

Transform Tool

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The Transform Tool, in Photography, may be used to correct perspective and to adjust a composition.

Rulers and Guides

In correcting perspective guides make the job easy.

1. Open your image
2. In the Menu bar *View > Rulers*, or key strokes *Control R [Cmd R]*
3. Click on the top or side ruler and drag a guide to the area that needs correcting. Click and drag another guide to another area that needs correcting which may be another vertical or a horizontal.
4. To get rid of the rulers and guides after correcting the perspective go back to *View > Rulers* and click, and also click *Guide* or use the key strokes.

Grids

Grids make it easy to apply the rule of thirds

1. In the Menu bar *Edit > Preferences > Guides, Grid and Slices*
2. In the box *Grid, Change Gridline every to 100%*, and change *Subdivisions* to 3
3. Click *OK*
4. To apply the grid to an image either
 - In Menu bar *View > Show > Grid* or
 - Key strokes *Control ‘*
5. To remove the grid use the Menu bar as before or again use the key strokes

Transform tool

1. The Transform tool will not work on a Background layer as that layer is locked so either
 - *ALT(Option)* click on the layer icon in the layers palette to change the Background layer into an Open layer [unlocked] or
 - Click and drag the Background layer down to the *New layer icon* to make a new layer or
 - Make a selection of the whole Background layer by key strokes *Control [Cmd]A*
2. Activate the Transform tool either
 - In the Menu bar *Edit > Transform > choose Scale etc or*
 - In the Menu bar *Edit > Free Transform* or
 - Key strokes *Control [Cmd] T* to get the Free Transform tool
3. Once in either of the Transform tools *Right Click [Control Click]* in the image to get a drop down menu containing all the alternatives of Scale, Rotate, Skew, Distort, Perspective, and Warp. Right click again if you wish to change tools It is possible to change between tools using the

Modifier keys but unless you are doing this often it is hard to remember the key strokes

4. To correct verticals place guides near the verticals and pull the upper corner handles out so the verticals parallel the guides. This squashes the image a little so drag the upper edge handle up a little.
5. When using Scale or in Free Transform holding down *Shift key* confines the scaling to keeping the original proportions.
6. To delete the transformation and start again press *Escape*
7. To accept the changes double click inside the box or hit *Return*.
8. It will then be necessary to crop the image.

The Crop tool in Perspective mode

An alternative to the Transform tool is to use the Crop tool in Perspective mode. This allows the image to be cropped after correcting the perspective.

1. On the tool bar click the *Crop tool*
2. Make sure that in the Options bar that *Clear* is clicked
3. Drag a crop marquee round the image
4. Now in the Options bar click *Perspective* giving you Free Transform tool in the Distort mode. With the aid of Guides (see above) any correction of perspective can be made.
5. When you have finished correcting perspective drag the vertical and horizontal handles to mark out a crop
6. Press *OK*

Stretching the image with the Transform tool

To stretch an image upward or sideways to improve the composition, or to fill in a gap after using the transform tool use a marquee selection and the transform tool

To fill in a gap such as may arise when you have corrected perspective

1. Using the *Rectangular Marquee* drag a selection to include the gap and the adjacent image. Include as much of the image as you can but don't include any essential detail that you would not want stretched.
2. Click *Control [Cmd] T* to get the Free Transform tool applied to the selection
3. Now drag the outer edge of the transform box to pull the image over to cover the bare patch.
4. Press *Enter* or double click inside the image to accept the Transform, and hit *Control D (Cmd D)* to remove the selection.

To Stretch an image sideways or upward to improve the composition.

1. First increase the canvas size on the edge you wish to stretch. *Image > Canvas Size*. Change the measurement units to *%*, and then type in say *110%* in the width or height. In the *Anchor* click on the arrows so that an

arrow points in the direction you would like the image extended. Click *OK*.

2. Using the *Rectangular marquee* drag a selection to include the now increased canvas and the adjacent image again avoiding any essential detail.
3. Click *Control T (Cmd T)* to get the *Free Transform* tool
4. Drag the outer border of the Transform box outwards to fill the extended canvas.
5. Press *Enter* or double click inside the image to accept the transform, and type *Control D (Cmd D)* to clear the selection.
6. If this procedure follows a correction of perspective, when you increase the canvas you will see the part of the image that was dragged outside the original canvas. This does not matter. Simply ignore it and drag a selection to include the new canvas, the previously extended image and the adjacent image that is to be stretched and proceed as in 4.