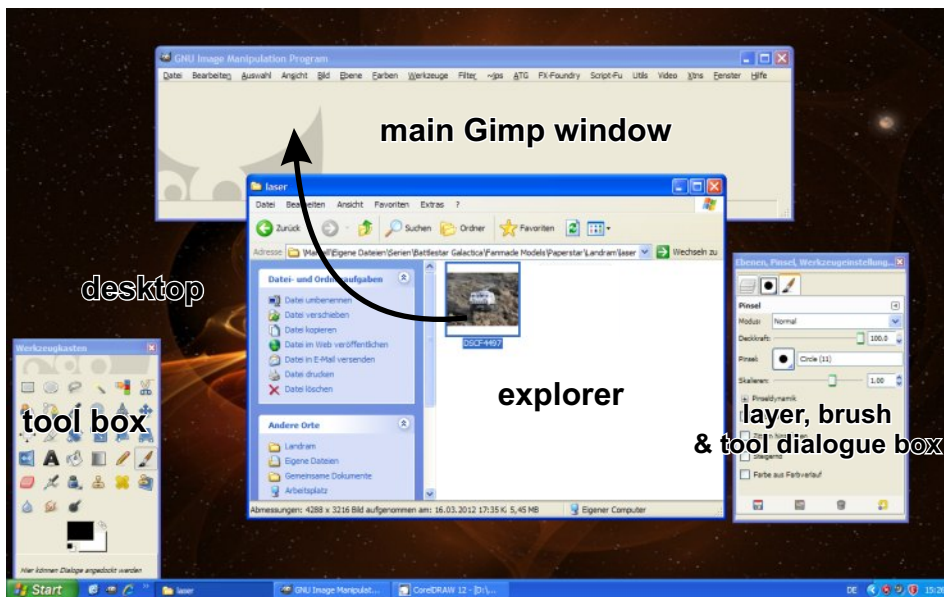


How to add a laser beam effect to your image

From this ...

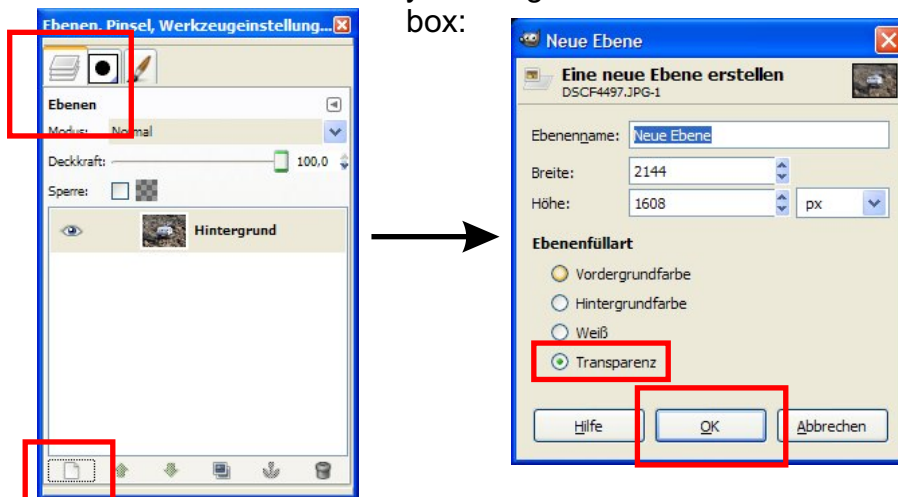


... to this.

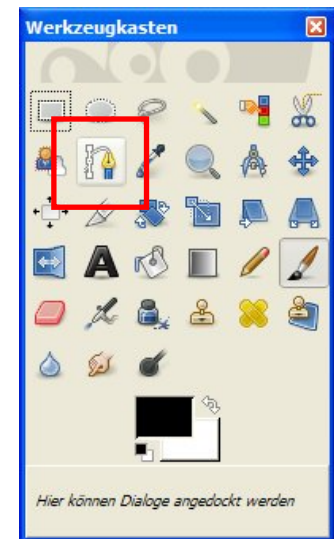


Launch TheGimp (this is version 2.6.11) and open the image by dragging it into the main window.

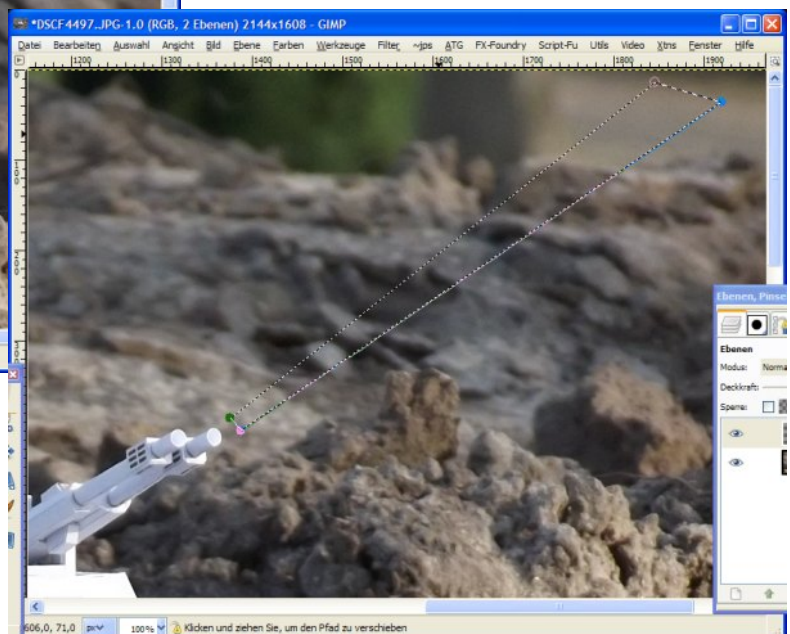
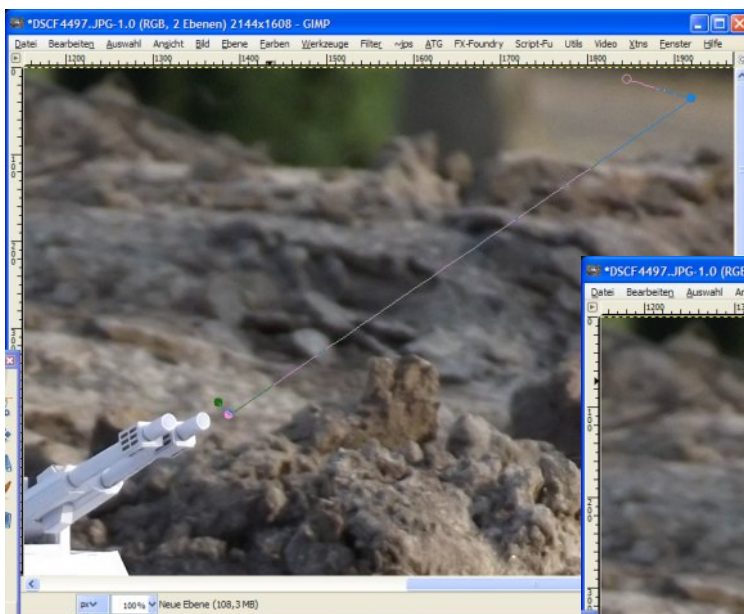
Create a new layer in the layer dialogue box:



