How to Convert Images to GIF with Transparent Background (For Mac OS X)

**Step 1.** Find an image (PNG, JPEG/JPG, GIF file formats) with an appropriate background. The background should be a consistent color, if not transparent already.

**Step 2.** Open the image with Preview. This is the default pre-installed application to open images and pdf. Refer to figure below (notice the top menu):

![Screenshot of Preview with image of Homer Simpson](image.png)

**Step 3.** From the top menu, go to View -> Show Markup Toolbar

![Screenshot of Preview Menu with Show Markup Toolbar highlighted](image2.png)
Step 4. This step will Select and Crop parts of the image. Skip if you do not need to remove any obstacles from your image. I will be selecting one of the Homers and getting rid of the others.

- Select the “Selection tools” and choose an appropriate tool

   ![Selection tools](image)

- Click and drag an area you want to cut out from the whole image
- Go to Tools -> Crop. Or press “Command + k”. You should now only have the part you selected.

Step 5. Removing the background and making it transparent.

- Select the “Instant Alpha” tool, which looks like a magic wand and is next to the “Selection tools”

   ![Instant Alpha](image)

- Click and hold on the part of the image you want to turn transparent, and while still holding move the cursor up or down to either select more or less of the image to turn transparent – anything that changed color are selected
- Hit the Delete key (note: if the original image was a format that does not support transparency, you will be asked to convert the document, choose “Convert” to proceed” as expected
- Repeat as necessary for other parts of the image you want to become transparent
- Save the file by going to File -> Save. Or press “Command + s”
- Refer to the figure below and notice that the green background is gone in my image.
Step 6. Export to GIF file format.

- Go to File -> Export
- Press and hold the “options” key on your keyboard while clicking on the “Format” drop-down menu.
- Select GIF
- Check the box for “Alpha” if it is un-checked. This will preserve the image transparency.

- Choose where to save it and Press the “Save” button
- Locate the image
Credits to OSX Daily, for which this tutorial is based on.
http://osxdaily.com/2013/01/27/make-a-transparent-image-png-or-gif-easily-with-preview-for-mac-os-x/