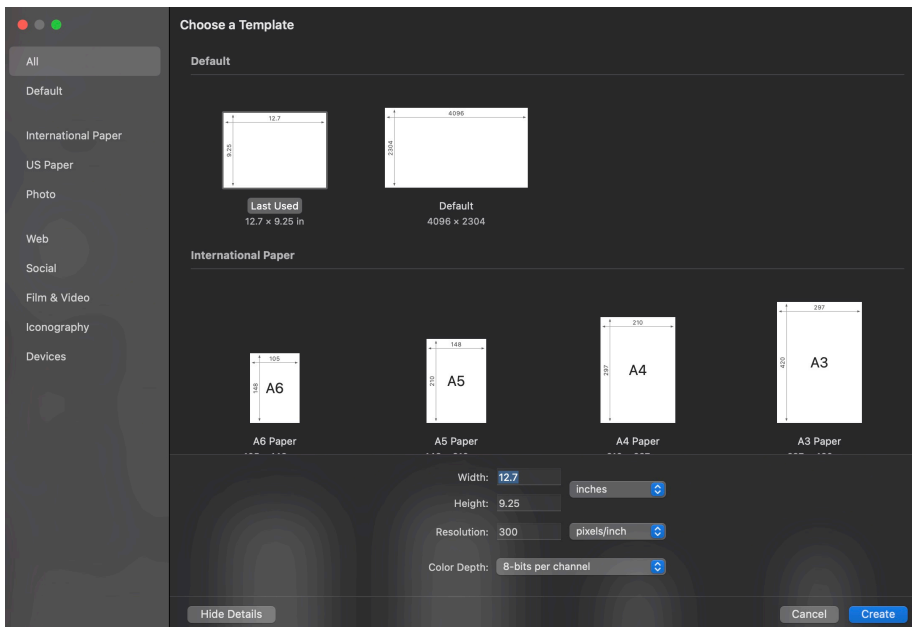


Pixelmator Steps For creating a cover for a 6X9 paperback book

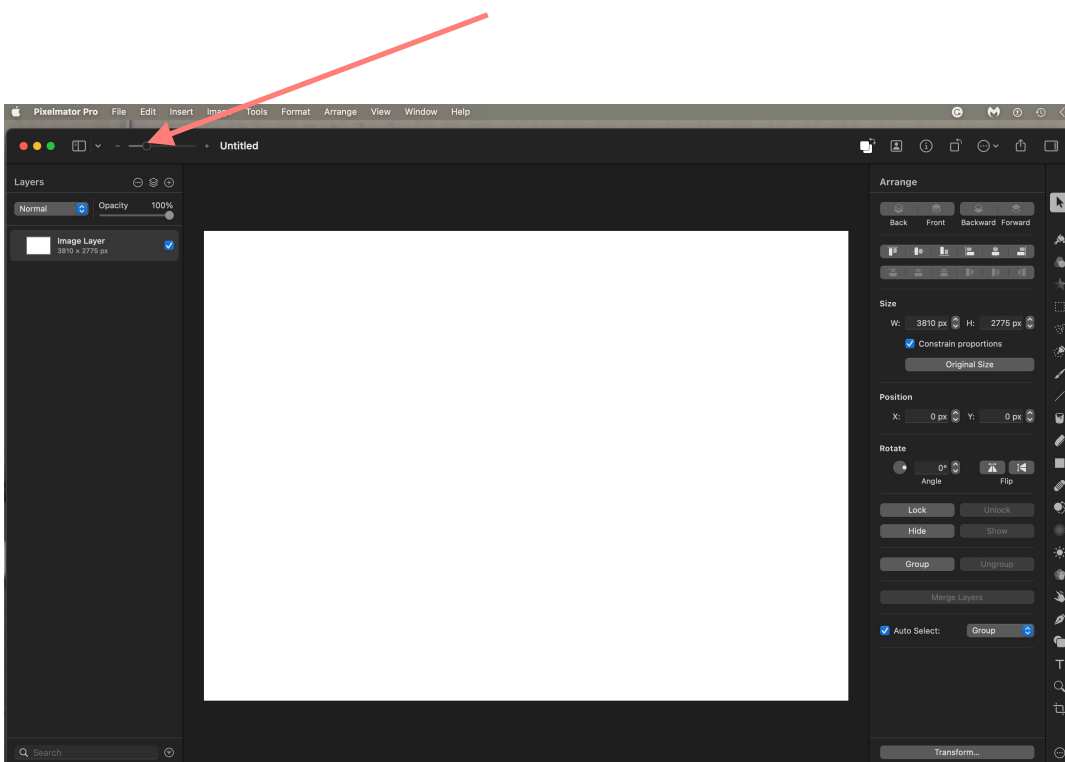
1. On the internet go to kdp.amazon.com. It is not necessary to sign in or create an account. Select Help in the top row. When the help page appears go to the Help Topics on the left side of the page and select Format Your Paperback. When the next page appears go to Help Topics and select Create a Paperback Cover. Print the four pages and use them to record your calculations for your cover layout.
2. In summary the above help page will explain that your cover must be one complete image that when printed will exactly encase your bound book from front, over the spine, and across the back with an extra margin of 1/8 inch all around for alignment errors. The only measurement that requires serious calculation is the width of the spine, which is derived from the number of pages and the type of paper. For plain white paper the width of the spine is the number of pages times .002252. If your finished book is 279 pages, the spine width is $279 \times .002252 = .628$ inches. The width of your cover image for a 6 X 9 book of 279 pages is $.125 + 6 + .628 + 6 + .125 = 12.878$. The height of your image is $.125 + 9 + .125 = 9.25$.
3. In the following pages we are going to create a cover using a picture to cover the entire background covering the front, back and spine from edge to edge. You may wish to leave the background as a plain white or colored canvass and simply add small pictures and text as you wish from the Pixelmator tool box shown on the right side of the Pixelmator screen.
4. Open Pixelmator and select Create an empty new document.



