

Getting started

Before you begin, you'll view the image you'll be creating—a poster for a fictitious toy company.

- 1 Start Adobe Photoshop, holding down Ctrl+Alt+Shift (Windows) or Command+Option+Shift (Mac OS) to restore the default preferences. (See "Restoring default preferences" on page 5.)
- 2 When prompted, click Yes to delete the Adobe Photoshop Settings file.
- 3 Click the Launch Mini Bridge button (🌐) in the Application bar to open the Mini Bridge panel.
- 4 In the Mini Bridge panel, click Browse Files to see the Navigation pane. Select the Favorites folder, and then the Lessons folder. Then, double-click the Lesson08 folder in the Content pane.
- 5 Select the 08End.psd file, and press the spacebar to see it in full-screen view.



To create this poster, you'll work with an image of a toy spaceship, and practice making paths and selections using the Pen tool. As you create the background shapes and type, you'll learn advanced methods of using path and vector masks, as well as ways to use Smart Objects.

- 6 When you've finished looking at 08End.psd, press the spacebar again. Then double-click the Spaceship.psd file to open it in Photoshop.



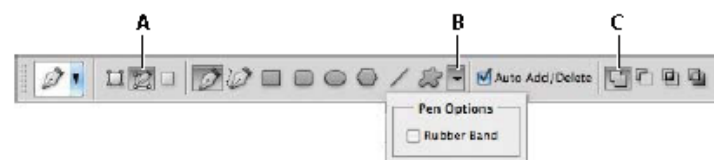
- 7 Choose File > Save As, rename the file **08Working.psd**, and click Save. Click OK in the Photoshop Format Options dialog box.

Drawing the outline of a shape

You'll use the Pen tool to connect the dots from point A to point S, and then back to point A. You'll set straight segments, smooth curve points, and corner points.

The first step is to configure the Pen tool options and the work area. Then you'll trace the outline of a spaceship using a template.

- 1 In the Workspace Switcher in the Application bar, click Design. Photoshop reconfigures panels for the Design workspace.
- 2 In the Tools panel, select the Pen tool (🖋️).
- 3 In the options bar, select or verify the following settings:
 - Select the Paths (📐) option.
 - In the Pen Options pop-up menu, make sure that Rubber Band is not selected.
 - Make sure that the Auto Add/Delete option is selected.
 - Select the Add To Path Area option (📁).



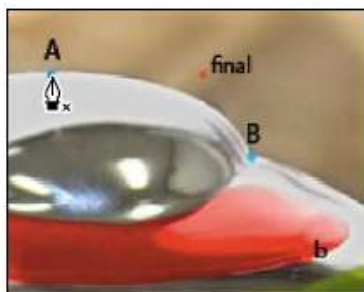
A. Paths option B. Pen Options menu C. Add To Path Area option

- 4 Click the Paths tab to bring that panel to the front of the Layers panel group.

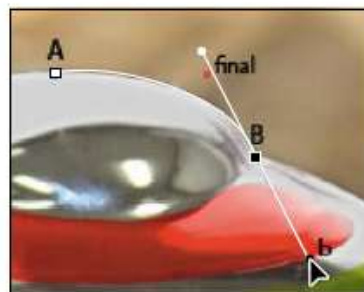


The Paths panel displays thumbnail previews of the paths you draw. Currently, the panel is empty, because you haven't started drawing.

- 5 If necessary, zoom in so that you can easily see the lettered points and red dots on the shape template. Make sure you can see the whole template in the image window, and be sure to reselect the Pen tool after you zoom.
- 6 Click point A (the blue dot at the top of the spaceship), and release the mouse. You've set the first anchor point.
- 7 Click point B, and drag the cursor to the red dot labeled b. Release the mouse. You've set the direction of the curve.



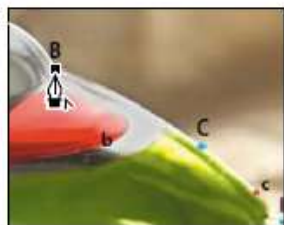
Creating the first anchor point at A



Setting a smooth point at B

At the corner of the cockpit (point B), you'll need to convert the smooth point to a corner point to create a sharp transition between the curved segment and the straight one.

