

## How to work

To create a collage using **AKVIS Chameleon** do the following:

1. Open an image with the object that you want to use for creating a collage (Pic. 1).
2. Select an object that you want to transfer with any selection tool. The selection does not have to be precise.
3. Call **AKVIS -> Chameleon - Grab Fragment** from the Filter menu of the photo editor.

**Adobe Photoshop** - Filter -> AKVIS -> Chameleon - Grab Fragment; **Paint Shop Pro** - Effects -> Plugins -> AKVIS -> Chameleon - Grab Fragment; **Corel PHOTO-PAINT** - Effects -> AKVIS -> Chameleon - Grab Fragment.

If everything is done correctly you'll see a message that selected object is saved into the clipboard.

4. Open an image that will be used as a background for the future collage (Pic. 2) and call the command **AKVIS -> Chameleon - Make Collage** from the menu Filters.

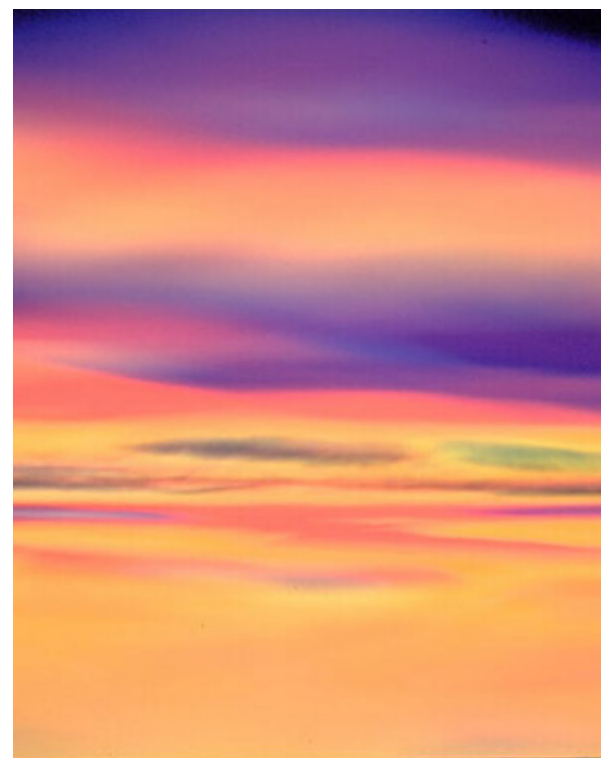
**Adobe Photoshop** - Filter -> AKVIS -> Chameleon - Make Collage; **Paint Shop Pro** - Effects -> Plugins -> AKVIS -> Chameleon - Make Collage; **Corel PHOTO-PAINT** - Effects -> AKVIS -> Chameleon - Make Collage.

The **AKVIS Chameleon** window will open. The window will contain the background image and the inserted object.

**Note:** If you begin with the step 4, the program will load the last used fragment.



Pic. 1.



Pic. 2.

5. Press the left-mouse button in the drop-down menu in the **Settings panel** and choose the necessary collage mode (**Montage**, **Chameleon**, **Blend**).
- **Montage.** In the **Montage** mode the program combines images to create a seamless photo montage. It transfers selected objects to a new background and makes the irrelevant parts of the pasted fragment fade away. The object does not change its color range or opacity. This mode is good to use for creating photo collages with people (pasting a person into a new background).
  - **Chameleon.** In the **Chameleon** mode the program adjusts the inserted object to the target image color range and smoothes the object's borders. It looks similar to the way a chameleon adapts to the environment.
  - **Blend Mode.** In the **Blend mode** the program does not only smoothes the borders of the inserted object and adjusts its color range, but it also makes the object semi-transparent, so that the texture and the relief of the primary image can be seen through. Use this mode if you want to "dissolve" the inserted image in the background.



**Montage mode**




**Chameleon mode**




**Blend mode**

6. Set the value of the **Opacity** parameter. This parameter is auxiliary and **does not influence the final result**. Use it when you need to position the fragment on the image at a high accuracy. The parameter can have the following values: 25%, 50%, 75%, and 100%. With 100% the pasted object is solid. The lower the value of the parameter, the more transparent is the fragment.


7. Press the button  button to start the process of the collage creation. The result will be shown in the **After** tab. You can switch between the tabs using the button **Tab**.


If you are not satisfied with the result in the **Montage** mode switch to **Before** tab (the button **Tab**) and draw the contour accurately.

Then press the button  again.

8. You can save the fragment used for the collage: press the button  ( **Ctrl+S** ( **Command+S** on Macintosh) hot-key) on the **Control Panel**, in the **Save fragment and strokes** dialog box enter a name for the file and indicate a folder to which you want to save the file.

The fragment will be saved with the **.chameleonFragment** extension. The file will contain information about the fragment's location, the settings and the drawn contours (only for Montage mode).

Open the saved fragment with the button  ( **Ctrl+O** ( **Command+O** on Macintosh) hot-key) and choose the fragment in the **Load fragment and strokes** dialog box.

9. Press the button  to apply the result and close the plugin window.

## Montage Mode

Follow the instruction to create a collage using the **Montage Mode** of **AKVIS Chameleon**.

In the **Montage** mode the program creates classic collages. It means that it transfers solid objects to a new background and blends away the irrelevant parts of the pasted fragment. The remaining object does not change its color range or opacity.

1. Open an image with the object that you want to transfer to a new background (Pic. 1).
2. Select the object with any selection tool. The selection does not have to be precise (Pic. 2).



