Straighten, Crop and Resize

CROP YOUR IMAGES to improve composition

Designers and photographers use various techniques to balance an image and focus the viewer's attention. They often use a Rule of Thirds principle and change the placement of the horizon to the upper or lower third of the image or place the main subject at the intersection of the thirds. They may just offset the main subject to guide the viewer into the image. Perfectly composing a photograph in the camera's viewfinder is not always possible; however, you can recompose and improve many photos by cropping them in Photoshop. Using the Crop tool, you can easily strengthen the composition of your images by changing the relative position of the main subject or the strongest lines.

1 With the image you want to crop opened, click the Crop tool.

 ● The options in the Options bar show the Crop tool size selections.

2 Click and drag across the entire image.

The options in the Options bar change and the Rule of Thirds guide overlays the image.

3 Click and drag the side anchors to reposition the crop on the image.

4 Click and drag anywhere inside the crop lines to change the overall area to be cropped.

5 Click the Commit button to apply the crop.

Easily level a CROOKED HORIZON

1 In an image with a crooked horizon line, click and hold the Eyedropper tool to reveal the Ruler tool.

2 Click the Ruler tool.

3 Click and drag from one side of the image to the other, along what should be a horizontal line. The Ruler tool draws a line across the image.

Note: You can click and drag along a building or any line that should be horizontal.

4 Click the Straighten button in the Options bar.

Expand the canvas with a REVERSE CROP

When you think of cropping, you generally think of reducing the physical size of an image by cutting away areas around the borders. In Photoshop, you can also use the Crop tool to expand your canvas, give your photo or image a wider border, or quickly create a new colored background for a photo. Expanding the canvas with the Crop tool is quick and you can see exactly how your image appears on the enlarged canvas. In addition, using the reverse-crop method, you can create an uneven border, larger on one side than the other for a page layout or a note card, or larger on the bottom than on the top as in a gallery print. You can use this technique to enlarge your canvas visually or use precise dimensions for your final image. By specifying the width and height for your finished design in the boxes in the Options bar, you can click and drag out the crop marquee in the image and maintain the exact dimensions you typed.

1 With an image opened, click Window and select Application Frame. The workspace window positions change.

2 Click the Default Colors icon to reset the foreground to black and the background to white.

3 Click the Zoom tool.

4 Click the Zoom Out box in the Options bar.

5 Click in the image several times to zoom out, adding some space around the image.

The image view becomes smaller on a gray background area.

6 Click the Crop tool.

7 Click and drag across the entire image.

 ● The crop marquee appears on the image.

 8 Click and drag the corner anchor points of the crop marquee to extend the crop area.

9 Click and drag the expanded area around your photo to fit your design.

10 Click the Commit button in the Options bar to commit the crop.

11 The canvas is enlarged and filled with the background color.

12 Click the Type tool and type over the white of the background area.

STRAIGHTEN CROOKED SCANS quickly

When you are not bogged down with repetitive tasks, you can be more productive and creative. Photoshop has many features to help both your productivity and your creativity, such as automated image processing. Scanning images one at a time is one of those projects that can be very time-consuming. You have to scan one image, crop it, and save it — and then lift the scanner top, reposition another image on the scanner bed, and start over. Using a flatbed scanner with a large scanning area, you can scan multiple images at one time and let Photoshop separate these into multiple files. Photoshop's Automate command for cropping and straightening photos even saves time when scanning just one photo. You can place a photo on the scanner bed without lining it up perfectly because Photoshop's Crop and Straighten Photos command can crop and straighten that one scan. The Crop and Straighten Photos command works best when the images have clearly defined edges and there is at least 1/8 inch between each image. The command may work more quickly if all the images have similar tones.

1 In Photoshop, open a file that has multiple scans.

 2 Click File.

3 Click Automate.

4 Click Crop and Straighten Photos.

Photoshop automatically crops and separates the images onto separate windows as tabs.

5 Click Window.

6 Click Arrange.

7 Click Float All in Windows

Photoshop places all the separate images in windows cascading on the screen.

8 Click Window Click Arrange and click Tile.

Photoshop arranges the original scan and all the separate images on the screen.

Note: The Crop and Straighten Photos command does not automatically save the separate image files.

Use Photomerge to ASSEMBLE A PANORAMA

You can combine multiple photographs into one continuous image to create a panorama. For example, you can take two or more overlapping photographs of a scenic horizon, or even a number of scans of parts of a large document, and then assemble them in Photoshop with the Photomerge command. You can combine photos that are tiled horizontally as well as vertically. The Photomerge command in Photoshop CS5 can automatically position and blend each layer using individual layer masks. You can also choose to blend the images manually using Interactive Layout. To make any Photomerge project as successful as possible, photos or scans intended for merging should have an overlap of 25 to 40 percent. You should also maintain the same exposure for each photograph or keep the same scanning settings for each scan. If you are shooting the photos, use a tripod to keep the camera level so the photos line up correctly. By shooting in the Portrait mode or vertically, and shooting more images, you have a larger area to crop from for your final image, giving you a taller and more realistic result.

1 In Photoshop, click File.

2 Click Automate.

3 Click Photomerge.

The Photomerge dialog box appears.

 4 Click Browse. The Open dialog box appears.

5 Navigate to and (Ctrl+click) the images to select them.

6 Click Open.

The selected files are listed in the Photomerge dialog box.

7 Click Auto to select the automatic layout (changes to).

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Note: If you shot a series of images that cover 360 degrees, use the Spherical alignment option.

8 Make sure that Blend Images Together is selected.

Note: Depending on the images, you can also select Vignette Removal and Geometric Distortion Correction.

9 Click OK.

Photoshop aligns the images based on content and blends them into a single image. Note: The new image is a multilayered file.

10 Click the Crop tool.

11 Click and drag across the blended image to make your final panorama.

12 Adjust the corner anchors to fit your image. Click the Commit button in the Options bar. The panorama is cropped to the selected edges.