



Adobe® Photoshop® Elements 2.0 Lessons for Educators

April Fool's Day Project

Adobe Education



Adobe

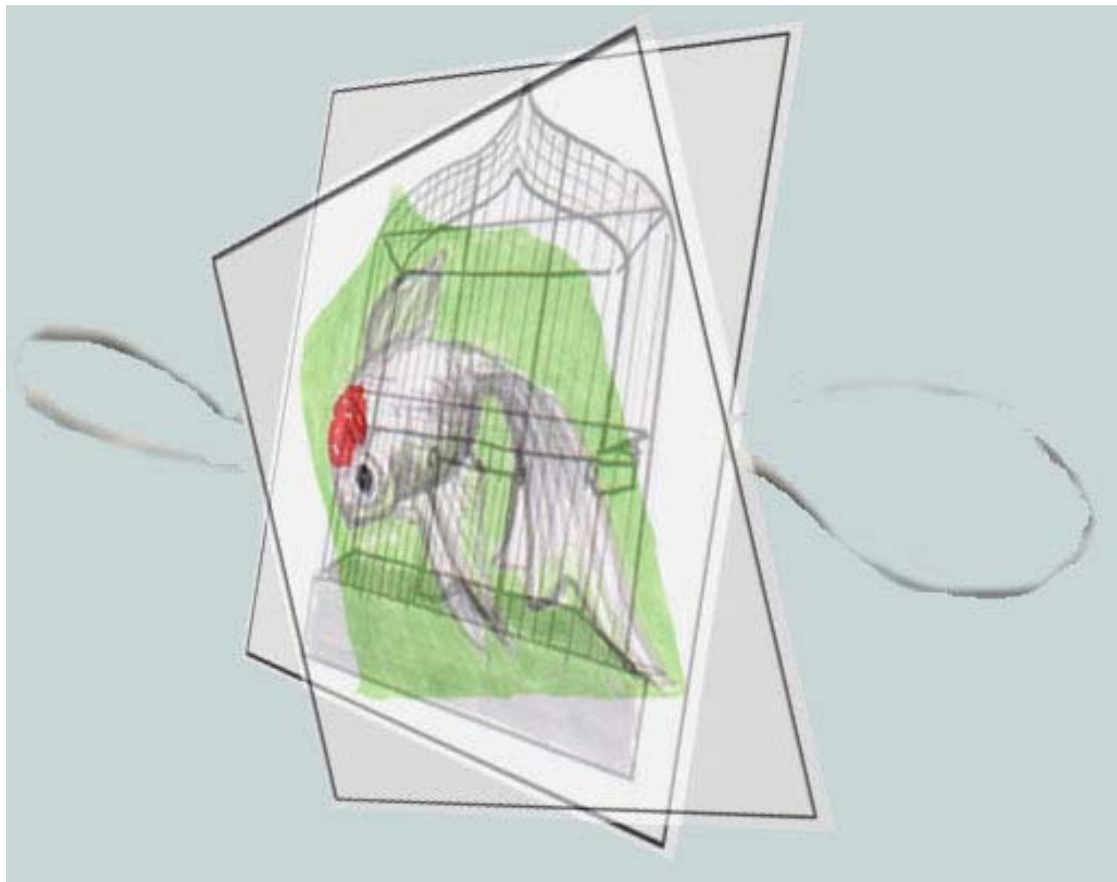
Tools for the New Work™

April Fool's Day Project

This project takes advantage of many of the tools in the Adobe® Photoshop® Elements toolbox as well as the Layers capabilities to create a visual illusion. In this project two images are selected that do not seem to belong together. When completed the spinner combines the images to create an illusion that the images are connected. This project offers a great opportunity to study the Surrealist art movement.

Materials:

- Two stiff pieces of heavy paper or oak tag that will fit through a digital printer
- Magazines, photos, or other sources if images will be scanned
- Heavy string or cord at least 3 feet long
- Cellophane tape
- Rubber cement or glue stick



Before Photoshop Elements:

File Management: Create a new work folder in your digital work space. Name this folder with a unique name that you will recognize. Always keep all image files for a single project in their own unique folder.