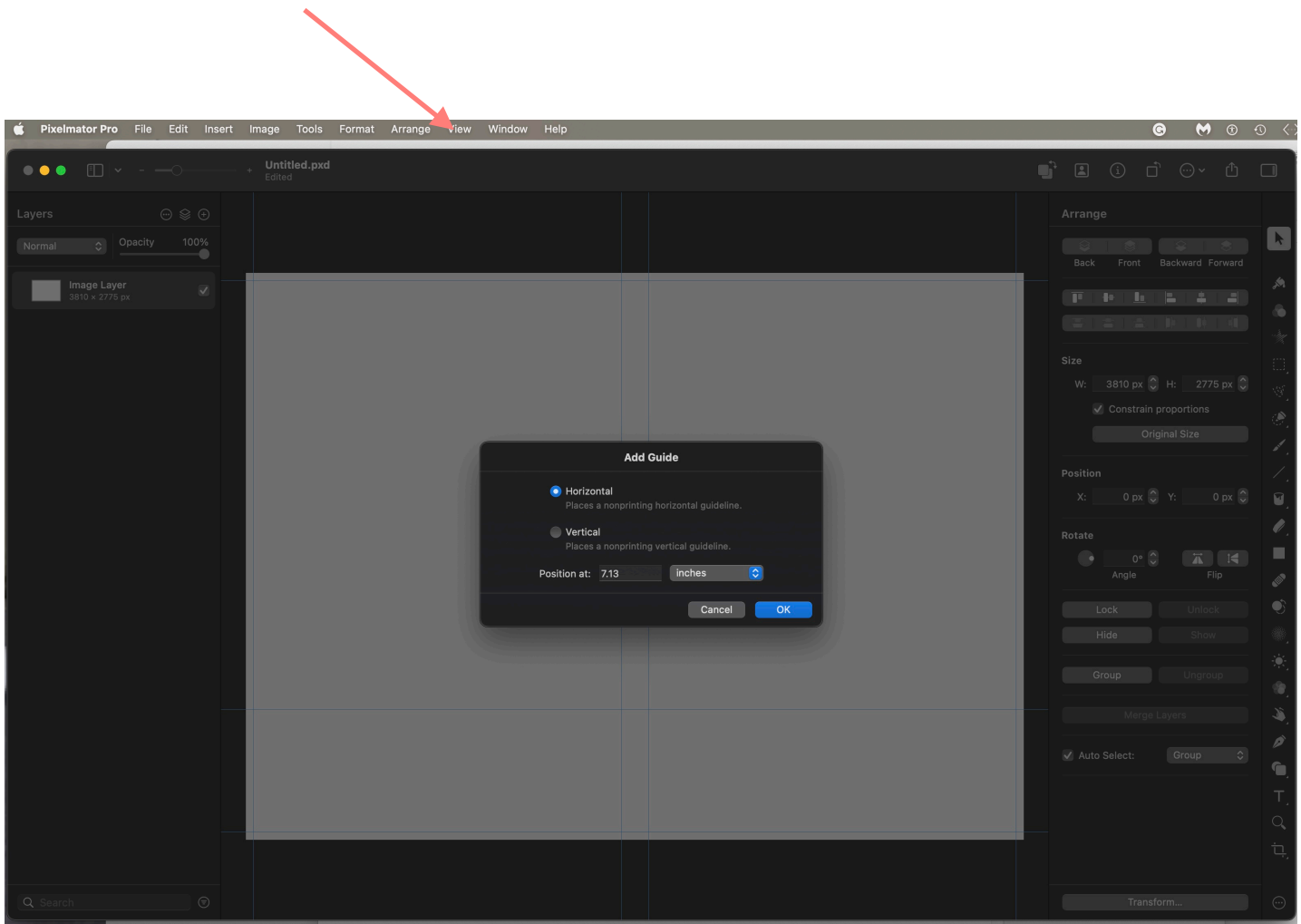
5. Enter your calculated width 12.7 inches, height 9.25 inches and punch Create.



