

Compositing: Death Star!

Before anything, download the Death Star:

www.andylangager.net/photo/

1. Find/take a nice landscape/city shot.
2. Make any needed edits in Camera RAW.
3. Load your photo into Photoshop.
4. Go to File -> Place and select the Death Star you saved to the computer
5. Position the Death Star.

Select **Move** tool (top of the toolbar on the left). To **resize** it (while keeping the right proportions) hold down the **shift key** while grabbing a corner.

To **angle** it, with no keys held down, position your mouse just outside the corner until it looks like a curved line with arrows on each end. Click and drag to change the angle.

6. Now, adjust the **opacity** until it looks a little more realistic. Find opacity in the layers menu. Make sure the Death Star layer is selected.

A little more advanced:

To put the Death Star behind a building or object:

1. Duplicate the background layer (select it and hit Command-J).
2. Drag the background layer above the Death Star Layer (the D.S. will disappear, that's ok.)
3. Select the sky you want to hide with the **quick select** tool. (Anything you want IN FRONT of the D.S., like buildings, should NOT be selected)
4. Hold down **option** and click on the **Add Layer Mask** in the layer menu to hide the sky. (Also you can go to Layer -> Layer Mask -> Hide Selection)

^ This works well with buildings but trickier for something like a tree with leaves and branches.