



TREE MASKING TUTORIAL

In this tutorial we will look at another way to tackle the masking process. This workflow makes use of ReMask 3's new Single Color Selection brushes, which come in handy for tricky projects like trees, which have all those branches and leaves and are typically harder to mask.

You can see in the Before and After shots that the even the most intricate details of the tree and blades

of grass have been isolated and the old background removed.

In the following steps, we will show you how to achieve these same creative results with your own photos, following this model - which uses color sampling.



Before Topaz ReMask



After Topaz ReMask



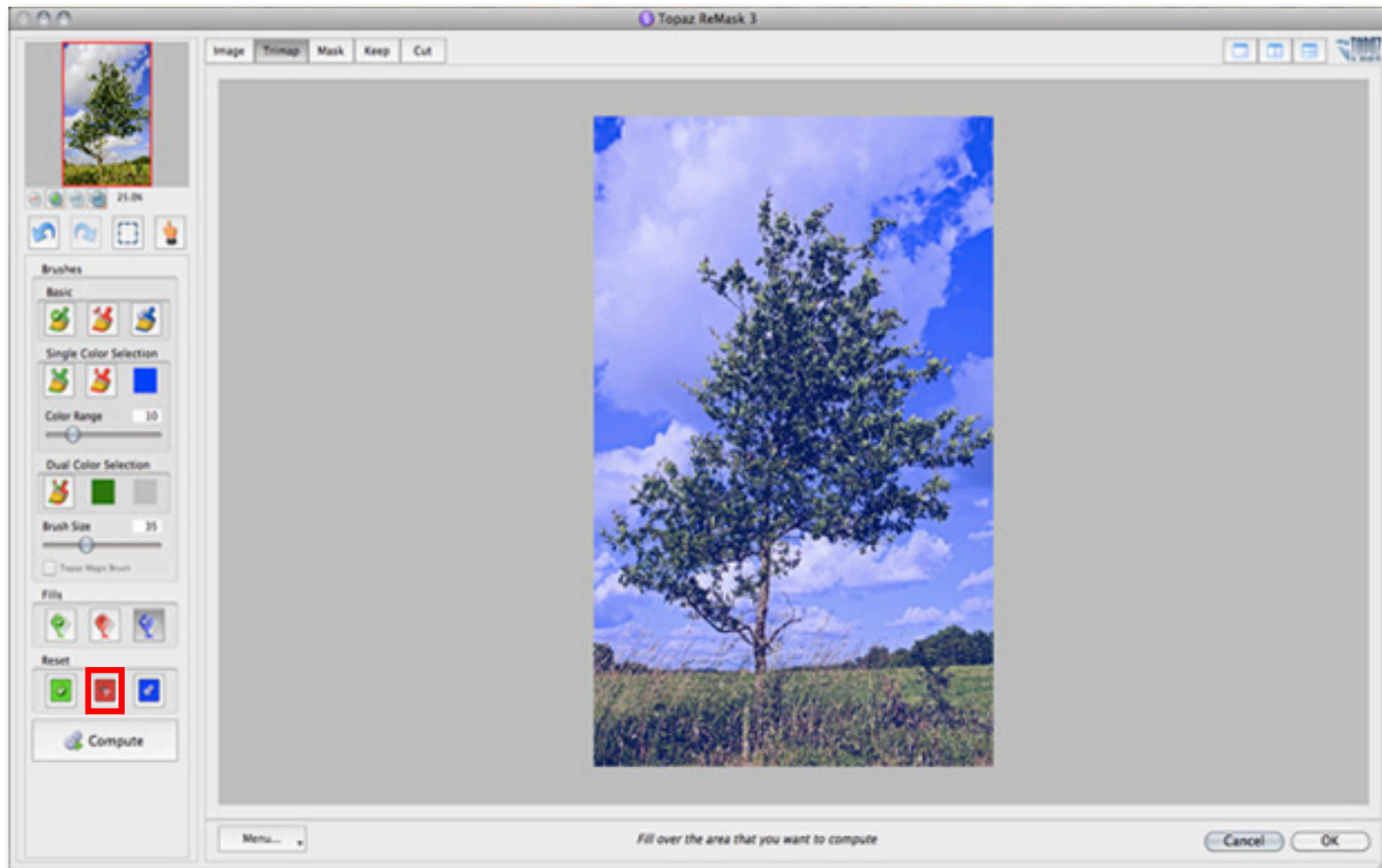
After Topaz ReMask

1. Open an image file.
2. Go to Filter -> Topaz Labs and select ReMask 3.

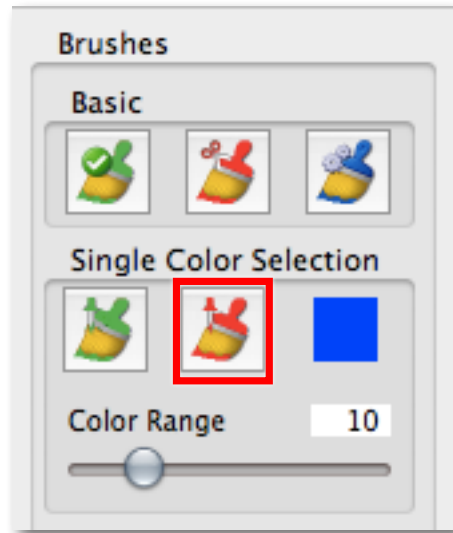
When ReMask 3 loads it will automatically open to the Tri-map view and your image will be filled with green.

3. Go to the Reset section of your tool panel and click on the Blue Reset button...this will fill your image with Blue (compute).

Now, using the Single-Color Selection brush we will add our Green (keep) and Red (remove) selections.