6. When canvas appears move slider to left to get working room to display guides.

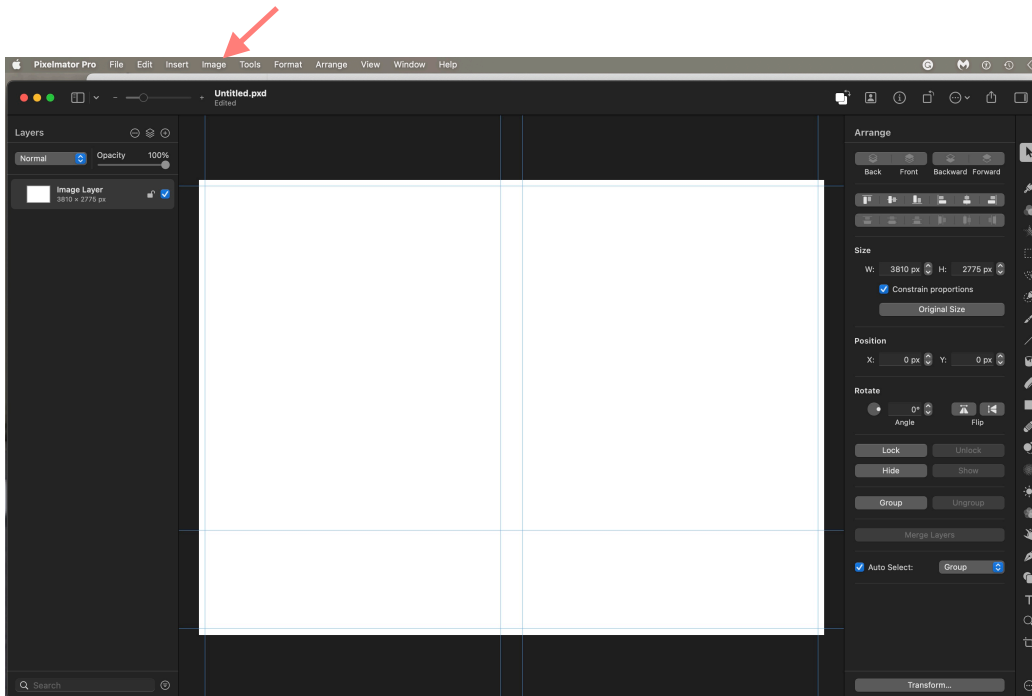


7. Go to View at the top of the page and select Guides and add vertical guides at .125 inches and 12.575 inches to mark the extra 1/8 trim that will be removed in the final assembly trim. Add horizontal guides at .125 and 9.125 for top and bottom trim. Add guides at 6.125 to mark left side of spine and 6.575 for right side of spine. The guide location will display as a number if you select the guide and try to move it.

