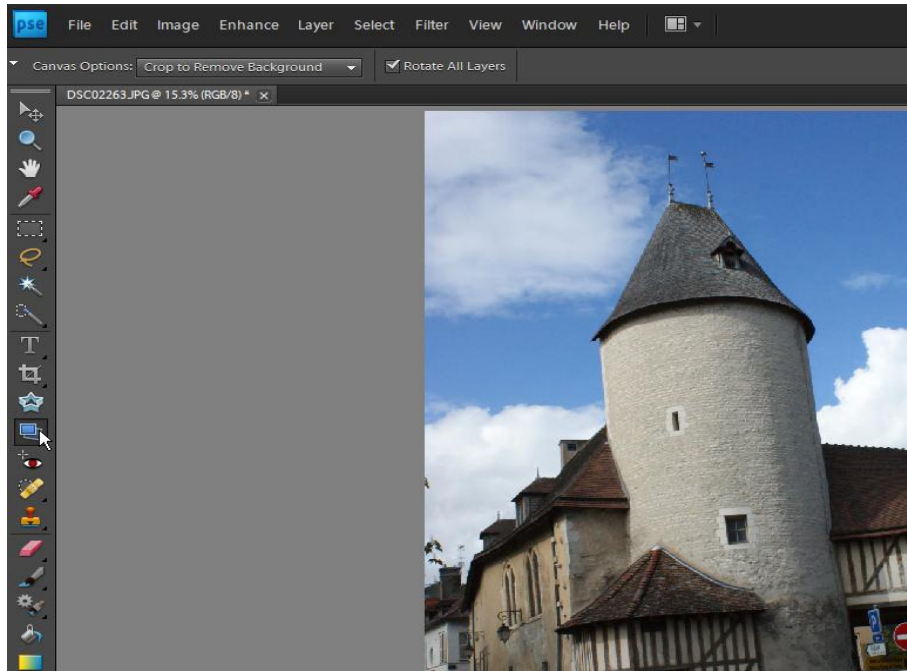


Digital Image Group

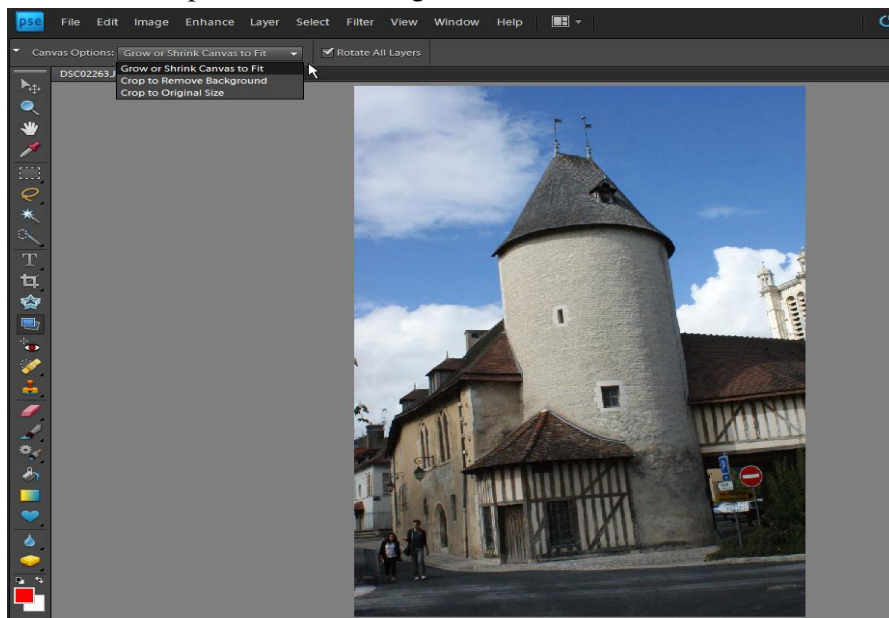
Straighten Tool

Occasionally we all take pictures which, for whatever reason, are not straight vertically or horizontally. There is a tool to repair this situation. Remarkably enough, it is called the Straighten Tool.



In the above picture the tower has a distinct lean to the left, despite the roof line adjoining it being horizontal. This is a result of 16th century architecture and building methods but nonetheless the image is disconcerting and would look more pleasing if the tower were vertical.

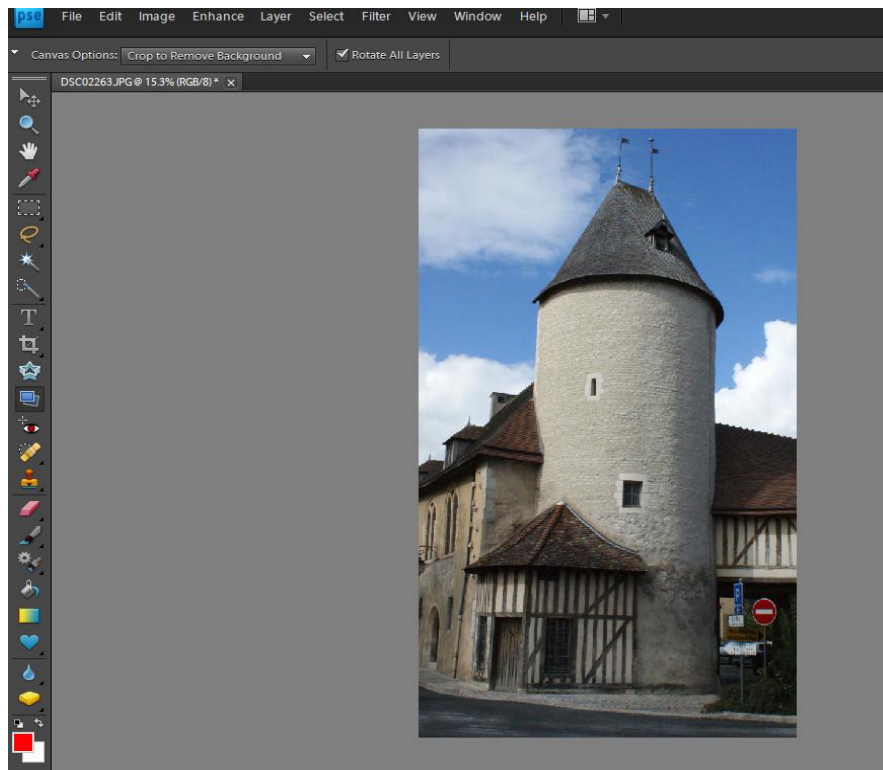
Select the Straighten Tool from the list of tools show above and ensure that the drop down menu for canvas options is set to Crop to Remove Background



