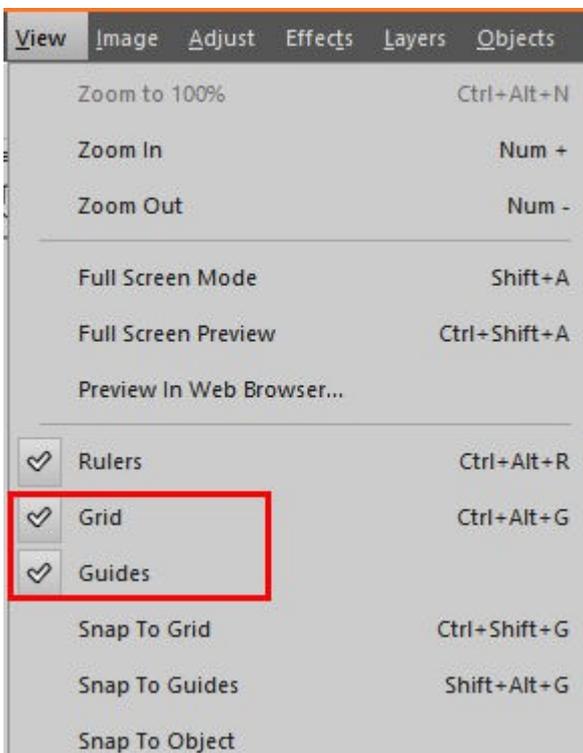Using Guides and Grid in PaintShop Pro

## Description

PaintShop Pro comes with a few neat tools to align elements. **Guides** and **Grids** are among them. Although they work similarly, they also have some obvious differences. When do you need to use one or the other? Let's have an overview of both tools.

# Where are they?

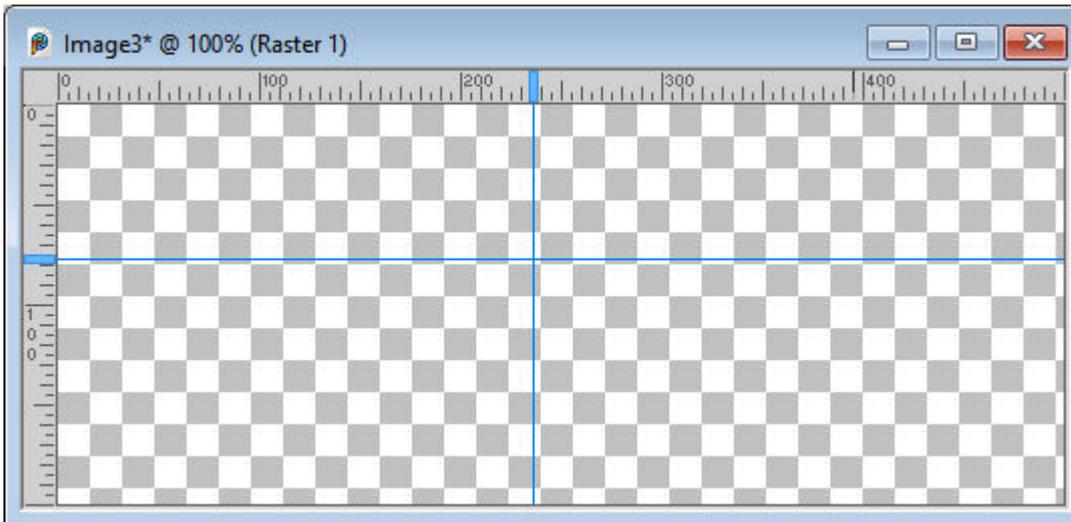You can find the options for the **Guides** and **Grids** under the **View** menu.