Activate the path tool in the tool box.



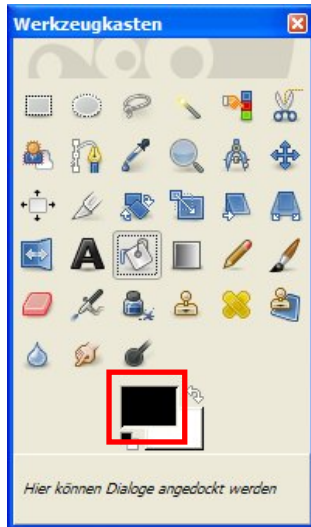
Click a path and press "Enter" to turn the path into a selection. You may choose the paint brush instead to paint a laser beam of course.



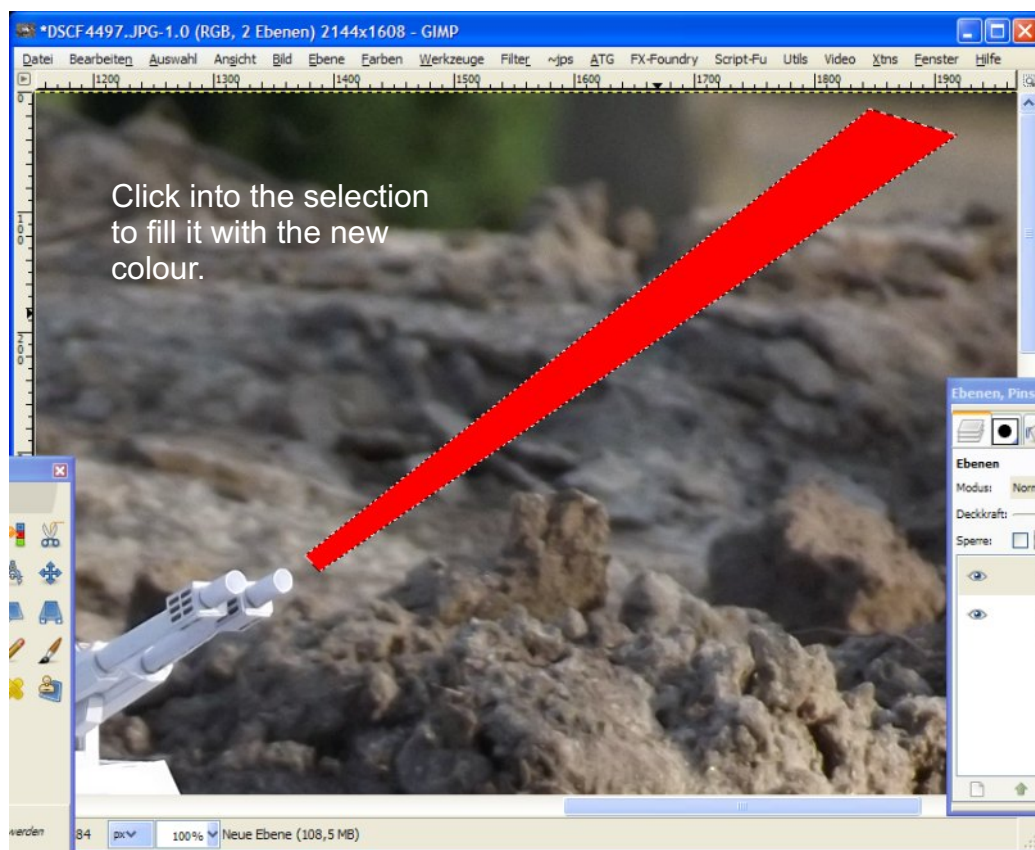
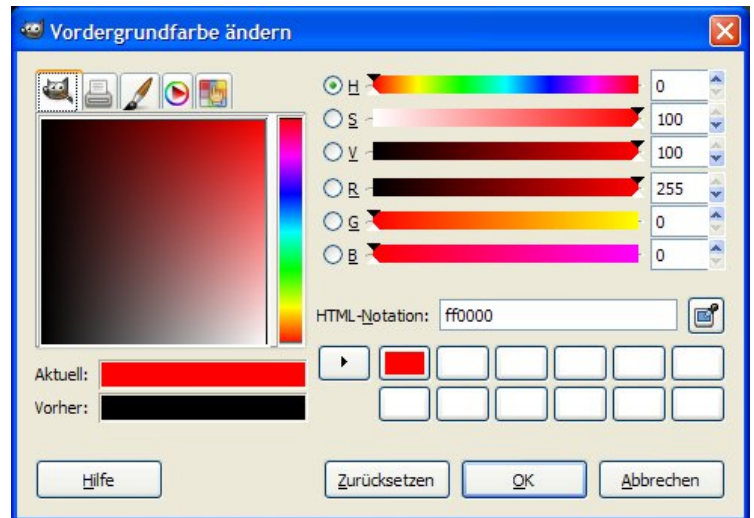
Choose the paint bucket from the tool box.



