



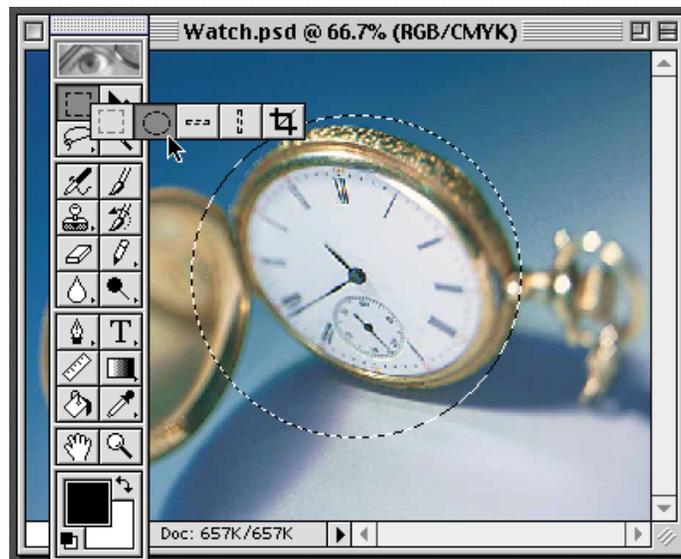
Adobe Senior Creative Director Russell Brown makes selections the easy way with Photoshop 5.0.

**INTERMEDIATE**

*Ever found yourself trying to make an elliptical selection with a round tool? Well here are a couple of great new ways to get a handle on time and learn some Adobe® Photoshop® 5.0 timely techniques.*

## TIMESAVING SELECTIONS

1. The goal of this project is to make elliptical selections easily and quickly. We'll start by making a standard selection with the ellipse tool as shown in this image. We can access the ellipse tool by clicking and holding the marquee tool on the tool palette. No need to make the ellipse selection exact. That's the beauty of this technique.



### Shortcuts

Throughout this document, "Command/Ctrl" means Command on the Macintosh and Ctrl on Windows.

2. Now, to introduce a new feature found only in Adobe Photoshop 5.0 or later... From the Select menu, choose Transform Selection, as shown to the right. This new feature will transform the shape of the selection without altering its contents. It's new! It's wild! You'll use it all the time!



3. WOW! You can now rotate, scale, and distort the selection until the ellipse fits the shape of the face of the watch. Press the Enter key and the newly transformed selection will be precisely in position. Amazing! But wait – there’s more!



### Selections

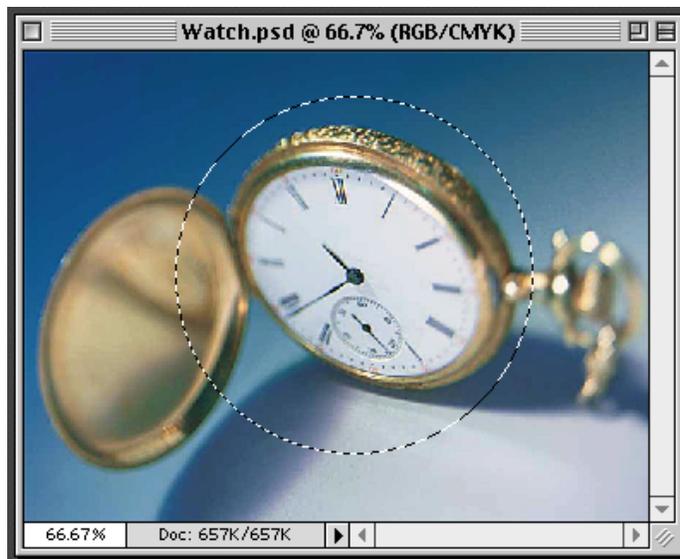
To reshape the selections, simply select and move any of the control points available. To rotate the selection, move the mouse just outside the selection until you see the rotation icon, and then rotate the selection.

**Special note:** You can now change the point of rotation by moving the central control point to any other location on the image.