Even though you can enable/disable the **Guides** and **Grids** in that menu, there is more to it. The **Grids**
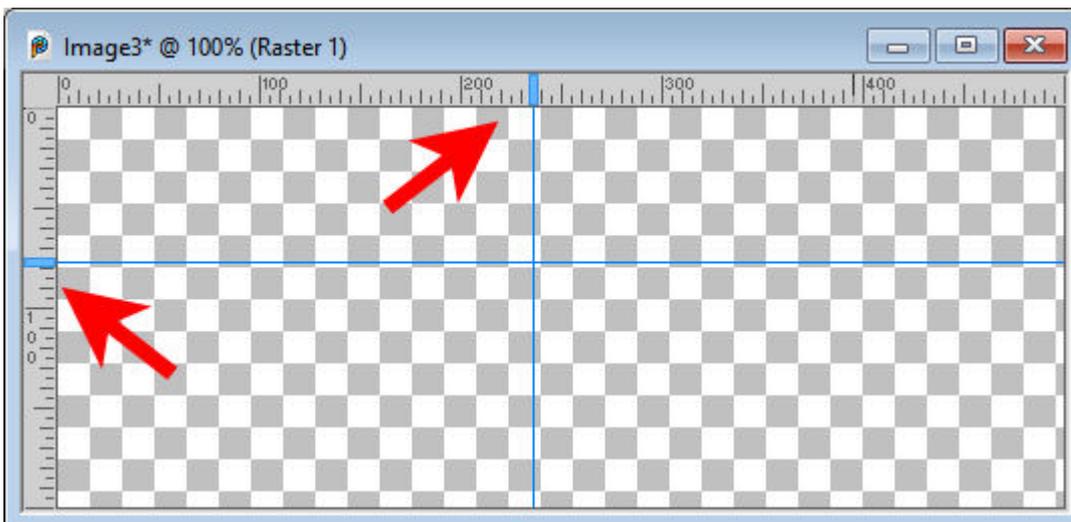
will appear as soon as you enable it, but the **Guides** are hiding "under" the **Rulers**. That means that you also have to enable the **Rulers**, in the same menu, to get the **Guides**.
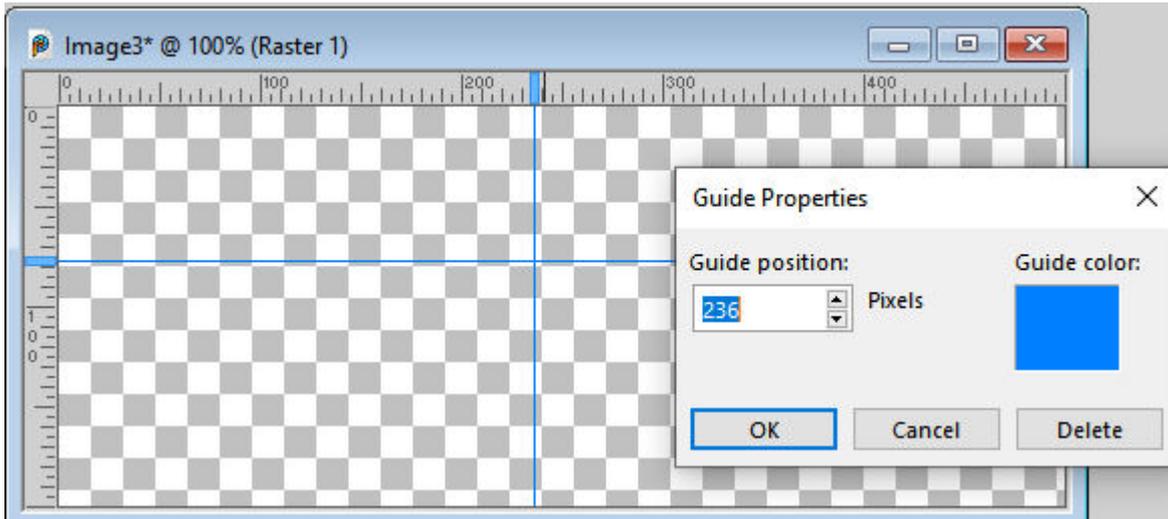
# Setting the Guides

Once you have the **Rulers** visible around your image and the **Guides** checked in the **View** menu, click on the **Ruler** and "pull" the **Guides**, one by one. If you want a horizontal guide, pull it from the top **Ruler**. If you want a vertical guide, pull it from the left **Ruler**.



You can pull the guides as far as you want, and you can use the rulers to know where you are placing them. However, if you want to be more precise, notice a little rectangle in the **Ruler**, at the end of each guide.



