Adobe Senior Creative Director Russell Brown reveals secrets of transfromation in Photoshop 5.0.

INTERMEDIATE

The new Free Transform in Adobe® Photoshop® 5.0 can give you a whole new perspective on life! Have you ever wanted to scale and move objects in a step and repeat pattern, as you do in Adobe® Illustrator®? Well, now you can. So let's get rolling and discover the secrets of transformation in Photoshop 5.0.

DIGITAL DUPLICATION

1. Let's say you need an image of a typical business meeting. You have this image from the Adobe Image Library, but it just doesn't look like it's going to be a very big meeting. Let's imply that we're anticipating a few more attendees by adding a few more note pads. How will we pull this off? We'll duplicate the notepads by scaling and moving them with perfect perspective. And the one incredible feature we'll use to do it is the powerful Free Transform in Photoshop.

Shortcuts
Throughout this document, "Command/Ctrl" means Command on the Macintosh and Ctrl on Windows. "Option/Alt" means Option on the Macintosh and Alt on Windows.

2. Before we start, it's important to note that this technique works best on images with a sequence of objects in perspective. This technique will attempt to match and copy the sequence so that it creates more objects with the correct perspective. Now, let's begin by placing guides around the last object in the sequence we want to duplicate. (You'll be using guides in combination with the Free Transform.) Choose View > Snap to Guides before you start.
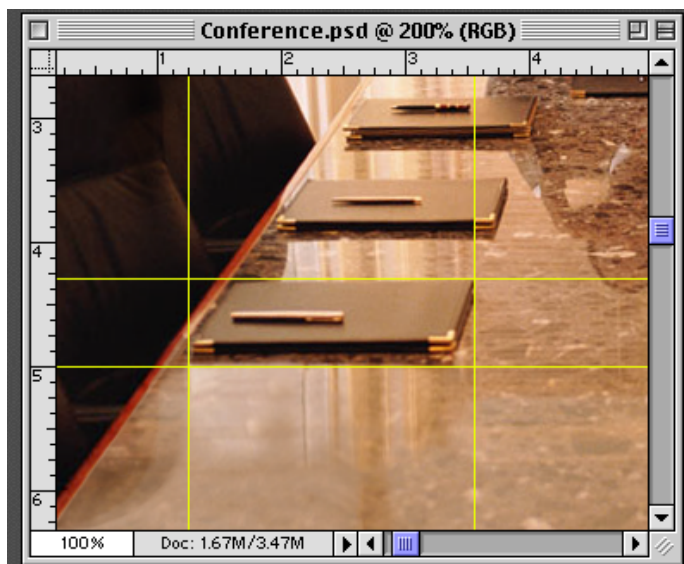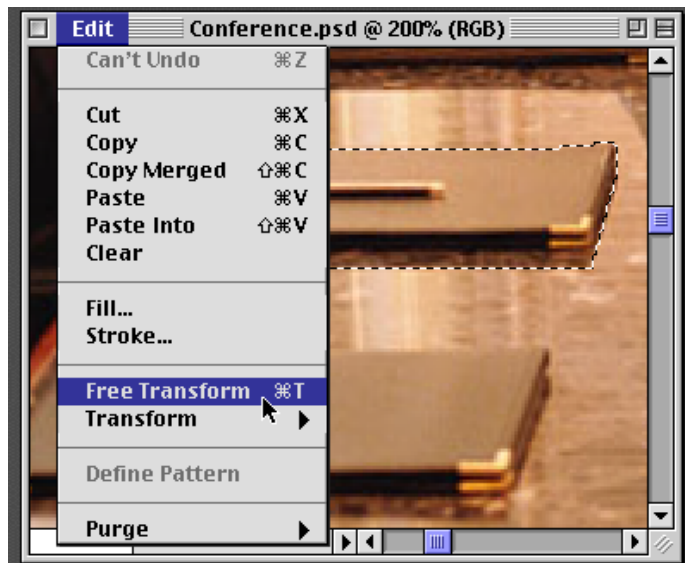

Guides
To create guides, click and drag from the ruler at the edge of the image. Show rulers by choosing View > Show Rulers.