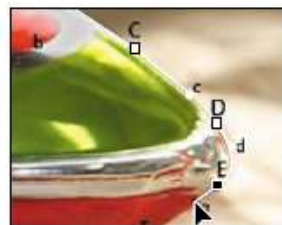
- 8 Alt-click (Windows) or Option-click (Mac OS) point B to convert the smooth point into a corner point and remove one of the direction lines.
- 9 Click point C, and drag to the red dot labeled c. Do the same for points D and E.



Converting the smooth point to a corner point



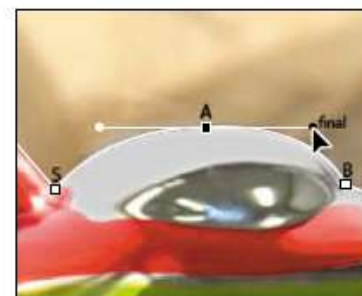
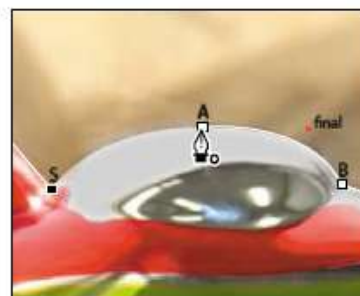
Adding a segment



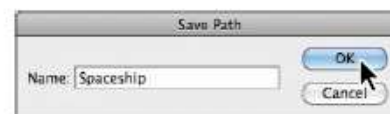
Rounding the corner

If you make a mistake while you're drawing, choose Edit > Undo to undo the step. Then resume drawing.

- 10 Click point F, and release the mouse without dragging a handle. Click point G, and drag up from point G to its red dot. Do the same for point H. Alt-click or Option-click to create another corner point at point H.
- 11 Continue around the spaceship through point N, setting corner points at I, J, L, and M.
- 12 Click points O and P, leaving straight lines. Click Point Q, and drag the handle to the corresponding red dot to create the curve around the tail of the fin.
- 13 Click at points R and S without dragging to create straight lines.
- 14 Move the pointer over point A so that a small circle appears in the pointer icon, indicating that you are about to close the path. (The small circle may be difficult to see.) Drag from point A to the red dot labeled "final," and then release the mouse button to draw the last curved line.



- 15 In the Paths panel, double-click Work Path, type **Spaceship** in the Save Path dialog box, and click OK to save it.

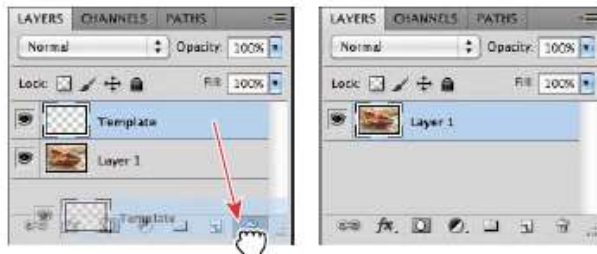


- 16 Choose File > Save to save your work.

Converting selections to paths

Now, you'll create a second path using a different method. First you'll use a selection tool to select a similarly colored area, and then you'll convert the selection to a path. (You can convert any selection made with a selection tool into a path.)

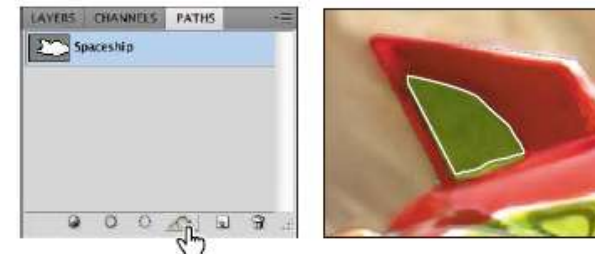
- 1 Click the Layers tab to display the Layers panel, and then drag the Template layer to the Delete button at the bottom of the panel. You no longer need this layer:



- 2 Select the Magic Wand tool (⌨) in the Tools panel, hidden under the Quick Selection tool.
- 3 In the options bar, make sure the Tolerance value is 32.
- 4 Carefully click the green area inside the spaceship's vertical fin.