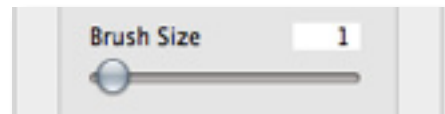


3. Click on the Red Single-Color Selection Brush. This will automatically activate the color picker. Using the color picker, we will select part of the background color from within the image to be removed.



Use the Color Range slider to determine the range of the selected color that will be affected in the image.

The brush size can be adjusted if necessary. Selecting a larger brush size will affect more area at a time during each brush stroke.



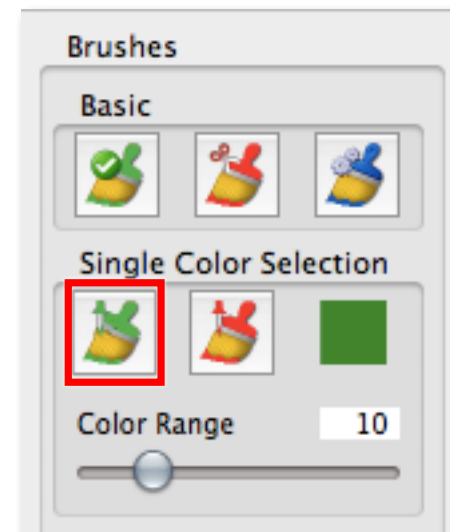
Then we will begin to brush over the image. Only the areas that contain the selected color (in this case

blue) will be selected. Since the Red (remove) Single-Color Selection brush is being used, the selection will show up in red on your tri-map...indicating the portion of the image to be removed.

4. Repeat this process, selecting different colors in the background (adjusting the Color Range if necessary) and then brushing it out. For this image we repeated the process 4 times. Selecting 3 shades of blue for the sky and then white for the clouds.

Once a good portion of the background is selected in Red, we can move on to our Green (keep) selections.

