

Introduction: In the following pages you will find a step by step tutorial on how to create mandalas from digital photographs. This tutorial assumes you have a working knowledge of your computer and Adobe Photoshop.

What you need:

A computer with at Photoshop. This tutorial was created with version CS5 so some of the functions may be slightly different if you are using an earlier version, but these directions should still work.

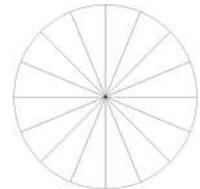
A digital photograph Here is a sample photo of Sun through Leaves; I attached two similar nature photos that you can use with this tutorial. (If you wish to use your own digital photo in this tutorial, it should measure at least 370 pixels wide.)



Step 1a

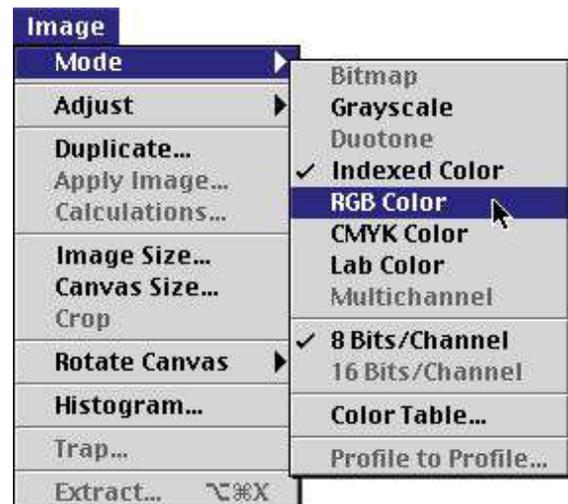
For this tutorial, we will create a mandala with 16 sections. So find and open the template file named 16-section-pie-chart.gif in Classroom

[More Templates that you can use](#)



Step 1b

Change the color scheme from Indexed to RGB. Go to **Image: Mode: RGB**

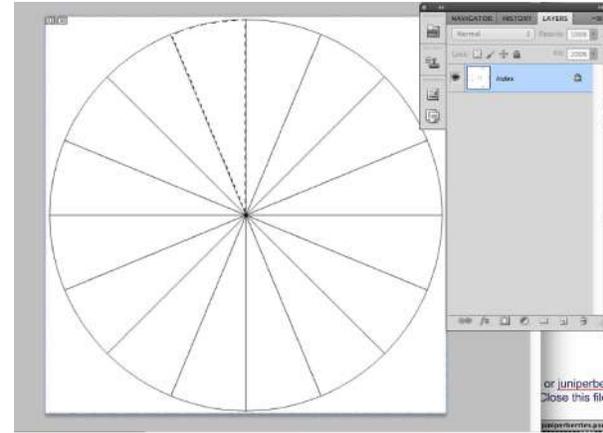


Step 1c

Double-click on the magic wand tool in the tool box. The magic wand options palette should become visible on the screen. Set the options for the magic wand as shown:

- o Tolerance: 0
- o Anti-aliased: not checked
- o Contiguous: checked
- o Sample All Layers: not checked

Step 1d Select the top-most, left template section by clicking once in the top left area with the magic wand tool.



Step 2a Find and open your digital photo (or Sun through Leaves.jpg photo included with this tutorial). Go to the Select: All; go to the Edit: Copy. Minimize this file and return to the template file.

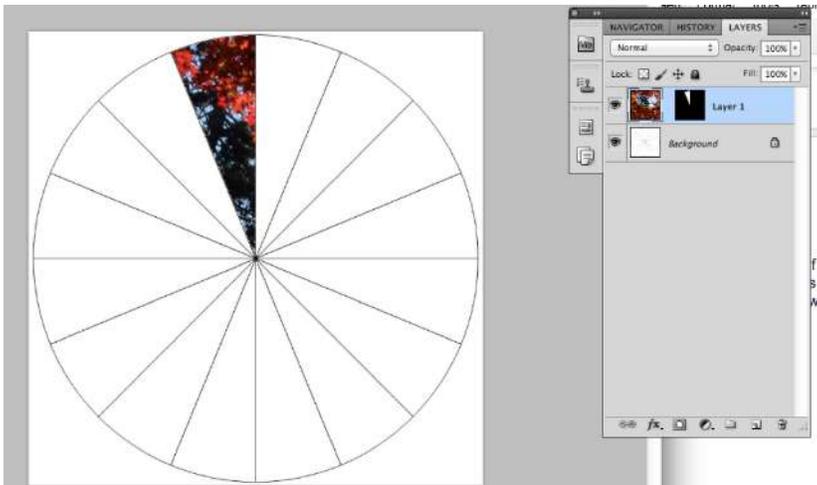


Step 2b With the top-most, left, top-most template section still selected (see step 3), go to **Edit: Paste Special: Paste Into**.