Right-click on that rectangle, and you will get this dialog window where you can set the placement very precisely.
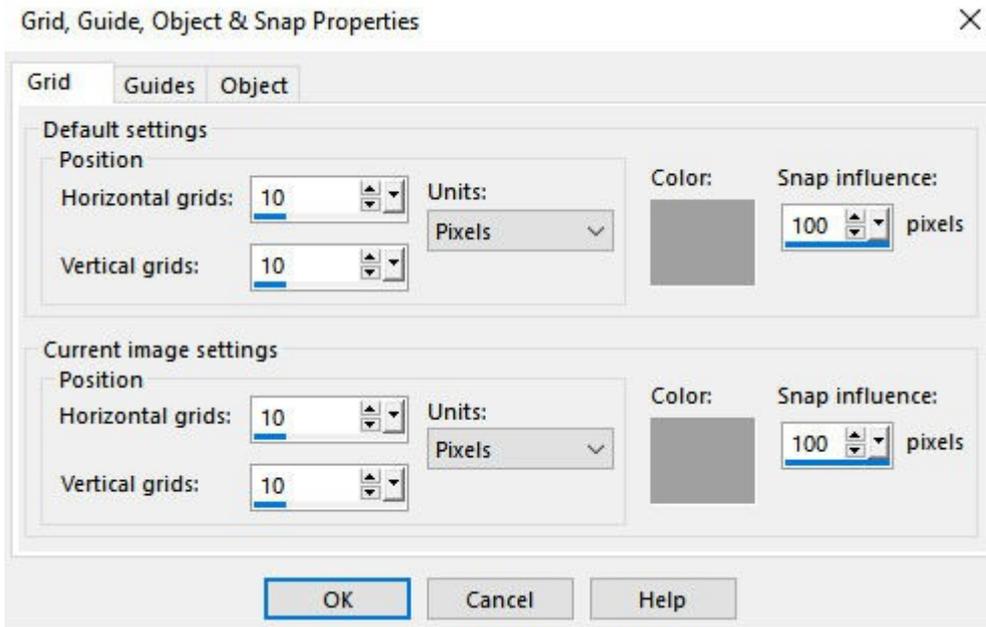
With this dialog window, you can also delete the guide, or change the default color. You can add as many or as few guides as you want, and only on the image you are working on.

# Getting the Grid

Unlike the **Guides**, when you set the **Grid**, it will cover your image with grey lines. In addition, the grid will be on every image you have on your workspace. This can be a little annoying but that is the normal behavior.

# Adjusting the Grid

There are different settings you can change for both the **Guides** and the **Grid**. Double-click on the **Ruler** (either one) and you will get this dialog window.
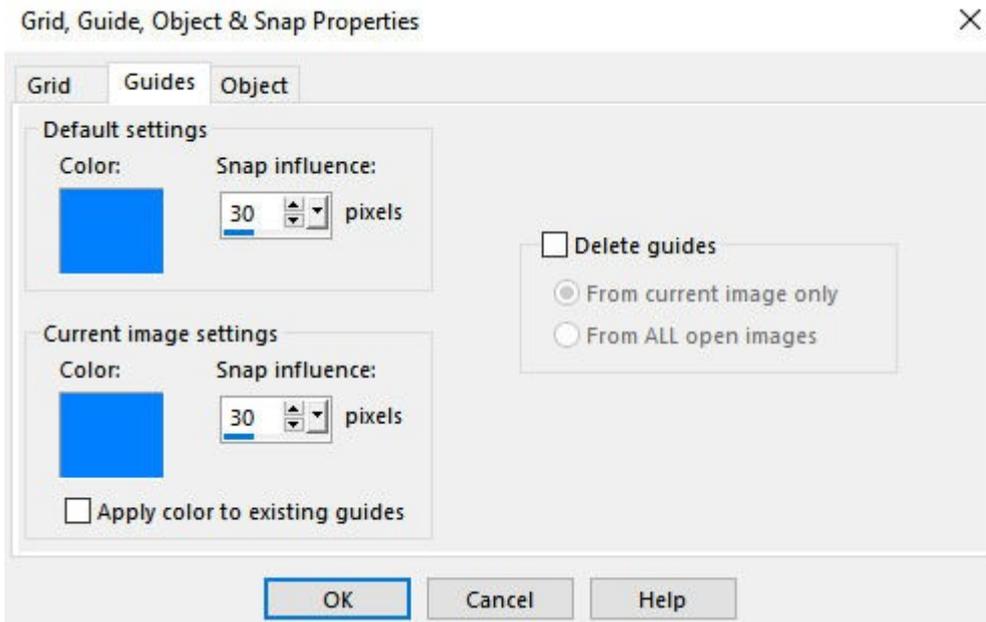
The first tab relates to the **Grid**. You can choose the **Default** settings, which would apply to all the open images. Then, you can change the settings for the current image, the one you are working on. That is how you can have different settings for different images.

