

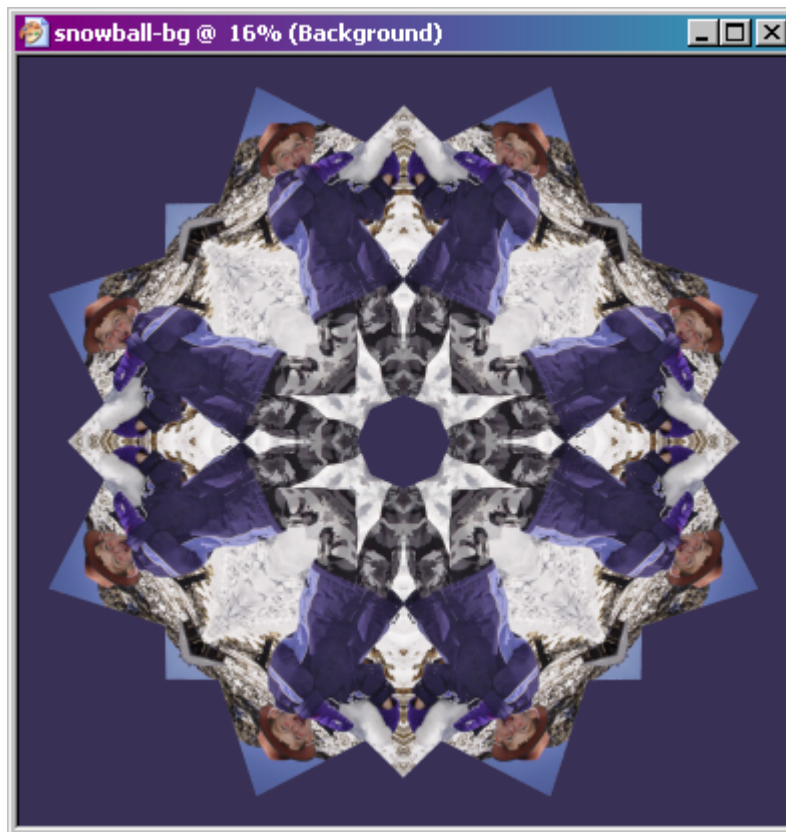
Kaleidoscope Kreator™ Tutorial Series

Creating or enlarging a hole in the center of a kaleidoscope (Paint Shop Pro)

There may be times when you want to create (or enlarge) a hole in the center of a kaleidoscope:

- if the center of the kaleidoscope does not enhance the subject;
- if you want to make the shape of the hole more uniform;
- if you want to add space for journaling; or
- if you want to add another photo in the center, etc.

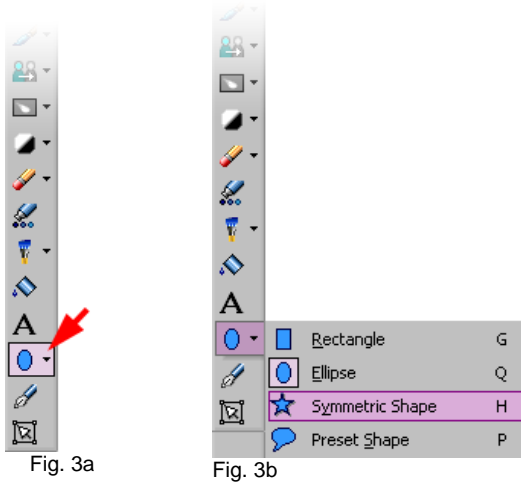
We are going to start with the following kaleidoscope:



Obviously the background color of this kaleidoscope has already been changed from the default white to a deep indigo. (See *Changing the Background Color*.) Notice that the center “hole” is fairly small and that while the design in the center portion of the kaleidoscope looks interesting, the legs have been chopped off. Our goal is to enlarge the center hole to make room for another photo. (**Note:** You do not have to start with a center hole in the kaleidoscope. You can create a hole and add a photo even if you don't have a center hole to start with.)

1. Open the file that contains your kaleidoscope using either the **File>Open** menu command or the **File Browser**. (If you have just changed the background color, your kaleidoscope may already be open.)

- We will use the Shape tools to create the center hole. You can choose any of the Shape tools, but the **Ellipse Tool** and the **Symmetric Shape Tool** are the most popular for this purpose (Fig. 3a & 3b).