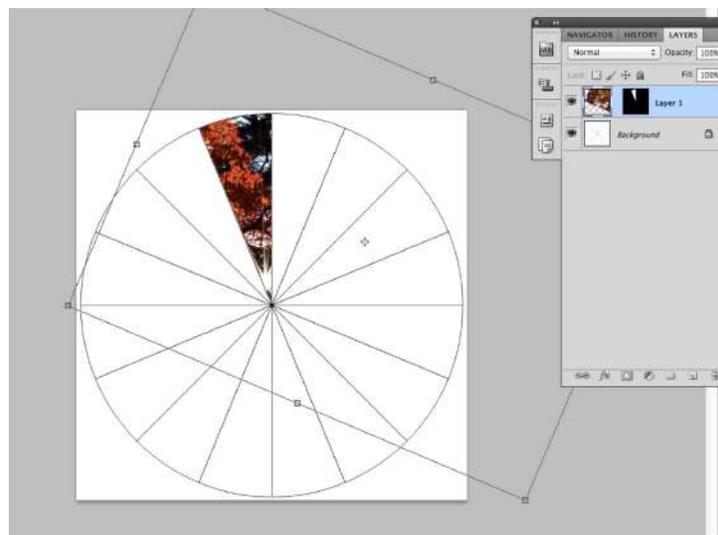
Step 2c

Here is the result of your actions. The photo should be pasted inside the shape of the first template section. Your layers palette should now show two layers, the template layer at the bottom (Layer 1), and the new layer with your photo (Layer 2).



Step 3a

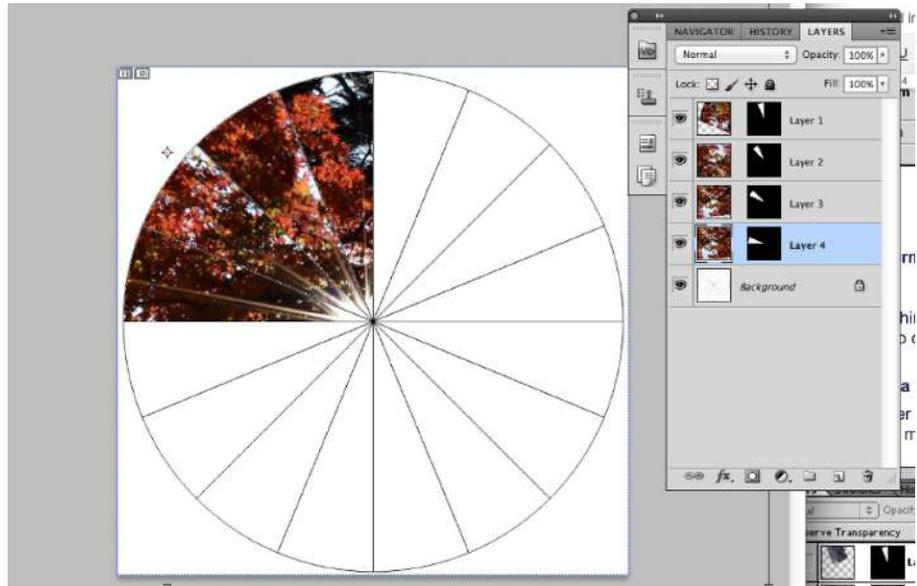
This is the step where you get to use your creativity and your eye for symmetry. In this step you will move and scale the photo so the best features are showing through the template mask of background layer. With Background layer selected in the layers palette go to **Edit: Free Transform**. A bounding box with handles will appear on the screen. You can use this box to rotate, resize and move your photo so the best parts of the photo are showing (refer to your Photoshop documentation if you are unfamiliar with the Free Transform feature.) Once you are satisfied with your adjustments, hit the enter/return key to complete the transformation.