*Pic. 1.*



*Pic. 2.*

3. Call **AKVIS -> Chameleon - Grab Fragment** from the Filter menu of the photo editor.

**Adobe Photoshop** - Filter -> AKVIS -> Chameleon - Grab Fragment; **Paint Shop Pro** - Effects -> Plugins -> AKVIS -> Chameleon - Grab Fragment; **Corel PHOTO-PAINT** - Effects -> AKVIS -> Chameleon - Grab Fragment.

If everything is done correctly you'll see a message that selected object is saved into the clipboard.

4. Open an image that will be used as a background for the future collage and call the command **AKVIS -> Chameleon - Make Collage** from the menu Filters.

**Adobe Photoshop** - Filter -> AKVIS -> Chameleon - Make Collage; **Paint Shop Pro** - Effects -> Plugins -> AKVIS -> Chameleon - Make Collage; **Corel PHOTO-PAINT** - Effects -> AKVIS -> Chameleon - Make Collage.



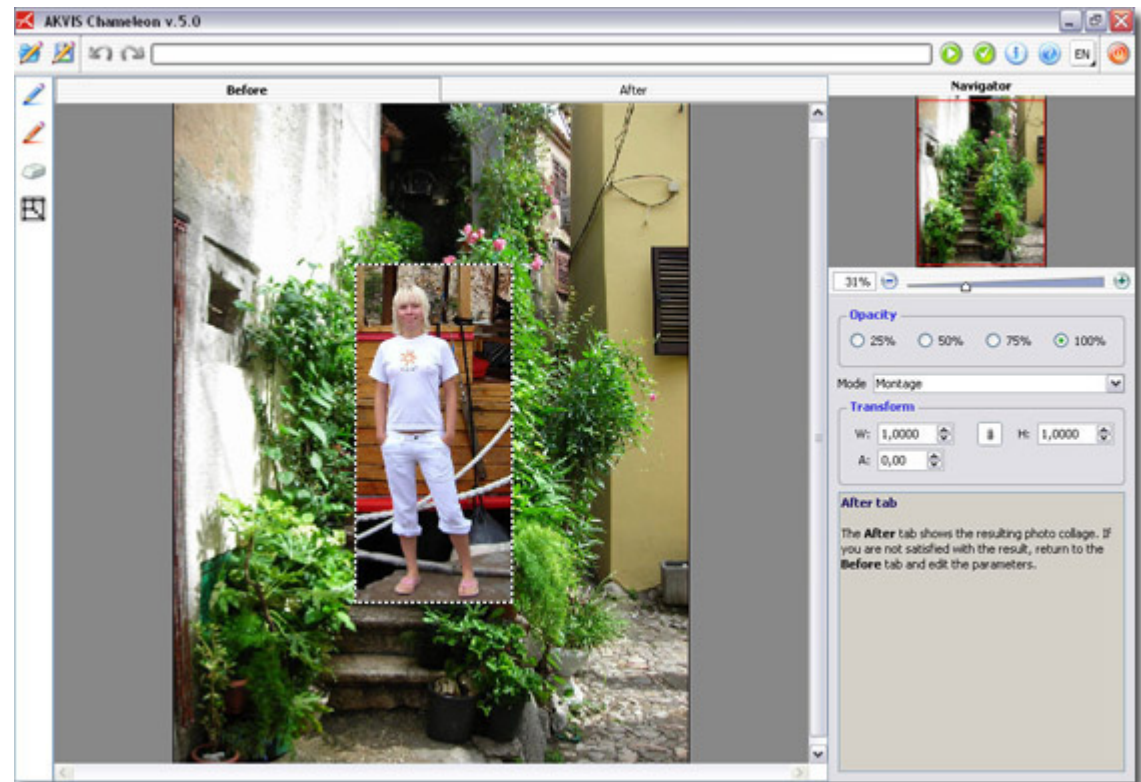
Pic. 3.





The **AKVIS Chameleon** window will open. The window will contain the background image and the inserted object (Pic. 4).


**Note:** If you begin with the step 4, the window will show the last used inserted fragment.


5. Press the left-mouse button in the drop-down menu in the **Settings panel** and choose the **Montage** mode.
6. Set the value of the **Opacity** parameter. This parameter is auxiliary and **does not influence the final result**. Use it when you need to position the fragment on the image at a high accuracy. The parameter can have the following values: 25%, 50%, 75%, and 100%. With 100% the pasted object is solid. The lower the value of the parameter, the more transparent is the fragment.





Pic. 4.

