

Straighten and Cropping Images

Sometimes when taking photographs or when scanning them, they can turn out crooked. Photoshop offers a number of ways to fix crooked images. You can also straighten and crop an image at the same time. We will be covering a number of those techniques in this exercise.

The quickest way to fix a crooked image is to straighten it out with the Measure tool, and one of the Rotate Commands.



Straighten an image with the Measure tool.

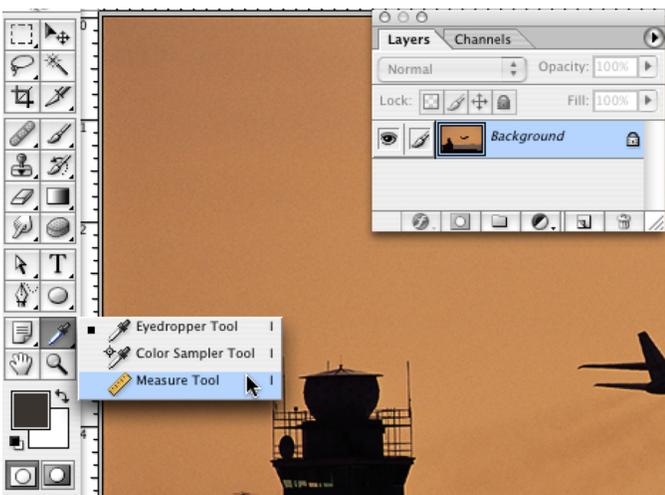
1. Open an image that needs to be straightened.
2. Select the Measure tool hidden in the Eyedropper.
3. Drag out a measure line across a feature in your image that should be horizontal or vertical.

Note: The line is a non-printing line and can be adjusted after it has been placed on the canvas.

To reposition, click and drag the line to a new location.

To adjust the angle of the line, click on one end and move it into the desired location.

To remove it completely, drag it off the canvas.



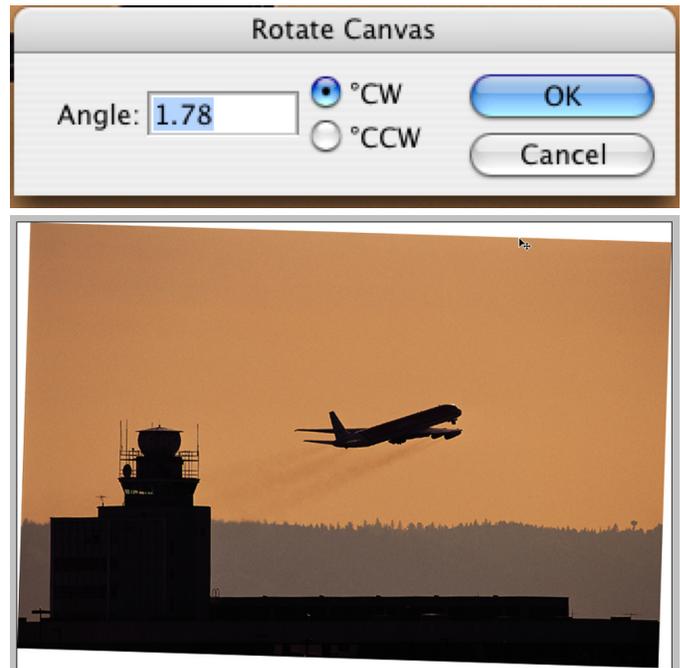
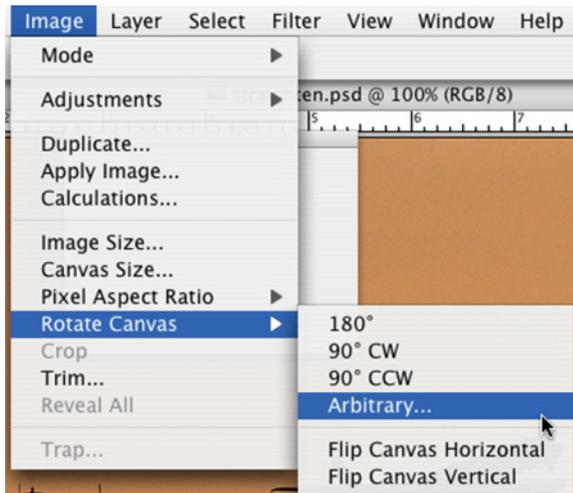
Straighten an Image - Arbitrary Rotate and Crop

4. Choose Image -> Rotate Canvas -> Arbitrary.

The correct rotation angle to straighten the image will appear automatically in the Rotate Canvas dialog box.

