

How Bruce Borrowman makes mirror images.
A really short course – open to multiple interpretations.

There is no wrong way to make your own mirror images!

- A- Try to pick an image that is as well focused and clean as you can.
It is not essential, but may save you some time and give you better quality for the final product.
- B- A drawing tablet is strongly suggested. WACOM or other brand.
You don't need to spend a huge amount of money on a tablet, but it makes edits so much easier to do.
Once you have used to a tablet you will never want to use an actual mouse on edits again.
- C- Remember to save often and progressively with different names – EG -1-2 etc.
This will make it easier to go back to a mid-point rather than starting over from the beginning.
Really helpful when you want to do variations on the final theme but have the base the same.
- D- The use of PS smart objects when doing your edits gives you extreme flexibility in how you edit and produce your final output image.

Basic mirror image steps using Photoshop after you have picked your image:

1-Open in PS Camera Raw.

2-Do your basic adjustments including lens corrections and colours in ACR.

3-Crop the image where you think is best. Since you are going to open as a smart object you can come back and adjust the crop where ever you want.

4-Open as a smart object with PPI set at 999 or as high as your system will allow. Your final image that is saved out to the web or printed can be saved at a lower PPI. You can always lower but really hard to get a decent image when you start low.

5-Change canvas size (Ctl-Alt-C) to 200 % width

6-Holding shift key move the image to the left or right margin of the canvas

7-Make a copy of the image (Ctl-J)

8-Move that copy to the opposite margin.

9-Adjust or flip or move your image around until you are happy with what you have.
To adjust the crop, click on the smart object symbol in the lower RH corner in the layers

panel. If you started with a RAW file you will return to Camera Raw – otherwise PS will open a second window and the file will be a .PSB file. Make your changes – save and go back to your original image and the changes are applied.

10-Zoom in and check your centre alignment for sharp merge lines. Move back and forth with the arrow keys to line up as perfectly as you can.

11-Before merging – save a snapshot in the History Panel. If you are not happy with what you have later you can revert to this step or any step where you have saved a snapshot. OR save with a new name or add a number or letter to the end of the existing name. If you close the program the history panel is cleared so no way to return to an older step.

12-Merge visible layers.

13-Denoise and sharpen if necessary – Topaz or Nik suggested.

14-Snapshot/ save

15-Merge visible

16-Add layers and adjustments until the final product makes you happy.

17-Remember to have a few non-symmetrical elements in your image in order to keep your viewers gaze from resting. Snapshot/save

18-Publish with your watermark and have a glass of your favorite beverage.

YouTube Smart Objects links

Michael Bullo – a 7-minute quick overview of mirror image and smart objects.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JN0ocFAhIY8&list=LL&index=23&ab_channel=MichaelBullo

Colin Smith – Photoshop Café - A 1 hour video on Smart Objects

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TXfLI5gtfMA&list=LL&index=1&ab_channel=photoshopCAFE