

# Photoshop Tips and Tricks

## 1

### ***“Correcting Converging Verticals”***

Just how many occasions over the years have you been photographing some really interesting example of historical or modern architecture, only to find that either you can't get the verticals straight when taking the picture, or worse you only realise a mistake when you get you pictures back from the processing lab. Sound familiar, yes! Me too ☺

Professional photographers might use a **“tilt-shift”** lens or as is more likely, they will use a large format camera complete with **“rise and fall”** back/front, etc. The rest of us tend to make do in the darkroom by tilting the easel when making our prints.

However, with all this digital stuff we can no longer tilt the easel, and certainly our pockets are probably still as devoid of cash as they ever where, so the “tilt shift” lens and large format camera are out. No to worry, Photoshop to the rescue.

Using Photoshop 5 it is possible to make some really radical adjustments to images and thus correct for even the most tilted of buildings and objects. The following is one such example from my catalogue of errors ☺



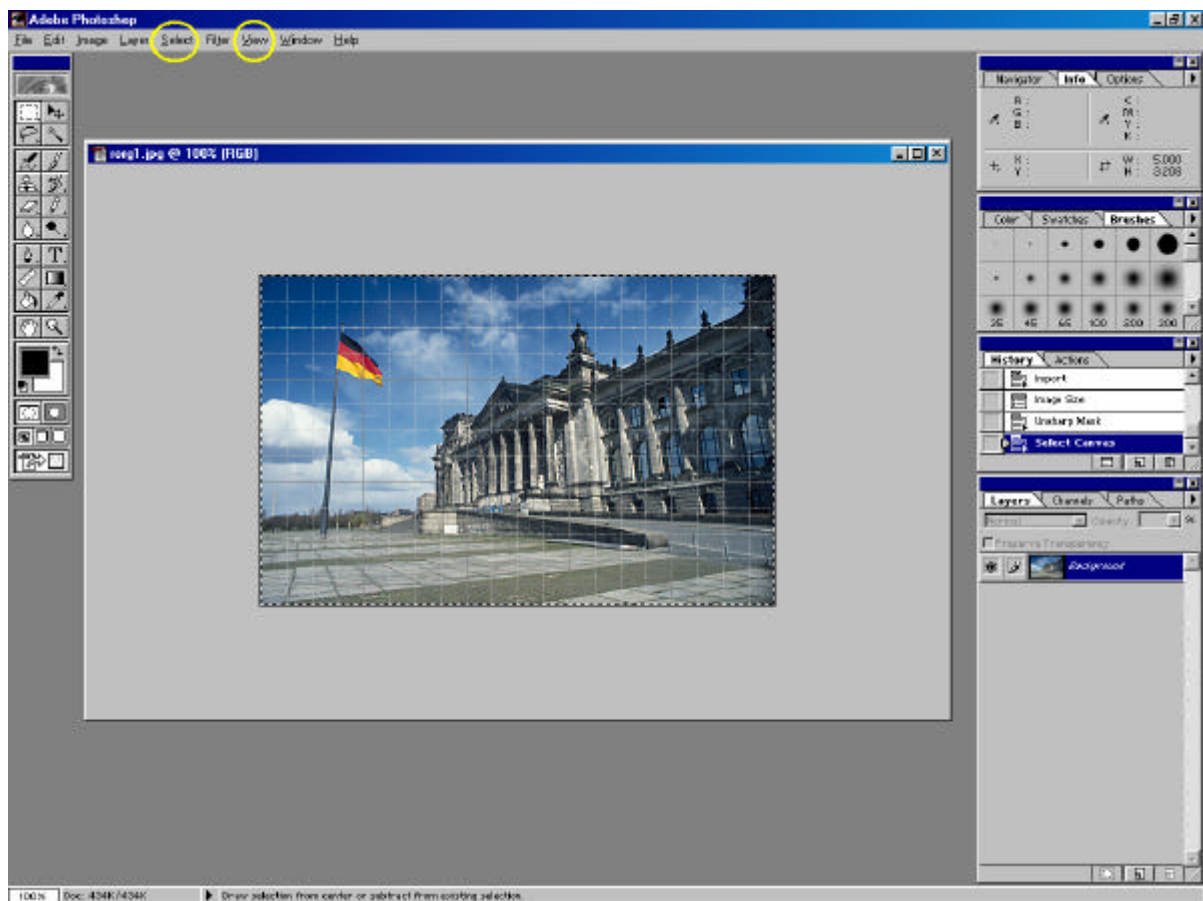
**Reichstag, Berlin April 1995 – it doesn't take a genius to see what's wrong!**