- 5 Click the Paths tab to bring the Paths panel forward. Then, click the Make Work Path From Selection button (⌘) at the bottom of the panel.



The selection is converted to a path, and a new work path is created.

- 6 Double-click the path named Work Path, name it **Fin**, and then click OK to save the path.



- 7 Choose File > Save to save your work.

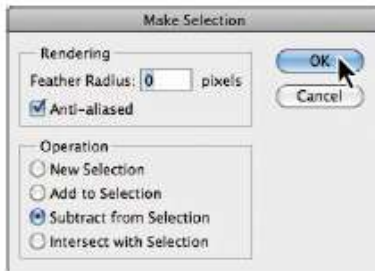
Converting paths to selections

- 1 In the Paths panel, click the Spaceship path to make it active.
- 2 Choose Make Selection from the Paths panel menu, and then click OK to convert the Spaceship path to a selection.



Next, you'll subtract the Fin selection from the Spaceship selection so that you can see the background through the vacant areas in the fin.

- 3 In the Paths panel, click the Fin path to make it active. Then, from the Paths panel menu, choose Make Selection.
- 4 In the Operation area of the Make Selection dialog box, select Subtract From Selection, and click OK.



The Fin path is simultaneously converted to a selection and subtracted from the Spaceship selection.

Leave the paths selected, because you'll use them in the next exercise.

Converting the selection to a layer

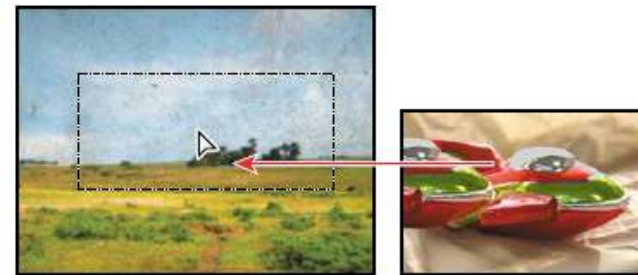
- 1 Make sure that you can still see the selection outline in the image window. If you can't, repeat the previous exercise, "Converting paths to selections."
- 2 Choose Layer > New > Layer Via Copy.
- 3 Click the Layers tab to bring the Layers panel to the front. A new layer appears in the Layers panel, called Layer 2. The Layer 2 thumbnail shows that the layer contains only the image of the spaceship, not the background of the original layer.
- 4 In the Layers panel, rename Layer 2 **Spaceship**, and press Enter or Return.



- 5 Choose File > Open, and double-click the 08Start.psd file in the Lessons/Lesson08 folder.

The 08Start.psd file is the landscape that you'll use as the background for the spaceship.

- 6 Click the Arrange Documents button in the Application bar, and select a 2 Up layout so that you can see both the 08Working.psd and 08Start.psd files. Click the 08Working.psd image to make it active.
- 7 Select the Move tool (V), and drag the spaceship from the 08Working.psd image window to the 08Start.psd image window so that the spaceship appears to be hovering over the planet.

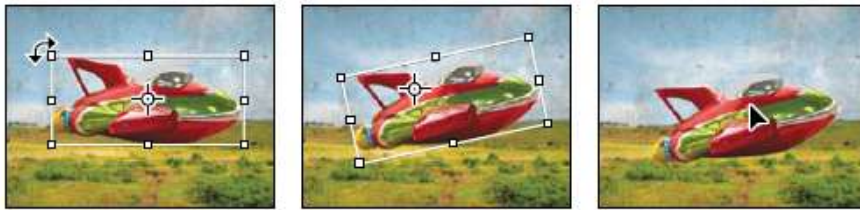


- 8 Close the 08Working.psd image without saving changes, leaving the 08Start.psd file open and active.

