

CROP WITH RULE OF THIRDS

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“The rule of thirds is a compositional rule of thumb in photography and other visual arts such as painting and design. The rule states that an image can be divided into nine equal parts by two equally-spaced horizontal lines and two equally-spaced vertical lines. The four points formed by the intersections of these lines can be used to align features in the photograph. Proponents claim that aligning a photograph with these points creates more tension, energy and interest in the photo than simply centering the feature would.”
Wikipedia at <http://tinyurl.com/38nhua>.

However, in spite of our best efforts, sometimes we capture a photo that is just a little off from this powerful technique.

This lesson shows how to crop the photo using a custom shaped tool for this purpose.

1. Open a photo that is just about — but not — right (**Figure 1**).

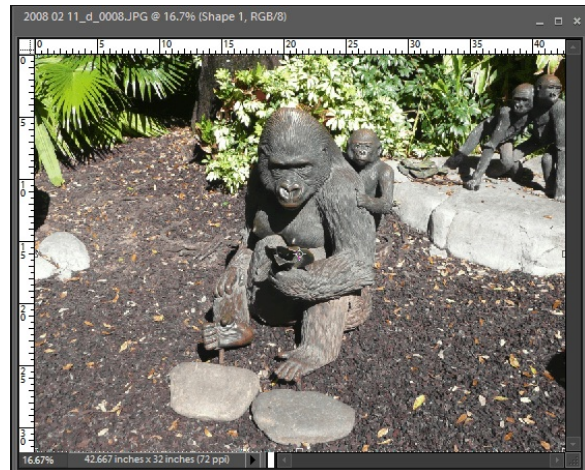


Figure 1

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2. Open the Custom Shapes (Figure 2):

- 1 Click on the Custom Shapes tool.
- 2 Click on the downward arrow next to the Shapes selections.

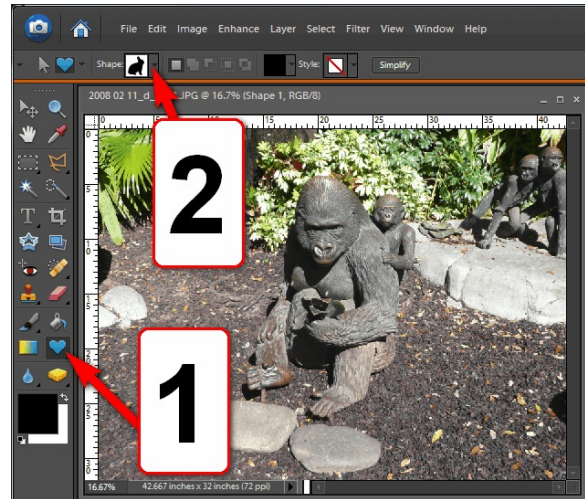
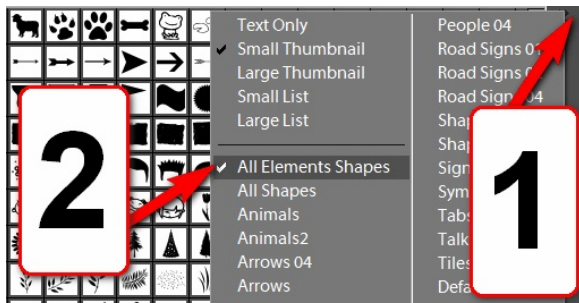


Figure 2



3. If all the shapes are not showing (Figure 3):

- 1 Click on the selection icon (▶▶) on the far right of the shapes shown.
- 2 Make sure that "All Elements Shapes" are selected. If not, click on it.

Figure 3

4. Double, left-click on the Rule of Thirds icon (Figure 4).

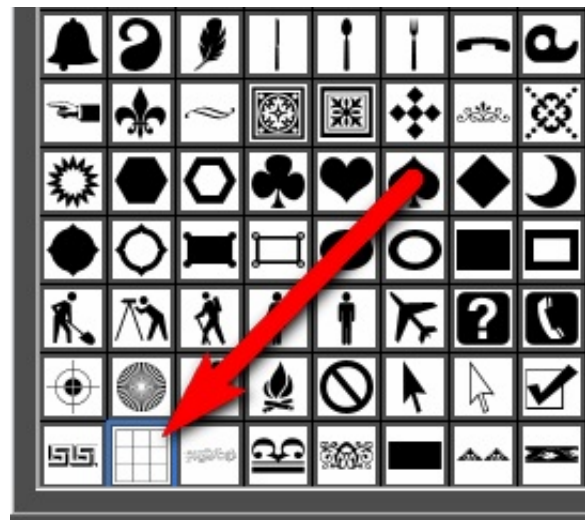


Figure 4

5. Draw the custom shape by left-click, hold, and dragging from the upper-left to the lower-right of the photo (**Figure 5**).