The Snap influence will relate to how far an element/cursor would be for the grid line to "pull" it. A smaller value means that you have to be much closer to the grid line for it to take effect. Consider it like a magnet: a stronger magnet will pull the element from a bigger distance, while a weak magnet needs to be very close to the element to work.

# Adjusting the Guides

If you look at the second tab, it relates to the **Guides**.

In this case, you can't set the placement of the guides since you add them manually, one image at a time, unlike the grid. But you can still change the colors and the **Snap influence** setting.
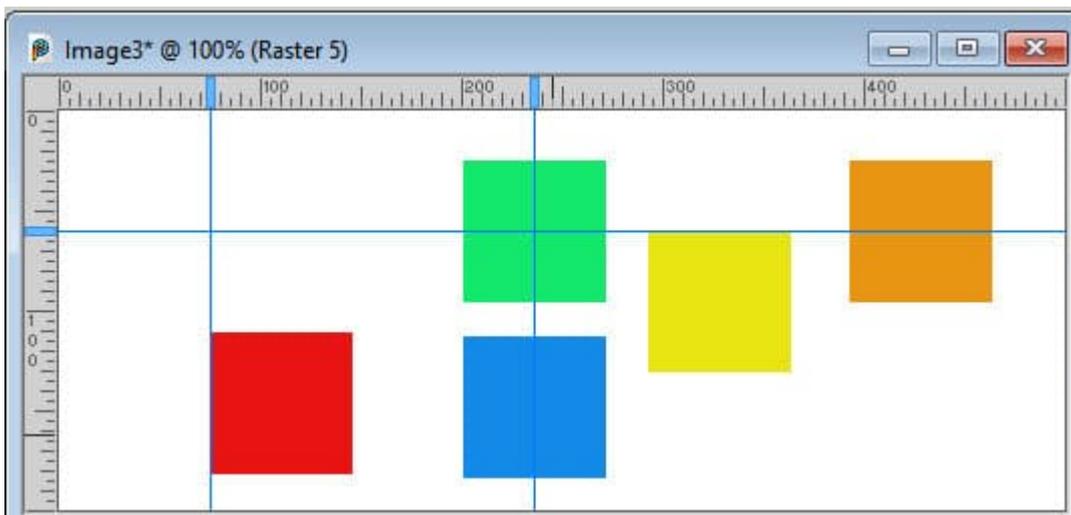
# Snap to it

The guides and the grid can be used with or without the snap. If you need to be precise, you will want to use the snap. To enable or disable it, you will have to add/remove a checkmark in the **View** menu.

One detail to remember: if the **Grid** is unchecked, the **Snap To Grid** can't be checked/unchecked. Furthermore, if the **Grid** is unchecked, there is obviously no possible snap so that setting is just ignored. The same applies to the **Guides**.

When you have a guide or a grid line, any element will snap either on its edge or its center.



## How to use the Guides?

Typically, you will place the guides where you want to snap your elements, whether on their edges or