Step 3b

Next you will do the same with the each of the next sections as you did the first and begin to complete the remaining LEFT TOP 1/4 section of your mandala. You DON'T NEED to Copy the image photo again:

1. Select the **Background layer**:
2. Using the magic wand tool, select the second section of the template.
3. Go to **Edit:Paste Special: Paste Into**.
4. Edit: Free Transform:

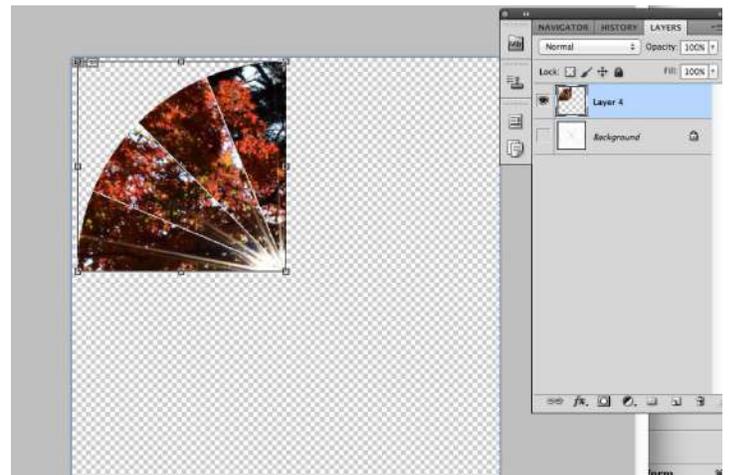


Step 4:

We now have a one complete quarter of the mandala. To create a complete half do these four steps: We will make the 16 section template layer invisible, and consolidate each of the other 4 layers into one.

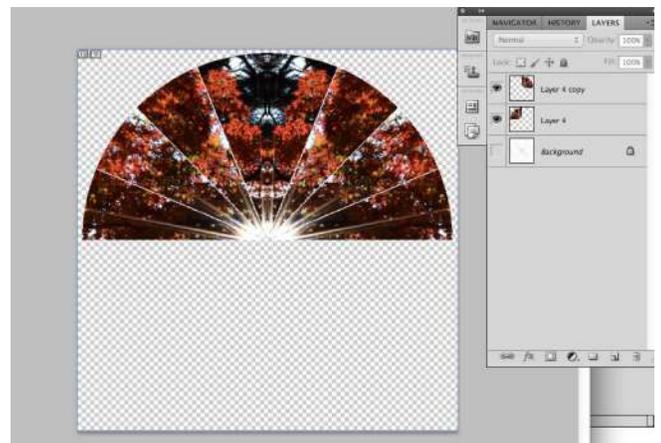
These steps in this section will make your mandala line up as a mirror image of the photo in the first section:

1. Select the **Background layer**>
 - a. Turn off the eye symbol to make Background Layer invisible
2. Next, go to **Layer:Merge Visible**. After merging the visible layers, your layers palette should look like the one below.



Step 4b

- 1- With layer 4 selected, go to **Layer:Duplicate**
- 2- go to **Edit:Transform: Flip Horizontal**;
- 3- then **move** the second quarter into place next to the first.
4. Next, go to **Layer:Merge Layers** to consolidate the two quarters into one half.



Step 5-Completing the Mandala!

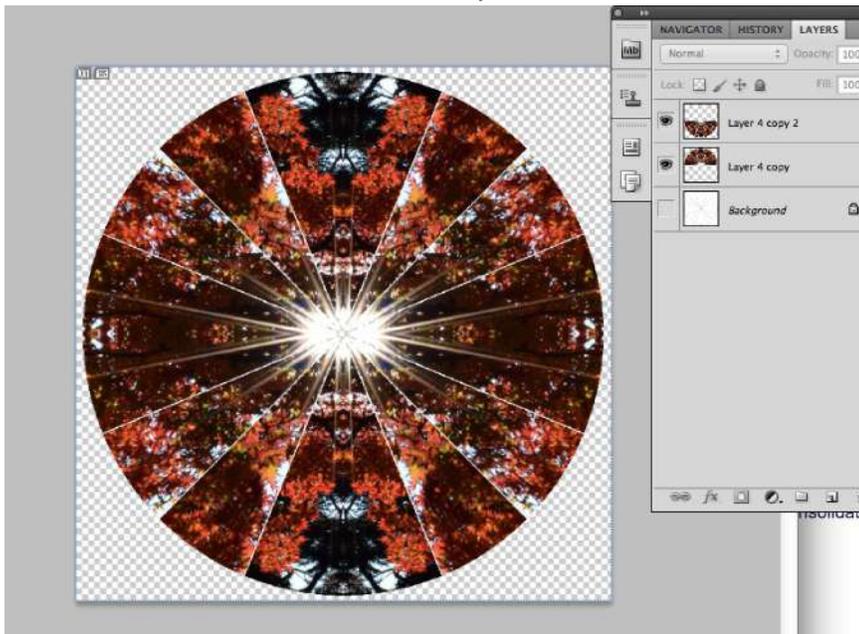
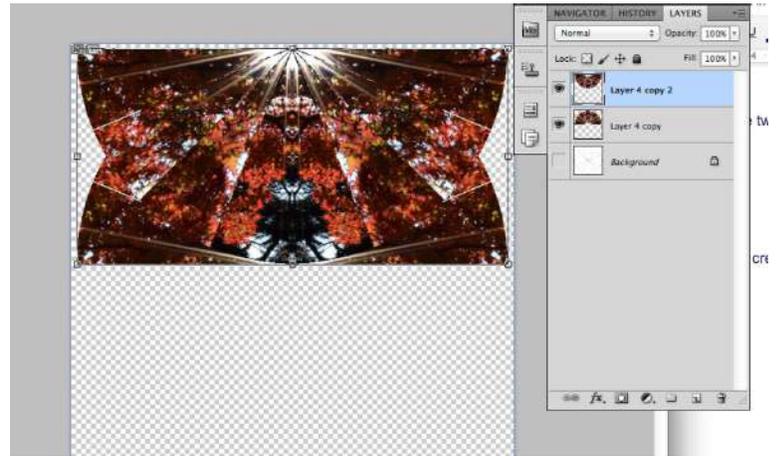
We now have a one complete half of the mandala.