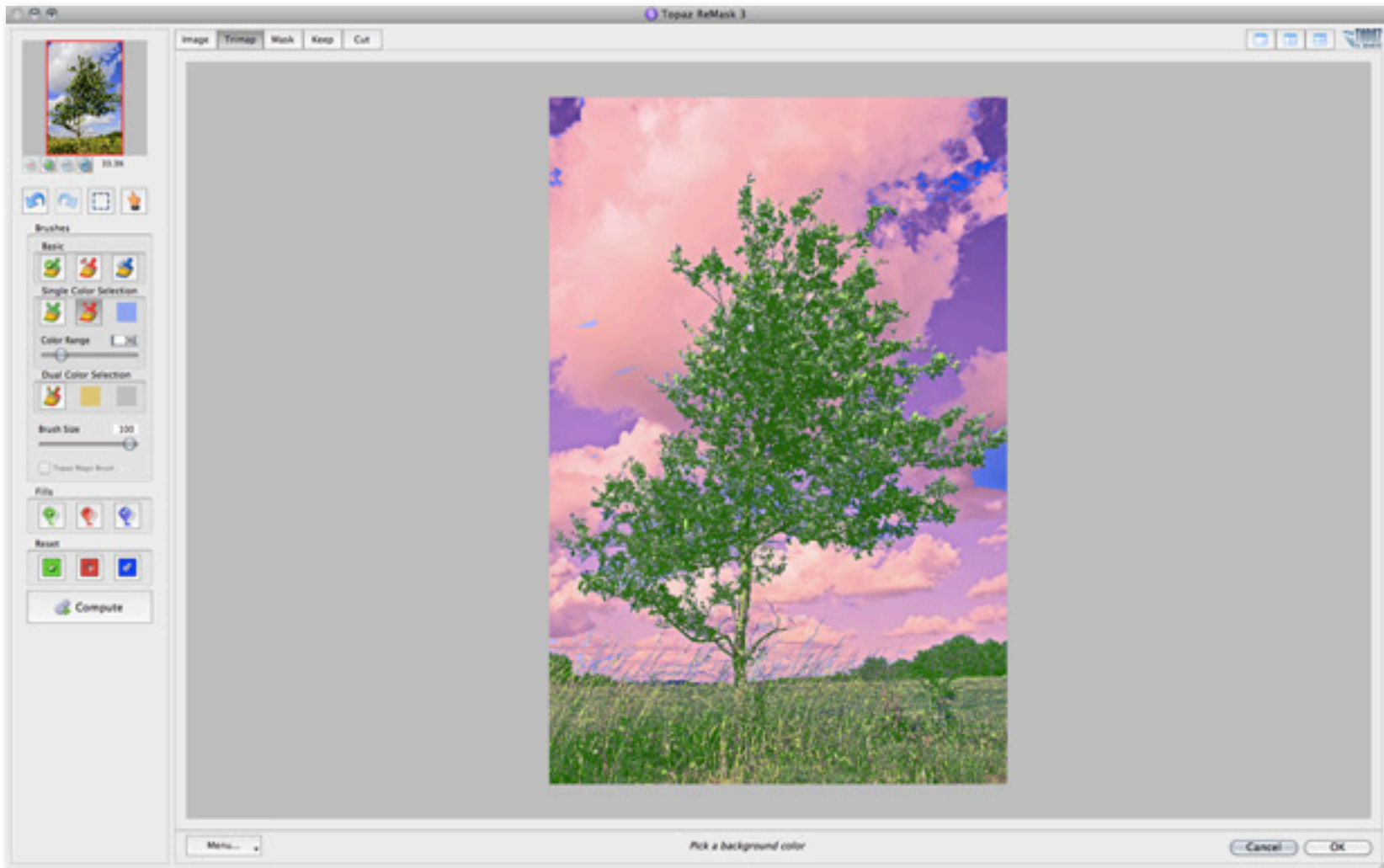
5. Click on the Green Single Color Selection Brush to activate the color picker. Then we will select a color from within the tree to be kept. This tree has various shades of green and brown. So we will repeat this process 3 more times, brushing throughout the tree and grass.



You can repeat this process as few or as many times in your workflow as you would like. The more colors that are in your image then the more you will want to sample. More color selections will also give you better and more precise results once you have computed your tri-map.

Once the Red and Green selections are made using the Single-Color Selection brushes we have our completed tri-map.