in their center. You can place them in the center of your image or on its very edges. Or you can place them at regular intervals. You can also use the guides to draw straight lines, since the **Brush** tool, the **Pen** tool, and the **Picture tubes** tool would snap to the guides.
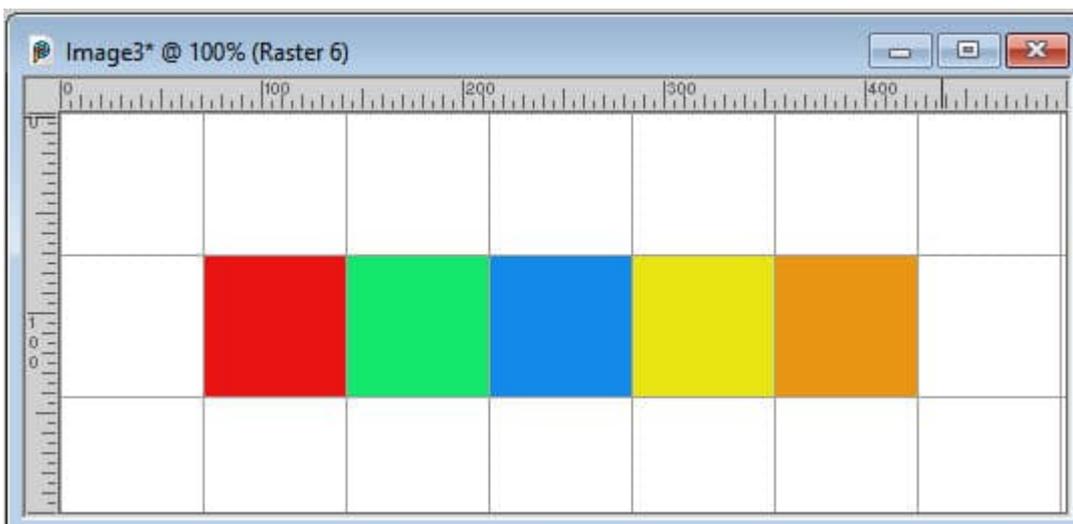
You can also place the **Guides** at irregular intervals, if you want to create color blocking for example. With irregular guides both vertically and horizontally, you can get a variety of rectangles in different size and shape.

If you want to place many guides, you could use a script like [Guide it lines](#). It can place a specific number of guides vertically and horizontally, either regularly or irregularly.
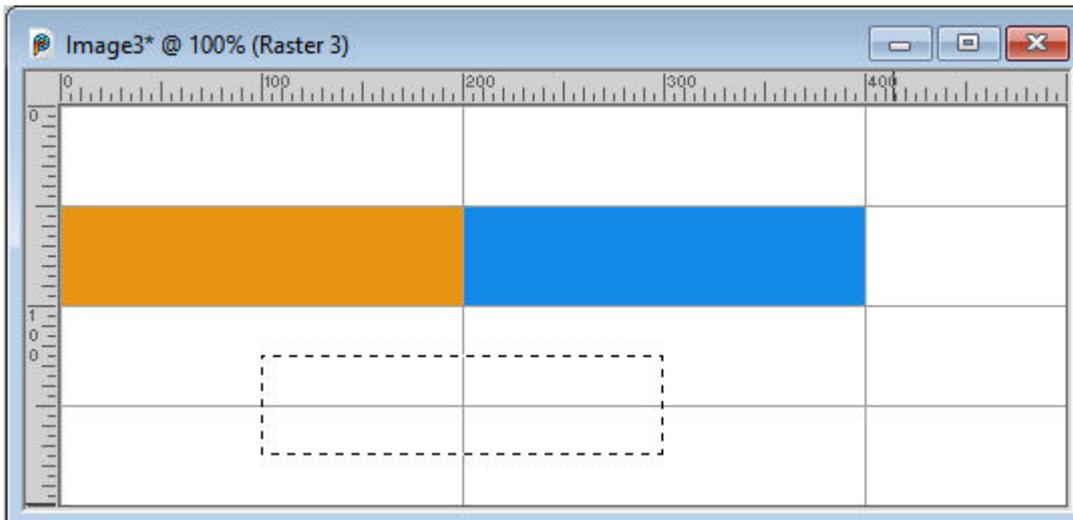
# How to use the Grid?

One difference between the **Guides** and the **Grids** is that once you set the horizontal and vertical grids, is that the spacing will be even all over the image, starting at position 0. You can choose to have the horizontal and vertical spacing equal or different.

If you want a collage of square image, you can set the same value horizontally and vertically.



However, you can also use different settings, vertically and horizontally, to create regular rectangles. From there, you can make a selection that will snap to the lines, and even move that selection and get it to snap in the middle.

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