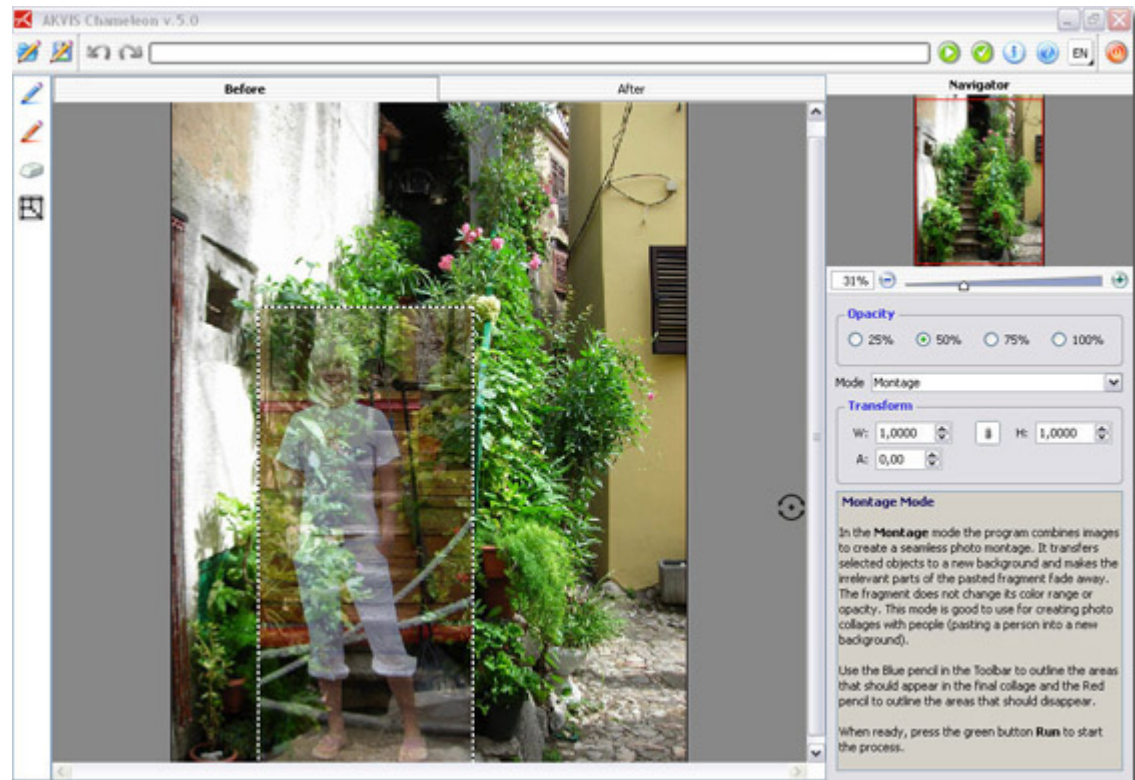
7. Use the **Transform** tool  from the **Toolbox** to change the size, the position, and the rotation angle of the pasted fragment on the background image (Pic. 5). If you press the button  (T) a dotted frame will appear and the **Settings panel** will show the transformation parameters.

To change the size of the object, bring the cursor to the dotted frame. The cursor will turn into a two-sided arrow . Keeping the left mouse button pressed, increase or reduce the size of the fragment. Besides, you can scale the image by changing the parameters **W** (width) and **H** (height).

There is a proportion sign  between the parameters **W** and **H**. If this option is enabled the image will be scaled proportionally, if it is disabled you can set your own parameters.




To rotate an object, bring the cursor to one of the angle markers to get a rounded two-arrows pointer , move the pointer keeping the left mouse button pressed. You can rotate an object by setting the parameter **A** (angle) to a value between 0 to 360 in the **Settings panel**.

To move an object bring the cursor inside the object, the cursor will turn into a cross . Move the object keeping the left mouse pressed.



Pic. 5.

8. **Edit the contours** (Pic. 6). You will need the following tools:

- **Keep Area Tool** . Use this tool to outline the areas of the fragment that should be part of the photo collage. For example, if you want to keep a human figure, draw an outline within it with the blue pencil. You can activate this tool by pressing the button **K** on the keyboard.
- **Drop Area Tool** . Use this tool to outline the unnecessary parts of the fragment, the parts that should disappear. You can activate this tool by pressing the button **D** on the keyboard.
- **Eraser Tool** . Use this tool to erase drawn outlines. You can activate this tool by pressing the **E**-key on the keyboard. Please note that the red outer frame can not be erased, it is used to define the limits of the pasted fragment.

To draw an outline, activate the **Keep Area Tool** or the **Drop Area Tool**, bring the cursor to the required point on the image, press the left mouse-button and, keeping it pressed, draw an outline.

The brush size of the **Keep Area Tool** or the **Drop Area Tool** can be changed using the check-box **Thick Strokes** in the **Settings** panel. By default this check-box is enabled and the brush strokes are thick. If you work with small details, you can disable this option (with a left-click on the check-box).


To erase a drawn contour, activate the **Eraser** tool (the button **E**). Bring the cursor to the contour and draw over the contour keeping the left-mouse button pressed. To make the process more convenient, use the right-mouse button to switch to Eraser tool when drawing with Keep Area or Drop Area tool. In this way, you can correct the outlines quickly without having to switch to Eraser in the Toolbar.


The size of the **Eraser** tool can be changed using the **Eraser Size** parameter in the **Settings** panel.





Pic. 6.




9. Press the button  button to start the process of the collage creation. The result will be shown in the **After** tab. You can switch between the tabs using the button **Tab**.

If you are not satisfied with the result in the **Montage** mode switch to **Before** tab (the button **Tab**) and draw the contour accurately. Then press the button  again.

10. You can save the fragment used for the collage: press the button  (**Ctrl+S** (**Command+S** on Macintosh) hot-key) on the **Control Panel**, in the **Save fragment and strokes** dialog box enter a name for the file and indicate a folder to which you want to save the file. The fragment will be saved with the **.chameleonFragment** extension. The file will contain information about the fragment's location, the settings and the drawn contours (only for Montage mode).

Open the saved fragment with the button  (**Ctrl+O** (**Command+O** on Macintosh) hot-key) and choose the fragment in the **Load fragment and strokes** dialog box.

11. Press the button  to apply the result (Pic. 7) and close the plugin window.



Pic. 7.

## Chameleon Mode

Follow the instruction to create a collage using the **Chameleon Mode** of **AKVIS Chameleon**.

In the **Chameleon Mode** the program adjusts the inserted object to the target image color range and smoothes the object's borders. It looks similar to the way a chameleon adapts to the environment.

1. Open an image with the object that you want to transfer to a new background (Pic. 1).
2. Select the object with any selection tool (Pic. 2). The selection does not have to be precise.