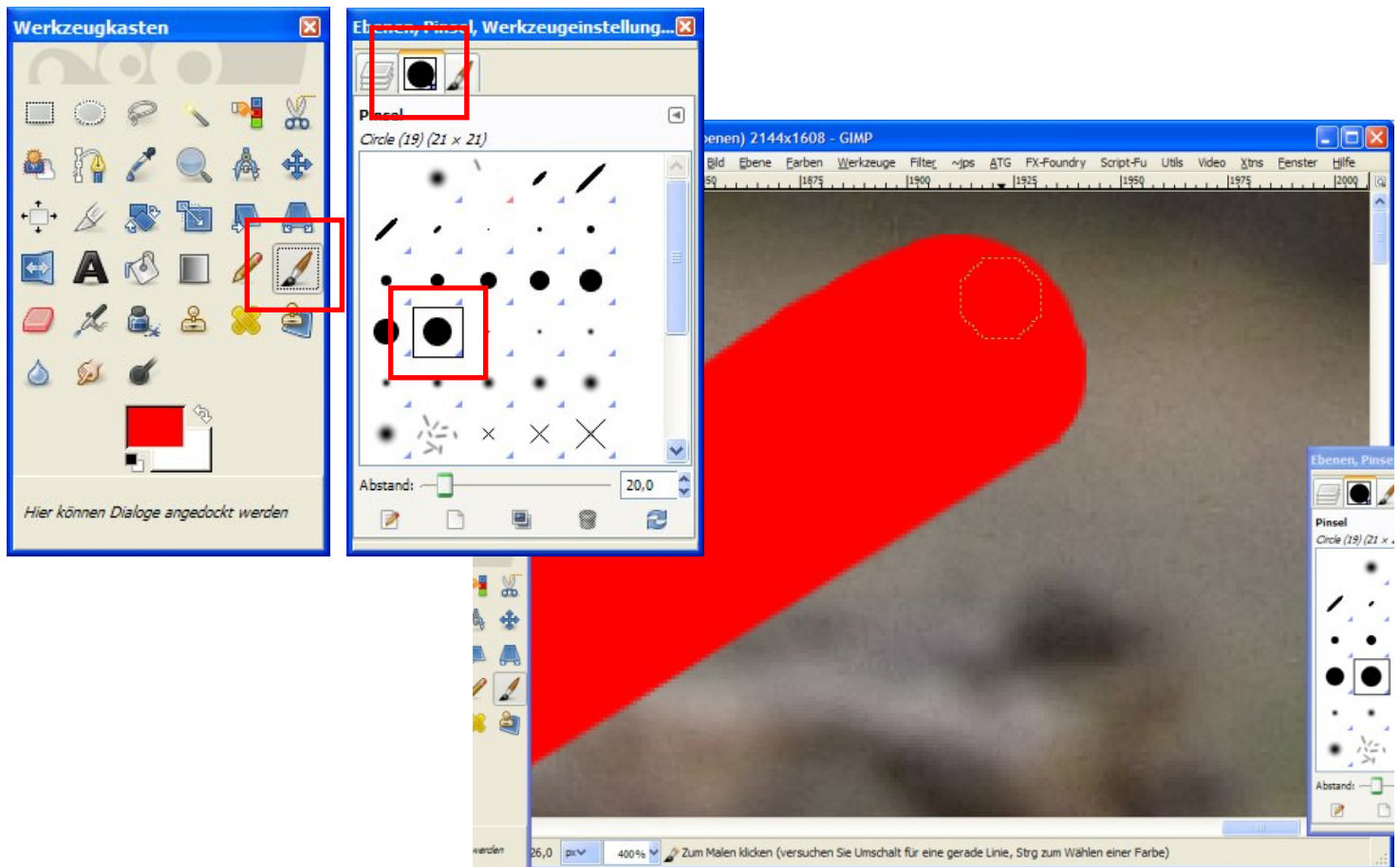
Double-click the foreground colour display box.



