

Create a collage with warped images using Photoshop CC



In this Photoshop project, we're going to create a collage of "warped" photos. Using Photoshop's Warp Tool, we will be bending, curling, distorting and reshaping images like the examples you see in this handout. You will add stroke and drop shadows, also known as layer styles and learn how to copy layer styles from one image to another.

For this tutorial, I'll be using three photos in my collage, plus the image I'll be using as the background, for a total of four photos.

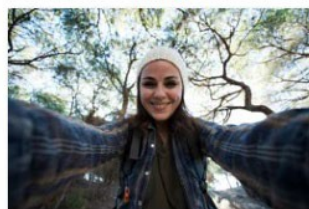
You, of course, can use as many photos as you like for your challenge. You can use any pictures you like to create your collage.



forest.jpg



group.jpg



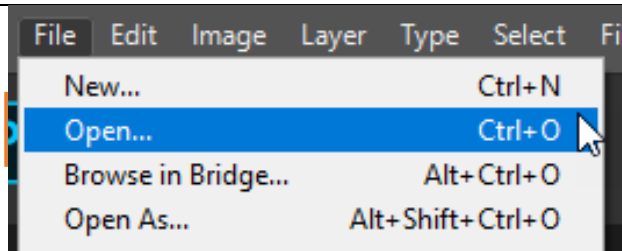
selfie.jpg



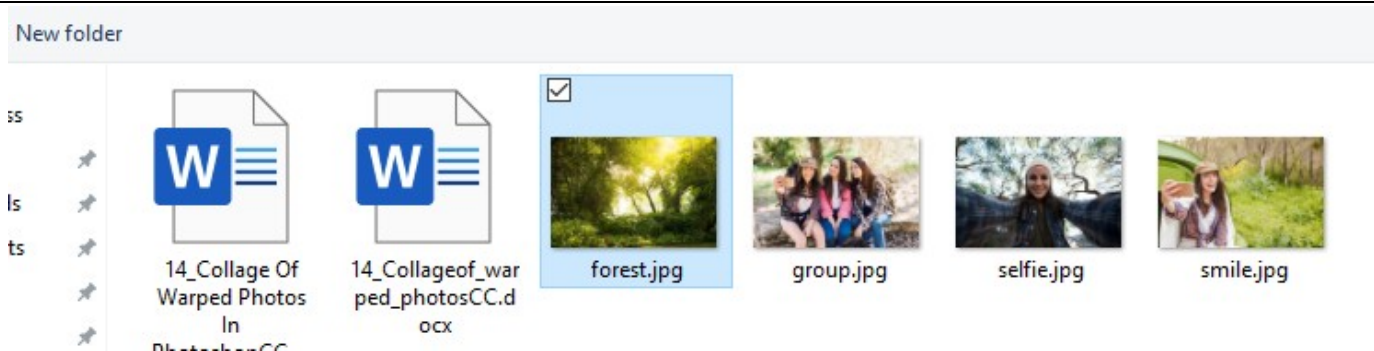
smile.jpg

Open the first photo you want to add to your collage. This will be your background image; in our example we are using the forest.jpg as the background.

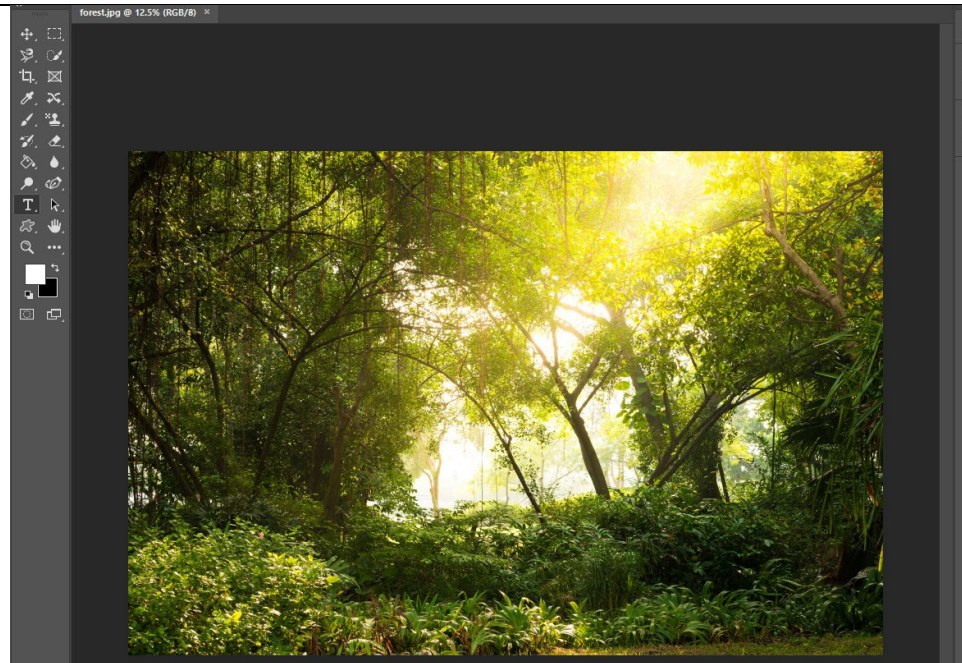
Now bring up Photoshop and go to File -> Open.



