

# POLAR COORDINATES

Choose a painting or sketch or photo file and open it in Photoshop Elements.

**Choose File, then Save AS.** Name it polar and save as a Photoshop file.

***If your image has multiple layers, choose Layers, Flatten Image now.***

Choose **duplicate the layer** (ctrl J or cmd J on Mac)

**Highlight the top layer and click the eyeball off** on the layers below it.

**Type ctrl T (cmd T)**

Using the **bottom center handle, hold/drag the image upwards** until it becomes a thin strip about 3 inches in height. (Of course this varies depending on the size your image is to begin with! But it should be a thin strip or a very wide, short rectangle.)

Now stretch the side middle and top middle handles one at a time until the top and **both sides extend beyond the canvas** about a quarter inch.

Choose **the Filter menu, then Distort, then Polar Coordinates.** These are the setting you want:

Click **OK** or tap Enter (return). Every image is different!

## OPTIONS for Variation:

1. Duplicate your polar layer. **Add a bevel**, by choosing Effects, then Layers, then bevels, then clicking on a choice and click on Apply. To adjust the bevel, double click the little fx symbol at the right of the layer. Slide the slides to get the desire effect. (Be sure that Preview is selected in the dialog box.)
2. Using a duplicate layer for your polar, choose the Magic Wand tool. Click randomly inside the polar once, then tap the delete key. This erases a section of the polar and can be an interesting effect. Do this a few more times.
3. Change the colors on your polar. Choose ctrl H (cmd H) and slide the sliders.
4. Duplicate the polar layer and rotate and drag it wider or more narrow. Arrange it with the first layer for a grouping as shown in the example above. Notice one in the example is round and the other is oval. This is done by dragging the handles.

**TIP:** Always do distortions and other changes on a **DUPLICATE LAYER**. We call this being non-destructive!

