

[Click Here](#)

































When working on a project, many novice graphic designers and photographers place their elements on the canvas and try to space them perfectly by eyeballing them. Why try to eyeball it when you can have Photoshop align and distribute your layers accurately?? To align layers in Photoshop, select two or more layers from the Layers Panel, then activate the Move Tool (V). Now press Command + A (Mac) or Control + A (Win) to select your canvas, then use any of the align options found in the options bar to align your selected layers. It's a small thing to remember that will save you hours in the long run. By the end of this article, you'll know everything you need to know about getting Photoshop to place your elements where you want them and space them evenly without measuring. The alignment options in Photoshop are all about placing your elements around your canvas or selected area, whether you want to center text, shapes, or move elements to the edge of the canvas. There are two ways for you to align the elements in your project. To use the first method, go to Layer > Align and choose the type of alignment you're looking for. The second and easier way to align the objects in your project is by selecting the Move Tool (V) and using the Options Bar to align your elements. To do this, select all the elements you wish to align in the Layers panel. Then, select the Move Tool (V) in the Toolbar, to show the settings in the Options bar at the top of the screen. Auto-Select - To make things easier, tick on Auto-Select and then choose Layer in the drop-down menu. This will allow you to click on an element and select it immediately. Left Edges - This option will align elements to the left edge of your selection border or the leftmost pixel detected. Horizontal Centers - This option will align your elements to the center of the horizontal plane or your selected layers' most horizontal center pixel. Right Edges - This option will align elements to the right edge of your selection border or the rightmost pixel detected. Top Edges - This option will align elements to the top edge of your selection border or the topmost pixel detected. Vertical Centers - This option will align your elements to the center of your selected layers. Bottom Edges - This option will align elements to the bottom edge or the bottommost pixel detected. It's worth noting that a single layer cannot be aligned unless there is a selection. That means to align a layer to your entire canvas, you must first select the entire document by pressing Command + A (Mac) or Control + A (Win). From there you can use the alignment options to align your selected layer based on the active selection. The distribution settings in Photoshop are all about spacing your elements equally. You can distribute the elements in your project by going to Layer > Distribute, then picking the way you want to distribute your elements. The faster way to distribute your elements is to select the Move Tool (V) and use the distribute options in the Options bar. Distribute Horizontally - This option will produce even spacing between all your selected elements on the horizontal plane. Distribute Vertically - This option will produce even spacing between all your selected elements on the vertical plane. In the Options bar, you will also find the Three Dots Icon. Click it to reveal more options. Top Edges - Spaces your elements evenly, starting from the topmost pixel of each element. Vertical Centers - Spaces your elements evenly, starting from the vertical center pixel of each element. Bottom Edges - Spaces your elements evenly, starting from the bottommost pixel of each element. Left Edges - Spaces your elements evenly, starting from the leftmost pixel of each element. Horizontal Centers - Spaces your elements evenly, starting from the horizontal center pixel of each element. Right Edges - Spaces your elements evenly, starting from the rightmost pixel of each element. Before aligning your layers, ensure that you're aligning your layers to the canvas. To do this, select the Move Tool (V) and click on the Three Dots in the Options bar. Under the Align To drop-down menu, choose Canvas. To align the elements of your project, you first need to select the layers you wish to align each time. You can do this by clicking on your first layer in the Layers panel, holding down the Shift key, and clicking the last layer you wish to add to your selection. This will automatically select all the layers between two layers you clicked. You can also individually select your layers in the Layers panel by holding down Control (Win) or Command (Mac) and clicking on the layers you wish to select. This option will align all your elements to the left edge of the canvas. (Note: the images below will be aligned but not distributed. So the spacing between the elements will not be perfect. I will explain distribution later.) This option aligns your elements to the middle of the canvas, specifically to the vertical plane of your canvas. This option will align all your elements to the right edge of the canvas. Using this option, you will send your elements to the top of the canvas. This option aligns your elements to the middle of the canvas, specifically to the horizontal plane of your canvas. If you want your elements to be aligned to the perfect middle of your canvas, use this option in combination with the Align Horizontal Centers option. Using this option, you will send your elements to the bottom of the canvas. All of these alignment options work with single elements as well as groups. Before trying to align groups of elements, ensure Group is selected in the drop-down menu for Auto-Select in the Options bar. This will make it easier for you to select your group by clicking on it. From there, you can align your groups precisely like you would with single elements. The other way you can align your elements is by using Selection Tools. First, make sure to choose Selection in the Align To drop-down menu. To start, select the Rectangular Marquee Tool (M), or any other selection tool, then form the shape you need on your canvas. Select one of your elements and then click on an alignment option. Remember, you can combine more than one alignment option. You will often need to combine alignment options to avoid having a random element float within your selection. Distributing your layers is all about