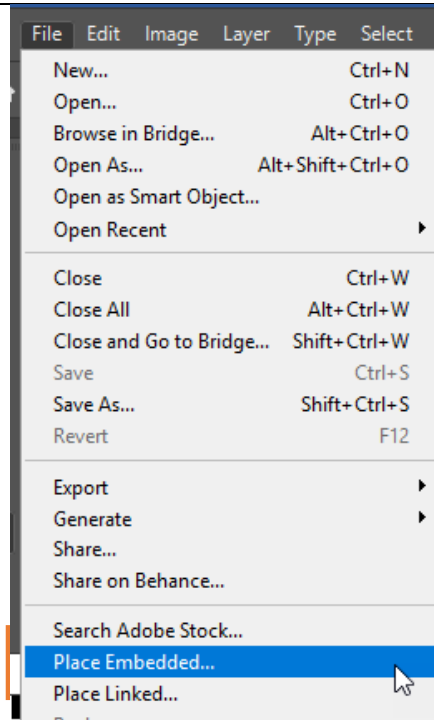
When the window opens go to the forest.jpg image and double-click it.



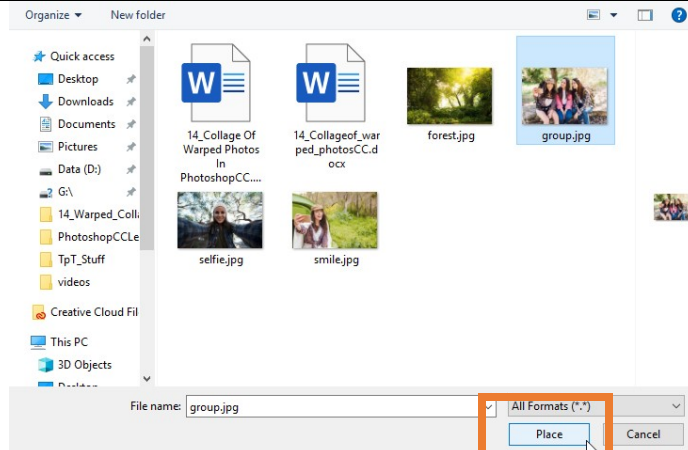
This will be the background of our collage.



Now you want to open up our first picture that we will warp. Click on File then Place Embedded.



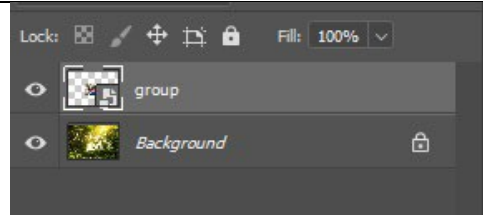
We will start with the group.jpg, click the image one time then click on Place.



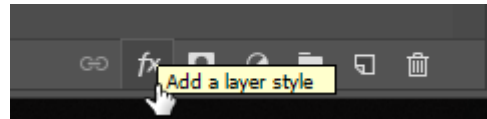
Use the corner squares to transform (re-size) your image. Then center your image by dragging your image to the center, look for the pink lines to know when it is completely centered. Press Enter to accept the transformation.



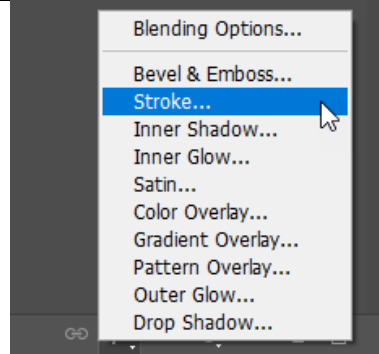
If we look at our layers, we see there are two layers. The bottom layer is called Background and the second layer is group. You should have the same names.