Images: Create or find two images on a solid background that would never be seen together in real life, such as a car driving inside a hamster wheel or a cat swimming and the ocean. These can be scanned drawings, photos, cutouts from magazines, digital photos, computer-generated images, or downloads.

Refer to the illustration of the palette well (Figure 1) and the toolbox (Figure 2) for steps requiring the use of any of the Photoshop Elements tools.

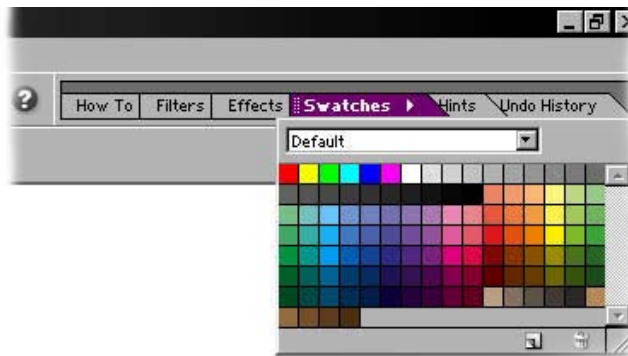


Figure 1

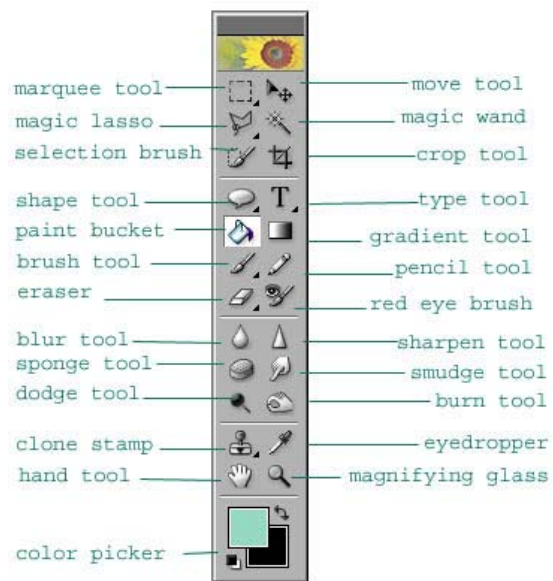


Figure 2

In Photoshop Elements:

To undo any steps in this project, from the menu bar, choose Edit > Undo.

Create a new Photoshop Elements master file. From the menu bar, choose File > New. In a new file window set the new file size to Width 9 inches, Height 5 inches, Resolution 150 Pixels/Inch (a good pixel range for printing on a digital printer), and RGB Mode.

1. Save the file. To do this: From the menu bar, choose File > Save As and browse the dialog box for your folder. Open the folder, name your master file a short, easy-to-remember name, and choose Save. Be sure you save your work inside the new work folder.
2. Creating the template for the spinner.

From the toolbox, select the rectangular marquee tool.

3. From the options bar, set Style to Fixed Size, Width to 4 inches, and Height to 4 inches (Figure 3).
4. Place the cursor in the top center area of your document and click to create the first square in this image area. You will use the square to create image areas for both sides of the spinner (Figure 4).

