

The playful content of today's mirrored image tutorial is designed as much to inspire creative thinking as it is to demonstrate Photoshop technique. Initially, my goal was to replace the child's reflected image with one that displayed a different facial expression. It was a neat idea, but as I explored image combinations, my imagination took over. Scenes from *Where the Wild Things Are* drifted through my mind. Suddenly, I found myself considering not what the boy actually saw in the mirror, but rather what he imagined seeing.

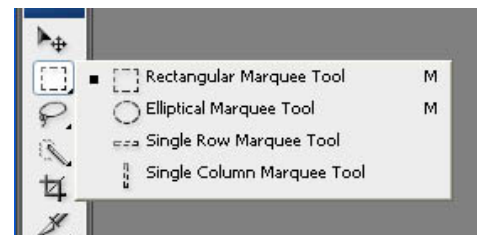
Step 1: Open an Image

Open an image of a person reflected in a mirror. Try to choose one with an uncluttered background. (If you can't find anything else use the one below. Original is under: M:\ehonig\Multimedia\Tutorials and Guides\Transform Selection)



Step 2: Select the Mirror

Use the selection tool or tools of your choice to select the mirror. In this example, I used the Elliptical Marquee to make the initial rough selection (If you want to reposition the ellipse during the selection-making process, press the Spacebar and drag).





If your initial selection does not conform perfectly to the shape of the mirror, here's how to tweak it. Choose **Select>Transform Selection**. Rotate and scale the selection as needed. If rotating and scaling alone don't rise to the challenge, **Right-click** on the bounding box and choose one of the other transform options, such as **Skew** or **Warp**. When the selection fits perfectly, press **Enter**.



Step 3: Open the Mirror Image

Open a flattened image that will replace the current reflection. Use your imagination. Choose Select>All, then Edit>Copy.



Step 4: Paste the Image Into the Mirror

Return to the original image and choose Edit>Paste Into. This function not only pastes the image into the selected area; it also creates a painted layer mask and unlinks the mask from the image. This permits for effortless transforming in the next step.



Step 5: Transform the Pasted Image

Press Control-T. Rotate and scale the image until the reflection looks accurate. When it does, press Enter. Note: If you can't see the corners of the Transform bounding box, Control-0. If you're uncertain of proper orientation, turn off visibility for the pasted layer, view the original reflection, then transform a bit more.



Step 6: Refine the Edges of the Mirror

If your selection doesn't exhibit believable edges, activate the layer mask and choose **Select>Refine Edge**. In the dialog, click the **Default** button and the blue **Standard** view icon. Press **Control-H** to deselect the selection. Experiment with the sliders until the edges appear realistic. Press **OK**.



Step 7: Add a Streak of Light to the Mirror

A streak of light will make the reflection look more realistic. Click the Create a new layer icon at the base of the Layers panel. Activate the Brush tool and set the Foreground color to white. In the Options Bar, select a soft-edged brush and set the Opacity to 100%. Control-click on the reflection layer mask thumbnail to load it as a selection. Press Control-H to hide the marching ants. Paint a streak of light over the bottom of the mirror. Since a hidden selection is in place, don't worry about painting outside the lines.



In the Layers panel, reduce the Opacity until the streak is believable.



Step 8: Experiment with Alternative Reflection Images

Since you've already crafted a perfect selection for the mirror, go ahead and explore other reflection possibilities. It's easy. Start by activating the existing reflection layer and Control-click on the mask thumbnail to produce a selection. Follow Steps 3 – 5 to experiment with other possibilities. Have fun and let your imagination soar! Please give me at least two other images using two different characters!