We want to add a white frame around the group image. Click on the group layer first then click on the Add a layer style button.



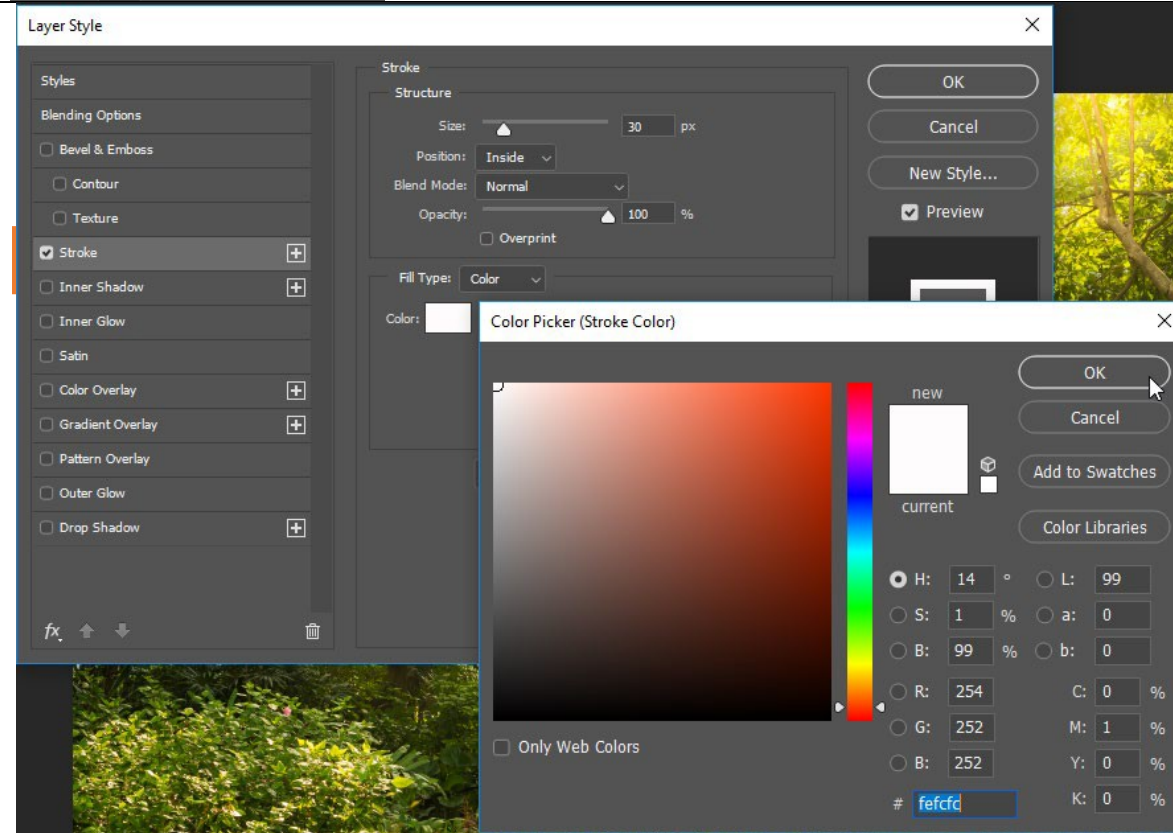
Click on the Stroke option, this brings up the Stroke dialog box.



I'm going to enter a value of 30 px (pixels) for my Width, which works well with my image here. You may need to enter a different value depending on the size of the image you are using. Set the Location option in the middle of the dialog box to Inside so the stroke appears inside the edge of the image:

Select white as the color. Click on the color box to the right of the word Color. You should be able to see the Color Picker and choose a white area of the box.

Finally, click OK to exit out of the dialog box and apply the white stroke.