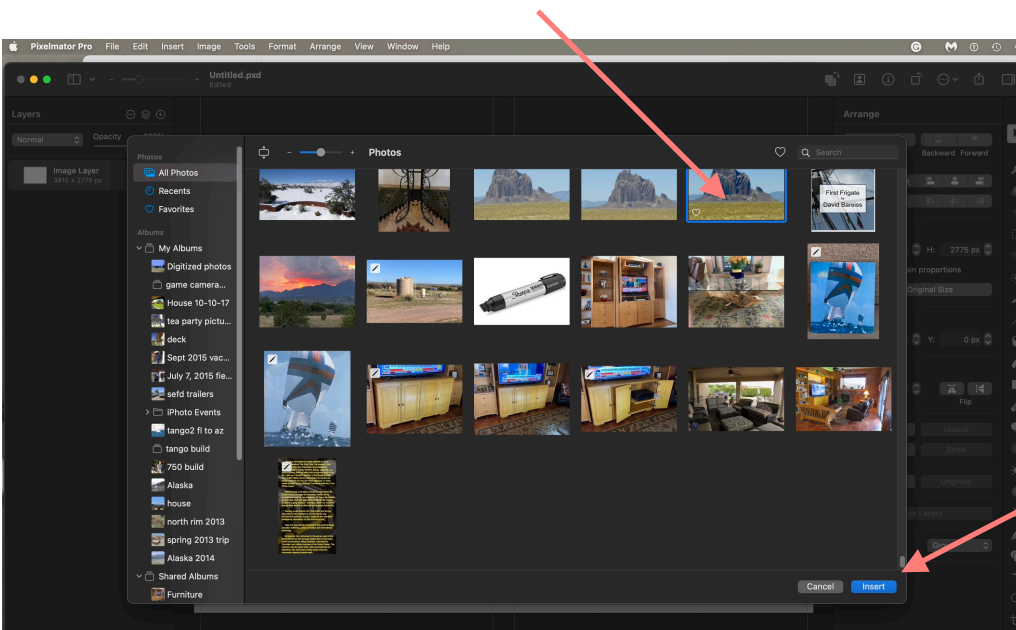


8. Also add a horizontal guide at 7.125 inches. When your book is printed a barcode will automatically be printed in the lower right corner of the back and you must insure that any back printing will not be stepped on by the code. These blue guidelines will assist you in locating text boxes and any other shapes that you will add to the cover art.

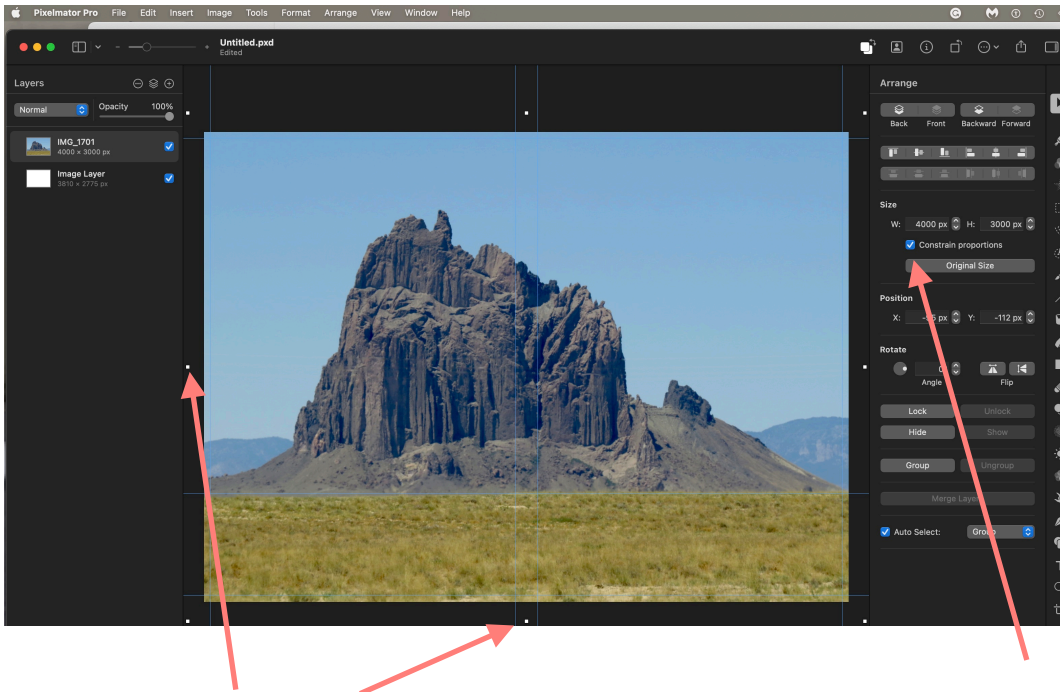
9. You are now ready to start adding pictures, text, shapes, etc to your blank canvass shown below. Let's start with a background picture that will cover the front, back and spine all the way to the edges. Go to the Insert to get a list of places where material can be found and selected.