3. Turn off the Guides temporarily by choosing View > Hide Guides. Now, select the second-to-the-last object in the sequence you want to duplicate. In this case, I selected the second-to-the-last note pad and its shadow using the polygon tool found under the lasso tool. (Click and hold the lasso tool to reveal the polygon tool.)
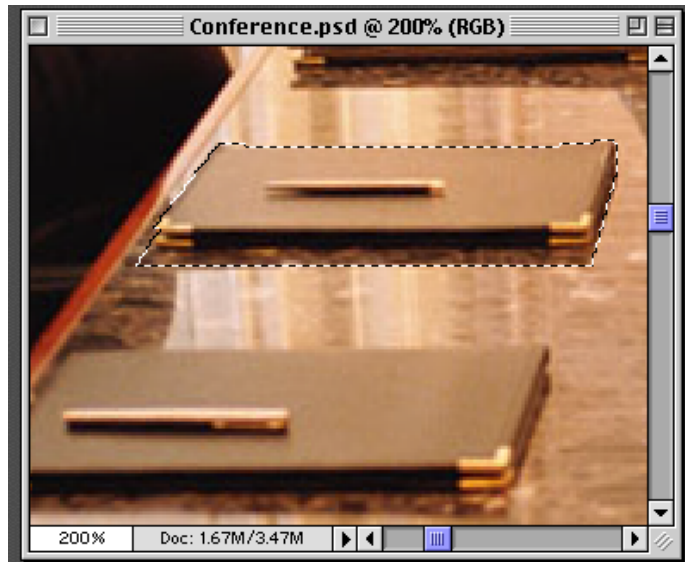

4. Next, while pressing the Option/Alt key, select Free Transform from the Edit menu. The Option/Alt key will modify the transformation and make a copy of the selection instead of cutting it out of the background image. This modification is a very important step in this process.

Shortcut
The keyboard shortcut combination for this step is: Option/Alt+Command/Ctrl+T.

5. Turn the Guides back on. Choose View > Show Guides. Move the object you are transforming over the last image in the sequence and snap it to one of the corners formed by the guides.
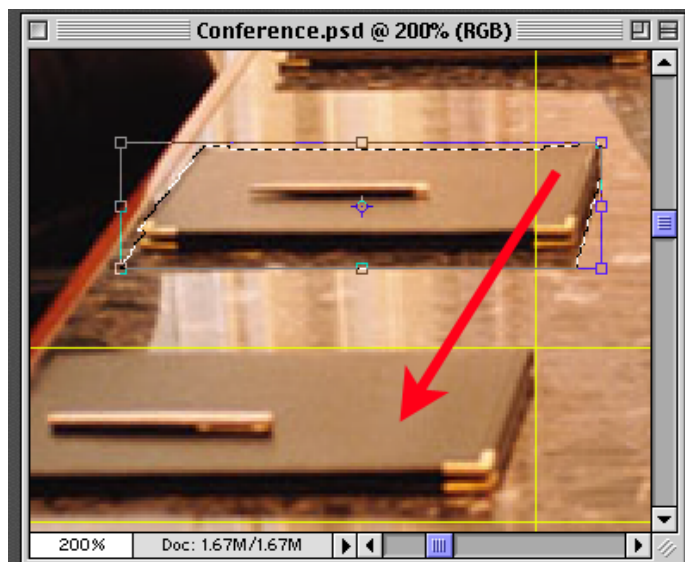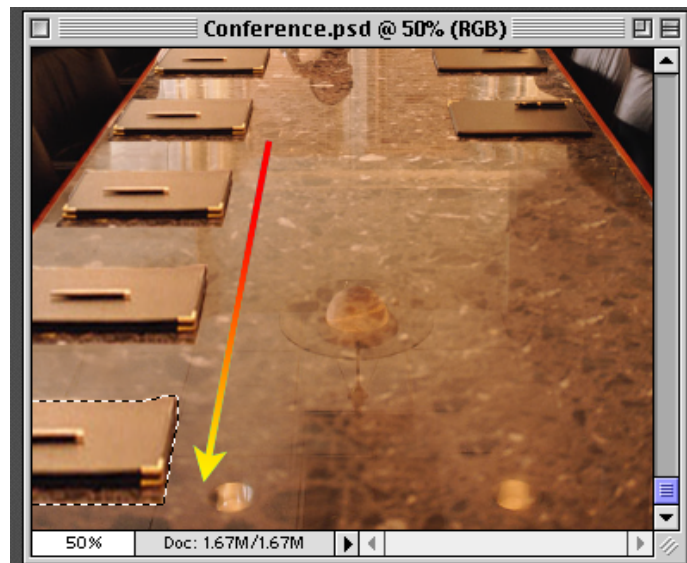