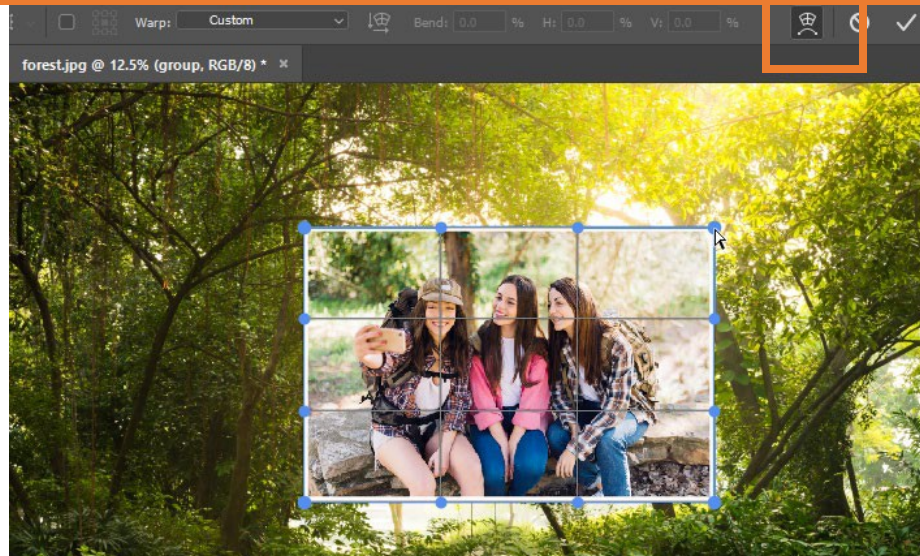
So far so good!



Now we get to make our picture look warped, curly, and twisty! Make sure you are on the layer of the image you want to warp.

Press Ctrl+T to view Photoshop's Free Transform box and handles around the image, then simply click on the Warp button at the top of the screen.

If you did it correctly you will see a 3x3 grid appear over your picture.



Put your mouse pointer on any of the squares or circles and drag to see what the warp tool does.

To create a page curl, drag any of the corner handles inward. If you drag the corner in far enough, you'll see what looks like the back of the photo appearing in the corner. Pretty cool, heh?

If you don't like how your picture looks press your Esc key to cancel your changes and exit out of the Warp Tool, then go back and start over.

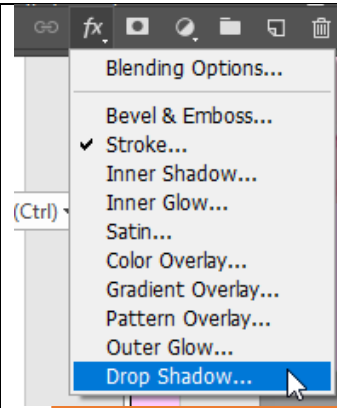
Press Enter when you are finished warping your image.



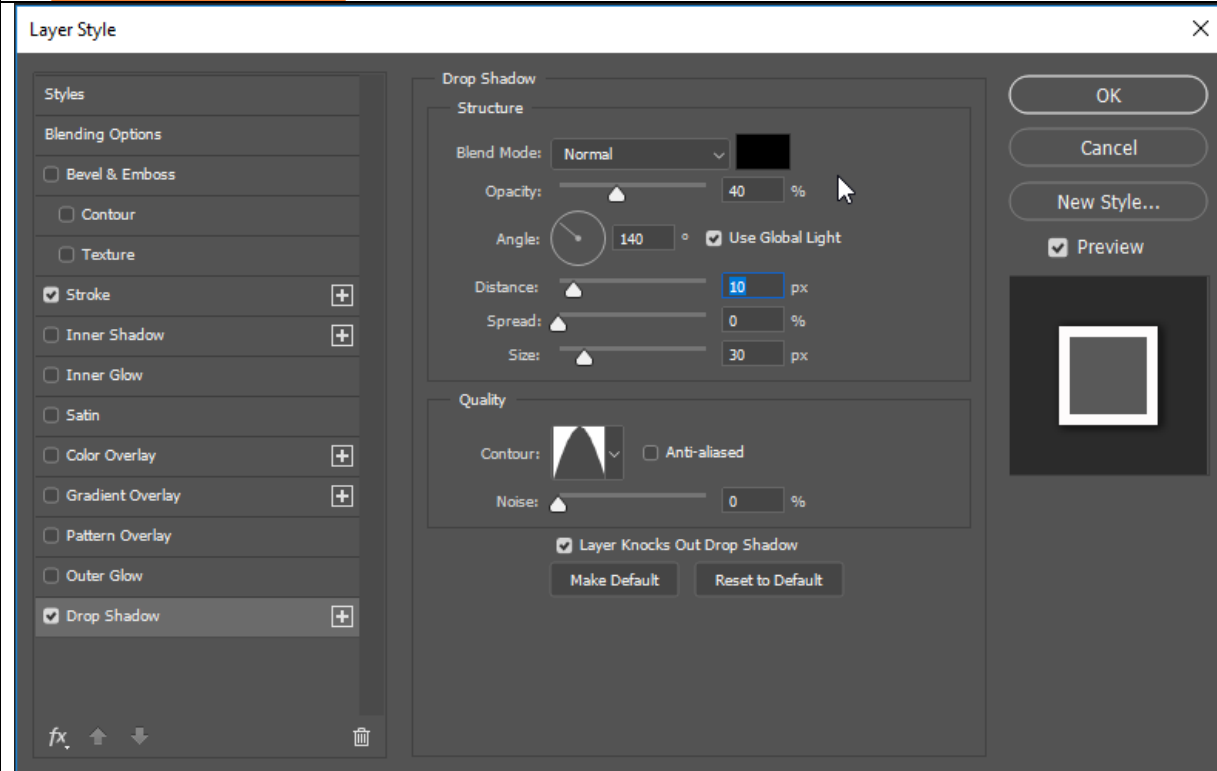
Here's what my image looks like after I pressed Enter on my keyboard. Yours will look different, it's OK!



