Finding Images for Manipulation

Finding an image to use for your image manipulation project sounds easy, right? It can be, but you have to keep in mind that copyright laws restrict what you can use. Many of the images you'll find in *Google Images* are protected by copyright.

This guide is designed to help you find images you can use for your image manipulation project.

- [Why Can't I Just Use Any Image I Want?](#)
- [So, How Do I Find Images I Can Use?](#)
- [What If The Image I Want To Use Is Protected By Copyright?](#)
- [How Do I Give Credit?](#)
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Why Can't I Just Use Any Image I Want?

In the United States, most things created today have automatic copyright protection. This means that many of the images you find online cannot be used without permission from the owner. A good rule of thumb when searching for images is to assume that anything you find is copyrighted, unless it expressly says it is not.

So, How Do I Find Images I Can Use?

Although many images are protected by copyright, not all of them are. In addition, some copyrighted works have licenses that let you use them. When you find an image you like, look for information about the image that will tell you if you can use it for your manipulation project. Two types of images to look for are:

- [Public Domain Images](#)
- [Images with a Creative Commons License](#)

Public Domain Images

Works with an expired copyright are in the public domain, which means you can use them without permission from the creator. Anything published in the United States before 1923 is in the public domain; some works created after 1923 are also in it. Here's a handy chart to determine public domain status, from Cornell University: https://copyright.cornell.edu/resources/publicdomain.cfm

Many works created by the U.S. federal government are also in the public domain. Here are some places to look for governmental and other public domain images:

- [Flickr Commons](#): User-submitted public domain images.

- [Gimp-Savy](#): Public domain images from various U.S. government agencies, such as NASA and NOAA.
- [List of Public Domain Image Resources (From Wikipedia)](#)
- [Public Domain Media on Wikimedia](#): Public domain content organized by topic area.
- [Public-Domain-Image.com](#): Various images in the public domain organized into different categories.

Also, keep your eyes out for public domain symbols like these:

Images with a Creative Commons License

You can use a copyrighted work if the owner of it gives you permission to do so. One way copyright owners give permission for re-use is through licenses. The most popular of these licenses are from Creative Commons (CC). To search for images with CC licenses, use the *Creative Commons Search*: http://search.creativecommons.org.

If you find an image that has a CC license, you need to determine what kind of permission the owner has granted you. Creative Commons has 6 different licenses; not all of them allow for image manipulation:

CC License	How to Use
Attribution (by) http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/	You can use an image with this license as long as you reference the owner and note any changes in the online exhibit.
Attribution Share Alike (by-sa) http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/	To use, you must give credit to the owner, note changes, and make your work available with the same CC-BY-SA license in the online exhibit.
Attribution No Derivatives (by-nd) http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nd/4.0/	You cannot use a (by-nd) image for your image manipulation because this license states that you cannot remix, transform, or build upon the original work.
Attribution Non-commercial (by-nc) http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/	You need to credit the original work's creator and note any changes in the online exhibit. Your re-use of the work cannot be used for monetary or business purposes.
Attribution Non-commercial Share Alike (by-nc-sa) http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/	Combine the steps for a (by-nc) and (by-sa) license.

Attribution Non-commercial No Derivatives (by-nc-nd) CC BY NC ND http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/	You cannot use a (by-nc-nd) image for your image manipulation because this license states that you cannot do not remix, transform, or build upon the original work.

What If the Image I Want to Use is Protected by Copyright?

If the image you want to use for your project is protected by copyright, you have a couple of options:

- Fair Use
- Get Permission to Use a Copyrighted Work

Fair Use

In some cases, United States copyright law allows for the "fair use" of works without permission. To determine if your use of an image is fair, you'll need to do a four-factor analysis:

- *Factor 1: Purpose and character of the use*
  - Use weighs toward fair if:
    - It is personal, non-profit, or educational.
    - The work is used for a new purpose.
    - The use of the work is "transformative."
- *Factor 2: Nature of the work*
  - Use weighs toward fair if:
    - The image is fact-based (not creative).
    - The image is published.
- *Factor 3: Amount of the copyrighted work used*
  - Use tends toward fair if:
    - You do not use a substantial percentage or the "heart" of the work.
    - You use only the part of the work that is necessary.
- *Factor 4: Effect of the use upon the market*
  - Use tends toward fair if:
    - Your use does not cause the copyright owner to lose income.
    - It is difficult to find the copyright owner to request permission for the work.

When doing a fair use analysis, you must consider all four factors. We encourage you to use fair use if appropriate, but remember that it is a defense against copyright infringement and not an exemption.

Get Permission to Use Copyrighted Works

If you find an image you want to manipulate that isn't in the public domain and doesn't have a license, you can ask permission from the copyright owner. It can be difficult to determine who owns the copyright and/or hard to find the contact information for the copyright owner, so you may have to be

persistent and patient. Be sure to get the permission in writing and make sure that you have permission for your exact use.

How Do I Give Credit?

You will want to make sure that anyone who views your image manipulation can find the original image by providing appropriate credit in the attribution field of the exhibit. The elements of a credit line will change depending on the type of image you use.

- **Public domain images**: Provide a link to the original image. It is also good to include the name of the image owner if it is available.

- **Creative Commons images**:   Include the name of the original image's owner, the type of CC license, a link to the license (available at https://creativecommons.org/licenses/), and a link to the source of the original image. Remember, if you use a CC-BY-SA image, you must also make your work available as a CC-BY-SA work. This can also be done in the attribution field of the exhibit by stating the work "is provided under CC BY-SA" along with a link to the license.

- **Images used with permission**: Provide the name of the original owner, state that the image is "used with permission," and provide a link to the original image.

What Resources Can I Use To Find Images?

Listed below are the sites discussed in this guide:

- Creative Commons Search: Portal for searching various websites and search engines for CC-licensed images.
- Flickr Commons: User-submitted public domain images.
- Gimp-Savy: Public domain images from various U.S. government agencies, such as NASA and NOAA.
- List of Public Domain Image Resources (From Wikipedia)
- Public Domain Media on Wikimedia: Public domain content organized by topic area.
- Public-Domain-Image.com: Various images in the public domain organized into different categories.

Determining whether or not you can use an image for your image manipulation might feel a bit challenging. Don't let that stop you: just use your best judgment and be careful about the content you choose. We look forward to seeing your work!