6. Click on the Compute button to allow ReMask to analyze the selections and create the tri-map.

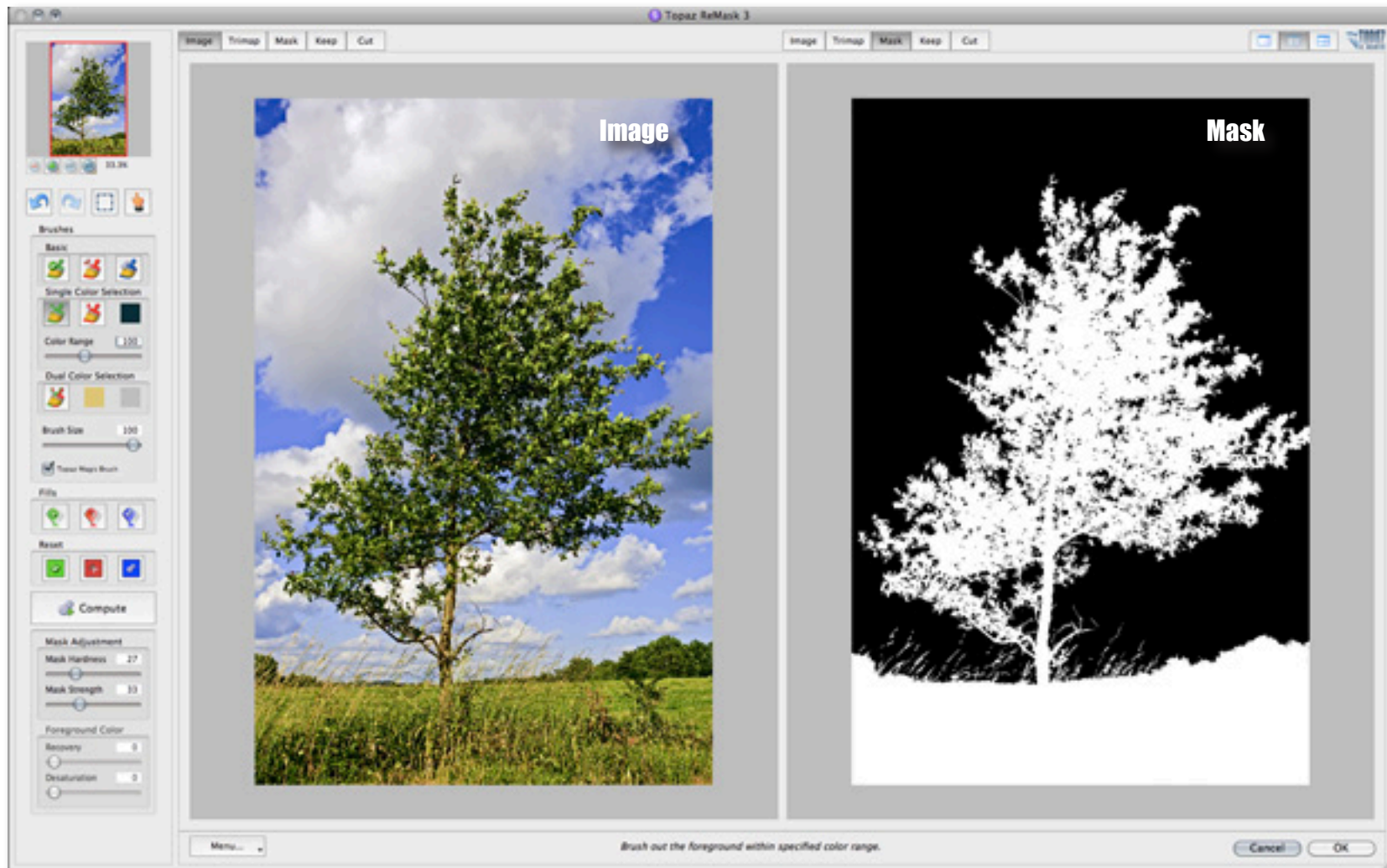


After computing your tri-map selections the Mask Refinement toolset and the Magic Brush will be available for use to further refine your mask.

You can begin refining your image using any of the views in the tabs at the top of your interface.

Using the Single-Color Selection brushes helped to make our selections pretty accurate so not much refinement is needed. So let's take a look at our results in each of the views while doing a little minor refining.