*Pic. 1.*



*Pic. 2.*

3. Call **AKVIS -> Chameleon - Grab Fragment** from the Filter menu of the photo editor.

**Adobe Photoshop** - Filter -> AKVIS -> Chameleon - Grab Fragment; **Paint Shop Pro** - Effects -> Plugins -> AKVIS -> Chameleon - Grab Fragment; **Corel PHOTO-PAINT** - Effects -> AKVIS -> Chameleon - Grab Fragment.

If everything is done correctly you'll see a message that selected object is saved into the clipboard.

4. Open an image that will be used as a background for the future collage (Pic. 3) and call the command **AKVIS -> Chameleon - Make Collage** from the menu Filters.

**Adobe Photoshop** - Filter -> AKVIS -> Chameleon - Make Collage; **Paint Shop Pro** - Effects -> Plugins -> AKVIS -> Chameleon - Make Collage; **Corel PHOTO-PAINT** - Effects -> AKVIS -> Chameleon - Make Collage.

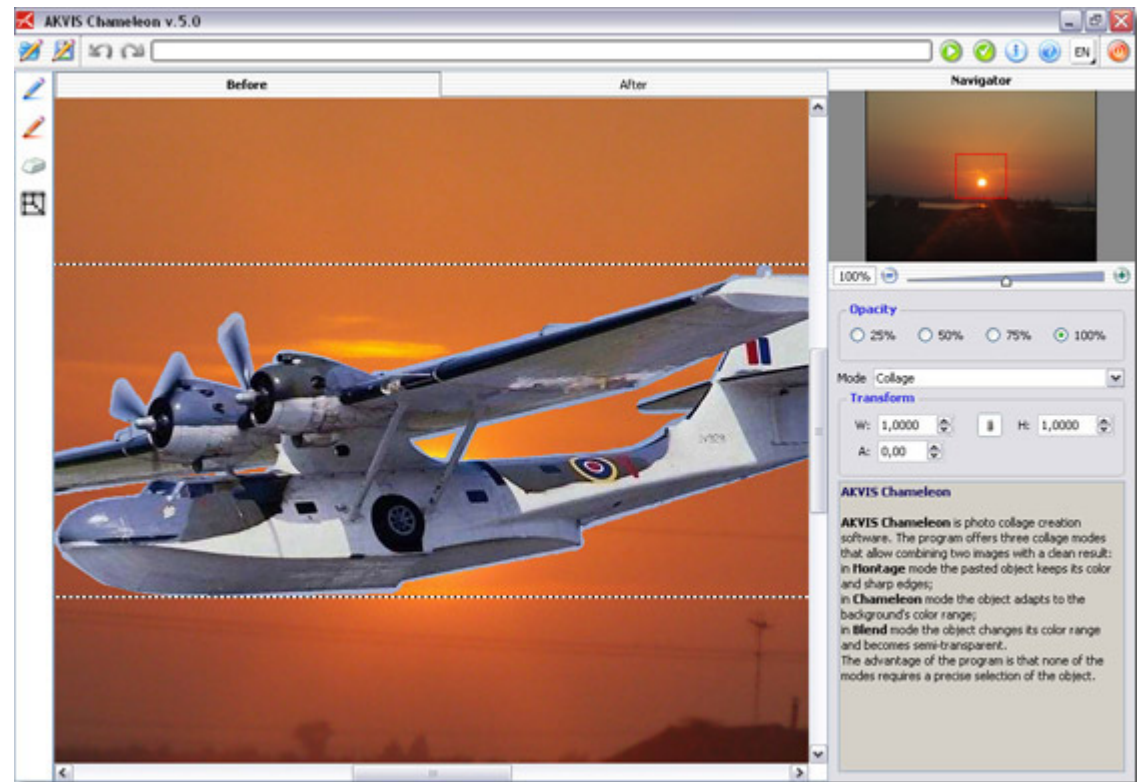


*Pic. 3.*

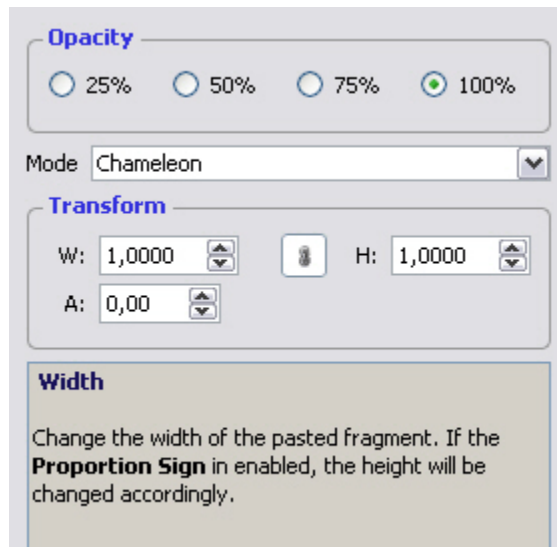
The **AKVIS Chameleon** window will open. The window will contain the background image and the inserted object (Pic. 4).

**Note:** If you begin with the step 4, the window will show the last used inserted fragment.

5. Press the left-mouse button in the drop-down menu in the **Settings panel** and choose the **Chameleon** mode (Pic. 5).





Pic. 4.





Pic. 5.





6. Use the **Transform** tool  from the **Toolbox** to change the size, the position, and the rotation angle of the pasted fragment on the background image (Pic. 6).