Transformations
You can move objects that are being transformed in one-pixel increments by using the keyboard arrows. Using the Shift key in combination with the arrow keys will move the object 10 pixels.

6. Stretch the four corners of the image out to the corners created by the guides. This will distort the image to match the angle and perspective of the sequence. When finished, press the Enter key. The object will be transformed to match your distortion and positioning.
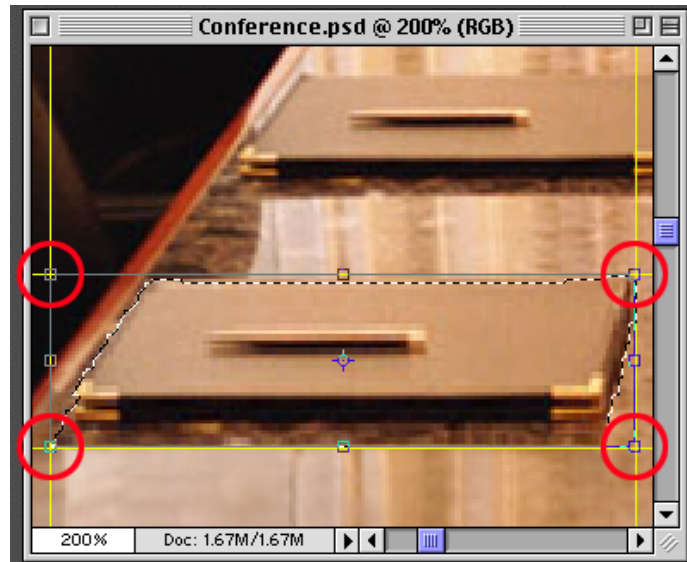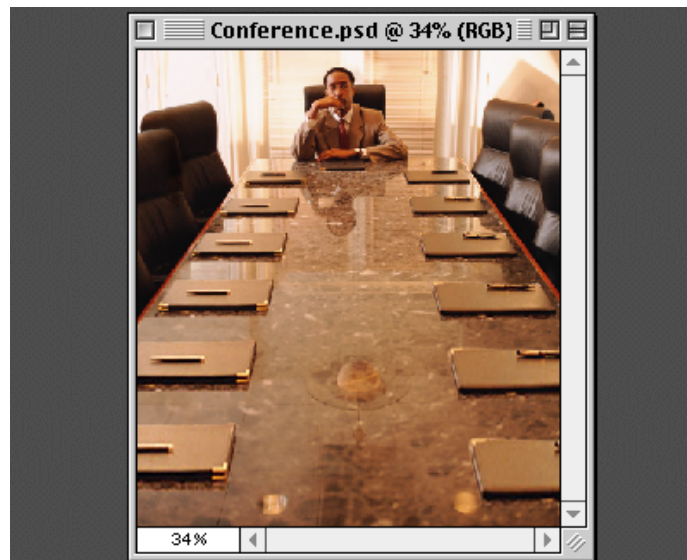

The Magic Key Combination!
7. OK, this is the final and most important step to this entire process. Press Option/ Alt+Command/Ctrl+Shift+T. This crazy combination of keys will transform the last trans- formed image again to make a copy. Repeat this combination of keys until you have as many objects as you need to fill your image.

Paths
This same keyboard combination will work with paths in Photoshop. Just transform a path and then use these same keys to duplicate a sequence of paths.

8. As you can see, I repeated the same process down the other side of the table and now the high-powered meeting is ready to start!

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