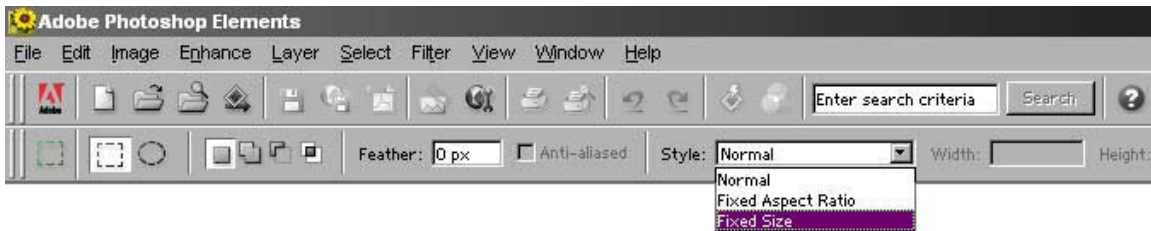


Figure 3

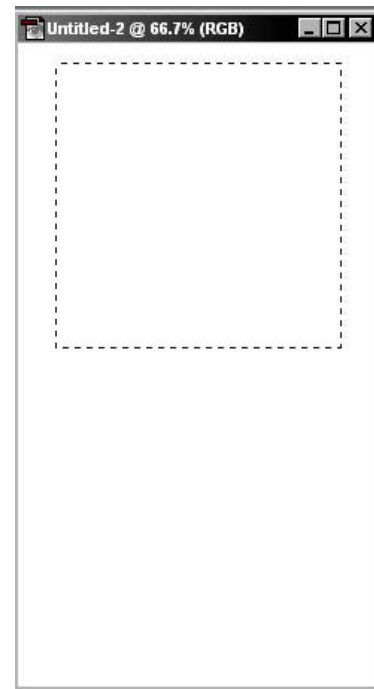


Figure 4

5. Creating a border around the square.

Be sure that there is a rectangular dancing dotted line around the square. From the menu bar, choose Edit > Stroke, set the Width to 2 px, and the color to black. A line will appear around the square (Figure 5). Notice that this creates a new layer in the Layers palette.

6. Copying a second square.

From the toolbox, select the lasso tool. Use the mouse to draw around the square.

With the cursor inside the square, from the menu bar, choose Edit > Copy, then Edit > Paste. A new square will appear. Drag the new square to the bottom of the page. Notice that these squares will each appear on a new layer.

In the Layers palette, double-click on the layer for the first square and rename this Square One. Double-click on the layer for the second square and rename this Square Two (Figure 6).

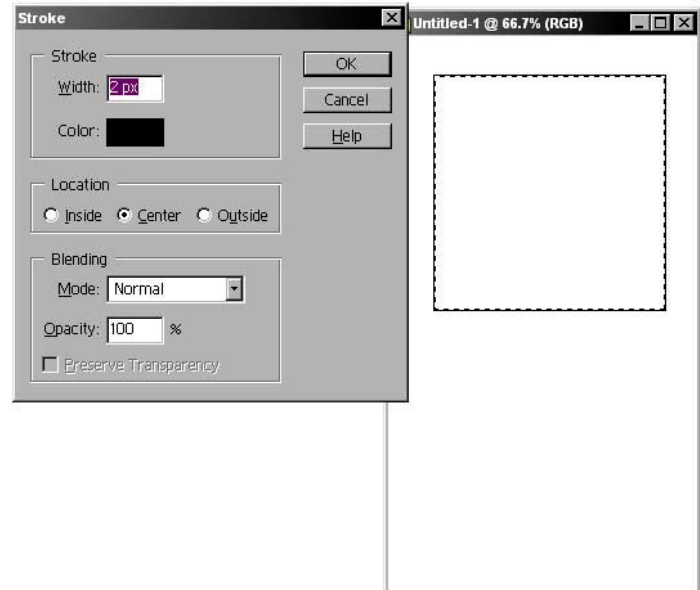


Figure 5

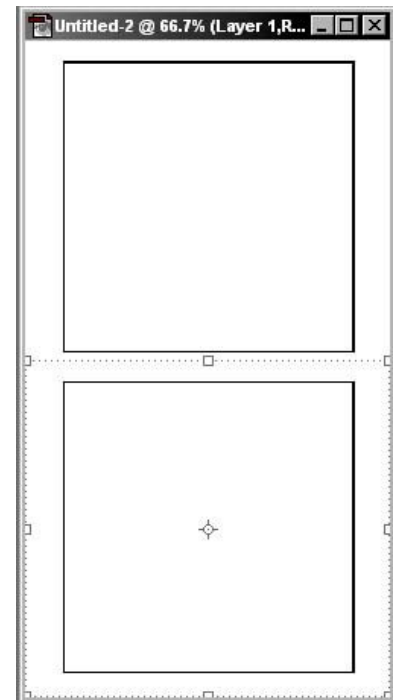


Figure 6

7. Placing and sizing the two images inside the squares.

Open the image files you have created for the two different sides of the spinner.