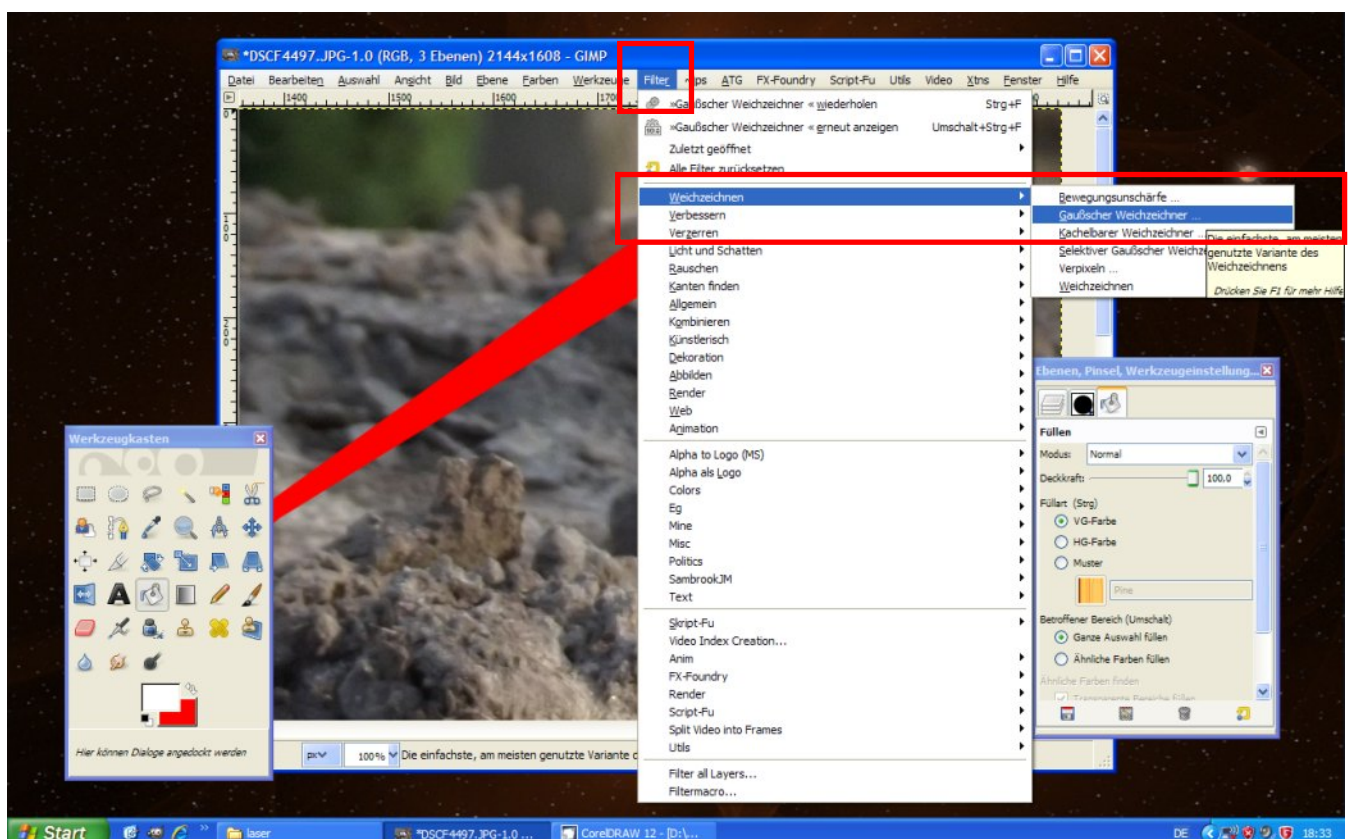
Click in the colour field to choose a new foreground colour > OK.



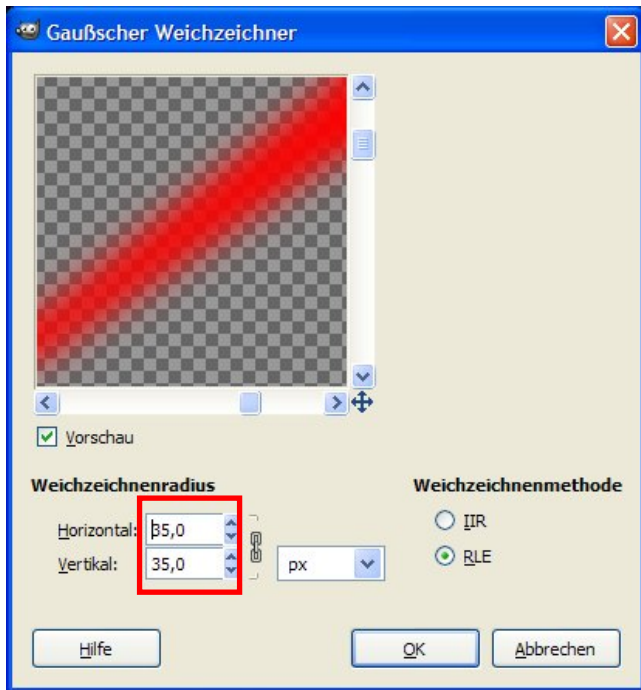
Press Ctrl+Shift+A to deselect the selection. Select the paint brush from the tool box, choose a suitable brush from the brush dialogue box and make the edges of the beam round.



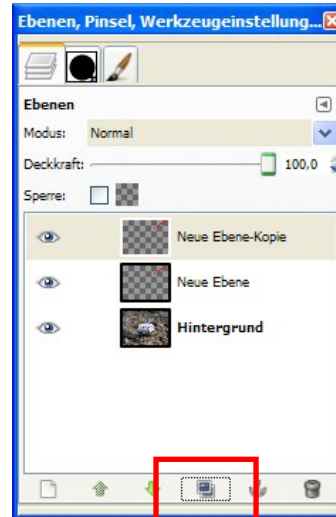
Then go to Filters > Blur > Gaussian Blur.



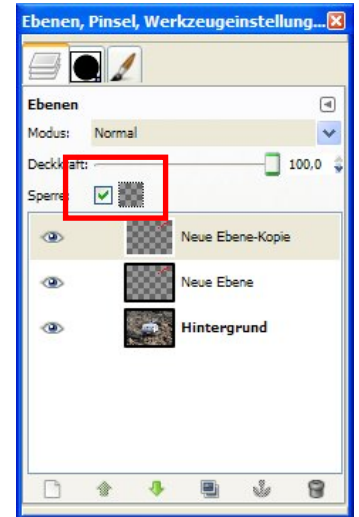
The preview window shows you the effect. Change the values of the blur radius till the effect pleases you and click OK.



Duplicate the layer by clicking the “duplicate” button in the layer dialogue box.