making sure your elements are evenly spaced. Distributing your layers works best after you've already aligned them. Here's what happens when you don't align your layers first. Here are some elements on a Canvas. Here's what happens when clicking the distribute vertically option. Barely any visible differences. Now let's try aligning the elements with the Align Horizontal Centers. A much more significant change, but the spacing is not perfect. This is why aligning your elements first is better. Now is the best time to click Distribute Horizontally. Here's another example. First, select all your layers in the Layers panel, then click Align Horizontal Centers. To evenly space your elements, click on Distribute Vertically. Photoshop will space your elements perfectly in only two clicks. There are so many different options and combinations for distributing your layers that there's no way I can show all of them to you here. You can use Photoshop's Auto-Align function by selecting your layers and then going to Edit > Auto-Align Layers. You will have six options under Projection: Auto - Photoshop's AI analyzes your images and determines if they should apply a Perspective or Cylindrical layout. This is based on which option will produce a better composite. Perspective - This option will use one of your images as a source and then overlap your other images around it to form a cohesive piece. Collage - Photoshop will align layers and overlapping content while retaining the shape of the objects. For example, if one of your layers is a circle, it will remain a circle. Cylindrical - This option reduces any distortion when using the perspective layout. This setting is best suited for producing wide panoramas. Spherical - Photoshop's AI will designate your source image as a reference, then spherically transform the other images. This setting will often distort your images into a circular shape. Reposition Only - This setting aligns the layers of your project and matches overlapping content without distorting any of the source layers. Most of these settings are easy to figure out for your project through trial and error. One of the options that will be used more often would be the perspective option. This option will allow you to essentially "stretch" similar images into one. First, make sure your images have enough overlapping pixels. Photoshop suggests at least 40%. Go to Edit > Auto-Align Layers. Choose Perspective and click on OK to confirm. Your images will be glued together into one picture. This image should look seamless and much easier to create than if you tried to line up your photos manually. The auto-align feature is mostly used for panoramas, but it can be used for other images too. Do you need tips on aligning layers in Photoshop, or are you having trouble placing your layers correctly in space?? Creating panoramic images sometimes need to master Photoshop's best practices on how to align layers in Photoshop. There are a few methods let you align the contents of layers and groups using the Move tool or the Auto-Align option. You'll find the Photoshop alignment tool in the Options panel, located above the Image panel when the Move command is selected. Those tools are intuitive, but if you lack basic skills, you may wonder why they are often out of sight. With the activated Move tool, open the Align and Distribute panel under the "three-dots" button. Then, pinpoint the Align to: setting. If this is set to Selection, you need to pick out an active selection marquee or multiple layers in the Layers panel for the Align buttons to be accessible. To choose multiple layers in the Layers panel, hold down the Ctrl key on PC or the Command key on Mac and each layer you need. This procedure is akin to grouping layers in Photoshop. At this point, the process looks quite transparent; you can align layers in Photoshop to any edge or the center of your selection using the corresponding button. But you can also use another method from the next step. You don't have to align in Photoshop using only buttons because you can also change the Align To: setting to Canvas to align one or more layers to the entire document, which is a great help in centering multiple layers neatly without having to do any calculations yourself. This step is optional because the Move tool may not give the desired results. In this case, the Smart Guides feature, available by default, can help you deal with an odd alignment situation, such as proving that two parts of the image keep the same distance from the centering edges. Taken together, the Move tool's alignment features and Smart Guides are a great convenience that makes you forget what it's like to waste time calculating offsets and pixel measurements. Many standard Photoshop tasks require automatic layer alignment, which is trickier than the methods described above. It is very useful for focus stacking, compositing HDR images, panoramas, and other creative projects involving multiple images. First, open multiple images as layers in Photoshop. Go to the File menu, choose Scripts, and select Load Files into Stack. When launching Photoshop, it will open the Load Layers dialog box and provide you with shortcuts. Click the Browse button and load files. You can click Add Open Files, which will let you load the whole folder full of photos right away. Once you see your photos as separate layers in the same document, go to the Edit menu and choose Auto-Align Layers. The Auto-Align Layers dialog box appears, offering you several alignment options from which you can pick out the ones you want. Optimally, you should rely on Auto and let Photoshop choose a specific setting. Especially if you don't know which one you need since many of them are designed for creating panoramas. Click the OK button, and Photoshop will do its work in the background while scanning each layer for any alignments and setting up placement and shape if necessary. You can stick to the individual tips laid down in these Photoshop tutorials and apply other tools and features to make your photos look different. When it's done, and your layers are finally aligned, consider high-quality retouching for the entire photo. With this kit, you can edit a whole bunch of images in no time and choose a fantastic effect. Try these actions and see how natural your photos can look once the lighting defects are eliminated. Smart guides let you align layers in Photoshop very