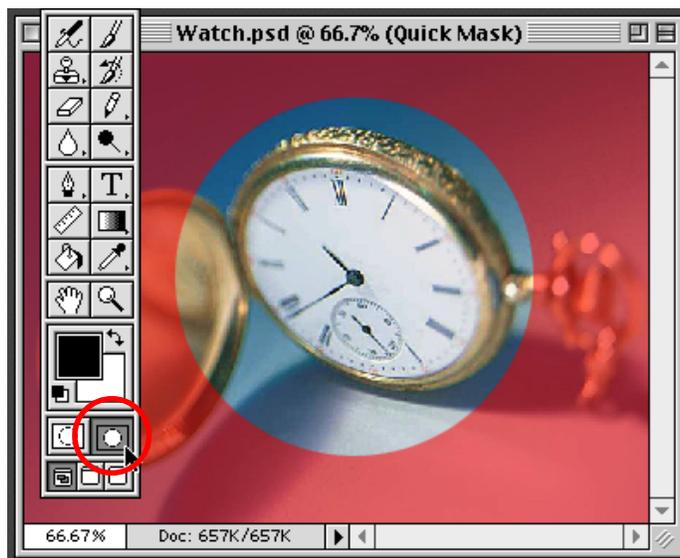
### Technique number two!

1. Here’s another, less obvious approach to transforming a selection. We’ll use it to transform the watch as we did with technique number one. However, this time we’ll get a special kind of preview!

Once again, make a selection with the ellipse tool as shown to the right. Remember, there’s no need to be exact.



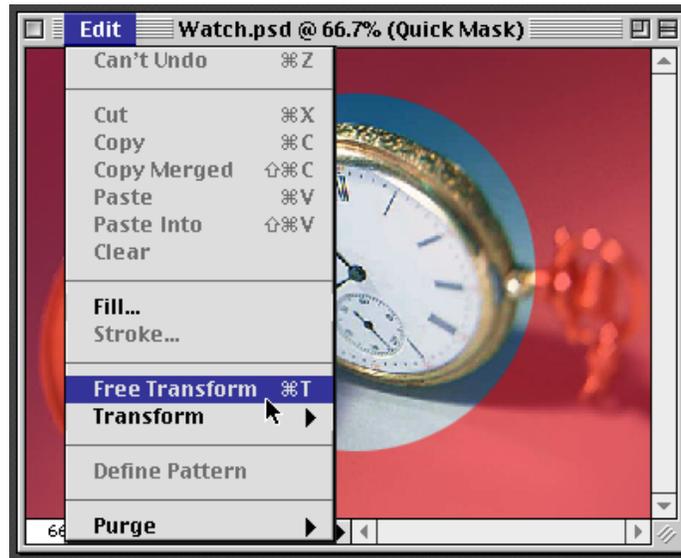
2. In the tool box, click on the edit in quick mask mode icon. The flashing selection will now be displayed as a Quick Mask. The default color for the Quick Mask is red with a 50% opacity. As you can see here the Quick Mask appears like a transparent layer of plastic over the image. Painting on this layer with white will add to the selection and painting with black will subtract from the selection.



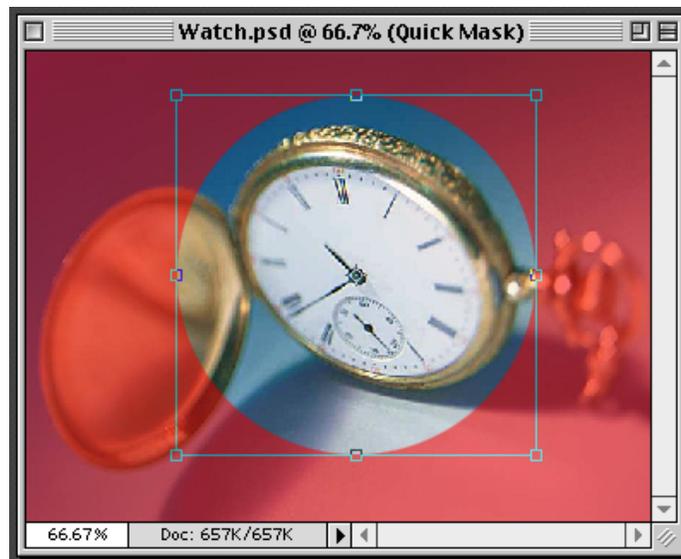
### Quick masks

Make a selection. A shortcut for the edit in Quick Mask mode is to press the Q key on the keyboard.