From the toolbox, select the magic lasso tool. Use the mouse to draw around one of the images, staying very close to the image's edges. When you have successfully selected a closed loop around your image, you will see a line around the image, of tiny blinking dots, or "ants marching on a string". From the menu bar, choose Edit > Copy and copy the image area. Move to the master file and from the menu bar choose Edit > Paste to paste the image onto the master file. From the toolbox select the move tool. Drag the image into the middle of the first square. If the image is larger than the square, resize it by dragging on the corner boxes that appear around it (Figure 7).

8. Repeat step 7 using the second image. Position the second image inside the first square, covering the first image (Figure 8).
9. In the Layers palette, click on the Blending Mode options menu at the top of the window, and select Multiply (Figure 9). This will make your second image translucent, so you can see the first image beneath it.

Resize the second image so that it is the same scale as the first image. See figure 10 for the way the transparency will appear

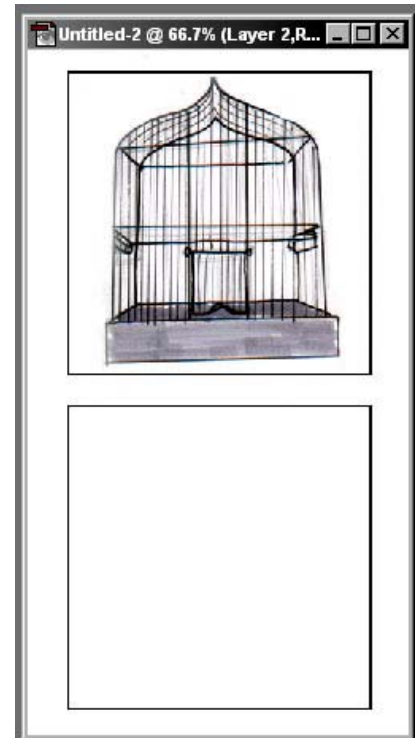


Figure 7

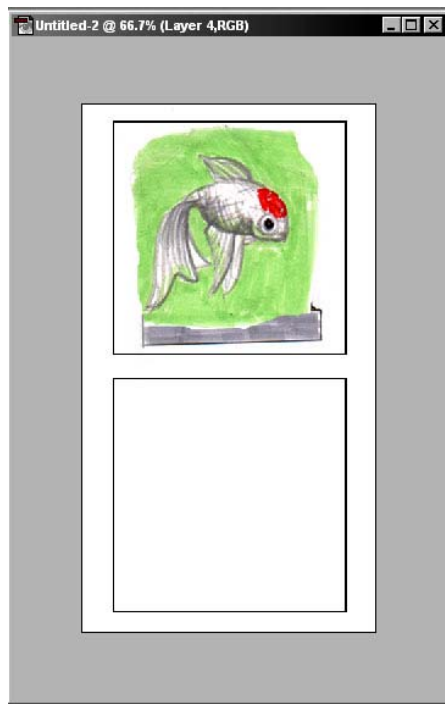


Figure 8

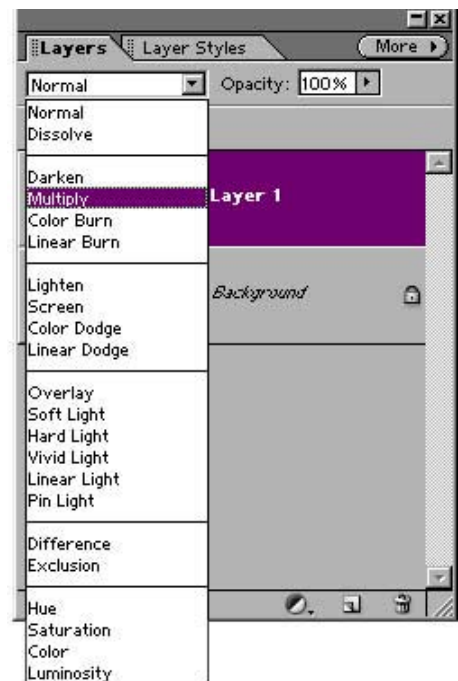


Figure 9

10. From the toolbox, select the eraser tool. Use a small brush to remove unwanted edges around each image. To switch between images, click the desired image's layer in the Layers palette (Figure 10).
11. Move the second image down to the lower square to create the second side of the spinner. Hold down the Shift key to ensure that the image will move on a straight path. Be sure that the two images are positioned with the same amount of space at the top of the square (Figure 11).