quickly without delving into manual instructions. When they're enabled, and you move layers around the canvas, Photoshop proactively shows you adjacent elements making it easy to get the best possible alignment. Although they are enabled by default, Smart Guides are only visible when there is something to recommend. To check if they are still active, go to the View menu, then to the Show submenu, and make sure there is a checkmark next to the Smart Guides. If they are at work and you still don't see them, test that Extras is also enabled in the View menu at the top of the Show submenu. First, select three or more layers. Then choose Layer > Distribute and select a command. Alternatively, you can select the Move tool and click a Distribute button in the Options bar. Select the desired distribution option. Beyond compositing, align auto layers can spice up creative projects. Think about combining multiple shots of the same, perhaps group shots, with everyone looking their best! Use Adobe Bridge to simplify organizing. Once loaded, align all the layers efficiently so every smile and pose stands out. Play around with the options even more. For example, create panoramas by stitching photos side by side. Ensure you load files in sequence and align them for an immersive, continuous image. Don't stop there; try artistic effects by experimenting with the checkerboard pattern, filling gaps created by slight misalignments and adding to the collage effect. Remember, the move tool is handy when repositioning. If a selection needs slight adjustments post-alignment, use the move tool to fine-tune. As you practice, you'll feel more comfortable with the process, boosting both creativity and efficiency. Pro Tip: Save time and avoid hassle by frequently saving your work as you go; it's easy to lose track during intricate edits. Additionally, learning Photoshop shortcuts can significantly speed up your workflow and enhance your editing efficiency. Learning how to use aperture priority mode can greatly improve your photography projects. This setting offers control over depth of field, essential for capturing sharp images and enhancing your overall camera skills. Written by Steve Patterson. How many times have you found yourself trying to choose between two similar photos of your subject where neither photo is perfect? It's a common problem with group shots where in one photo, someone's eyes are closed, and in the other, someone else is looking in the wrong direction. Wouldn't it be great if, rather than being forced to choose between them, there was an easy way to merge the two images together, keeping only the best elements from each photo, to create that elusive, perfect shot? Fortunately, there is! In this tutorial, we'll learn how to easily align and composite images in Photoshop. In fact, you may be surprised by just how easy it is to do since we're going to let Photoshop do much of the work for us. First, we'll use a command few people know about to automatically load our photos into the same document and place each one on its own independent layer. Then, we'll align the images using Photoshop's powerful Auto-Align Layers command. Finally, we'll use a layer mask to hide the unwanted areas in one photo and replace them with the better versions from the other photo! I'll be using Photoshop CC here but this tutorial is also fully compatible with Photoshop CS6. Here's the two photos I'll be working with, taken one sunny afternoon while driving around the countryside. I like the horse on the right as it approaches and looks straight into the camera, but the horse on the left is looking down and showing me nothing but the top of its head. The first image. This second photo, taken a few seconds earlier, gives me a better view of the horse on the left, but the horse on the right is further back in the frame and not as interesting as it was in the first shot. The second image. What I'd like to do is combine the best elements from both versions, taking the horse on the right from the first photo and merging it with the horse on the left in the second photo. Here's what the final composite version will look like: The final composite. You can use the same steps we're about to learn to align and merge all kinds of images, from family and group shots to animals and pets, landscape and nature photos, or whatever the case may be, so feel free to follow along with your own images. Let's get started! Before we can align and merge our photos, we first need a way to get them both into the same document, with each image on its own separate layer. There's actually an easy way to do this, but few people know about it. Simply go up to the File menu in the Menu Bar along the top of the screen, choose Scripts, and then choose Load Files into Stack: Going to File > Scripts > Load Files into Stack. If "Load Files into Stack" seems confusing (which it does), think of it instead as "Load Files into Layers" because that's exactly what the script does; it opens two or more images into the same document and places each image on its own layer. In fact, there's a command in Adobe Bridge named "Load Files into Photoshop Layers" that does the same thing, but for this tutorial, we'll stick with Photoshop. Once you've selected the script, Photoshop will pop open the Load Layers dialog box. This is where we tell Photoshop which images to open. Click the Browse button: Clicking the Browse button in the Load Layers dialog box. Navigate to the folder on your hard drive where the images you want to merge are located. In my case, both of my photos are in a folder on my Desktop. I'll click on the first image to select it, then I'll press and hold my Shift key and click on the second image. This selects both images at once. With both of your photos selected, click the Open button: Shift-clicking on the images to select them both, then clicking Open. You'll see your selected images listed in the center of the Load Layers dialog box. Click OK to load them into Photoshop: Clicking OK to load the selected images. It may take a few moments, but both images will be loaded into the same document, each on its own layer. Since the photos are sitting one above the other, we can only see one of them at a time in the main document area. Both images were loaded, but only one is currently visible. If we look in the Layers panel, though, we see that, sure enough, both photos are there. The one on the top layer