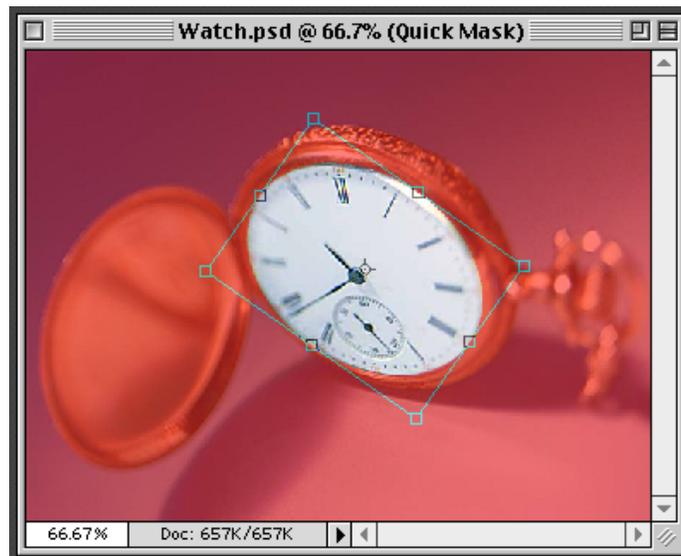
3. This time, choose Free Transform from the Edit menu.



4. The transformation control vectors appear as before, but this time we are transforming a visible mask. The selection area becomes much more clear and distinct.

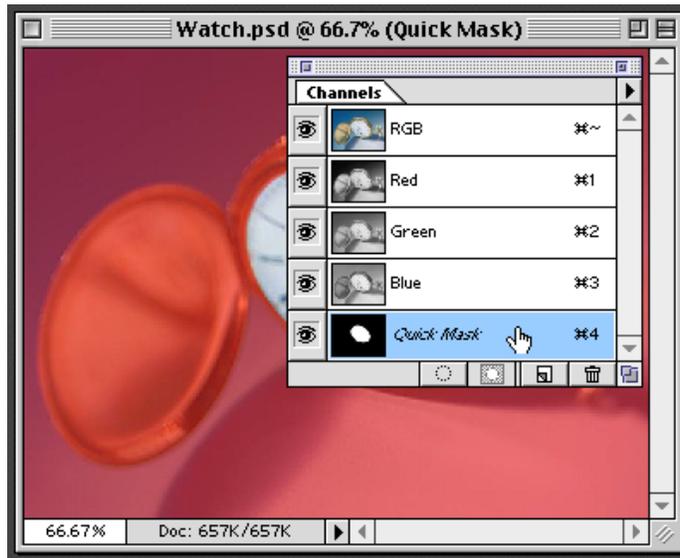


5. As before, we can rotate, scale, and distort the Quick Mask with the transformation tool until it fits the watch face exactly. Then we can press the Enter key to apply the transformation.

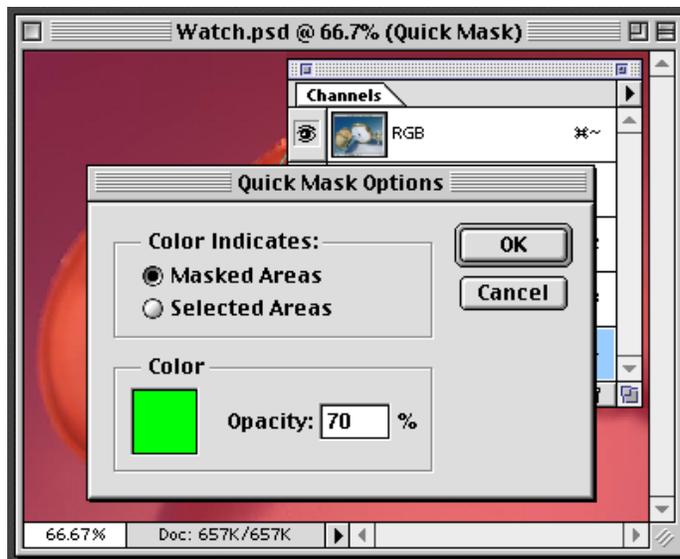


**Super user tip**  
Double-clicking inside the transformation region is a quick and easy way to apply the transformation.

6. Fifty percent red is the default color for the Quick Mask. However, it's possible to change the color of the Quick Mask to help make the preview of the selection more distinct. On the the Channels palette, double-click the words *Quick Mask*. The Quick Mask Options dialog box will appear.