5. Choose the rotation direction. Click OK

When the rotation is completed and the image itself will be straight it will no longer be straight on the canvas. So the final step will be to crop the image within the new boundaries.



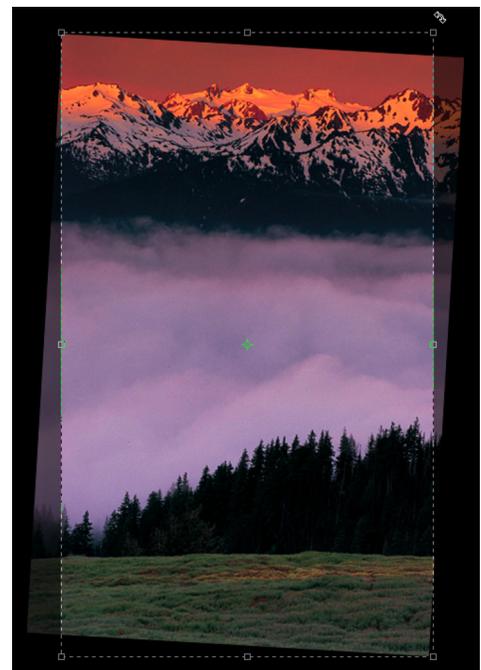
Here is a quick way to straighten and crop an image out of its background in one process.

1. Open an image
2. Select the crop tool - make sure all options are blank in the Options bar
3. Select the area of the image to be cropped
4. Once selected, move the cursor to the outside the corner bounding box. Use the rotation arrows to line up the edges.

Adjust selection as needed – enlarging or reducing by adjusting the side and top bounding box handles, or fine tuning the rotation direction further.

5. When the image area is selected – move the cursor into the bounding box and double click.

OR hit the Enter key on the keypad.



Straighten an Image - Crop from Multiple Scan

There is an automated tool that will separate individual images from a single scan made up of multiple images.

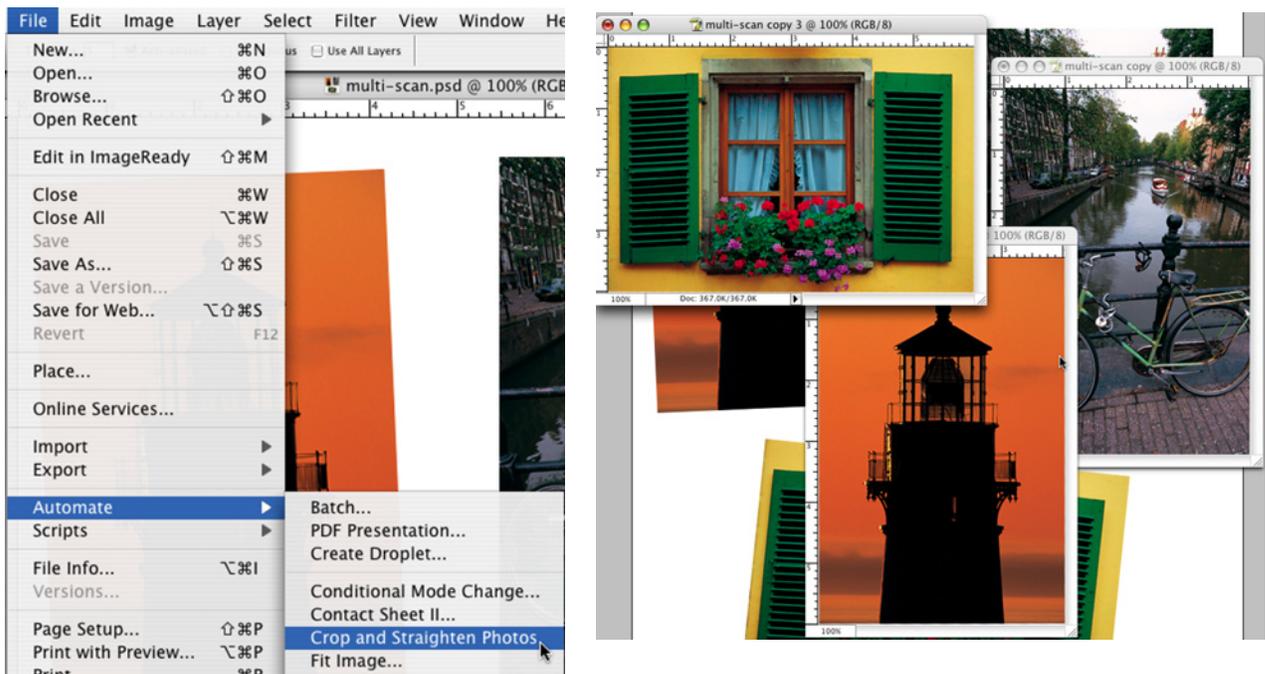
The trick to using this command is to make sure that the images have a bit of room between them. About 1/4 to 1/2 inch between them works well, but Adobe says you can get away with as little as 1/8th of an inch. A good clean solid background is also important.