is the one currently visible in the document, but if you click on its visibility icon to the left of the layer, you'll temporarily turn it off, revealing the other image below it. Clicking the top image's visibility icon to turn it off. With the top layer turned off, the image on the bottom layer is now visible in the document. Click the same visibility icon again to turn the top image back on: Turning off the top layer reveals the photo on the bottom layer. Learn all about layers in Photoshop! Step 2: Select Both Layers In a moment, we're going to align the images, but to do that, we first need to have both layers selected. Click on the top layer in the Layers panel to select it if it isn't selected already. Then, press and hold your Shift key and click on the bottom layer. This will select both layers at once: Clicking the top layer, then Shift-clicking the bottom layer to select them both. With both layers selected, go up to the Edit menu at the top of the screen and choose Auto-Align Layers: Going to Edit > Auto-Align Layers. This opens the Auto-Align Layers dialog box. Photoshop is quite capable of doing an amazing job when aligning images, so we'll let it do all the work. Leave the Projection option at the top set to Auto (the default setting), then click OK. The default "Auto" option is all you need. Again, it may take a few moments, but when it's done, your photos should be aligned with each other. You can click on each layer's visibility icon in the Layers panel to toggle it on and off and see what changes Photoshop has made to get them aligned. I'll click on my bottom layer's visibility icon to turn that layer temporarily off. Hiding the bottom layer. This lets me view just the top image, and here we can see that to get both photos aligned, Photoshop resized and rotated the top image. The checkerboard pattern around the image is Photoshop's way of representing transparency. The top image was resized and rotated to align it with the bottom image. I'll click the same visibility icon once again to turn the bottom layer back on: Clicking the empty square to toggle the visibility back on. And now, we see just how great of a job Photoshop has done. There is a noticeable horizontal line cutting across the image near the top where the shade of blue in the sky doesn't match between photos, but I'll fix that in a moment. Overall, Photoshop did an amazing job: The images after running the Auto-Align Layers command. Now that our images are aligned, we can use a layer mask to hide the unwanted areas in the top image and reveal the better versions from the image underneath. Click on the top layer in the Layers panel to select it, which deselects the bottom layer at the same time: Selecting just the top layer. Click on the Add Layer Mask icon at the bottom of the Layers panel. This will add a layer mask to the image in the main document area, but a white-filled layer mask thumbnail appears on the top layer in the Layers panel. If you want to learn more about how layer masks work, be sure to check out our full Understanding Layer Masks in Photoshop tutorial: The Layers panel showing the new layer mask thumbnail. To hide the unwanted areas, we'll need to paint on the layer mask with a brush. For that, we'll need Photoshop's Brush Tool. Select the Brush Tool from the Tools panel along the left of the screen: Grabbing the Brush Tool. With the Brush Tool selected, click on the Brush Presets icon in the Options Bar along the top of the screen: Clicking the Brush Preset icon. This opens Photoshop's Brush Preset Picker. Double-click on the first thumbnail (the one in the top left) to select the soft round brush. Double-clicking both selects the brush and then closes out of the Brush Preset Picker: Double-clicking the soft round brush thumbnail. In order to hide areas on the top layer, with need to paint on the layer mask with black. Photoshop uses the Foreground color as the color of the brush, so to quickly set your Foreground color to black, first press the letter D on your keyboard to make sure your Foreground and Background colors are set to their defaults for working with layer masks. Then, we can set your Foreground color to white and your Background color to black by clicking the letter X on your keyboard. You can see your current Foreground and Background colors in the color swatches near the bottom of the Tools panel. Your Foreground color swatch is the one in the upper left. It should now be filled with black: The Foreground color should be black. With a soft round brush in hand and black as the Foreground color, simply paint over any areas in the top image that you want to hide and replace with the same area from the image below it. In my case, I want to replace the horse on the right with the better version of the horse from the other image, so I'll begin painting over the horse. Since I'm painting on the layer mask, not on the image itself, we won't see the black color of my brush strokes. Instead, the top horse begins to disappear in the areas I'm painting over, replaced by the better version of the horse below it. It looks a bit like a science experiment gone wrong at the moment, but it will look better when I'm done: Painting with black on the mask to swap the horses. Here's a few handy tips to help you out as you're painting on the mask. To change the size of your brush from the keyboard, press the left bracket key ( [ ) repeatedly to make it smaller or the right bracket key ( ] ) to make it larger. To change the hardness of the brush, press and hold the Shift key while pressing the left bracket key to make the edges softer or the right bracket key to make them harder. If you make a mistake and paint over an area you didn't mean to, press the letter X on your keyboard to swap your Foreground and Background colors, making your Foreground color white. Paint with white over the mistake to bring back the image on the top layer. Then, press X again to switch your Foreground color back to black and continue painting away other areas. I'll continue painting over the area until I've completely replaced the horse in the top image with the same horse from the bottom image: The original horse has now been replaced with the better version below it. I also want to make sure I swap out the shadow being cast by the horse, so I'll paint over that area as well: Painting over the shadow on the ground. If you want to compare the original and