10. From the pull-down Insert menu select photos and then select a picture. Don't worry about the size it can be adjusted to fit the canvass exactly. When the picture is selected go to the bottom right corner of the screen and hit Insert. (Picture below is Shiprock in New Mexico)



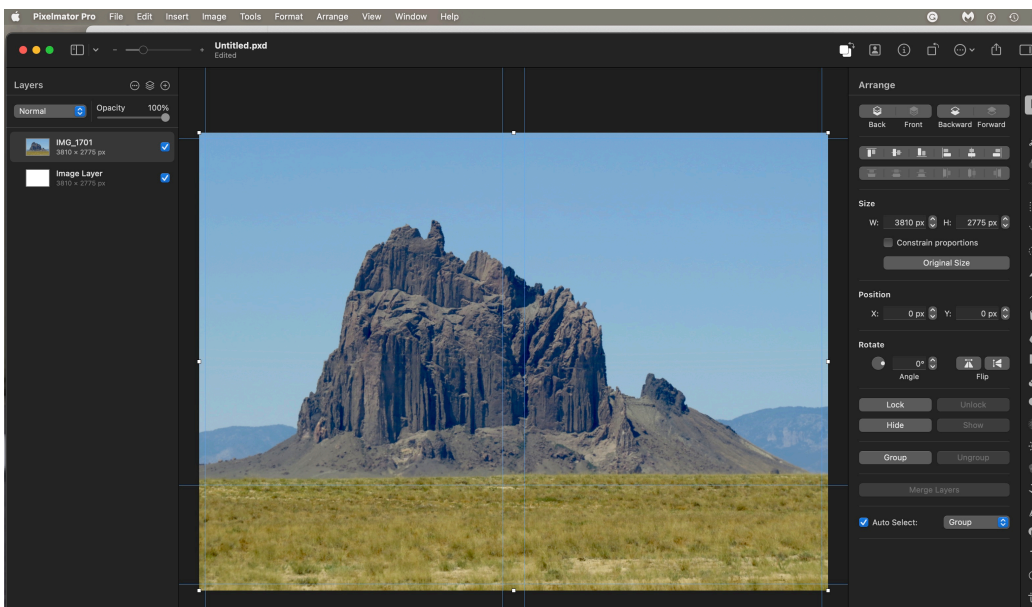
11. The selected picture is shown below. Note the little white squares around the perimeter of the picture. These are adjustment handles which may be selected and used to adjust the picture to exactly match the size of the canvass. Before adjustments are made, uncheck the Constrain Proportions box so that the picture will conform to the canvass proportions.



Adjust handles

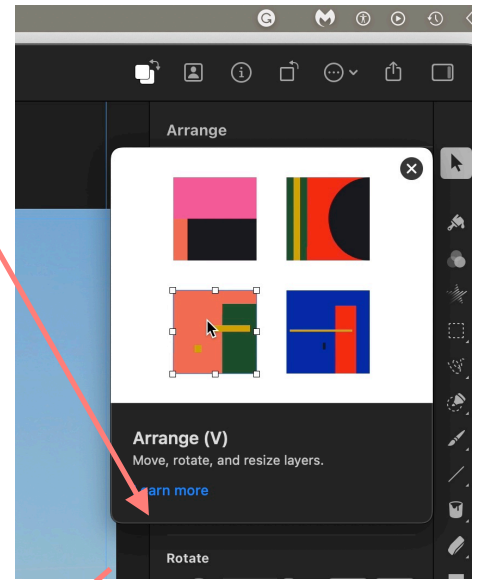
Uncheck Constrain Proportions

12. The background picture below now fits the canvass exactly with no white canvas showing around the edges. Note the column on the left lists the picture and the canvass layer in the order that they are layered from front to back. As more items are inserted the layer order will be shown here. The order may be changed using the Arrange selection at the top of the page.

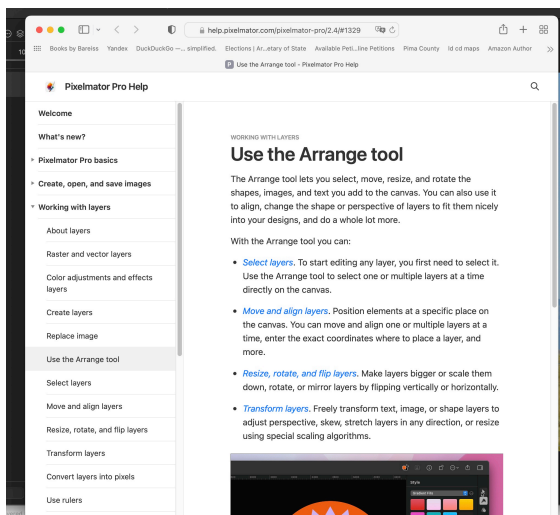


13. Next add a text box containing the book title and author by selecting the T for text box from the column of tools on the far right of the Pixelmator screen.

