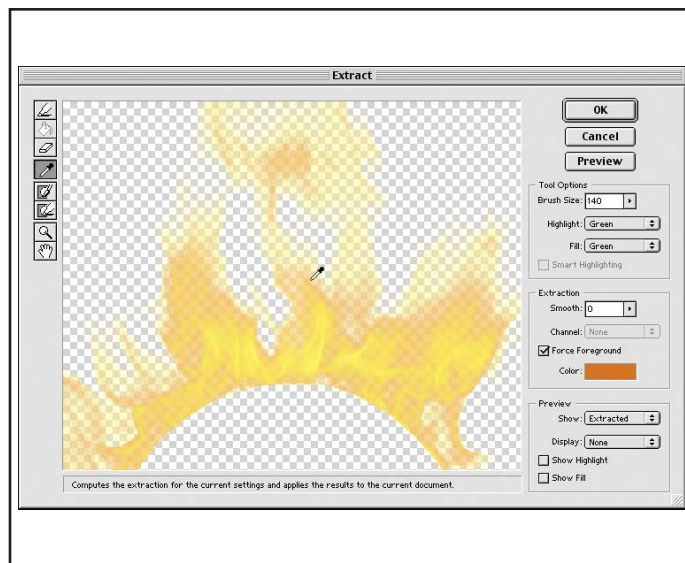

Highlight Color
To see your highlight better, you can change the highlighting color within the Extract window, under the Tool Options.

3. For more detail, zoom in. Temporarily turn off (uncheck) the Show Highlight, under the Preview options. Next we will use the special Force Foreground feature. Click that on, and then select the eyedropper tool and choose a bright yellow color.

Force Foreground
This option allows you to select a shade of a color from your image, and then it automatically chooses the background color to which it will transition that shade.
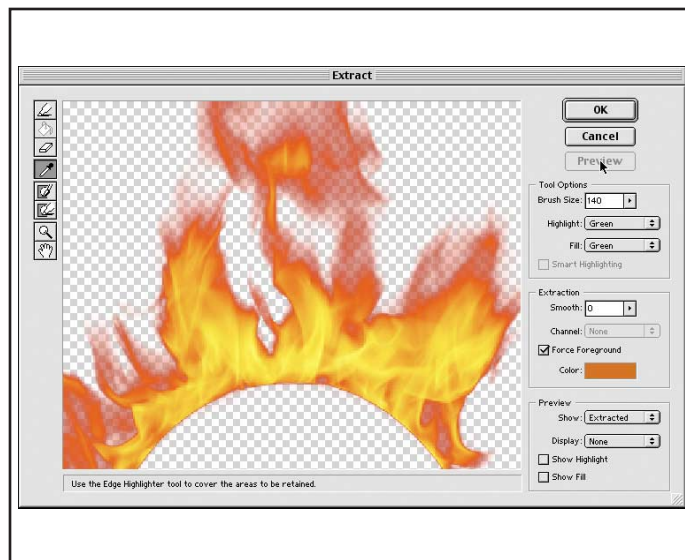
4. To see what you get, click Preview. Interesting, but it's a little bit light, and we would like more detail. This time with the eyedropper tool, select a midtone darker value.
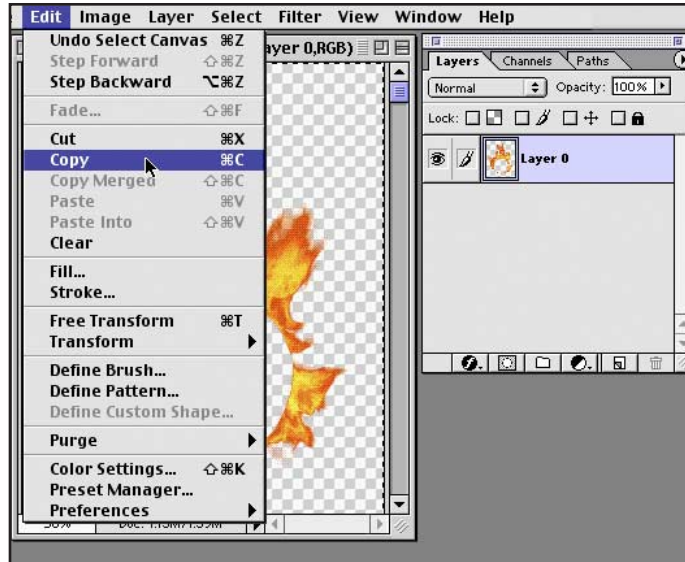

Artifacting?
Adjust the Smooth value to get rid of any artifacting along the edges of your image.

5. Click Preview again. Now THAT looks better. The moral of the story is the lighter the shade you choose, the lighter the value. However, if you choose a midtone, it gives you dark shades and light shades.

Let's use these extracted flames in a project. Click OK.

6. Select all of the image and copy it.

7. Open a second image and paste the flames. Notice how nicely the flames transition to the background. Amazing detail! They are a bit large though, so let's choose Edit > Transform > Scale, and while holding down the Shift key to constrain the ratio, size the flames down. Once they're sized and in position, press Enter.

8. To finish this project, select the background in the Layers palette. Also select the burn tool from the Tool palette. In the Burn Options palette, set the Highlights to 20%. With a good size brush, paint behind the flames to darken them. Reduce the brush size and paint more to add the details. And there you have it!

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