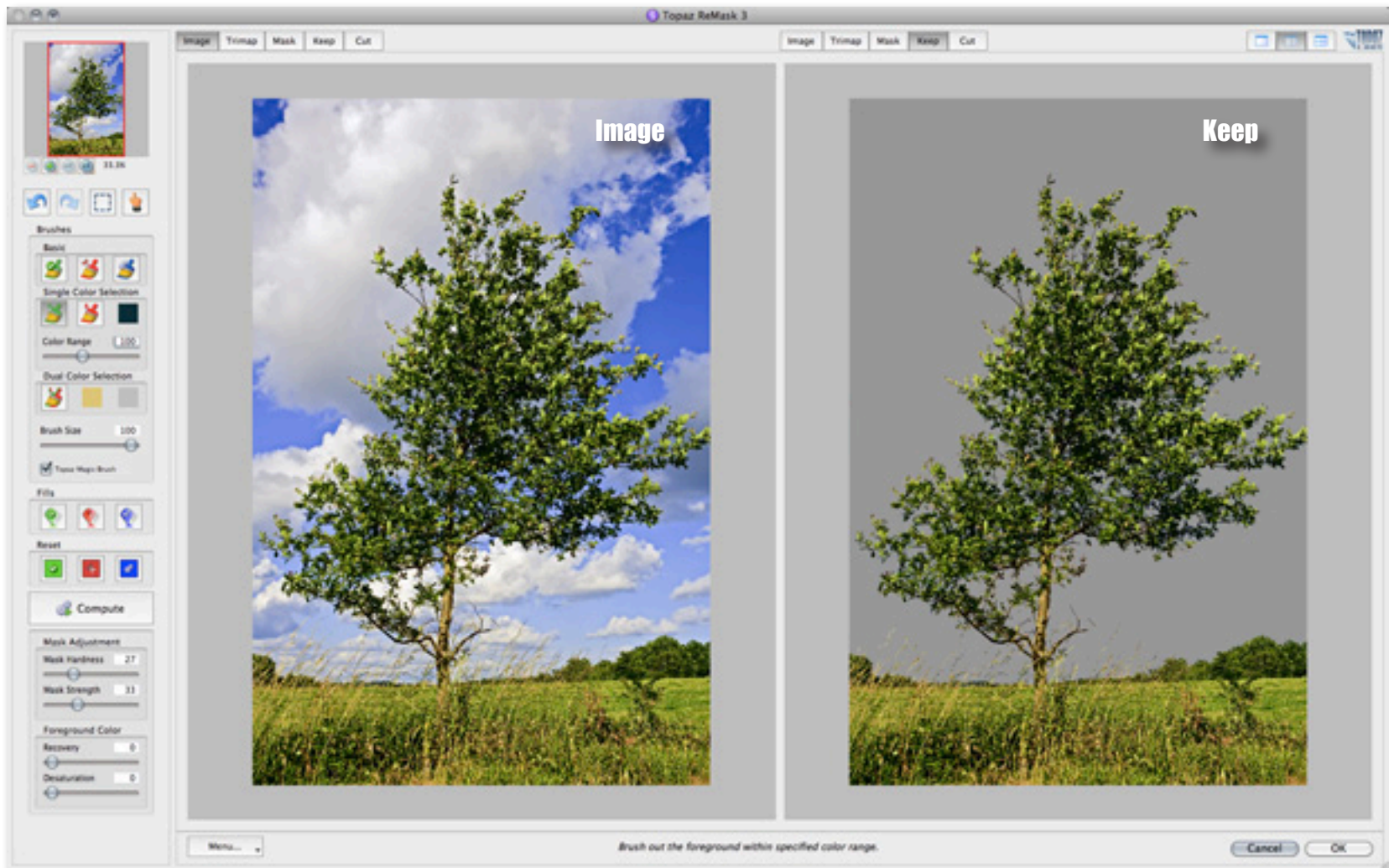
7. While in the Mask view, slowly adjust the Mask Hardness and Mask Strength sliders to improve your mask.



Since we are working on an image that has delicate edges and lines (leaves, branches and fine blades of grass) we do not want to over apply the Mask Hardness slider...doing so will give our extracted tree a very harsh and unpleasant appearance.