The Symmetric Shape Tool is located in the same group as the Ellipse Tool in the Tools toolbar. Click and hold on the small down arrow. Then choose the Shape tool of your choice.

Since the **Ellipse Tool** and **Symmetric Shape Tool** have slightly different options, we'll cover both of them starting with the **Ellipse Tool**. But first we need to decide what color we want the center hole to be. In this case, we'll choose the same color as the background color of the kaleidoscope. (Use the **Dropper Tool** to set the background/fill color by *right-clicking* anywhere in the background area of the kaleidoscope image.) **Note:** If you do not explicitly set the background/fill color, the hole you create will be filled with whatever color is currently the background color. The background color is indicated by the bottom color patch in the Materials Palette.

- Choose the **Ellipse Tool** from the Tools toolbar (Fig. 3a). In the Options Toolbar (Fig. 4), choose the **Circle**, then check "Create On Vector" and "Anti-alias". Also set the **Width** (of the line) to 0 (zero).

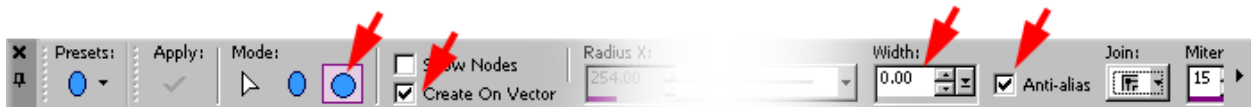


Fig. 4 – Ellipse options

Back in your kaleidoscope image, click near the upper left "corner" of where you want your circle to be, then keeping the mouse button pressed, drag down and to the right. A white line indicates the outer edge of the circle as you drag. When the circle is as big as you would like, let go of the mouse button (Fig. 5).

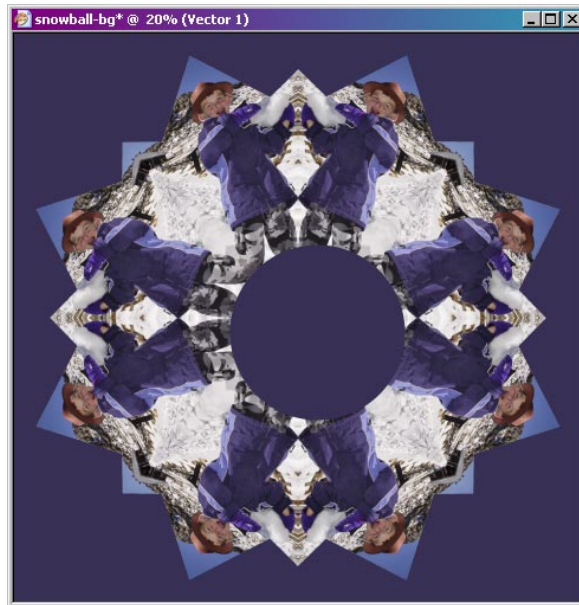
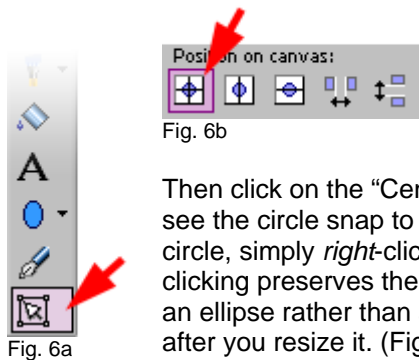


Fig. 5 – The circle after releasing the mouse button. Don't worry that it's not centered!

Don't worry if the circle isn't centered, we can fix that quite easily! Choose the Object Selection Tool in the Tools Toolbar (Fig. 6a).