Now you'll position the spaceship more precisely over the poster background.

- 9 Select the Spaceship layer in the Layers panel, and choose Edit > Free Transform. A bounding box appears around the spaceship.
- 10 Position the pointer near any corner handle until it turns into the rotate cursor (⤴), and then drag to rotate the spaceship until its angle is about -12 degrees. For precise rotation, you can enter the value in the Rotate box in the options bar. When you're satisfied, press Enter or Return.

- 11 Make sure the Spaceship layer is still selected, and then use the Move tool to drag the saucer so that it grazes the top of the planet, as in the following image.



- 12 Choose File > Save As, rename the file **08B_Working.psd**, and click Save. Click OK in the Photoshop Format Options dialog box.

Creating vector objects for the background

Drawing a scalable shape

You'll begin by creating a white kidney-shaped object for the backdrop of the poster.

- 1 Choose View > Rulers to display the horizontal and vertical rulers.
- 2 Drag the tab for the Paths panel out of the Layers panel group so that it floats independently. Since you'll be using the Layers and Paths panels frequently in this exercise, it's convenient to have them separated.



- 3 Hide all of the layers except Retro Shape Guide Layer and Background by clicking the appropriate eye icons in the Layers panel. Select the Background layer to make it active.



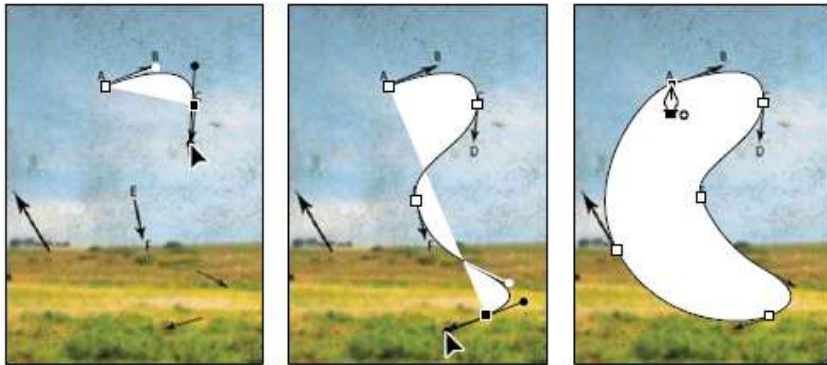
The guide layer will serve as a template as you draw the kidney shape.

- 4 Set the foreground and background colors to their defaults (black and white, respectively) by clicking the Default Foreground And Background Colors button (■) in the Tools panel (or type the keyboard shortcut D), and then swap the foreground and background colors by clicking the Switch Foreground And Background Colors button (↔) (or type X). Now the foreground color is white.
- 5 In the Tools panel, select the Pen tool (P). Then, in the options bar, select the Shape Layers option (■).



6 Create the shape by clicking and dragging as follows:

- Click point A, drag a direction line up and to the left of point B, and then release.
- Click point C, drag a direction line toward and above point D, and then release.
- Continue to draw curved segments in this way around the shape until you return to point A, and then click on A to close the path. Don't worry if the shape flips in on itself; it will right itself as you continue.



Notice that as you drew, Photoshop automatically created a new layer, Shape 1, just above the active layer (the Background layer) in the Layers panel.




7 Double-click the Shape 1 layer name, rename the layer **Retro Shape**, and press Enter or Return.



8 Hide Retro Shape Guide Layer in the Layers panel.

9 Choose File > Save to save your work.

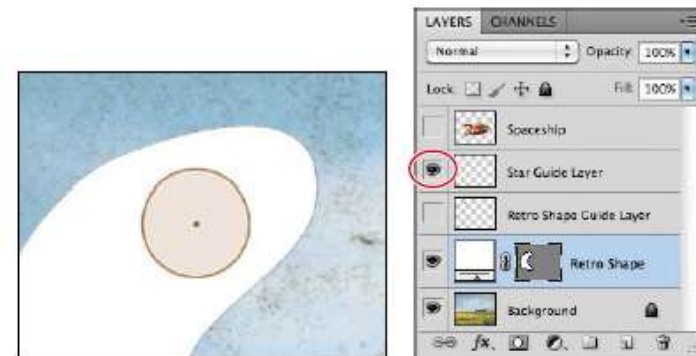
Deselecting paths

- 1 Select the Path Selection tool () , which may be hidden under the Direct Selection tool () .
- 2 In the options bar, click the Dismiss Target Path button () .