composite versions, you can temporarily turn off the layer mask by pressing and holding your Shift key and clicking on the layer mask thumbnail in the Layers panel. A red "X" will appear letting you know the mask has been disabled: Shift-clicking on the mask thumbnail to temporarily disable it. With the mask disabled, we see the original, unedited version: The original version of the photo. Press and hold Shift and click again on the layer mask thumbnail to turn the mask back on and view the composite version: The composite work-in-progress. To fix that harsh, horizontal line near the top of the image where the shade of blue doesn't match between images, I'll press the right bracket key ( ] ) on my keyboard a few times to make my brush size larger, and with my brush edge still nice and soft, I'll simply paint across that line to create a smooth transition between the photos: Painting with a large, soft brush across the sky. If you want to view the actual layer mask itself in the document so you can see exactly where you've painted, press and hold the Alt (Win) / Option (Mac) key on your keyboard and click on the layer mask thumbnail in the Layers panel: Alt-clicking (Win) / Option-clicking (Mac) on the mask thumbnail. This temporarily replaces your image in the document with the layer mask. White represents the areas where the top image remains visible. Areas you've painted over to reveal the image on the bottom layer appear in black. Here, we can see where I've painted over the horse and the sky, and I've also painted along the right edge to smooth out a few more harsh transition edges: Viewing the layer mask itself in the document. To hide the layer mask and switch back to your image, once again press and hold your Alt (Win) / Option (Mac) key and click on the layer mask thumbnail. And with that, we're done! Here is my final composite of the two original photos: The final result. Graphic DesigningGraphic Design SoftwareAdobe Photoshop Tutorials In this Photoshop Lesson, we'll learn about 'Auto-Align Layers command in Photoshop'. Auto-Align Layers command is available under Edit menu in Photoshop. My name is Lalit Adhikari and we are at LTY. Let's begin!Auto-Align LayersThe Auto-Align Layers command under Edit menu in Photoshop can automatically align layers based on similar content in different layers, such as corners and edges. We assign one layer as a reference layer or let Photoshop automatically choose the reference layer. Other layers are aligned to that matching content overlays itself. Hence, it is used frequently for creating panoramic images. Image - 1Image - 2Image - 3Related Topics:How to use Auto-Align Layers?How to show the Auto-Align Layers command?I'll be creating a panoramic image using the three images mentioned above.First, I'll open 'Image - 1' in photoshop. After that, I'll place other images. 'Image - 2' and 'Image - 3' in the same document as different layers. Images opened and placed in Photoshop DocumentImage place after opening 'Image - 1' will be placed as Smart Object, we'll need to Rasterize those layers. To create panoramic image from the above opened images, we have to select all the layers in the layer panel.All layers selectedRelated Topics:Go to Edit > Auto-Align Layers..Auto-Align Layers dialog boxDifferent options available in Auto-Align Layers dialog box are as follow:Auto: In this method, Photoshop analyzes the source images and applies either a Perspective or Cylindrical layout, depending on which produces a better composite.Perspective: It creates a consistent composition by designating one of the source images (by default, the middle image) as the reference image. The other images are then transformed (repositioned, stretched or skewed, as necessary) so that overlapping content across layers is matched.Cylindrical: It reduces the "bow-tie" distortion that can occur with the Perspective layout by displaying individual images as on an unfolded cylinder. Overlapping content across layers is still matched. The reference image is placed at the center. Best suited for creating wide panoramas.Spherical: It aligns the images with wide fields of view (vertical and horizontal). Designates one of the sources images (the middle image, by default) as the reference image and spherically transforms the other images so that overlapping content is matched.Scene Collage: It aligns layers and matches overlapping content, without changing the shape of the objects in the image (for example, a circle will still be a circle).Reposition Only: It aligns the layers and matches overlapping content but does not transform (stretch or skew) any of the source layers. Two options for Lens Corrections are also available:Vignette Removal: Compensates for a lens defect that causes the edges, especially the corners, of an image to be darker than the center.Geometric Distortion: Compensates for barrel, pincushion, or fish-eye distortions.Related Topics: this case, Auto values under Projection will give the best result. The reason if your images have any of the visible defects then other Projection values could be tested.Click OK!Result after Auto-Align Layers in PhotoshopHere, Photoshop has arranged common content and placed images to create a possible panoramic image. We can use the Auto-Blend Layers command in Edit menu. It will blend the layers together and also fill transparent areas with Content-Aware Fill.With all the layers still selected, go to Edit > Auto-Blend LayersAuto-Blend Layers under Edit menu!The following dialog box will open:Auto-Blend Layer dialog boxHere, I've chosen Blend Method as Panorama and also checked bottom 2 checkboxes. They will blend tones and colors as well as fill transparent areas with Content-Aware Fill.Related Topics:Screenshot after Auto-Blend Layers in PhotoshopFinal panoramic auto-related Topics: Today, we'll be looking at how to use the auto-align tools in Photoshop, as well as guides and snapping! Photoshop auto-align tools are simple but powerful, and they'll keep you from sending out a design with the always annoying uncentred text or misaligned photos. If you're looking to speed up your workflow, try one of the hundreds of professional plugins, actions, and addons that Envato Elements has to offer! And if you'd like to learn more useful tips, here's a video from the Envato Tuts+ YouTube channel with 10 Essential Design Tips for Photoshop: What You'll Learn in This Photoshop Auto-Align Tutorial How to auto align in Photoshop How to use guides in Photoshop What is snapping in Photoshop How to turn snapping off in Photoshop How to align layers in Photoshop What You'll Need To complete this project, you will need the following resources: Event Flyer Model in Flyer Find more resources on Envato Elements! 