To create a complete mandala do these four steps:

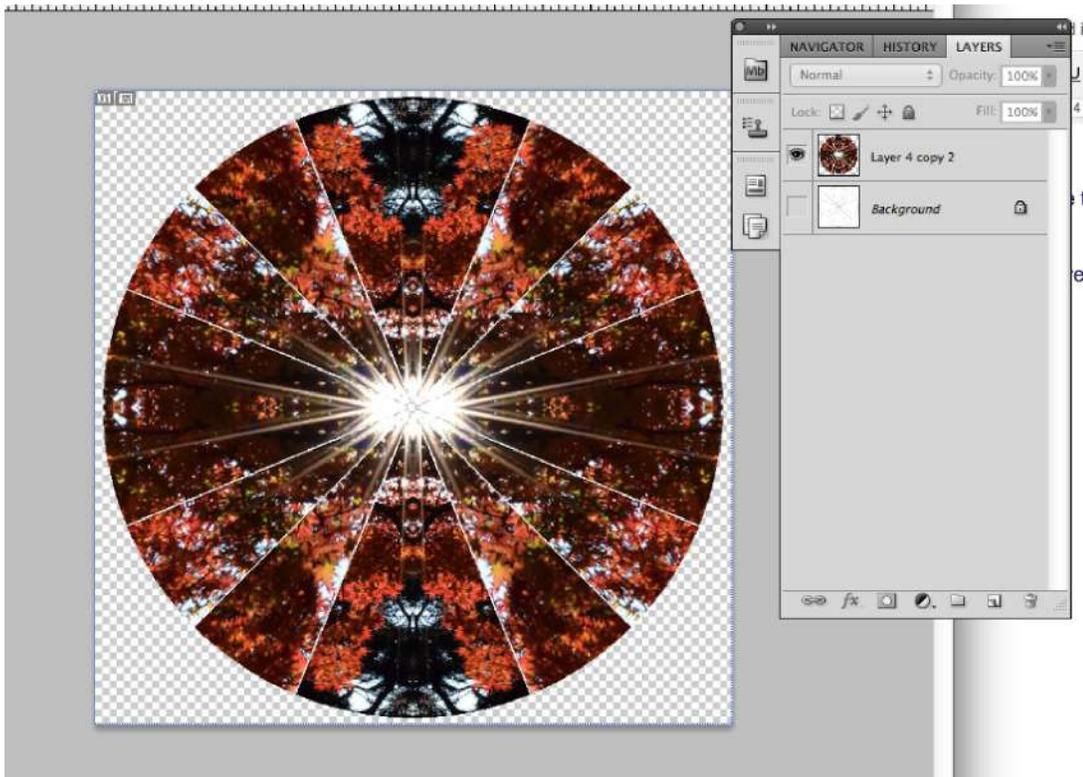
1- With layer 4 selected, go to **Layer:Duplicate**;

2- go to **Edit:Transform: Flip Vertical**;

3- then move the second half into place next to the first.



4- Next, go to **Layer:Merge Layers** to consolidate the two quarters into one half.



You now have your first complete Earth Mandala. Save your file as a .jpeg for viewing in your favorite browser. If you want you can add a background color; maybe pick a color that is in your mandala. You will have to turn back on the layer (click on where the eye WAS) of the background to add the color in the background.

You can use the paint bucket to add the color.

