

Working With Landscape Photos

1. Sometimes you might take a great landscape picture except the horizon isn't a nice horizontal line like it should be. Never fear we can fix this! Open the picture called horizon.jpg from the Mr. Brandl's Digital Photography Elective folder.
2. We want to rotate the picture so that the horizon line is a flat horizontal line. To do this click on the Rotate tool from the tool palette. Then click on the center of the picture. Now click on the left or right side of the picture and drag it until the horizon line is level.
3. When it looks good, click the Rotate button to finish the process.
4. You will notice that there are now some areas where there is nothing in the picture. It got back to a rectangular picture we have a couple choices. The easiest option is to crop the picture, getting rid of the missing edges. Crop your rotated picture back into a rectangle and save it as "horizon-crop.jpg" in your folder.
5. After saving undo the cropping to get back to the rotated image. A second option we have is to use the clone tool to fill-in the areas that are missing. Use the clone tool to fill in the sky and the road in each of the corners. You will get the best-looking picture if you don't try to do it all at once. Clone small areas and select an area close to the area you want to fill so it doesn't look out of place with large color differences.
6. When you have replaced the corners of the picture save it as "horizon-clone.jpg" in your folder. Keep this picture open.
7. Often when we take landscape pictures we will try to take a picture of such a large area that the photo is too busy and doesn't have a clear subject. We can use cropping to focus in on a particular part of the photograph. Crop the picture so that the truck is clearly the focus of the picture.
8. Another fun thing to do is change the background of a subject. Let's take the red truck and put it in a different background. Let's sharpen the image first to make it easier to pick out the edges. Do this by clicking on Filters, Enhance, Sharpen... Drag to change the sharpness level until the edges of the things in the picture show up better, but not so far that it looks unnatural. Click Ok to sharpen the image.
9. Now click on the Intelligent Scissors tool. It is the last tool in the first row in the tool palette. We can use this tool to select any shape we want from our picture. Start by zooming in on your picture. 200% is good. Now click on an edge of the truck move slightly to the left and click again on the edge of the truck. You should notice a line connecting the two points. It follows the color edges in the picture. If it didn't follow the edge of the truck, you can drag one of the circle handles to try to match it up better.
10. Continue clicking around the truck until you have connected the first dot to the last one. Then click once inside the area you clicked around. This should change the area into a selection with dashed lines going around it.
11. Click on Edit and Copy.
12. Now open the image called desert.jpg in the Mr Brandl's Digital Photography Elective folder.

13. Click on Edit and Paste.
14. The truck should show up in the desert. To move it around click on the move tool, it's in the second row, second from the right. Click inside the selection and move it around until you have it where you want it. Then click outside the selection to anchor the truck into its position in the desert.
15. Save this as "truck-desert.jpg" in your folder.
16. Use the things we covered today and in the past two weeks to edit your landscape pictures. For example, try pasting a person into a totally different environment. Have some fun!
17. For next week you need to take pictures of some objects. Any kind of objects will do, from pop cans to keys to candles. Get lots of pictures of objects.