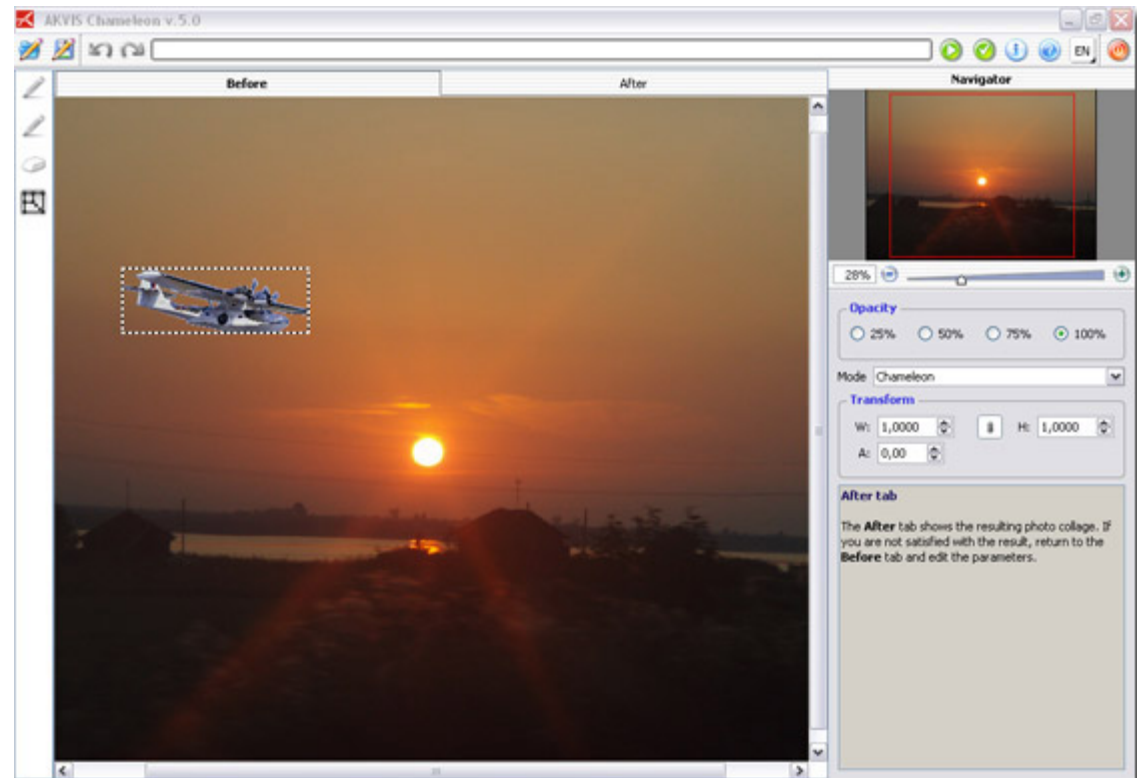
If you press the button  (T) a dotted frame will appear and the **Settings panel** will show the transformation parameters.

To change the size of the object, bring the cursor to the dotted frame. The cursor will turn into a two-sided arrow . Keeping the left mouse button pressed, increase or reduce the size of the fragment. Besides, you can scale the image by changing the parameters **W** (width) and **H** (height).


There is a proportion sign  between the parameters **W** and **H**. If this option is enabled the image will be scaled proportionally, if it is disabled you can set your own parameters.


To rotate an object, bring the cursor to one of the angle markers to get a rounded two-arrows pointer , move the pointer keeping the left mouse button pressed. You can rotate an object by setting the parameter **A** (angle) to a value between 0 to 360 in the **Settings panel**.

To move an object bring the cursor inside the object, the cursor will turn into a cross . Move the object keeping the left mouse pressed.

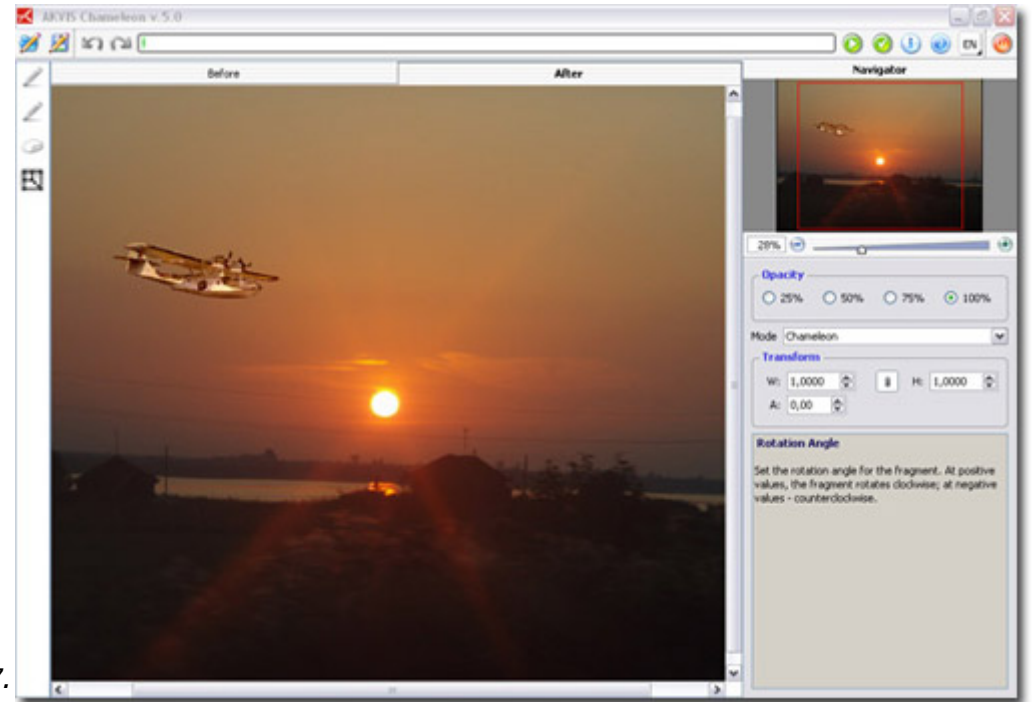


Pic. 6.