1. How to Auto-Align in Photoshop Step 1 Using the Move tool, select the layers you want to align. You can hold Shift and click to select multiple layers all at once. Step 2 With the Move tool active, look towards the upper Options bar. You will see two types of alignment options: One group Aligns, while the other Distributes. Step 3 First, let's align. We have a total of six choices: Left Edges: Aligns the left pixel on the selected layers to the left pixel on the leftmost layer. Horizontal Center: Aligns the horizontal center pixel on the selected layers to the horizontal center pixel of all the selected layers. Top Edges: Aligns the top pixel of the selected layers to the topmost pixel of all selected layers. Vertical Center: Aligns the vertical center pixel on each layer to the selected layers' vertical center. Bottom Edges: Aligns the bottom pixel of the selected layers to the bottommost pixel. In this case, I want all of the text to be center aligned, so let's choose the second option, Align Horizontal Center. Step 4 That is how to auto align layers in Photoshop, but we still want to distribute the text evenly. To Distribute layers, select three or more layers. If less than three layers are selected, the Distribution tools will be grayed out. With the Move tool active, look at the upper Options bar. Here, we have two Distribute Spacing options: Horizontally: Distributes horizontal spacing between the layers evenly. Vertically: Distributes vertical spacing between the layers evenly. We want to choose to Distribute Vertically, so that there is equal spacing between each line of text. Step 5 You can select the Ellipsis icon to see all six Distribute options, as well as a list of all other Align options: Top Edges: Spaces the layers evenly, starting from the top of each layer. Vertical Center: Spaces the layers starting from the vertical center pixel of each layer. Bottom Edges: Spaces the layers starting from the bottom pixel of each layer. Left Edges: Spaces the layers starting from the left pixel of each layer. Horizontal Center: Spaces the layers starting from the horizontal center of each layer. Right Edges: Spaces the layers starting from the right pixel on each layer. 2. How to Use Guides in Photoshop Step 1 Guides are a great way to help you position all your design elements precisely. First, make sure Guides are turned on by going to View > Show > Guides or View > Extras. Step 2 We need to turn on our Rulers using View > Rulers to place a Guide. Step 3 Now, drag from the horizontal Ruler to create a Horizontal Guide and drag from the vertical Ruler to create a Vertical Guide. You can hold Alt / Option to switch to the opposite of whatever guide is currently selected. I darkened the design so you can better see the guides. Step 4 To move your Guides, simply click and drag. Hold down Shift and drag from the Ruler to create a Guide that snaps to the ruler's ticks. Use guides to align design elements and keep consistent spacing. Step 5 To remove a guide, drag the guide outside the Canvas. Or, to delete all Guides, choose View > Clear Canvas Guides. 3. What Is Snapping in Photoshop? Step 1 While moving around layers, you may have noticed them pulling or aligning themselves with existing layers and guides; this is called Snapping. To see if Snapping is on, go to View > Snap. A checkmark shows that snapping is active. Step 2 Snapping is automatic, but you can specify what your will and won't snap. Go to View > Snap To, and choose one or more options. What you choose will depend on the work you do. If you're working on a flyer with lots of typography, you might want everything to stay on. However, if you are editing a photo, you may only want layers to snap to Guides. You're Done! And that is how to auto align layers in Photoshop! Making sure everything is properly aligned in a design is key. And more often than not, our own eyes won't catch when something is off-aligned by a few pixels, but luckily the Photoshop auto-align tools will! Want Premium Plugins, Actions, and Resources? Now, if you're looking to supercharge your workflow and make the Photoshop auto-align tools even better, try out one of the hundreds of plugins, actions, and add-ons over on Envato Elements! ReOrder: Layer Panel Sorting Kit (ZXP) We just covered how to auto align in Photoshop, but why not keep your layers just as organized? ReOrder is full of one-button solutions for sorting, organizing, and cleaning up your layer stack. The Ultimate 1001 Text Effects (PSD) Typography and layer alignmnt goes hand in hand. So this pack of over 1,000 text effects is the perfect companion to your new alignment tools! Easy Cut: Layer Splitting Kit (ZXP) Guides are great for keeping your edges clean and consistent, so why not supercharge them using the Easy Cut add-on for Photoshop? Easy Cut lets you turn guides and paths into instant cutting tools. It's great for making clean lines and shapes! Image Extend: Clipping & Expansion Kit (ZXP) Creating a design and not being able to add extra space for bleed is a frustrating experience! Not a problem if you have an image extend add-on for Photoshop! Just add your amount and instantly extend the edges of your images. Geometric Collage Generator Photoshop Plugin (BR, ATN, F) Photoshop: How to auto-align layers in Photoshop, create instant posters using the Geometric Collage Generator plugin! Great for posters, flyers, or promotional material. This plugin does almost all the work for you, just add text, and you're done! Automatic Layer Alignments are one of the most useful and underappreciated features of Photoshop. Perhaps it says something about your personality, but a slightly misaligned layer can make my brain crackle - and not in the fun PhotoshopBuzz kind of way, in an "I have to fix that right now" kind of way. Even if you're lucky and don't suffer the same sort of mental quirk, it's still possible to drive yourself to frustration trying to align your layers by hand. Fortunately, it's the kind of task that computers excel at, so we should let them do all the work! Here's how. 1. Align Simple Layers Using