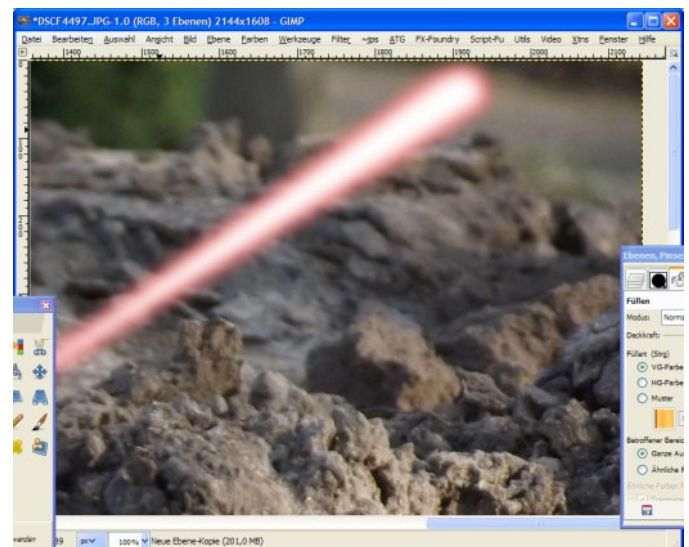
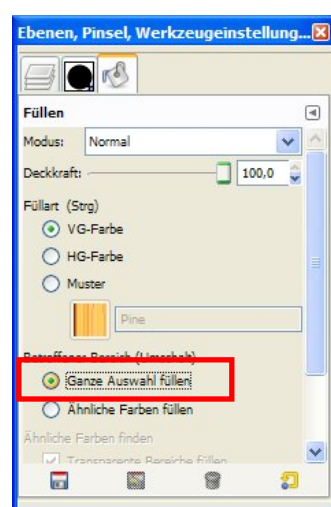
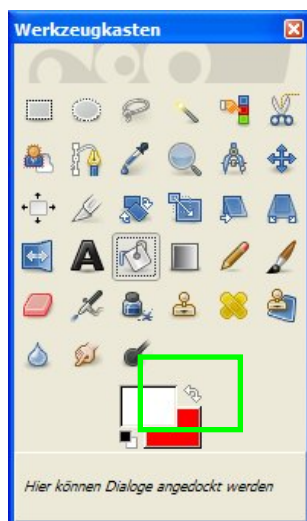


Click the “keep transparency” button.

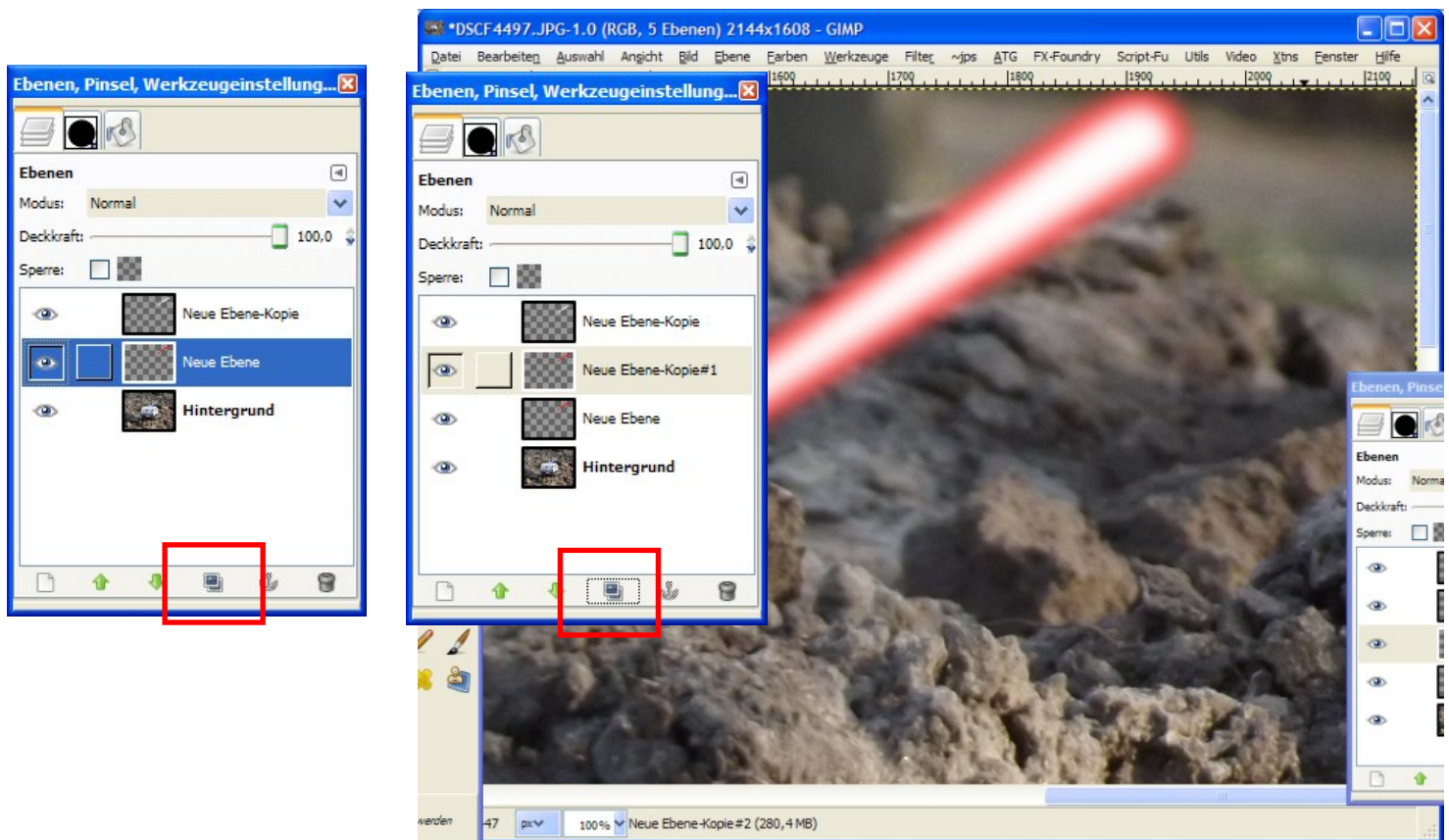


Click the foreground / background colour switcher to make the foreground colour white. Double-click the paint bucket tool and select “fill whole selection”.