7. Press the button  button to start the process of the collage creation. The result will be shown in the **After** tab. You can switch between the tabs using the button **Tab**.

8. You can save the fragment used for the collage: press the button  (Ctrl+S (Command+S on Macintosh) hot-key) on the **Control Panel**, in the **Save fragment and strokes** dialog box enter a name for the file and indicate a folder to which you want to save the file.

The fragment will be saved with the **.chameleonFragment** extension. The file will contain information about the fragment's location and the settings.





Pic. 7.



Pic. 8.



Open the saved fragment with the button  (Ctrl+O (Command+O on Macintosh) hot-key) and choose the fragment in the **Load fragment and strokes** dialog box.

9. Press the button  to apply the result and close the plugin window.

## Blend Mode

Follow the instruction to create a collage using the **Blend Mode** of **AKVIS Chameleon**.

In the **Blend Mode**, the program does not only smoothes the borders of the inserted object and adjusts its color range, but it also makes the object semi-transparent, so that the texture and the relief of the primary image can be seen through. Use this mode if you want to “dissolve” the inserted image in the background.

1. Open an image with the object that you want to transfer to a new background (Pic. 1).
2. Select the object with any selection tool (Pic. 2). The selection does not have to be precise.



*Pic. 1.*



*Pic. 2.*

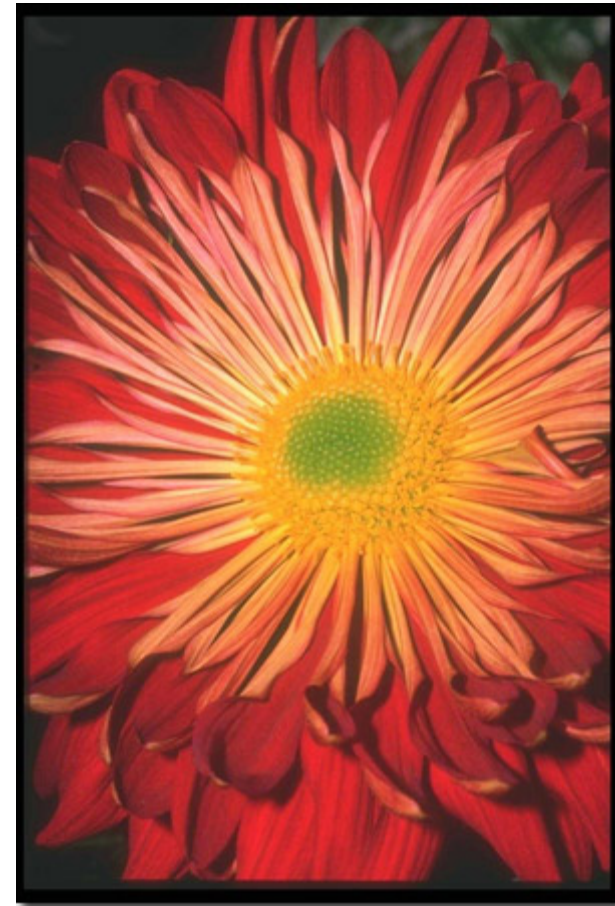
3. Call **AKVIS -> Chameleon - Grab Fragment** from the Filter menu of the photo editor.

**Adobe Photoshop** - Filter -> AKVIS -> Chameleon - Grab Fragment; **Paint Shop Pro** - Effects -> Plugins -> AKVIS -> Chameleon - Grab Fragment; **Corel PHOTO-PAINT** - Effects -> AKVIS -> Chameleon - Grab Fragment.

If everything is done correctly you'll see a message that selected object is saved into the clipboard.

4. Open an image that will be used as a background for the future collage (Pic. 3) and call the command **AKVIS -> Chameleon - Make Collage** from the menu Filters.

**Adobe Photoshop** - Filter -> AKVIS -> Chameleon - Make Collage; **Paint Shop Pro** - Effects -> Plugins -> AKVIS -> Chameleon - Make Collage; **Corel PHOTO-PAINT** - Effects -> AKVIS -> Chameleon - Make Collage.



