



# KnockOut 2 For Windows®

Reviewer's Guide



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## Welcome to procreate™

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## What is KnockOut 2 Masking Software?

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KnockOut 2 is a fast and powerful masking tool plug-in for Adobe® Photoshop®, Corel PHOTO-PAINT®, and Painter 7 that helps graphics professionals mask complex or detailed objects to create high-end photo composites.

Complex masking, especially masking irregular or transparent edges, can be a slow, laborious process that reduces graphics professionals' productivity and limits their creativity. While most image-editing applications contain some sort of masking functionality, few tools exist that let users mask complex, detailed images both quickly and easily, while still retaining all of the properties of the original image. KnockOut 2 addresses this problem by giving graphics professionals the functionality they need to mask virtually any object and create stunning composites with masked images that are identical to the original images.

KnockOut 2 simply and quickly raises the quality of photo composites, while dramatically increasing user productivity. Because it uses complex algorithms to mask objects, KnockOut 2 lets users mask detailed objects, such as hair, smoke, water, glass and shadows, in a fraction of the time. Combined with a variety of new and enhanced features, KnockOut 2 gives graphics professionals functionality that exceeds the masking tools in standard imaging applications.

KnockOut 2 has a number of tools that make separating the foreground object from the background significantly less time-consuming than traditional masking techniques. Users can easily select objects for masking in a digital photo by using the Inside Object and Outside Object tools; the Inside Shadow and Outside Shadow tools; the Inside Syringe tool; and the Edge Feather tool. These tools allow users to produce soft transitions around foreground edges and remove all traces of the visible background. This creates images that can be used for creating clean composites with no residual background from the original photos.

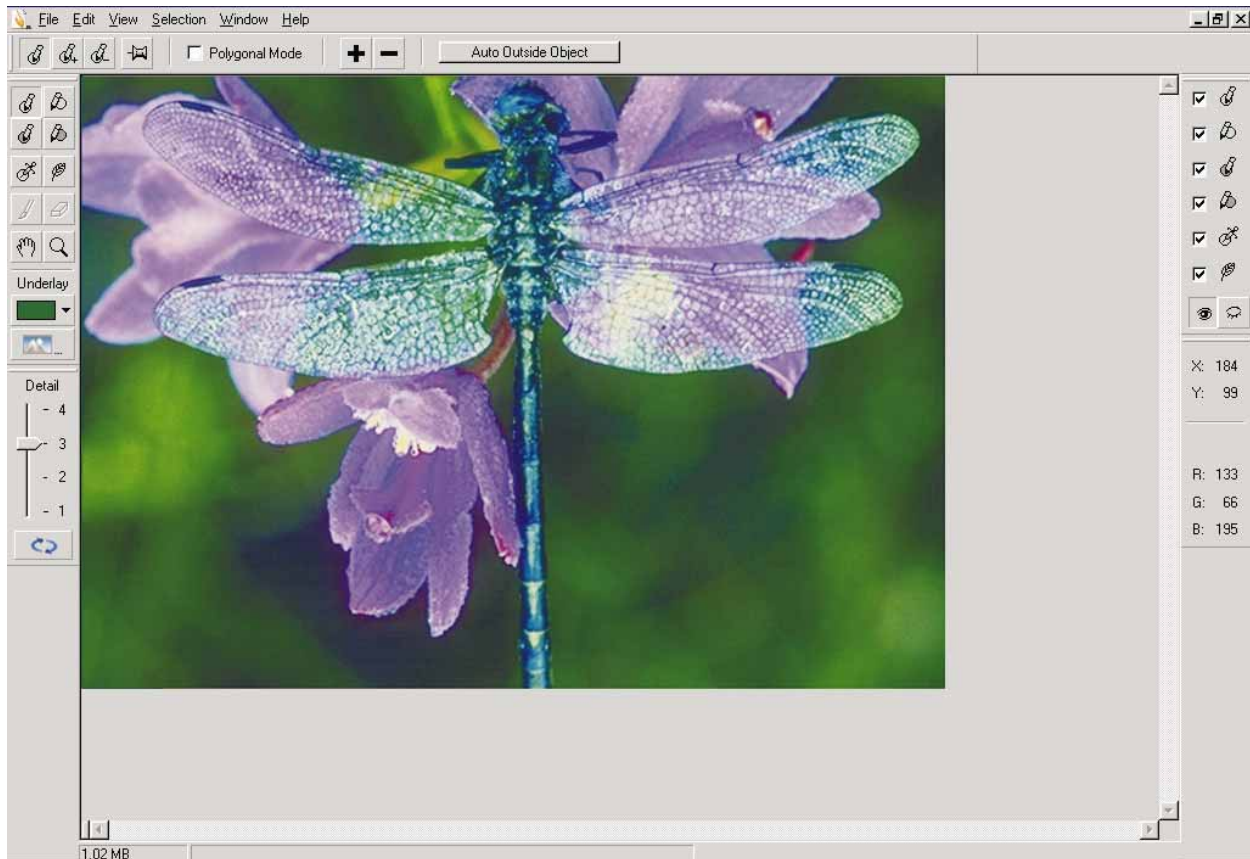
As a plug-in, KnockOut 2 integrates seamlessly into any workflow. It is intuitive and designed specifically to serve as a masking tool for users already familiar with Adobe Photoshop. To this end, it features a similar user interface (UI) as well as similar shortcut keys.