the Move Tool Photoshop's layer alignment tools are actually located in the options panel at the top of the image window, which is the Move command is selected. They're quite simple to use, but if you're not familiar with the basics, then you might wonder why they're often unavailable. With the Move tool active, open the Align and Distribute panel, which is also oddly hard to find (see screenshot below). Next, you'll need to locate the Align To: setting (again, see below). If it is set to Selection, you need to have an active selection marquee OR multiple layers selected in the Layers panel in order for the alignment buttons to be available. To select multiple layers in the Layers panel, hold down the Ctrl key on PC or Command key on Mac and click each layer you want to select. At that point, it's fairly self-explanatory: you can align along any edge or the center of your selections using the appropriate button. You can also switch the Align To: setting to Canvas, which will allow you to align one or more layers to the document as a whole, which is a huge help for accurately centering multiple layers without doing any calculations yourself. I don't know why Adobe decided to make these useful options so difficult to access, but I suspect it's because they're trying to discourage people from using Photoshop as a layout program in favor of their other dedicated graphic design programs. For a while, Photoshop was becoming a "one-stop shop" for design work, and that doesn't really fit with Adobe's plans - and, to be fair, it also doesn't fit with Photoshop's core strengths. 2. Align Layers With Smart Guides Aligning layers can be a complicated business, and sometimes, using the Move tool doesn't give you exactly the results you're looking for. One of my favorite additions to Photoshop is the Smart Guides feature, which intelligently (or, at least, sort of intelligently) looks at your image and guesses your intentions. The Smart Guides overlay lets you while aligning two separate text layers by hand. It doesn't always work perfectly, but Smart Guides can be a huge help for tricky alignment situations, such as ensuring that two image elements are the same distance away from your document edges. The alignment options in the Move tool definitely can't keep up with that! Smart Guides are enabled by default, but they only appear when they've got something to offer. To ensure they're still enabled, open the View menu, select the Show submenu, and make sure there is a checkmark beside Smart Guides. If they're enabled but you're still not seeing them, make sure that Extras are also enabled in the View menu, just above the Show submenu. 3. Automatically Aligning Photos There is another type of automatic layer alignment that's necessary for a lot of common Photoshop tasks, but it's much more complicated than the methods above. It's a great help for focus stacking, HDR compositing, panoramas, and other creative multi-frame projects. The only real trick to this process is how you open your images. Since all your images need to be on separate layers in the same document, you could copy and paste them individually, but there's a much easier way - especially if you're working on a focus stack of 25 images! Open the File menu, select Scripts, and choose Load Files into Stack. Photoshop will start by opening the Load Layers dialog box, offering handy shortcuts like Add Open Files and letting you open an entire folder's worth of images at once. Note: You can also check the Attempt to Automatically Align Layers box in the Load Layers dialog box to make this a one-step process, but I'm going to show you the full process as well just in case you need a specific alignment type. Now that you've got your photos open in the same document as separate layers, open the Edit menu and click Auto-Align Layers. Photoshop will open the Auto-Align Layers dialog, which lets you select from a range of different alignment options. Unless you know specifically which setting you need, it's usually best to just leave it on Auto and let Photoshop sort it out, as most of the options are used for creating panoramas. We are trying to do this all automatically, after all! Click OK, and Photoshop will chug away in the background while it checks each layer for possible alignments and adjusts the placement and shape as needed. It may not look like much, but small misalignments can have a huge impact on your final image when you're doing multi-frame compositing! A Final Word Photoshop may not be intended as a graphic design layout program, but there are still plenty of good reasons to automatically align your layers. A combination of the Move tool's alignment features and Smart Guides will help make your life a lot easier, and you won't have to spend your time calculating offsets and pixel measurements. Even if you need to align photo layers from multiple angles, Photoshop saves the day. With a bit of luck, you'll never have to do any math in Photoshop again © Happy aligning! About Thomas Boldt This guide will give you the easiest ways to align layers in Photoshop. I've been using Adobe Photoshop for many years and I have to say, aligning layers is something I start up needing to do regularly. Aligning layers helps you to get the components of a design or images straight. And, it's not difficult to do once you know how! Let's dive into the tutorial so you can learn how to do it. HIGHLY RECOMMENDED Adobe Photoshop Download a free copy of Adobe Photoshop to follow along with this simple tutorial. START MY FREE TRIAL How to Align Layers in Photoshop in 2 Easy Steps Aligning components of an image is important when you want a design to have a professional look. It's not always possible for us to see when a layer is out of alignment by a few millimeters. Luckily, Photoshop has some handy tricks to easily get layers into exact alignment. How to Auto-Align Layers This method will automatically snap selected layers into position. This method gives you an instant, precise result in six different positions. Let's see how. Step 1 - Select all Layers The first step is to select all the layers you wish to align. To do this, hold down the Shift key and click on the icon of each layer in the Layers panel. When the layer turns from dark grey to light grey, it represents that it has been selected. If you want to select all layers, head to the top menu bar and choose Layers > All Layers. All the layers