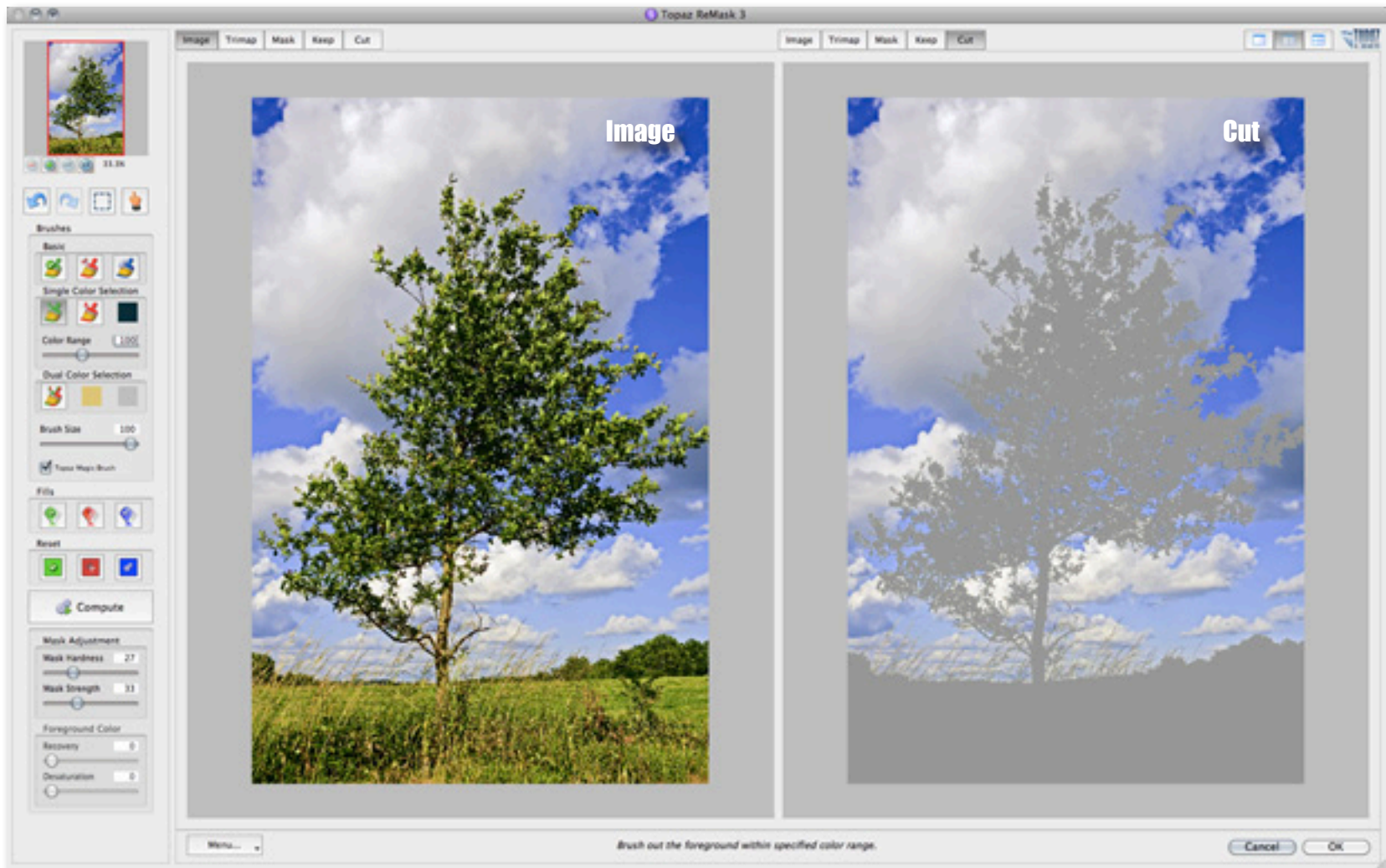
Selecting the Keep tab allows us to see exactly what parts of the tree were preserved from our initial tri-map selections.

8. Make any additional refinements to the details and colors you would like to preserve in your image.



Moving on to the Cut tab, we can take a look at the background sky that has been removed from our tree image.

9. Make any additional refinements to the details and colors you would like to remove from your image.





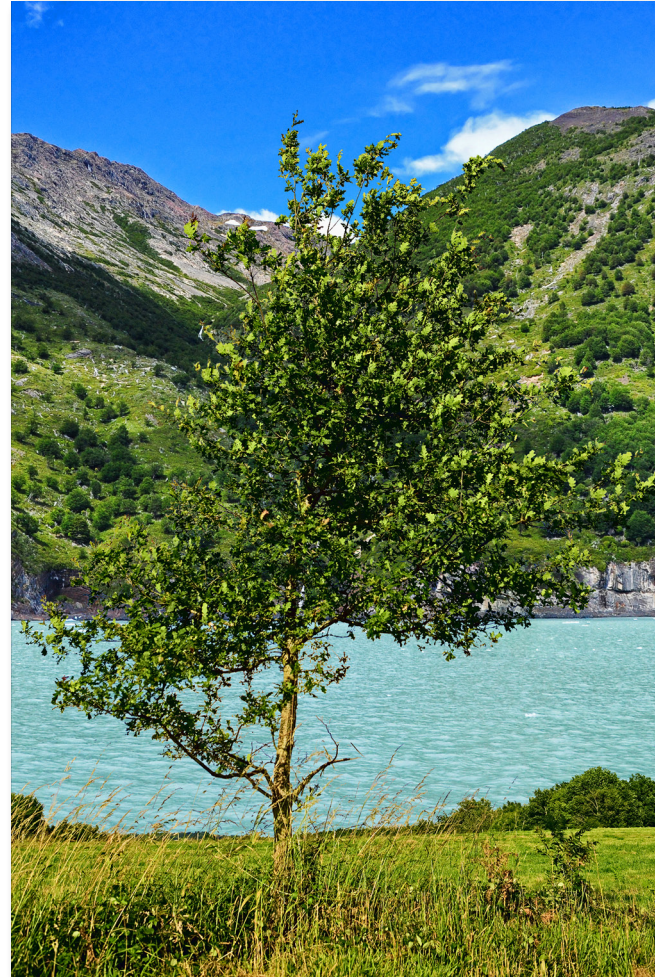
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