Transparent background, mattes and smooth edges

-unwanted portions of an image can show against a contrasting background: this is called a *halo* or *matte line effect*.
-you can match the edge shading to go with the background color, eliminating halos completely.

1. Download jacko.gif
2. Select a portion of the image (I'll magic wand and inverse, but you can use any method you want)
3. If there is white around the image, choose select..>modify..>contract (2 or 3 pixels) and then press the delete key to get rid of the white
4. Copy the selection onto a new file with a transparent background
5. Save it as lantern.psd
6. Now, on the bottom of the toolbox, click on the button that will let us jump to ImageReady
7. Create a new layer below the object layer and fill it with the predominant color of the background for your web page. (This shows how it will look on the web page.)
8. Click the 2-up tab so you can compare.
9. Optimize palette and make sure you're working with a GIF (JPG doesn't support transparency, GIF was designed for it).
10. In the Matte Pulldown in the Optimize palette, change the color to match your background.
11. Now, choose . . >File..>Preview in..>Safari. This will show us what the image looks like without fixing it.
12. Click the original tab (you can only make changes in original)
13. We still have some white left. Use the magic wand tool to delete those pixels. In the tool menu, uncheck the contiguous pixels box to get them all at once.

14. Choose the paintbrush tool look at the Options in the Tool menu above.
15. In the menu, move the Opacity slider to about 40% and change the mode in the pop-up box to screen. This is putting a "screen" --somewhat like a mask, except we are letting some light through -- over top of the darker parts of the image we eventually will fix. In essence, you'll be able to paint over the darker shades without effecting the lighter.
16. In the Layers palettes, make sure the object layer is selected, and click the Lock Transparent Pixels box. (This allows you to paint on the object without adding color to the transparent pixels around the object.)
17. Use the magic want on the object layer to select all the nontransparent pixels.
18. Choose select>modify>expand and enter 2 in the Expand By field.
19. Choose select>feather. Enter 3 in the Feather Radius field. You may want to make these bigger, depending on the halo effect you have. Should do for our example.
20. Choose view..>show..>selection edges. This makes the "dancing ants" disappear from view (but you still have the background selected).
21. If necessary, change the foreground color to the background layer you created earlier.
22. Choose a small to medium, soft-edge brush and paint around the edge to change the dark halo pixels to match the background color. Try to do this in one long brush stroke. Repeated strokes will give your background a "bleached" appearance.
23. Click the optimize panel to look at it.

Click on the Matte pulldown of the Optimize palette, and change the color to match your background. This changes the matte color to match the edge shading color and the destination background color, further increasing the quality of

the transition. Note: it would also be a good idea to choose web-safe colors for backgrounds in particular.
22. Preview again, to see the difference.