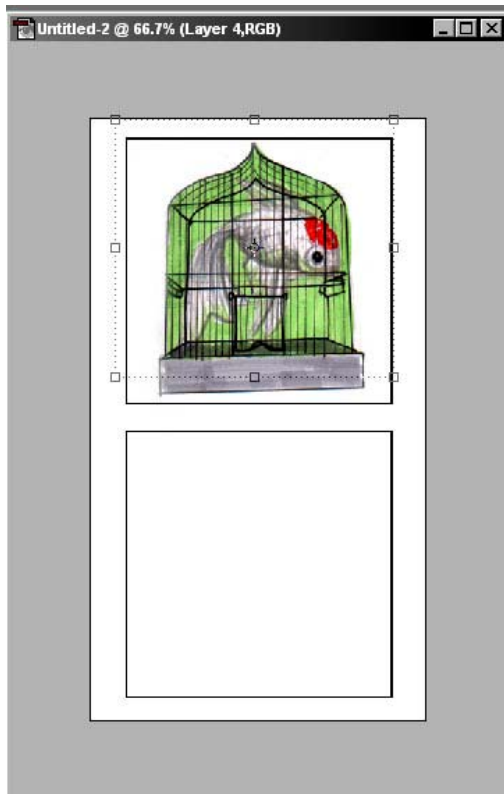


Figure 10

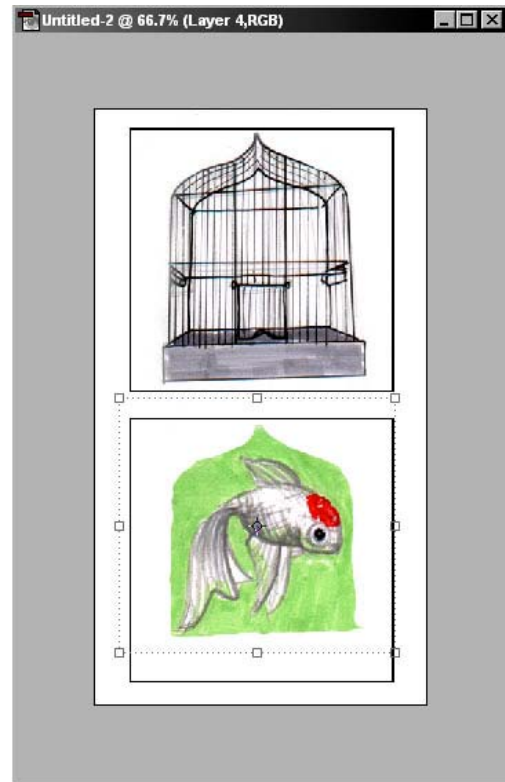


Figure 11

- To make the illusion work correctly, you will need to reverse one of the images so they will fit together correctly when they are placed back to back. From the menu bar, choose Image > Rotate > Flip Horizontal (Figures 12 and 13).

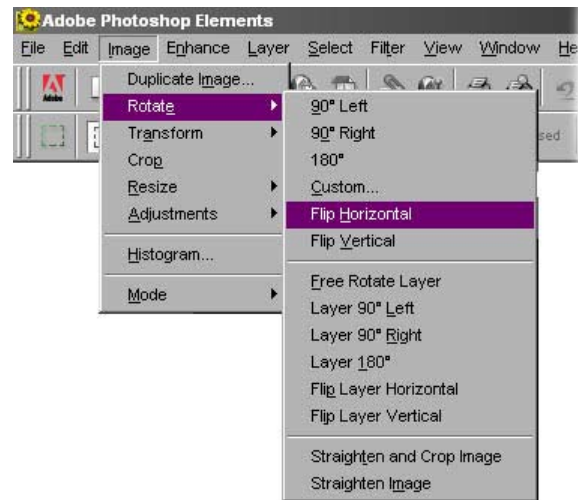


Figure 12

- Printing the spinner.