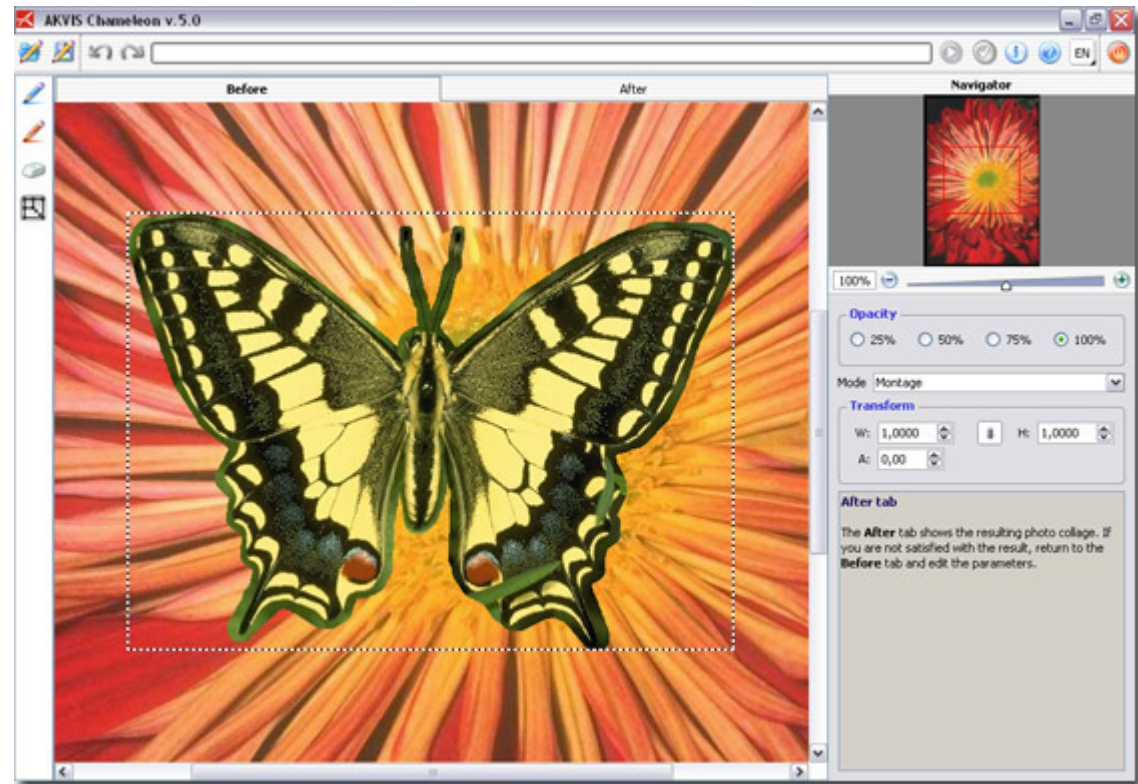
*Pic. 3.*




The **AKVIS Chameleon** window will open. The window will contain the background image and the inserted object (Pic. 4).


**Note:** If you begin with the step 4, the window will show the last used inserted fragment.


5. Press the left-mouse button in the drop-down menu in the **Settings panel** and choose the **Blend** mode.





Pic. 4.


6. Use the **Transform** tool  from the **Toolbox** to change the size, the position, and the rotation angle of the pasted fragment on the background image (Pic. 5).

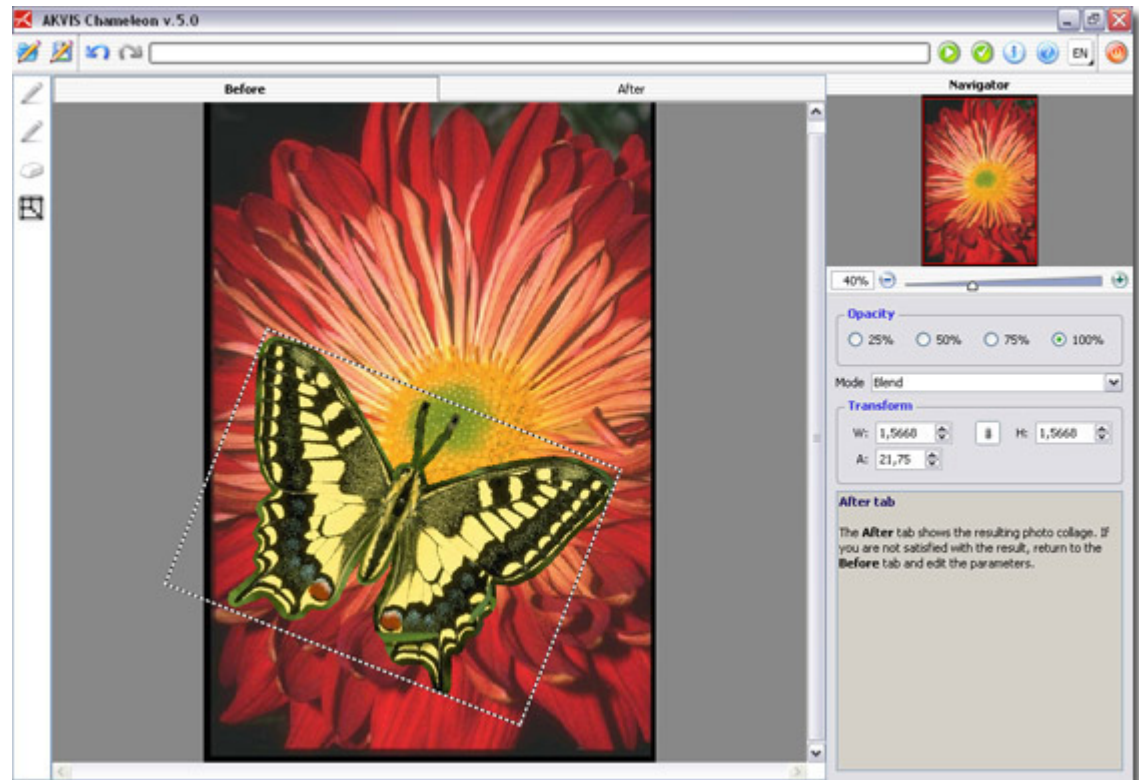
If you press the button  (T) a dotted frame will appear and the **Settings panel** will show the transformation parameters.

To change the size of the object, bring the cursor to the dotted frame. The cursor will turn into a two-sided arrow . Keeping the left mouse button pressed, increase or reduce the size of the fragment. Besides, you can scale the image by changing the parameters **W** (width) and **H** (height).


There is a proportion sign  between the parameters **W** and **H**. If this option is enabled the image will be scaled proportionally, if it is disabled you can set your own parameters.