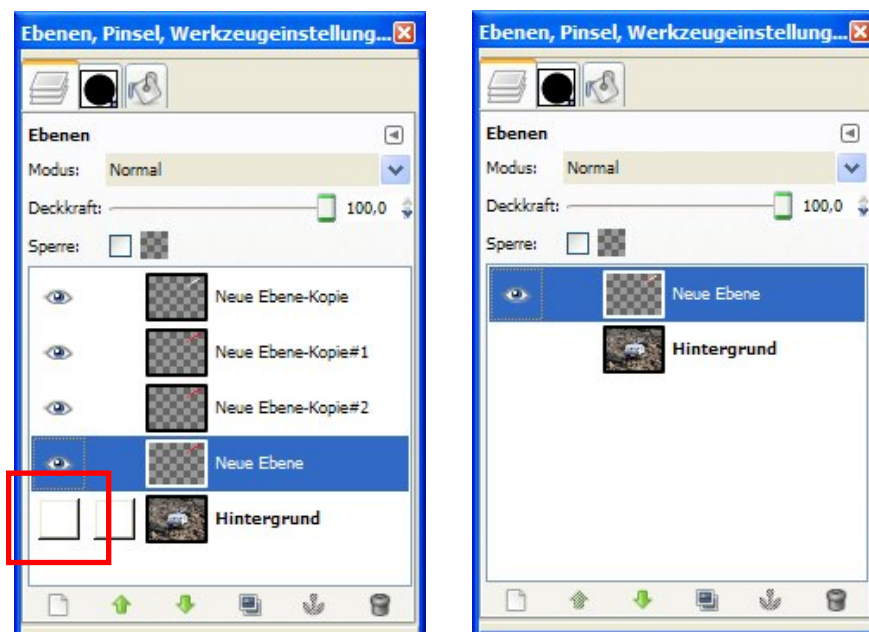
Click into the upper layer and fill everything with white.



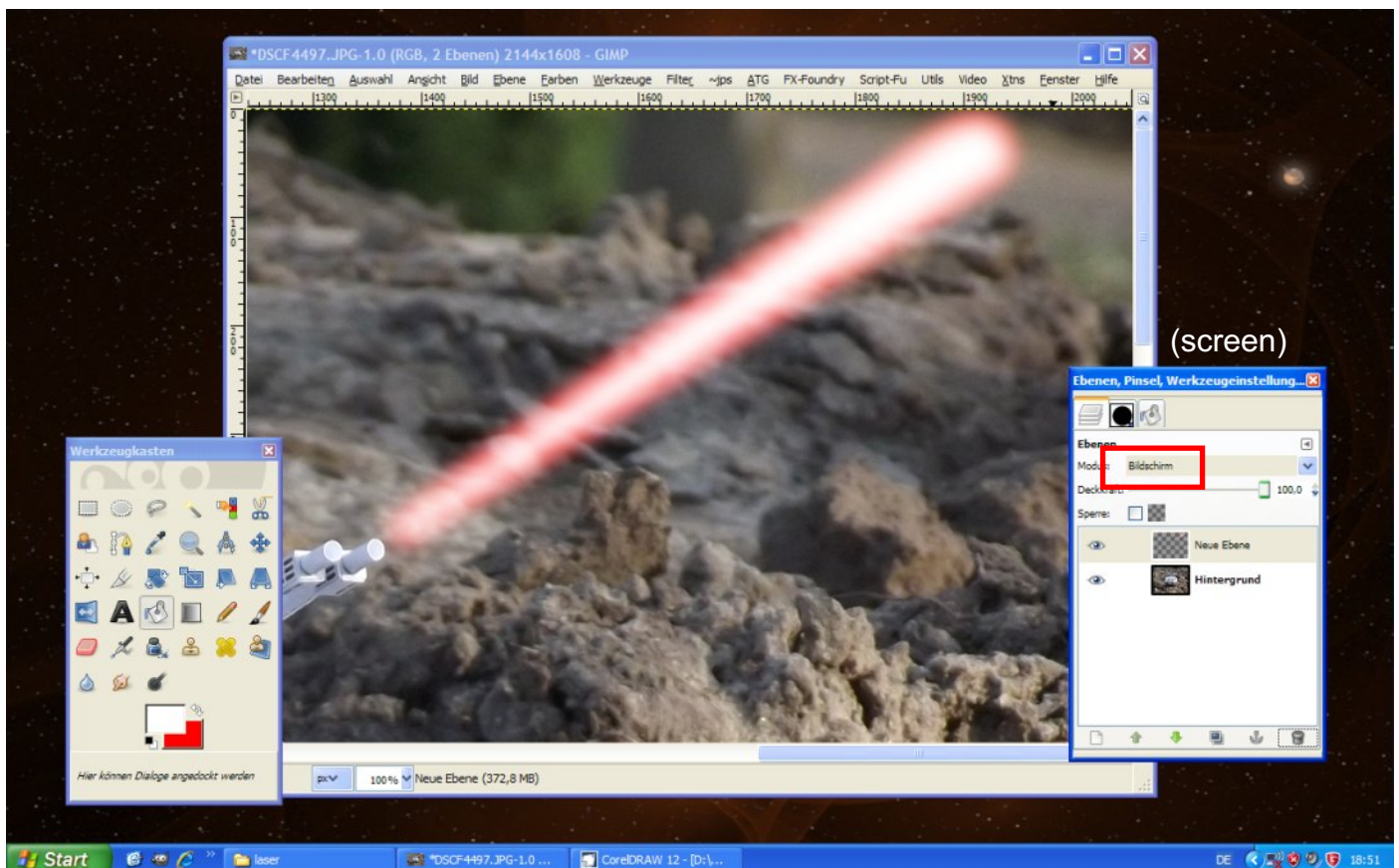