## New and Enhanced Features

KnockOut 2 includes a number of new features as well as enhancements to existing features.

**Zoom tool:** The Zoom tool in KnockOut 2 has been dramatically improved. Users can zoom in on an image at predefined zoom levels using a drop-down list. This gives users greater control and flexibility when preparing their images.

**Multiple Undo/Redo:** KnockOut 2 now supports up to 99 levels of Undo/Redo. Users can specify how many Undo or Redo levels they require and select which shortcut keys they prefer to use for Redo.



Windows® user interface

## KnockOut 2

### R E V I E W E R ' S G U I D E

**Polygonal Line tool:** The selection tools in KnockOut 2 have a polygonal mode that lets users define the selection by points or freehand. This makes it easier for users to mask large, complex images.

**Reduced memory requirements:** This saves disk space without sacrificing functionality and enhances the ease with which KnockOut 2 integrates into an existing tool set.

**Improved user guide, online documentation and tutorials:** KnockOut 2 includes improved documentation and tutorials, which help users get started quickly.

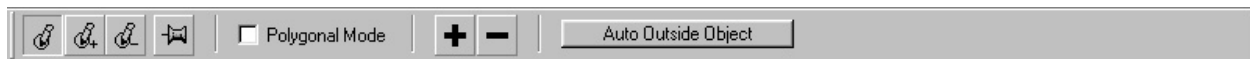
**Revert File option:** This allows the user to revert to an image's earlier or original state if many changes have been made and the user wishes to discard unwanted changes. If an image has never been saved, KnockOut 2 will retrieve the image from the host application or file and discard the current image. If an image has previously been saved, KnockOut 2 will revert to the last saved state and discard the current image.

**CMYK color support:** Users can now work with CMYK images, which ensures that KnockOut 2 can easily fit into any workflow.

**Enhanced shortcut keys:** KnockOut 2 features shortcut keys that are similar to those in Adobe Photoshop, which provides users with enhanced ease-of-use and a quick learning curve. This allows graphics professionals to streamline their workflow and work in the manner to which they are most accustomed.

**Touchup tools:** KnockOut 2 includes a Brush and Eraser, enabling users to perform fine corrections to masked images. Users can use the Touchup tools to ensure that the images in their composites are virtually indistinguishable from the original images.

**Property Bar:** The Property Bar gives users quick access to commonly used controls. Auto Outside Object, for example, lets users automatically create an outside selection after having created an inside selection on the image.



Property Bar

## Key Features

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**Streamlined workflow:** Because it is an Adobe Photoshop plug-in, KnockOut 2 features similar shortcut keys, UI menus and commands. This reduces the learning curve for users who have made Adobe Photoshop an integral part of their tool set.

**Live color swatch:** When users point to an area of an image with the Inside Syringe tool, a circle beside the syringe cursor (the color swatch) displays the color under the tip of the syringe cursor. When users insert a syringe color, the color swatch displays the color to be inserted.

**Automatic error correction:** KnockOut 2 automatically recognizes errors in selections and does not permit users to make selections that will cause errors. For example, if the user has created an inside selection and then draws an outside selection that intersects with the inside selection, KnockOut 2 will correct the selection by moving it away from the first selection boundary by a specified number of pixels. If the user is working with the Pushpin or Tweezers, KnockOut 2 will display a different cursor and will not allow the action to be performed.

**Background insert:** Users can insert Adobe Photoshop, JPEG, Macintosh PICT and TIFF images as a background after processing the foreground of an image. KnockOut 2 also includes a library of images that users can insert, or users can import their own images.

**Inside Object and Outside Object tools:** The Inside Object tool draws the marquee selection lines that define the color in the interior of the transition area or the foreground object. The Outside Object tool draws the lines that define the color in the background of the transition area. Holding down the Command key turns the Inside Object and Outside Object tools into the Pushpin and Tweezers tools respectively for selection areas too small for the standard marquee lines.

**Inside Shadow and Outside Shadow tools:** The Inside Shadow and Outside Shadow tools draw the lines that define the interior and exterior of a shadow. This allows graphics professionals to preserve the transparency and realism of shadows and highlights.

**Inside Syringe tool:** The Inside Syringe tool lets users sample the interior colors of an object when it is not possible to define the foreground or background of an object with the Inside Object or Outside Object tools.

**Edge Feather tool:** The Edge Feather tool lets users create edge transitions when the foreground and background colors of an object are so similar that the transition area cannot easily be identified.

**Info Palette:** The Info Palette displays the XY coordinates and the RGB or CMYK values for the pixel under the pointer.

**Transition Complexity:** The Transition Complexity tool has four settings to describe the amount of detail in the foreground and background areas of an image. Users can create a more precise mask by choosing the setting that is appropriate for the image.

**Underlay Color Palette:** After processing an image, the processed foreground can be displayed against various colors. The Underlay Color Palette lets users see their masked image on different colored backgrounds.

## Minimum System Requirements

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- Windows® 98, Windows 2000, Windows NT® 4.0, Windows Me or Windows XP
- IBM-compatible PC, Pentium® 200 or higher
- Adobe® Photoshop® 5 or higher (or compatible host)
- 128 MB RAM [3X image size (RGB + Alpha) recommended]
- 30 MB or greater available hard disk space
- SVGA monitor with 24-bit color display adapter
- 2X CD-ROM drive
- Mouse or tablet

## Where Do I Get More Information?

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For reader contact information, contact the customer service department at **1-800-772-6735**.

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