

CIV4 FLAG BUTTON MAKER – GIMP TUTORIAL

Ok. So here's the method for making flag buttons ala civ4 style in Gimp using Civ4 Flag Button Maker.

Of course you will need freeware Gimp and plugin that allows to export to .dds (plugin is not necessary but makes life easier).

<http://www.gimp.org/>

<http://registry.gimp.org/plugin?id=4816>

First we choose nice flag of country we would like use.

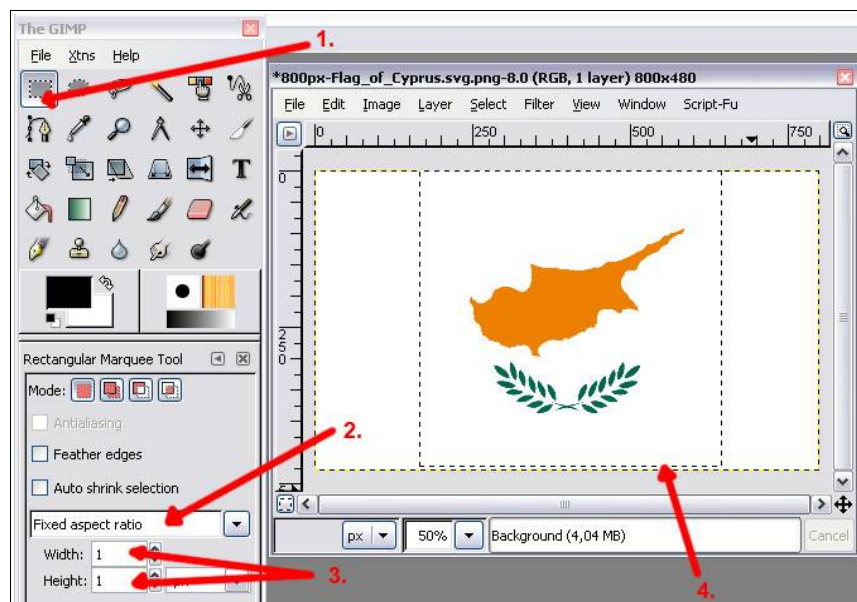
For example from Wikipedia (public domain – so you can use it without restrictions)

http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Image:Flag_of_Cyprus.svg



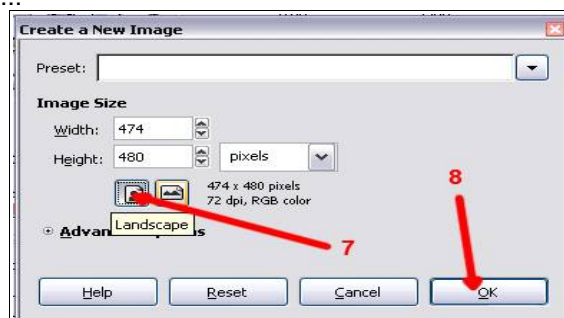
The next step is to select the square inside the flag and resize it to good size.

1. Select Rectangular Marquee Tool
2. Change to Fixed Aspect Ratio
3. Choose Width and Height to 1 – so we make sure this way we select square
4. Draw square



Of course not always this method would be best. So it's recommended to make some tutorials about selections (which are in abundance in web) or basic graphics.

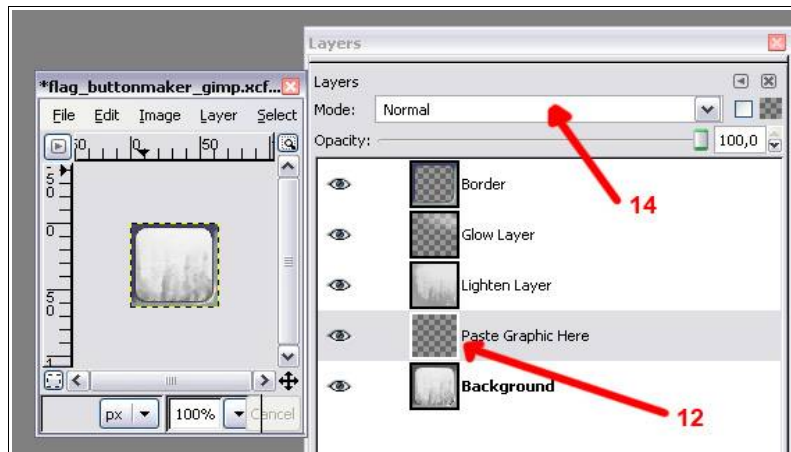
5. Copy the selection ("Ctrl" + "c" or Menu Edit / Copy)
6. Select Menu File / New...



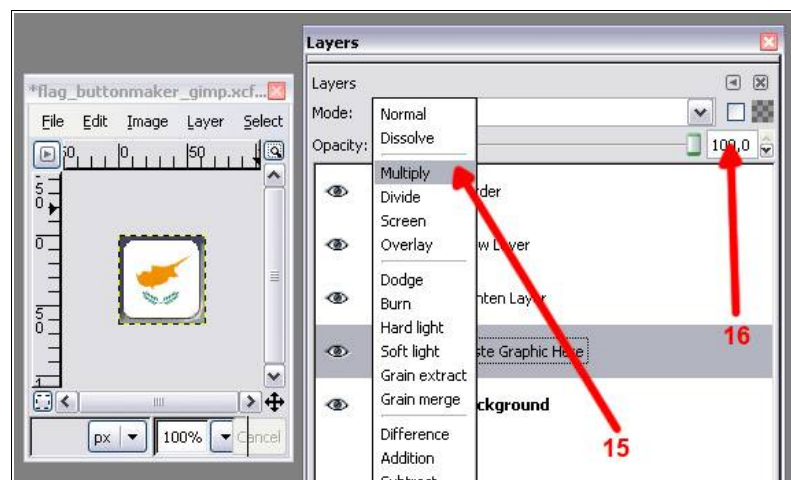
7. Click on portrait
8. Click ok
9. Paste Selection ("Ctrl" + "v" or Menu Edit/Paste)
10. Go to Menu Image / Image Size and resize it to 56x56 pixels
11. Now select everything once again and copy (ctrl + c)

Working in Flag Button Maker

It's good when you know about using Layers in Photoshop – if not you may check for tutorials in internet. The main idea of buttonmaker are Layers wich will make your flag look ala Civ4 Style.



12. Make sure you have selected Layer Paste Flag Here
13. We need to paste resized Cyprus Flag Square (Menu Edit Paste or "ctrl" + "v")
14. Click on the selected with arrow area



15. And Choose Multiply
16. You may change value of Opacity (You can move also it in other Layers, but i think i choosed optimal values)
17. We need to save it now - File/Save as. If you have plugin installed you may save it as .dds.

And the final result is:



Notice that it may differ a little bit from Civ4 Buttons (I tried to recreate it) – but it's very similliar to the buttons in Civ4.