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To move an object bring the cursor inside the object, the cursor will turn into a cross . Move the object keeping the left mouse button pressed.




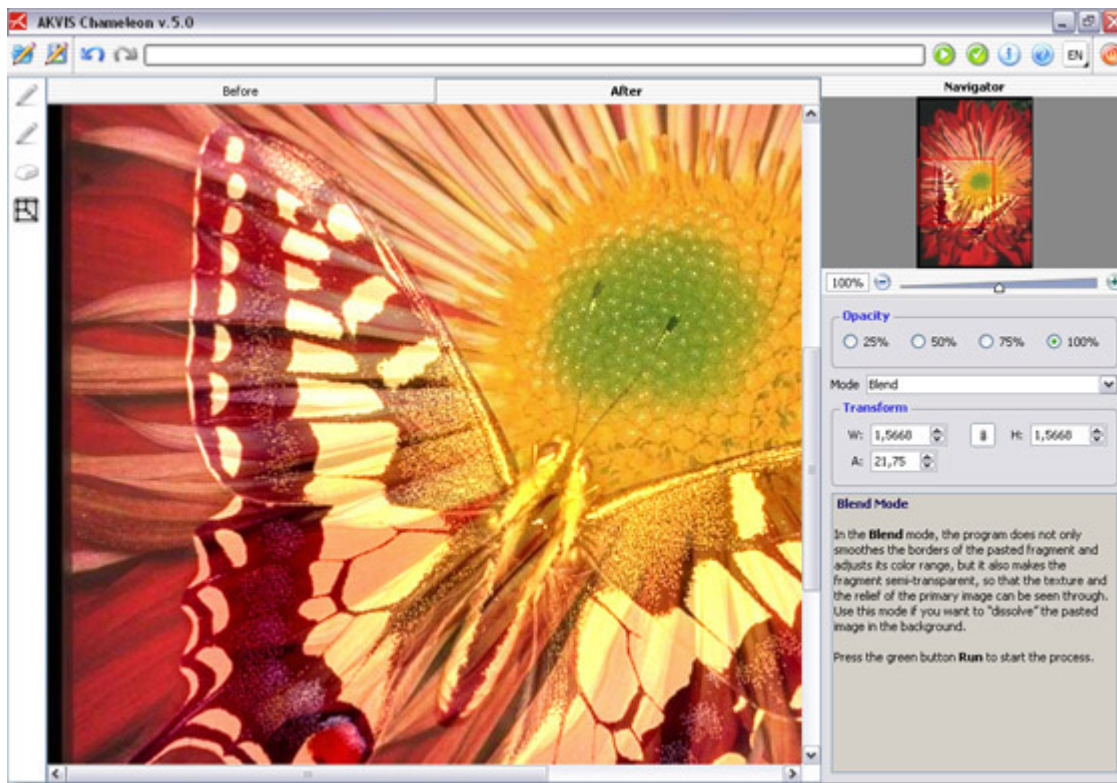
Pic. 5.

7. Press the button  button to start the process of the collage creation. The result will be shown in the **After** tab. You can switch between the tabs using the button **Tab** (Pic. 6).

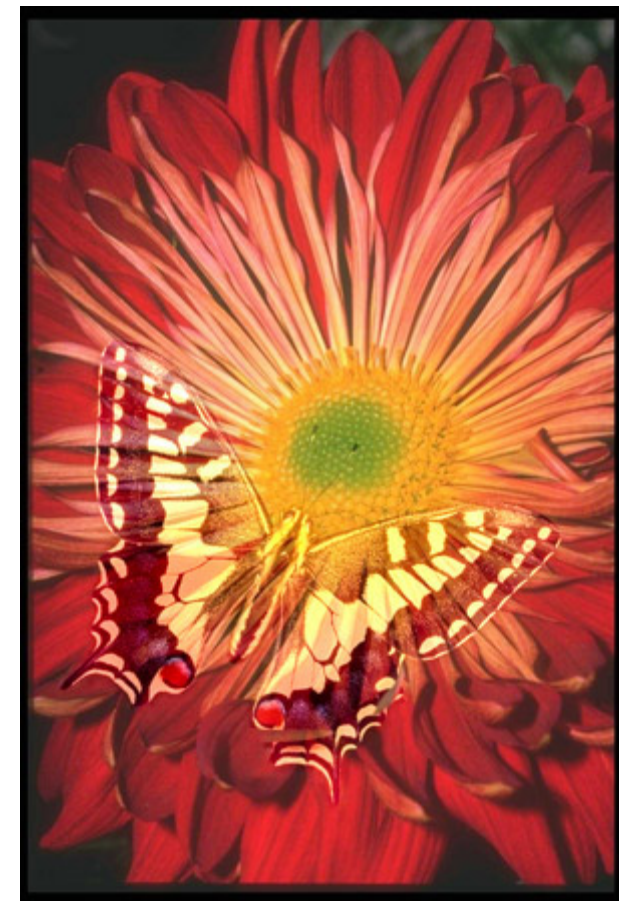
8. You can save the fragment used for the collage: press the button  (**Ctrl+S** (**Command+S** on Macintosh) hot-key) on the **Control Panel**, in the **Save fragment and strokes** dialog box enter a name for the file and indicate a folder to which you want to save the file. The fragment will be saved with the **.chameleonFragment** extension. The file will contain information about the fragment's location and the settings.

Open the saved fragment with the button  (**Ctrl+O** (**Command+O** on Macintosh) hot-key) and choose the fragment in the **Load fragment and strokes** dialog box.

9. Press the button  to apply the result (Pic. 7) and close the plugin window.



Pic. 6.



Pic. 7.