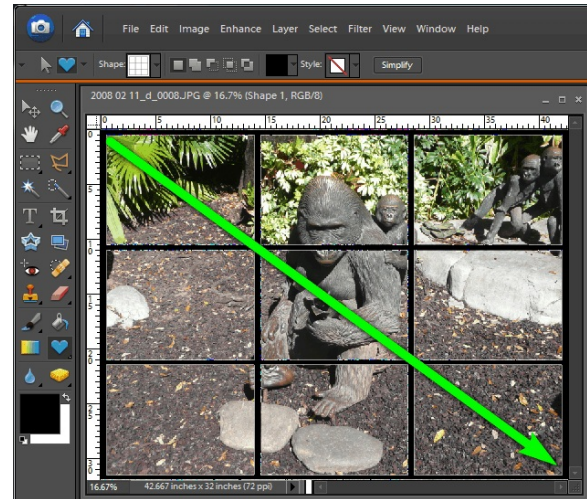


Figure 5

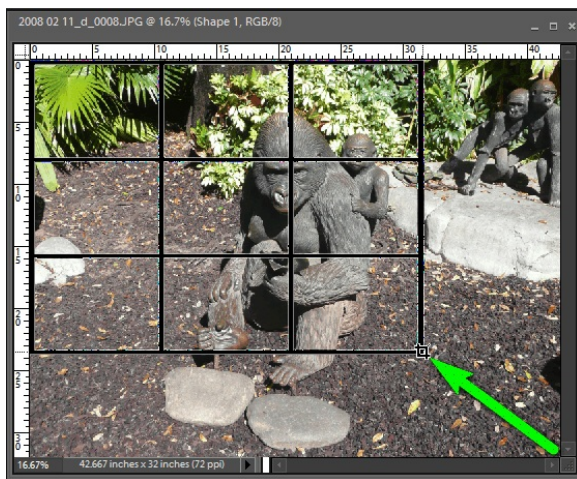


Figure 6

6. Left-click, hold, and drag the custom shape until the Rule of Thirds can be applied (**Figure 6**).

7. When you release the mouse button, the selected area shows lighter than the unselected area. You can either touch the Enter key, on the keyboard, or Left-click on the ✓ at the lower-right of the selected area.

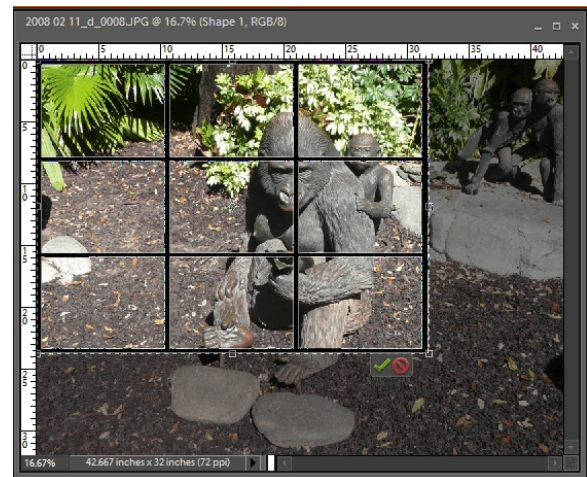


Figure 7

8. The result is immediate (**Figure 8**).

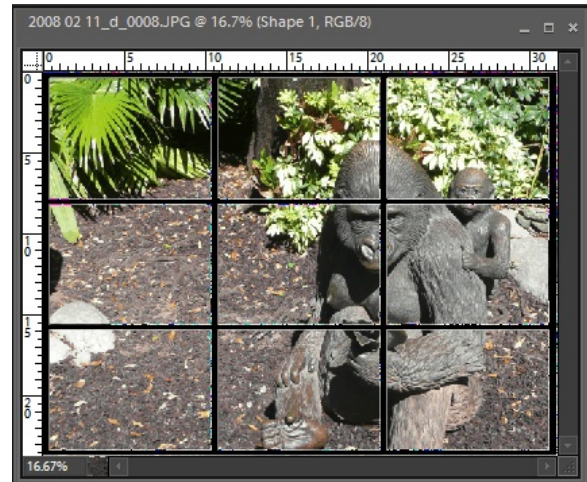


Figure 8

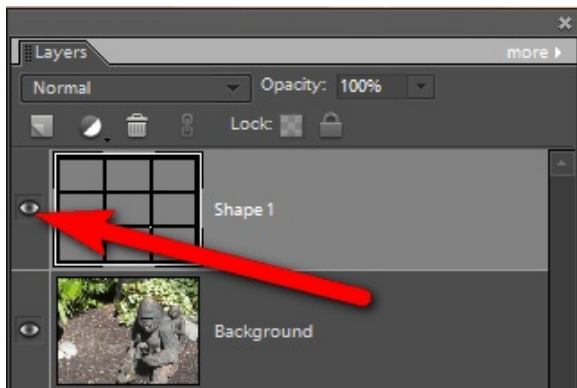


Figure 9

9. Turn off (make invisible) the Shape 1 layer (**Figure 9**).

10. Flatten the layers and Save As a Joint Photographic Experts Group (JPG) file (**Figure 10**).



Figure 10