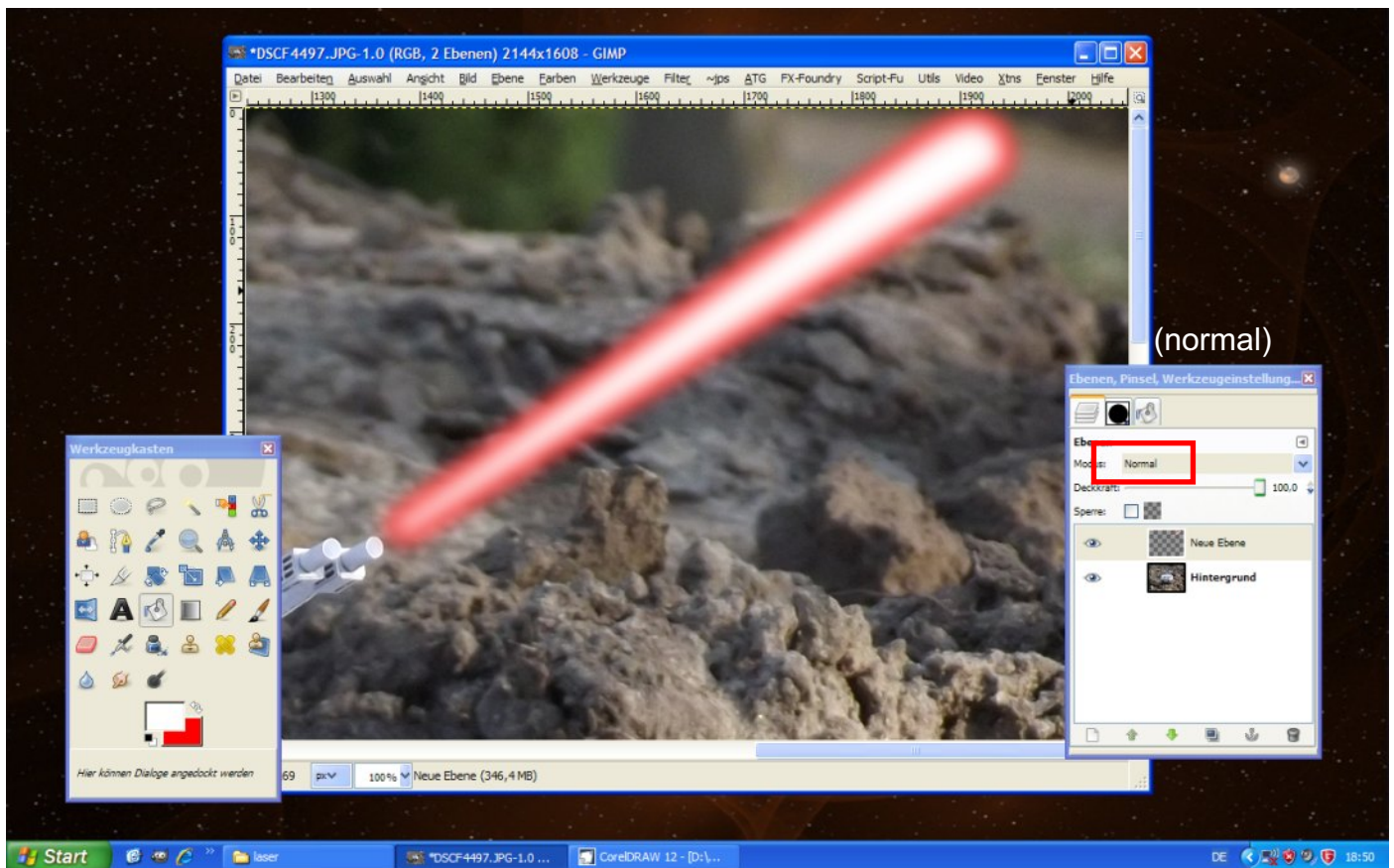
To intensify the effect click on the red layer in the layer dialogue box and double or triple the layer.

