Creating a Rule of Thirds Grid in Photoshop

Rule of thirds divides the image area into thirds both horizontally and vertically. The optimum place to create dramatic interest in your image is the intersection of the vertical and horizontal lines.

Press Command – K (PC: Ctrl-K) to open your Preferences. Click on Guides, Grid & Slices change the settings for the Grid to: Gridline every 100 percent, Subdivisions 3, and click OK. You can turn on the grid by pressing Command apostrophe ['] on the Mac and Ctrl apostrophe ['] on the PC, a rule-of-thirds grid will appear superimposed over image.

Remember to move, resize or transform your image, you must duplicate that layer first (Cmd + J (Mac), Ctrl + J (PC)). You can then make the transformation to meet the intersections.

Inserting a Picture into text in Photoshop

There are many longer menu driven versions of this tip, but I like being able to do this quickly, so here goes:

1. Create the text in the size and typeface you want. A bolder typeface leaves more area for the image to be seen. It is created on its own layer in Photoshop.

2. Drag and drop or copy and paste an image into that file. Photoshop also creates a separated layer for the drag and drop technique.

3. Make sure the image layer is above the text layer (or drag it there in the stacking order). Place your cursor between those two layers while depressing the option key and click the mouse.

4. Hurray, you did it. You can now target the image layer and move it around until it is in the position you like.