



# Intermediate Graphics

In Serif PhotoPlus X4 


## Cloning

By the end of this task I...

- 1) can explain the term cloning pixels
- 2) will know the importance of selecting the right area to copy
- 3) Can successfully use the clone tool to copy an area of a photo

### What is Cloning?

The word clone means to create a copy something. In digital photograph editing this means copying pixels.

The clone brush  allows you to select part of a photo and then use this as a paintbrush on another area. If carefully done this technique allows you to alter photos quite dramatically.

The clone tool was used

See if you can find the differences between the before and after photos below?



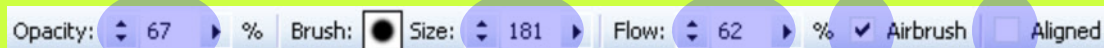
## Using the Clone Tool

Cloning takes a bit a practise so we will start with something simple. In this task you are going to remove the clouds from a photo, leaving a nice clean, blue sky.



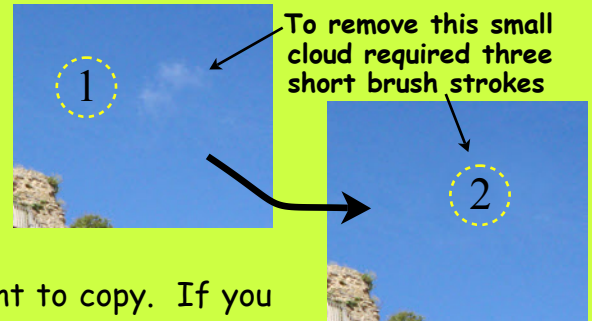
**Step 1** Start up Serif PhotoPlus.  
Open the file called 'Sky with Clouds' in the Cloning folder

**Step 2** Click on the clone tool  and make the changes shown below.



To use the clone tool you must repeat the two steps below.

- 1 Hold down the shift key and left click on the area you want to copy.
- 2 Use short drags and mouse clicks over the area you are changing until the colours have blended in.

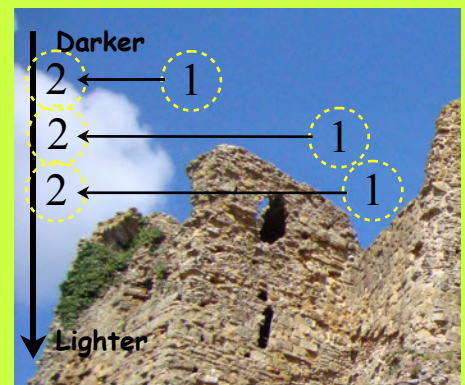


Always look carefully at the area you want to copy. If you don't get the right area (colour and pattern) your clone will not blend into the photo.

**Step 3** Now try and remove this first piece of cloud yourself.  
If you make a mistake press Ctrl + Z to undo one or more brush strokes.

**Step 4** The left hand cloud is a much larger area. Larger areas are difficult to clone convincingly as its harder to get the colours to match.

Look for how the colour changes through the area. In your head split the area into zones and clone it in stages taking the colour from different parts of the photo. Try this technique now.



**Step 5** To get the bits of cloud next to the wall, zoom in using the scroll wheel on the mouse. Change to a smaller brush size to clone the small detail.

**Step 6** Now finish the task by removing the last cloud on the right.

**Try -** This is a difficult task so only attempt it if you like a challenge. Open the file called 'Fighting' in the cloning folder. Use the clone tool to completely remove the soldier with the red vest, leaving only his shadow. There will be an S2 prize for the most convincing fake photo.