About shape layers

Subtracting shapes from a shape layer

- 1 In the Layers panel, show the Star Guide layer, but leave the Retro Shape layer selected. The Star Guide layer is now visible in the image window.

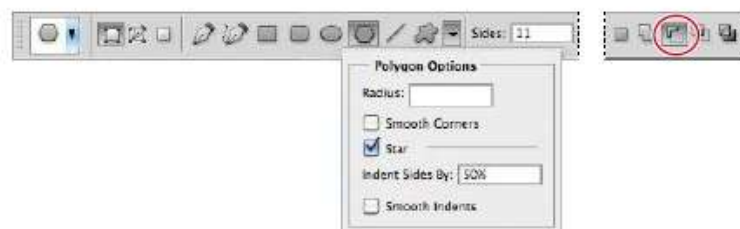


2 In the Paths panel, select the Retro Shape vector mask.

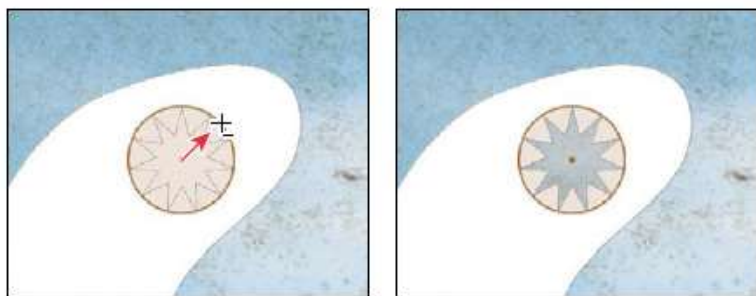
3 In the Tools panel, select the Polygon tool () , hidden under the Rectangle tool () .

4 On the options bar, do the following:

- For Sides, type **11**.
- Click the arrow immediately to the left of the Sides option to display the Polygon Options window. Select **Star**, and type **50%** in the Indent Sides By box. Then click anywhere outside the Polygon Options window to close it.
- Select the Subtract From Shape Area option (⌘), or press either the hyphen or minus key to select it with a keyboard shortcut. The pointer now appears as cross-hairs with a small minus sign (+).



5 Click on the orange dot in the center of the orange circle in the image window, and drag outward until the tips of the star rays touch the circle's perimeter.

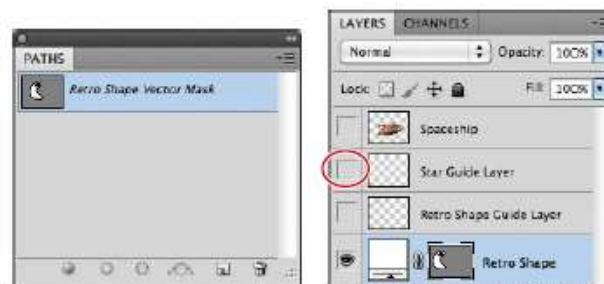


When you release the mouse button, the star shape becomes a cutout, allowing the sky to show through.

Notice that the star has a grainy outline, reminding you that the shape is selected. Another indication that the shape is selected is that the Retro Shape vector mask thumbnail is highlighted (outlined in white) in the Layers panel.

6 In the Layers panel, hide the Star Guide layer.

Notice how the thumbnails have changed in the panels. In the Layers panel, the left thumbnail for the Retro Shape layer is unchanged, but the mask thumbnails in both the Layers panel and Paths panel show the retro shape with the star-shaped cutout.



7 Select the Path Selection tool (⌘), and click the Dismiss Target Path button (✓) in the options bar to deselect the star and retro shape paths.