To use the Crop and Straighten Photos command:

1. Open the scanned file that contains the images you want to separate.

2. Choose File > Automate > Crop and Straighten Photos.

The scanned images are processed, and each image opens in its own new window. Leaving the original image intact and open below them.

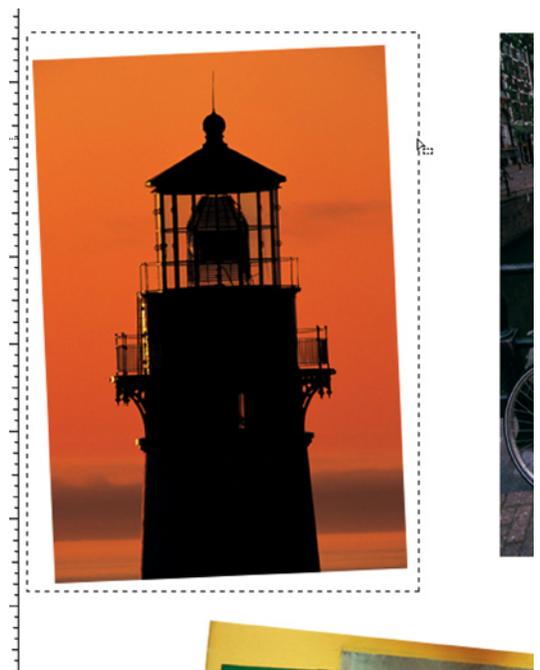


If the Crop and Straighten Photos command is having problems separating your images correctly, or if you only want to separate one image from the group, here is something else to try.

1. Use the selection tool to select an individual image from the collection include some of the background, but not parts of the other images.

2. Hold down the Opt/Alt key while choosing the Crop and Straighten command.

Doing this will tell Photoshop only one image is to be separated from the group. It works just as above, leaving the original multi image intact, opening the separated image in a new window.



Straighten and Cropping Images

Another cropping technique to try is the Trim command. This option is one to choose if your image is surrounded by areas of a single color, or area of transparency that you would like to remove. The Trim command will not straighten an image when cropping the unwanted areas. It will trim away the designated areas right up to the edge of the image.

To crop an image using the Trim command:

1. Image Menu, Choose Trim.

The Trim Dialog box appears
How the Trim command decides what to trim away will be determined by the setting you choose here.

2. In the Trim dialog box, select an option:

Choose Transparent Pixels to trim away transparency at the edges of the image.

Choosing Top Left Pixel Color will remove an area containing the color of the upper left pixel from the image.

Choosing Bottom Right Pixel Color will remove an area containing the color of the lower right pixel from the image.

3. Select one or more areas of the image to trim away: Top, Bottom, Left, or Right.

4. Click, OK.

When the image reappears all designated areas of color will be removed.