7. Experiment with changing the color and opacity of the Quick Mask until it is more apparent with your image.



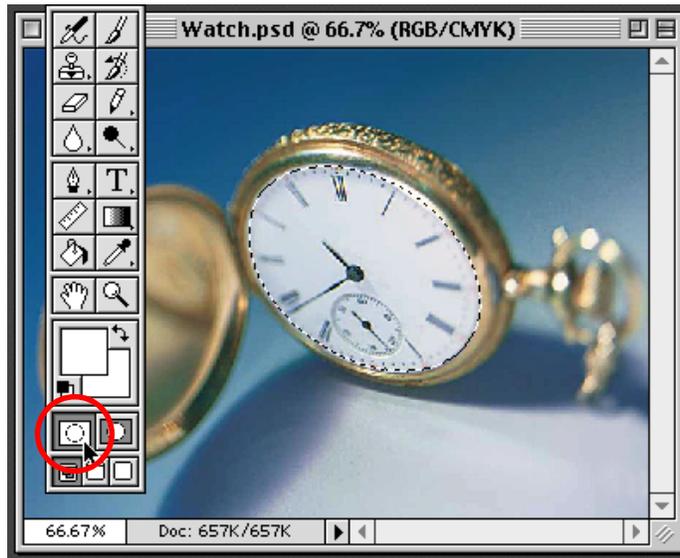
8. As you can see in this example, the new Quick Mask color makes the selected area more distinct. The selection can be transformed with more accuracy when the color has greater contrast.



### Cropping an image

This same technique can be used to preview the cropping of an image. Try setting the Color to white and the Opacity to 100% to block out the image outside the cropping area.

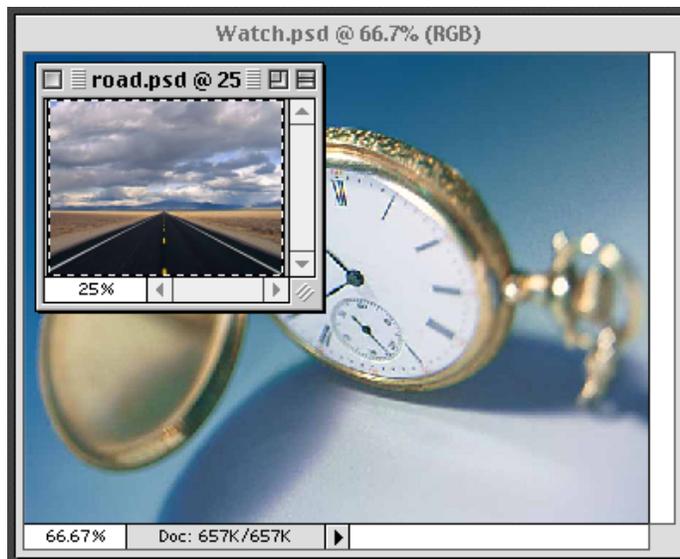
9. After completing the transformation of the Quick Mask, select the edit in standard mode icon, or press the Q key on your keyboard, to revert the Quick Mask back to a selection.



### Channels

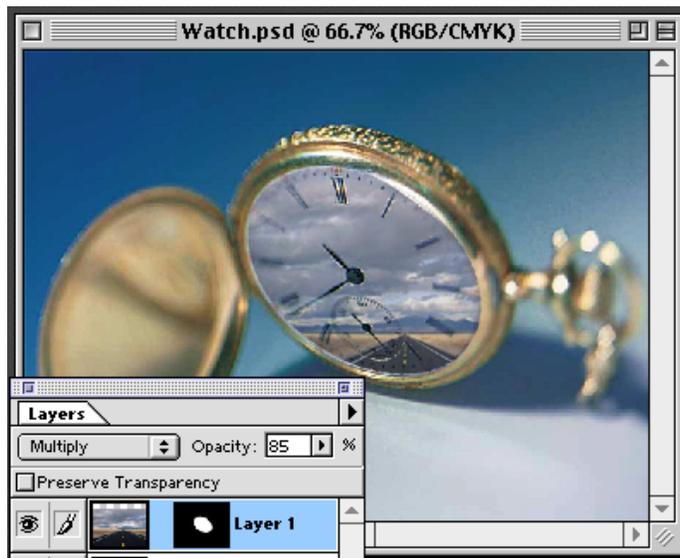
To make a Quick Mask into a channel, target the Channel palette, select Duplicate from the pop-up menu, and click OK. This makes a copy of the Quick Mask and a permanent alpha channel you can load as a selection anytime.

10. Here's a simple way to use this selection. Open up a new image. In this case, I'm using an image of a desert road stretching to the horizon. Select the entire image by choosing Select > All or Command/ Ctrl+A. Then copy the selection by choosing Edit > Copy or Command/Ctrl+C. Close the image you copied.



11. With your selection made, choose Edit > Paste Into. Then as the final step in this project, set the Mode for this newly created layer to Multiply, with an Opacity of 85%.

And there it is: You've learned how to control time and space.



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