This will ensure that when the picture is rotated the software will automatically crop the image so that the edges are straight. Having selected the tool, when you move the cursor over the picture a small cross replaces it. Put this cross as some point on the vertical you wish to straighten, left click and press the control key on the keyboard (bottom left hand corner). Holding both down, drag the cross down the edge and a line will be pulled out behind the cross which you should place along the edge of the tower in this case.

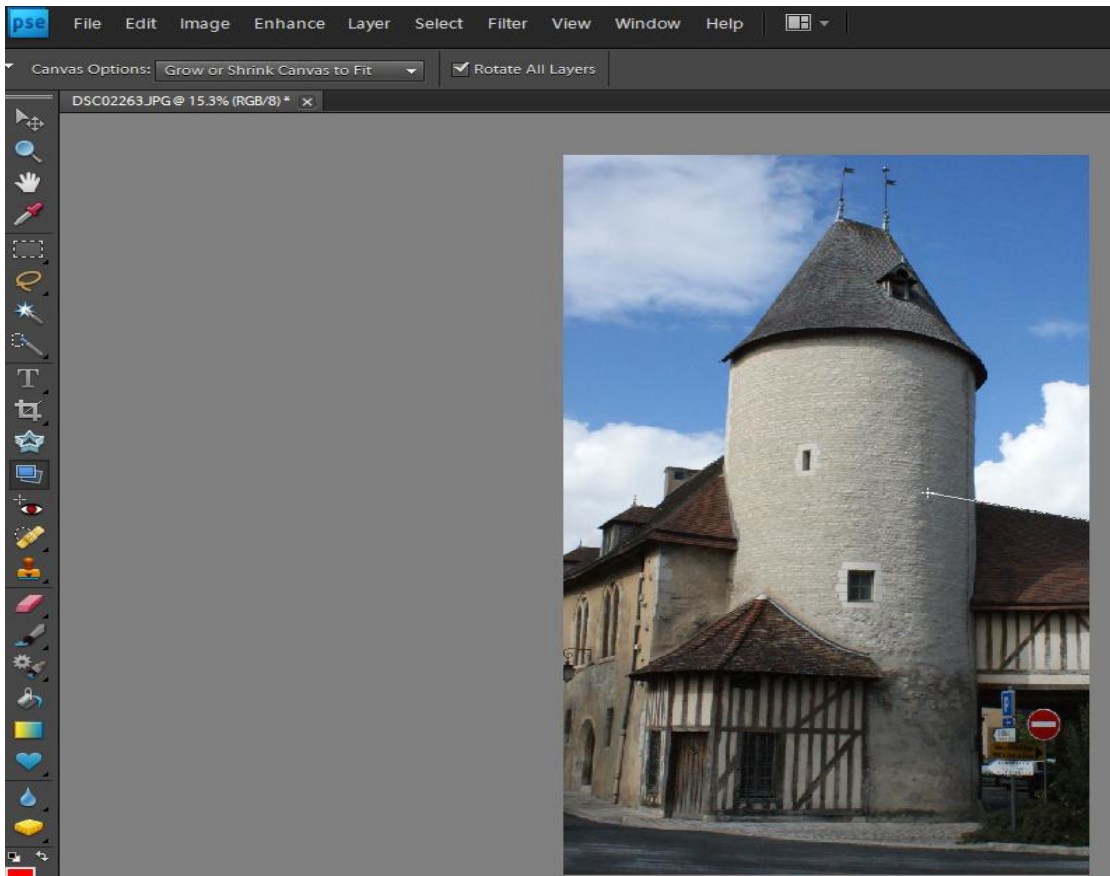


When you are happy with its position let go of the left click and the picture should rotate and straighten.



You will notice that the cropping here has been quite severe, taking out the pedestrians on the left of the original and the church tower from the right. This was an extreme example but it shows the effect very well.

What about horizontal straightening. This is a bit easier! I will use the above picture to demonstrate the technique using the top of the roof line on the right which is no longer straight. Simply select the Straighten Tool as before and place the cross on the ridge of the roof. Left click and pull out the line along the roof line shown below. When you are satisfied with its position simply release the click and the picture will straighten.



You will notice that in the selection box I have selected Grow or Shrink Canvas to Fit. I have done this to show the degree of rotation that has taken place, but you would normally opt for Crop to Remove Background as we did in the vertical case above.

Remember as with all cropping you are throwing away pixels from your original image, so the message is as always....try and get it right in the camera!!

