Image Transformations

In graphics, the term **transform** is used in reference to actions such as to **scale/resize**, **rotate**, **skew**, **distort**, **apply perspective**, or **warp** an image.

– These are all changes that you might choose to make before applying your final crop, though you might choose the do some editing before this stage.

In Adobe® Photoshop® some of these options are on the **Image** menu, but there is also a cluster of options (with some overlap) on the **Edit** menu.
Let’s explore…
Using our duck photo again (or any other photo you’d like) let’s explore what each of these options does.

http://ter.ps/duckie

Open your image, select the entire image, and then we’ll explore…

Transformations: Skew
The general idea behind the skew transformation is that you can either “slide” the left, right, top, or bottom edge of the image up/down or left/right or “drag” one of the corners along an edge.

Whichever you do, the rest of the image is skewed to stay connected to that side.

To explore this, after selecting the entire image, go to Edit - Transform - Skew
Transformations: Distort

The idea behind the **distort** transformation is to have a more flexible option (a superset of **skew**) that doesn’t just skew based on edges, but allows you to “drag” any corner or any edge in any direction and have the rest of the image manipulated to stay “connected” to that edge or corner.

To explore this, after selecting the entire image, go to **Edit - Transform - Distort**

Transformations: Perspective

The idea behind the **perspective** transformation is similar to skew and distort, but forces symmetry as you to “drag” a corner or edge.

To explore this, after selecting the entire image, go to **Edit - Transform - Perspective**
Transformations: Warp

The warp transformation is very different from the others, and is really a sub-category of its own really…

It divides the image into nine region and then allows you to apply a wide variety of alterations, from fisheye distortions to “twist” or “wave” effects to “folding over the corner of a page” (with a wide variety of other options within or on top of these).

The right tool(s) for the job?

Let’s say that you would like the astronaut in this public domain image to appear to be holding a photo you took. Assuming the “For Sale” sign is on an 8.5x11 sheet of paper, how could you “insert” your own photo there?

https://ter.ps/AstroNutty