

# Project: Making Baubles

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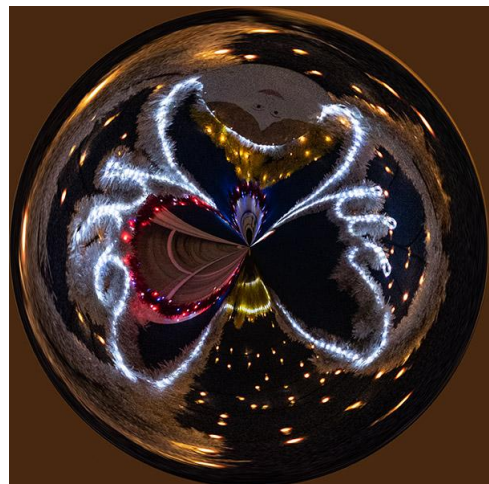
## Baubles?

Around Christmas there are always Christmas trees, and on those trees many decorations are glass balls: baubles. If you are designing a Christmas card or just playing about, you may want to create your own Photoshopped baubles.

The basic process is very simple but once you have done it you can play to your heart's content to create your own abstract baubles.

I have described two approaches here: playing with "Polar Coordinates" and playing with "Twirl". Don't worry what "Polar Coordinated" means... it's just a way to mess with the image!

I have used Photoshop because that is what I have. It should be possible to do the same kind of thing in any editor. If you use a different editor, experiment and see what you can do.



*Christmas Baubles*

## Polar Coordinates

This approach will create an abstract circle or oval.

First, take a brightly coloured image and convert it to a square (use the crop tool and set it to “square”). This will give a circular bauble. If you don’t crop it, you will get an oval... which is fine if that is what you want!

Now, go to the “Filter Menu” and select “Distort”. From here, choose “Polar Coordinates” and apply a “Polar to Rectangular” conversion.

This will have messed up the image pretty comprehensively. Now, flip it vertically by going to the “Image” menu and choosing “Image Rotation”. Now choose “Flip Canvas vertical”.

At this point you can do anything you like to mess up the image even more. Try anything on the “Filter > Distort” menu. How about “Twirl” or “Ripple”?

Finally, go back to the “Filter Menu” and select “Distort” and “Polar Coordinates” again. This time apply a “Rectangular to Polar” conversion. This is the reverse of the conversion you started with.

The result will be a circular image. You don’t have to stop here... go back to the Distort menu! Then crop it to whatever shape you would like.

In Summary:

1. Convert the image to a square
2. Filter > Distort > Polar Coordinates>  
Convert Polar to Rectangular
3. Image > Image Rotation > Flip Canvas Vertical
4. Filter > Distort > Polar Coordinates>  
Convert Rectangular to Polar
5. Crop to whatever shape you like (baubles are circular.)
6. Maybe add a new background.

That’s it! Now do it again with a different image.



*Cropped to a Square*



*Polar to Rectangular*



*Flip the image Vertically*



*Rectangular to Polar*

## Twirl

If anything, “Twirl” is even easier.

This will create an abstract with the same aspect ratio as your original image. You can then crop it to a circle if that is what you want.

So, if you want a circular bauble, start by converting your image to a square.

Now apply radial blur. There are several options here. Have a play until you get something “fun”.

Now, apply the “Twirl” from the “Filter > Distort” Menu. You can select the amount. You have to decide whether you want some clues to remain about the original image.

Finally, crop the image to the size you want, and maybe make a new background.(how about a texture instead of a plain background?)

In Summary:

1. Convert the image to a square
2. Filter > Blur > Radial Blur > Radial (play with settings - maybe several times)
3. Filter > Distort > Twirl (play with settings)
4. Crop to whatever shape you like (baubles, of course, are circular.)
5. Maybe add a new background.



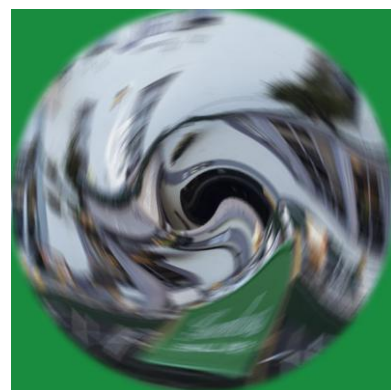
*Convert to a Square*



*Radial Blur*



*Twirl*



*Crop with a New Background*



## Final Messing About

You don't have to stay with a simple pattern. You could use it as a frame or combine several baubles to create a bigger pattern.

For example.....start with this flower...



Play with Polar Coordinates to get this...



Finally, put a picture in the middle...