Now we will add some shadows to make the images pop out a little bit. Click on the Add a layer style button then Drop Shadow.



You will see the Layer Style box open on your screen. Copy the settings you see in window to the right. You might have to adjust them for your images but these are a good starting point.





My picture looks like this after creating the drop shadow.



Now we will add our second photo. Go to File then Place Embedded again and choose selfie.jpg.



Press Ctrl+T to view Photoshop's Free Transform box and handles around the image, then simply click on the Warp button at the top of the screen. If you did it correctly you will see a 3x3 grid appear over your picture.

Put your mouse pointer on any of the squares or circles and drag. If you don't like how your picture looks, press your Esc key to cancel your changes and exit out of the Warp Tool, then go back and start over.

Press Enter when you are finished warping your image.



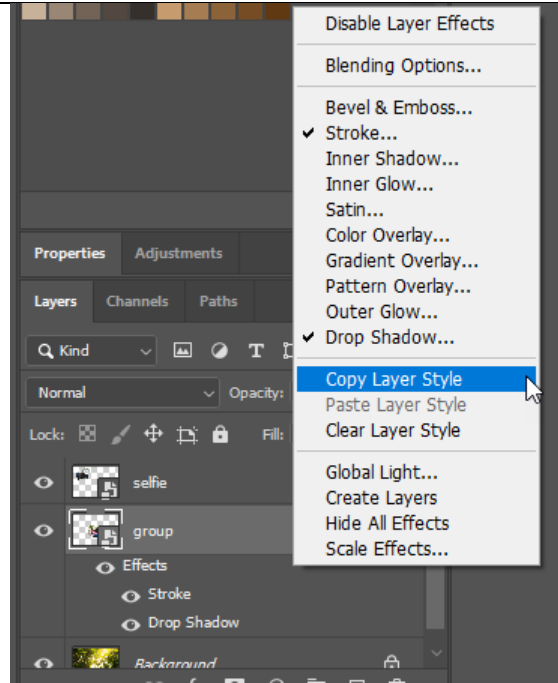
When you are finished resizing and warping your picture will look something like this, it is still missing the stroke and drop shadow.



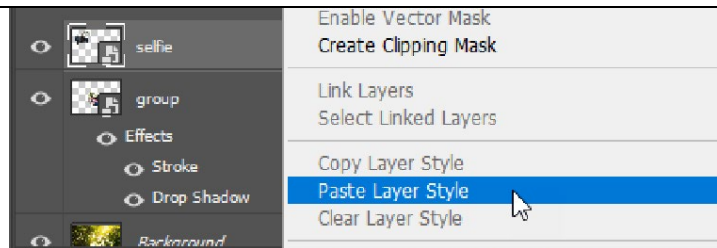
To save ourselves some time we are going to copy the stroke and drop shadow layer style.

That's right you can copy the layer style you have already applied to other layers in your image. This can save you lots of time when dealing with many layers.

Right- click on the word "Effect" and choose "Copy Layer Style."



Right-click on the selfie layer, then select "Paste Layer Style."



Now both images have a stroke and a shadow, easy peasy! See all the time we saved?!?!



All done with the second picture. Now repeat with the third image (or more) to finish up your warped collage.

Finished collage with some text, I copied the same drop shadow from the images.



## Brain Challenge #1

- Make a warped collage with pictures of your favorite movie, band, or singer.
- Include at least three images plus a background.
- Make sure you add a stroke and drop shadow.



## Brain Challenge #2

- Make a warped collage with your own pictures of yourself or family/friends.
- Include at least three images plus a background of a picture you took.
- Make sure you add a stroke and drop shadow.