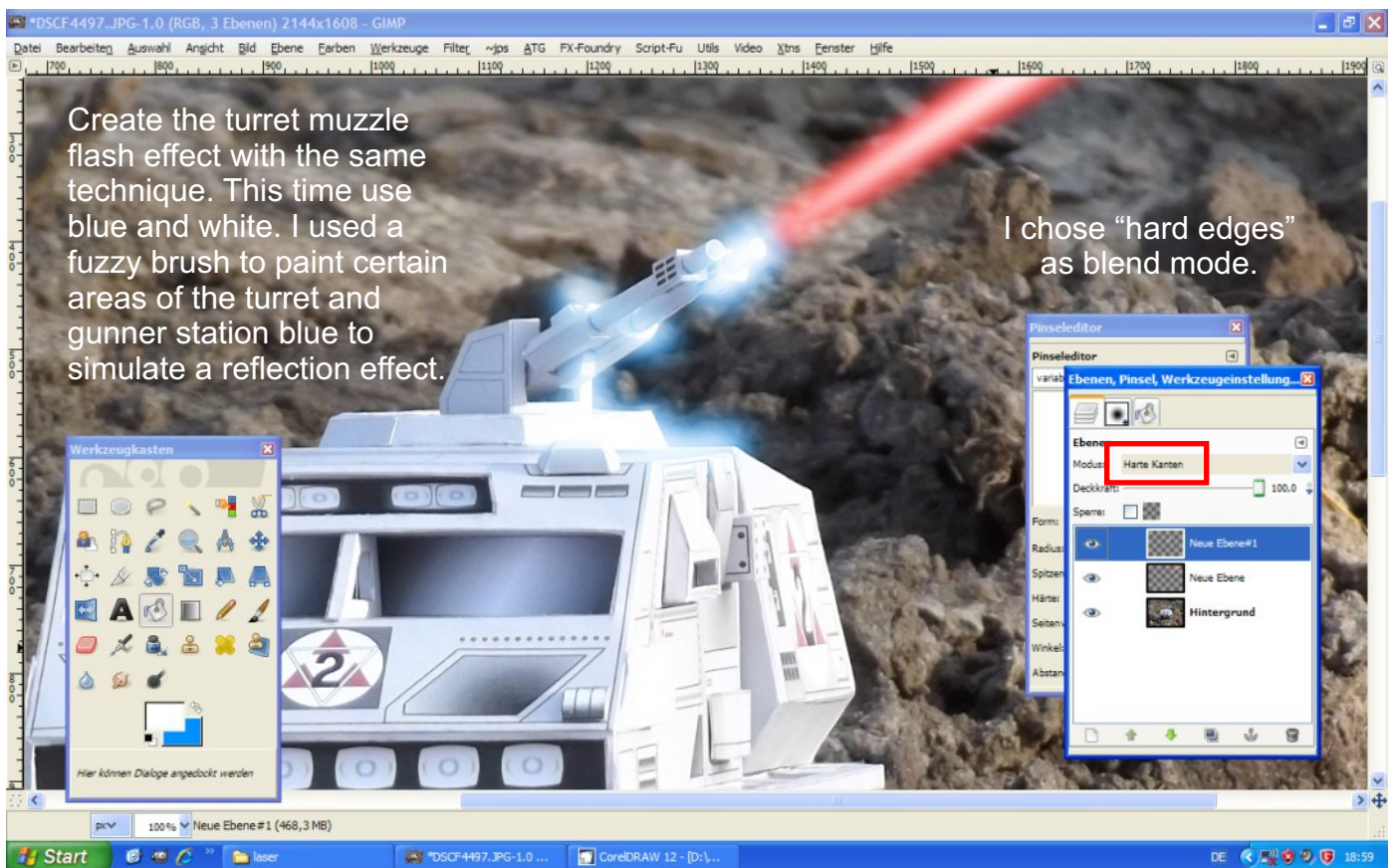
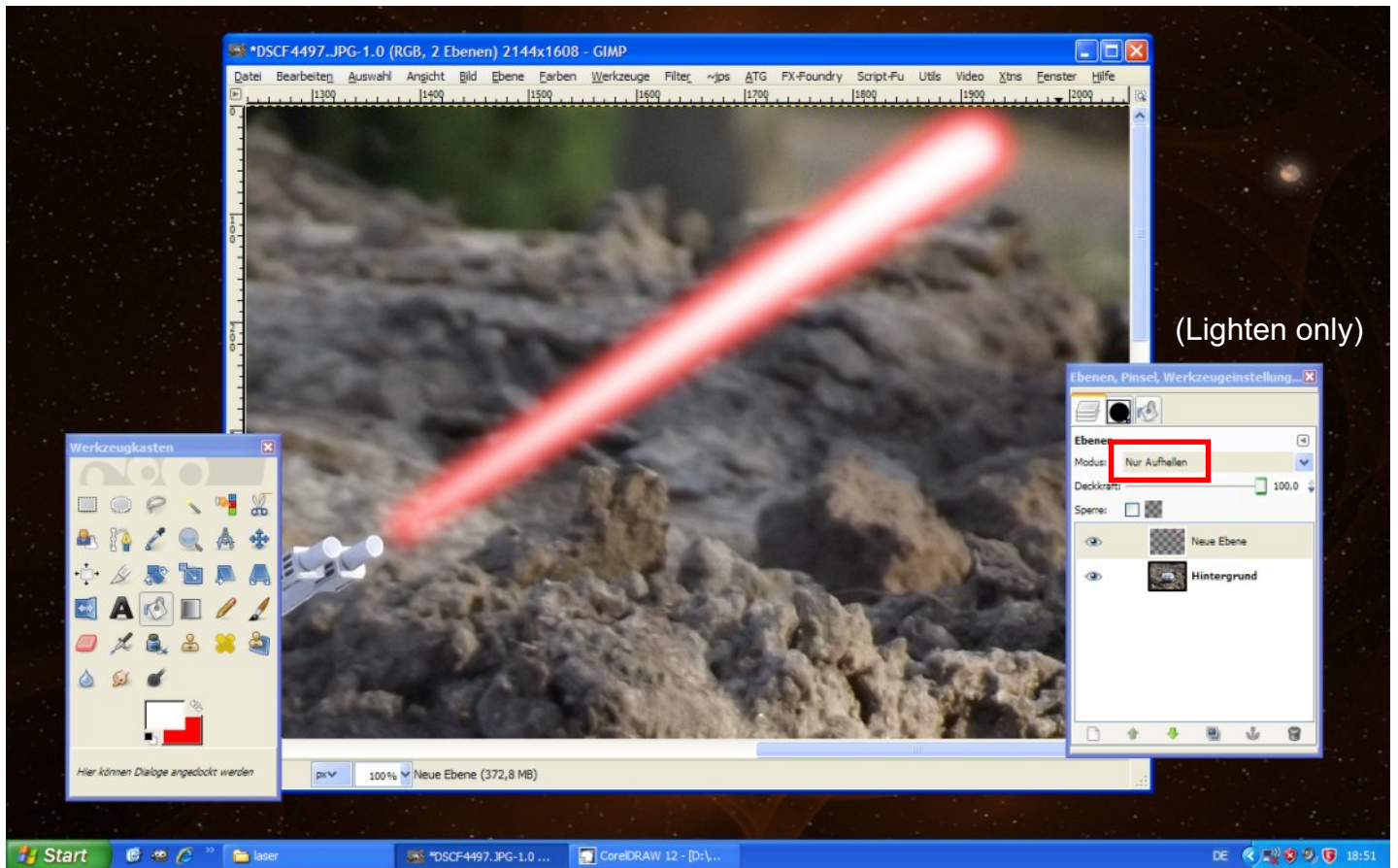


Make the bottom layer invisible by clicking on the eye symbol in the layer dialogue box, press Ctrl+M and OK to merge the other layers.



Click the eye symbol of the bottom layer to make the layer visible again. Change the layer blend mode of the upper layer to a mode which you like best:





Press Shift+Ctrl+S to save the image. Done!

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