## Now the fix:-

### Step 1 – Selecting the image and making room on the desktop

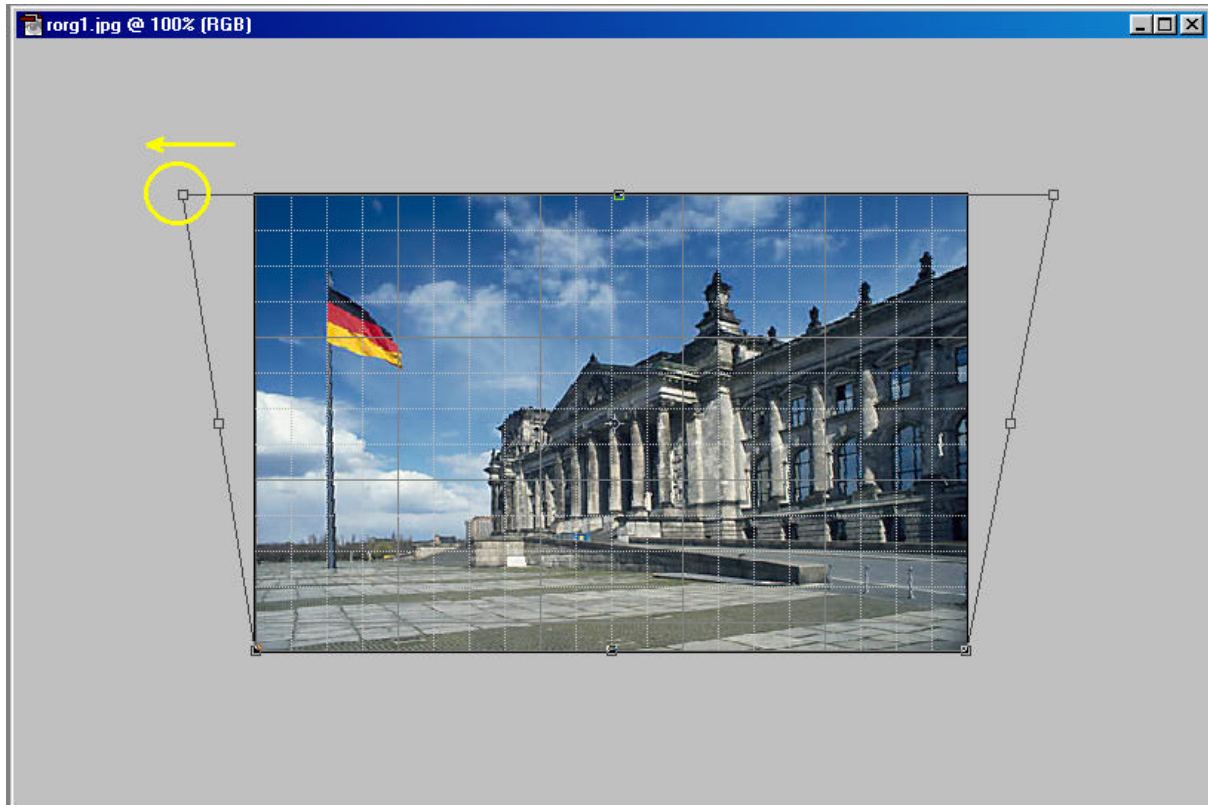
- From the Photoshop Menu bar choose “**Select > All**” or use keyboard shortcut (**Ctrl+A**), the famous “**marching ants**” will appear around the image.
- Next choose “**View > Fit on Screen**” from the Menu bar, or shortcut (**Ctrl+=**)
- Now choose “**View > Show Grid**” from the Menu bar, or shortcut (**Ctrl+=**)

Your Photoshop desktop and image layout should look similar to the following, with plenty of space around the image to enable the adjustments.



## Step 2 – Correcting the image using the Transform Tool, Perspective

- Select “**Edit > Free Transform > Perspective**” from the Photoshop Menu bar.
- Eight small squares will appear around the image edges.
- Using the Left mouse button select the small square at the top left or right corner and drag in the opposite direction to the way the verticals are tilting, see below.



The image will initially appear quite ragged since this is only a “**Preview**” adjustment. You can “**fine-tune**” the adjustment as require. Once satisfied that the verticals are accurate simply press the “**Return**” or “**Enter**” button on the keyboard, the adjustment is applied.

There are of course quicker ways of gaining access to the “**Perspective**” tool, but in this Tutorial I was trying to make use of as many keyboard and Menu functions as possible, so that the you may become more familiar with the myriad of options available.



Of course now that we have our verticals fixed we can begin the real work of removing dust marks, and in the case of this image, builders equipment, but that's for another Tutorial 😊

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