The paths are now deselected, and the grainy path lines have disappeared, leaving a sharp edge between the blue and white areas. Also, the Retro Shape Vector Mask path is no longer highlighted in the Paths panel. That shape is pretty bright, though, and may overpower the spaceship. You'll make the shape semitransparent.

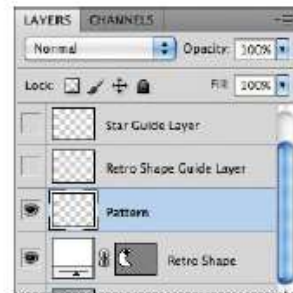
8 In the Layers panel, reduce the opacity of the Retro Shape layer to **40%**.



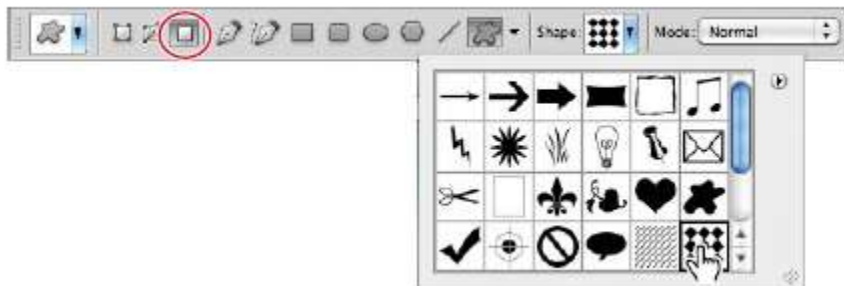
9 Choose **File > Save** to save your work.

Working with defined custom shapes

- 1 Make sure the Retro Shape layer is selected in the Layers panel. Then click the New Layer button (📄) to add a layer above it. Rename the new layer **Pattern**, and then press Enter or Return.



- 2 In the Tools panel, select the Custom Shape tool (⌘), which is hidden under the Polygon tool (⬡).
- 3 In the options bar, select the Fill Pixels option.
- 4 In the options bar, click the arrow next to the Shape option to open the Custom Shape picker.
- 5 Double-click the checkerboard preset on the right side of the Custom Shape picker (you may need to scroll or drag the corner of the picker to see it) to select it.

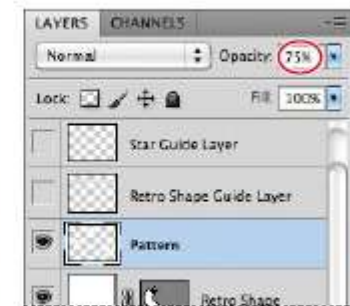


- 6 Make sure that the foreground color is white. Then press Shift and drag diagonally in the image window to draw and size the shape so that it's about 2 inches square. Pressing Shift constrains the shape to its original proportions.

- 7 Add five more checkerboards of various sizes until your poster resembles the following figure.



- 8 In the Layers panel, reduce the opacity of the Pattern layer to 75%.



Your poster background is now complete.

- 9 In the Layers panel, show the Spaceship layer so you can see the whole composition.



- 10 Choose File > Save to save your work.

Importing a Smart Object

Adding the title

The toy-store name was created in Illustrator. You'll add it to the poster now.

- 1 Select the Spaceship layer, and choose **File > Place**. Navigate to the Lessons/Lesson08 folder, select the Title.ai file, and click **Place**. Click **OK** in the Place PDF dialog box that appears.

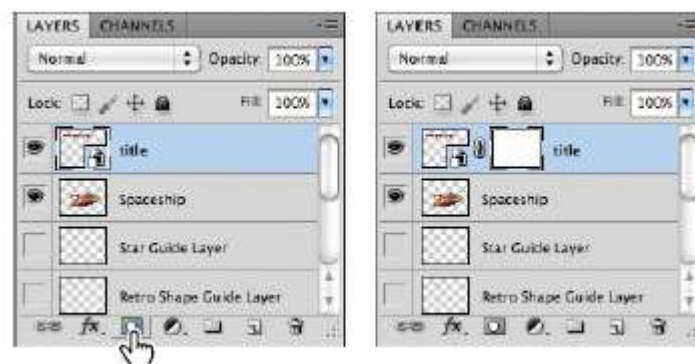
The Retro Toyz text is added to the middle of the composition, inside a bounding box with adjustable handles. A new layer, title, appears in the Layers panel.