From the menu bar, choose File > Print and print the master file on stiff paper.

- Assembling the spinner.

Cut out both squares. Place the squares back to back, and hold them up to a strong light, such as a window. Make sure that they are aligned. Create a loop of cellophane tape and carefully place it between the layers at the top to hold them together temporarily.

- Cut a 24-inch length of string. Tie the ends of the string together to form a loop.
- Lift the top square and cover the back of it with glue.

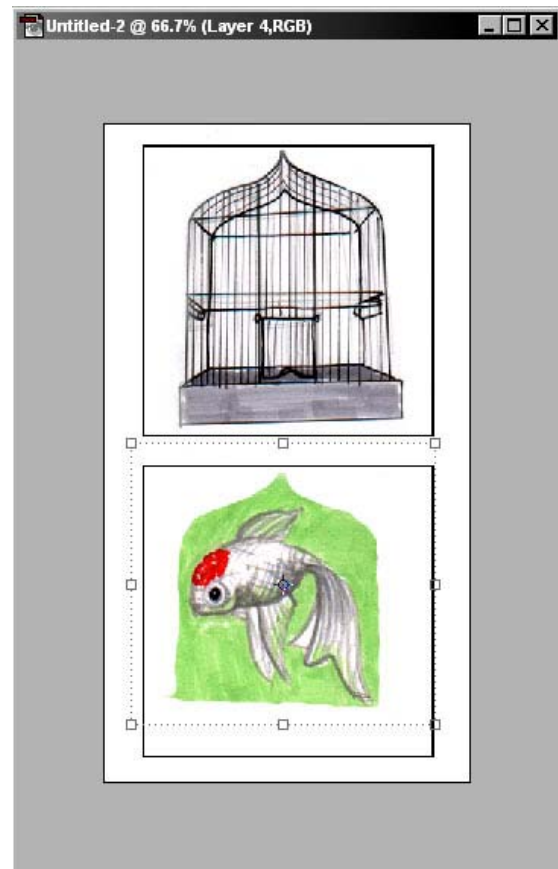


Figure 13

17. Carefully place the middle of the loop of string across the middle of the bottom square with both of the strings touching (Figure 14).
18. Glue the two squares together and press them between heavy books for at least one hour to dry.
19. To spin: Hold the ends of the string and flip it around till the string is completely twisted. Pull on the ends of the string to spin your illusion and create one image from two (Figure 15).

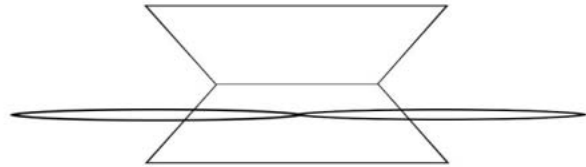


Figure 14

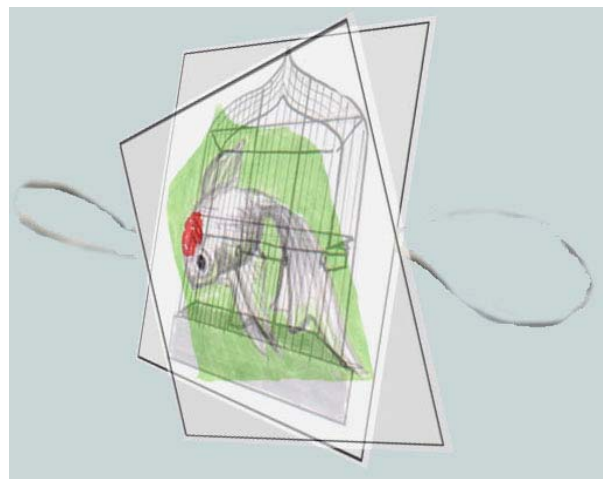


Figure 15

Adobe, the Adobe logo, and Photoshop are either registered trademarks or trademarks of Adobe Systems Incorporated in the United States and/or other countries. All other trademarks are the property of their respective owners.

© 2002 Adobe Systems Incorporated. All rights reserved.