will now be selected and ready to align. Step 2 - Align Layers head to the top menu bar and select Layers > Align. (Note that if it's impossible to select Align, it will be because no more than one layer is tive in the Layers panel. You'll need to go back to step 1 and select more layers.) When you click Align, a pop-up menu will appear. From here, you will be given six choices. You can align the layers to the Top Edges, Vertical Centers, Bottom Edges, Left Edges, Horizontal Centers, or Right Edges. Below is the image before the layers were aligned to the top edges. The following image is how the layers look after Top Edges has been clicked as an alignment choice. As you can see, the layers will be precisely aligned to the topmost layer, in this case, the square. The image below shows the shape layers before they are moved. In this case, only the square and the ellipse are selected. The alignment Vertical Center is chosen, and only the square and circle are snapped to align in the center of the canvas. The image below shows the shapes before the alignment selection. The triangle and ellipse shapes are selected, and from the main menu bar, Align > Horizontal Centers is clicked. As you can see in the image below, the shapes are snapped into a central position, which is between their former positions. They are not aligned to the center of the canvas. This is a handy two-click editing trick to know when you need to snap layers into alignment when creating designs. Now, you won't have to whip out Photoshop's rulers and grids and count millimeters to align layers. How to Align Layers Using the Move Tool You can also use the Move tool's options tab to align layers. Click on the Move tool in the toolbar, and its options bar will appear over the canvas workspace. When aligning layers, make sure that layer is chosen, not groups. Tick the box beside Show Transformation Controls, and a bounding box will appear in the canvas workspace around the selected layers. The bounding box can be a helpful indicator of which boxes are selected. As you can see in the image below, the triangle and the ellipse's layers are active, and the bounding box is placed around them, excluding the square. This indicates that only the triangle and the ellipse will be moved. When the square is activated in the layers panel, the bounding box will automatically include it. When an alignment choice is selected, the shapes will be repositioned inside the bounding box. Click one of the alignment icons to align the shape layers. The first icon will align the shapes to the left side of the bounding box. The second will align them to the middle of the bounding box, and so on. If you wish to align the layers within the canvas and not within the bounding box: Click the three-dot icon in the Move tool's options panel. This will open a dialogue window. Click on the arrow beside Selection at the bottom of the dialogue window. A dropdown menu will appear. Change the choice from Selection to Canvas. The layers will now be aligned to the boundaries of the canvas. Below, we can see that the images are ready to be aligned, and all the shapes' layers have been selected. The image below shows how the shapes are aligned when the second icon, the central align icon, is clicked. The next image shows how the shapes are realigned using the same icon, but when Canvas has been selected. The shapes are now aligned centrally to the canvas. In the image below, all the shapes are selected and Canvas has been activated. The seventh icon has been clicked, the Bottom Edges icon, and all the shapes have been aligned to the bottom of the canvas. The Move tool's options tab has the option to distribute the layers within the alignment. Click on the three-dot icon and open the dialogue window. You will find the Distribute icons in the second box. Click on any of the Distribute icons to align the layers in the canvas workspace. Using the above methods, you can align any kind of layer, including text and image layers. Related: How to Blend Layers in Photoshop Aligning Layers Free Hand The following method will guide you when aligning layers in Photoshop freestyle. Step 1 - Select Smart Guides First, we will turn on the Smart Guides. Head to the main menu bar and select View > Show. In the pop-up menu that appears, check to see if there is a tick beside Smart Guides. If there is no tick, click on Smart Guides to activate it. Step 2 - Select the Move Tool From the toolbar, select the Move tool. When the Move tool and the Smart Guides are active, guiding lines and distances will appear as you move a layer. When a layer is in alignment centrally with another layer within the center of a canvas, a line will appear to demonstrate this as the vertical center line. When the vertical center line is selected, you will be able to easily align your layers into the position you want. Activate Alignment Guides When the layers are stationary, you can activate guiding lines. Hold down Command (for Macs) or Ctrl (for Windows). Hover your cursor over one of the layers which is not active in the Layers panel. The triangle layer is selected in the image below, and the cursor is hovered over the ellipse. Photoshop indicates how far the layers are from each other. The Move tool and Smart Guides will help you achieve the perfect alignment. Happy editing, and have fun aligning layers in Photoshop! If you liked this tutorial, you might enjoy - How to Focus Stack in Photoshop. How do I evenly align in Photoshop? To evenly align in Photoshop, activate the grids. Then, you can use the move tool to align the objects. Alternatively, select the layers you wish to align and click one of the align icons in the Move tool's options bar. How do I arrange layers in Photoshop? To arrange layers in Photoshop, click on the layer you wish to move and drag the layer up or down the Layer panel into position. Why won't Photoshop allow me to auto-align layers? One possible reason why Photoshop won't allow you to auto-align layers is that the layers have been converted into smart objects. Smart objects are non-destructive, and therefore, not all editing actions can be performed on them. How do you adjust multiple layers in Photoshop? To adjust multiple layers in Photoshop, you can group them in a group. To do this, click the folder icon at the bottom of the Layers panel. When the folder appears, drag the layers you wish to adjust together into the folder.