- 2 Drag the Retro Toyz object to the upper-left corner of the poster, and then press Shift and drag a corner to make the text object proportionally larger—so that it fills the top portion of the poster, as in the following figure. When you've finished, either press Enter or Return, or click the Commit Transform button (✓) in the options bar.



Adding a vector mask to a Smart Object

For a fun effect, you'll turn the center of each letter "O" in the title into a star that matches the cutout you created earlier. You'll use a vector mask, which you can link to a Smart Object in Photoshop.



- 2 Select the Polygon tool (⬡), hidden beneath the Custom Shape tool (⬢). The options you used earlier to create the star should still be in effect. The Polygon tool holds your settings until you change them again. If you need to reset the options, refer to "Subtracting shapes from a shape layer."
- 3 Click the Switch Foreground And Background Colors button in the Tools panel, so that black is the foreground color.
- 4 Click in the center of the "O" in "Toyz," and drag the cursor outward until the star covers the center of the "O."
- 5 Repeat step 4 to add a star in the small "O" in Retro.

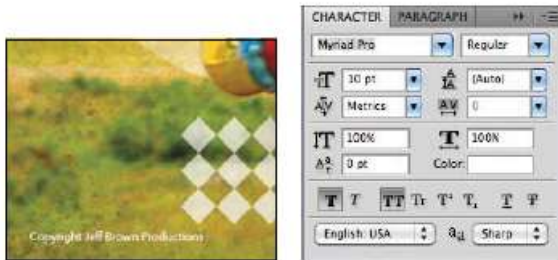


Rotating the canvas (OpenGL only)

You've been working with the image with "Retro Toyz" at the top of the work area and the ground at the bottom. But if your video card supports OpenGL, you can rotate the work area to draw, type, or position objects from a different perspective. You'll rotate the view as you add a copyright statement along the side of the image. (If your video card doesn't support OpenGL, skip this section.)

First, you'll type the text.

- 1 In the Character panel, select a serif font such as Myriad Pro with a small text size such as 10 pt, and set the color to white.
- 2 Select the Horizontal Type tool, and then click in the lower-left corner of the image. Type **Copyright YOUR NAME Productions**, substituting your own name.



You want the copyright to run along the left side of the image. You'll rotate the canvas to make it easier to place.

- 3 Select the Rotate View tool (⌘), hidden beneath the Hand tool (H).
- 4 Press the Shift key as you drag the tool in an arc to rotate the canvas 90 degrees clockwise. Pressing the Shift key restrains the rotation to 45-degree increments.



- 5 Select the Copyright text layer, and then choose Edit > Transform > Rotate 90° CCW.
- 6 Use the Move tool to align the text along the top edge of the image, which will be the left edge when it is in its usual position.

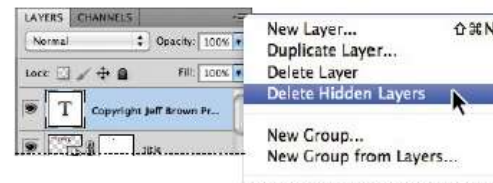


- 7 Select the Rotate View tool again, and then click Reset View in the options bar.
- 8 Choose File > Save to save your work.

Finishing up

As a final step, clean up the Layers panel by deleting your guide template layers.

- 1 Make sure that the Copyright, title, Spaceship, Pattern, Retro Shape, and Background layers are the only visible layers in the Layers panel.
- 2 Choose Delete Hidden Layers from the Layers panel menu, and then click Yes to confirm the deletion.



- 3 Choose File > Save to save your work.

Congratulations! You've finished the poster. It should look similar to the following image.