Then click on the "Center In Canvas" icon in the Options Toolbar (Fig. 6b). You will see the circle snap to the center of the kaleidoscope. If you would like to resize the circle, simply *right-click* and drag on any of the corner handles. (Remember that right-clicking preserves the circle shape. If you don't right-click, then you may end up with an ellipse rather than a circle.) You'll need to click on the "Center In Canvas" icon again after you resize it. (Fig. 7)

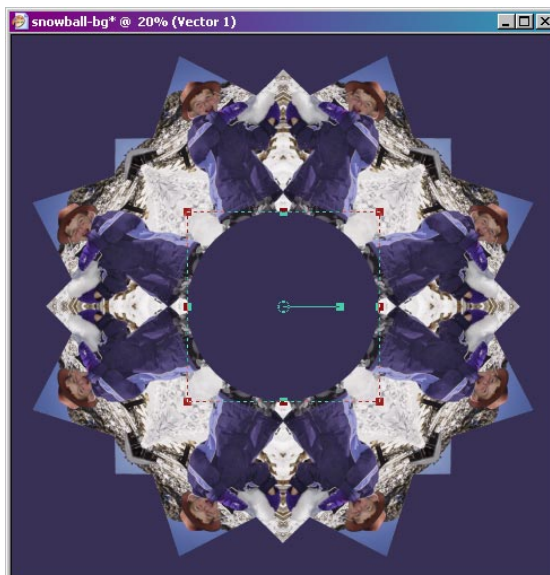


Fig. 7 – Center circle with Object Selection Tool active.

- 4b. While a circular hole in the center works well for many images, in this case the round shape seems to conflict with the straight lines on the outer edge of the kaleidoscope. We'll use the Symmetric Shape Tool to create a "hole" with straight edges. (**Note:** If you have already created a circular hole in the center and would prefer a polygon, you can delete the circle you just created by pressing **Ctrl-Z** a few times until the circle disappears.)

Choose the **Symmetric Shape Tool** from the Tools toolbar (Fig. 3b). In the Options toolbar, select the "Draw Polygon" icon and set the number of sides to 8 (Fig. 8). In addition, check "Create On Vector" and "Anti-alias", then set the Width to 0 (zero).



Fig. 8

Hint: You may have fun playing with the "Draw Stellated" option, but for now we'll leave that alone.

Back in your kaleidoscope image, click near the upper left "corner" of where you want your Shape to be, then keeping the mouse button pressed, drag down and to the right. A white line indicates the outer edge of the Shape as you drag. When the Shape is as big as you would like, let go of the mouse button (Fig. 9).

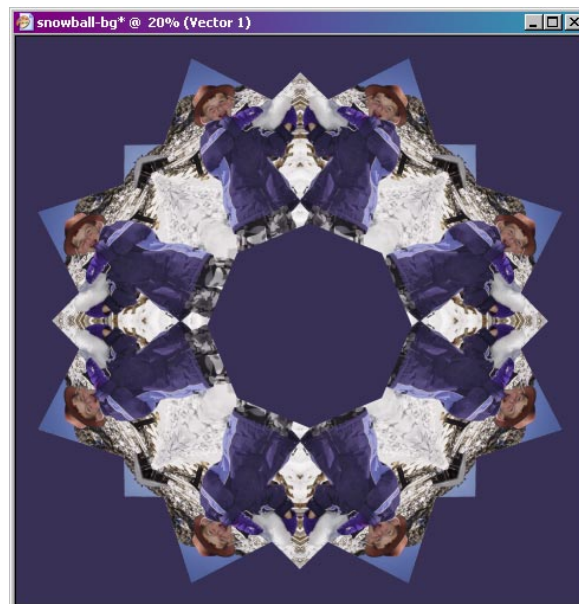


Fig. 9 – The symmetric shape after releasing the mouse button.

Again, don't worry if the Shape isn't centered. Simply choose the Object Selection Tool in the Tools Toolbar (Fig. 6a). Then click on the "Center In Canvas" icon in the Options Toolbar (Fig. 6b). You will see the Shape snap to the center of the kaleidoscope. If you would like to resize the Shape, simply *right-click* and drag on any of the corner handles. (Remember that right-clicking preserves the symmetric properties of the Shape. If you don't right-click, then you may end up with an asymmetric shape.) You'll need to click on the "Center In Canvas" icon again after you resize it. (Fig. 10)



Fig. 10 – Symmetric Shape has been centered and resized.

5. The very last thing you need to do is to “flatten” the image. Simply choose **Layers>Merge>Merge All (Flatten)**.

You have now successfully filled the center of your kaleidoscope with a solid color. If you want to add a border to the edge of the “hole”, do that now **before** you add a photo to the center! See *Adding a Border to a Kaleidoscope* and *Adding a Photo in the Center of a Kaleidoscope*.