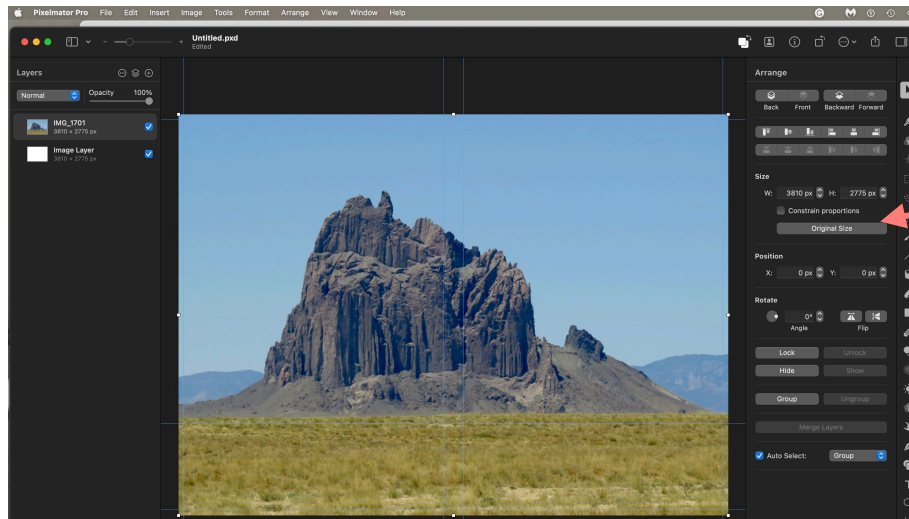
But before taking that step this would be a good time to explain the use of the all tools displayed on the far right side of the screen. In all the examples in the previous pages you will notice that the arrow at the top of this column is highlighted. This tool is called the Arrangement Tool and is highlighted by default when Pixelmator is launched. By moving the cursor over the Arrangement Tool and leaving it there, an additional box will appear as shown below. A different brief visual will be displayed when the cursor is moved over each tool. Selecting the blue [Learn more](#) will produce a complete help page for the tool.



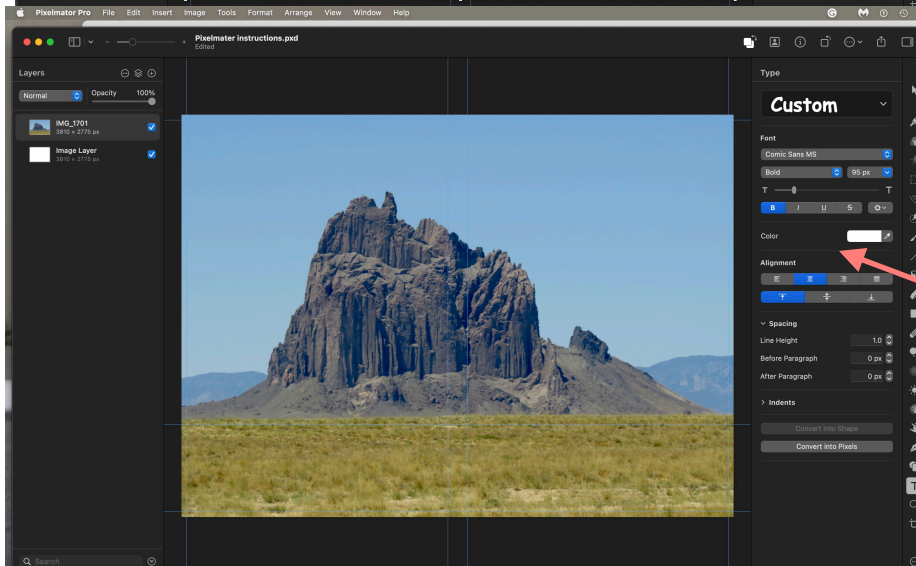
Help page for the Arrangement tool



In addition to the column of tools on the far right of the page, the detailed supplementary commands for using each tool are shown to the left of the column. This display is different for each tool in the list. The two images below show the supplementary commands for the Arrangement tool and the Text tool. Note that the tool is highlighted to indicate that it is active. **This is important.** Make sure you have the correct tool highlighted before you start the next task. For example, if you think you have the Arrangement tool active when in fact you have the Text tool active, you will inadvertently add a new Text box to your screen as soon as the mouse is clicked.



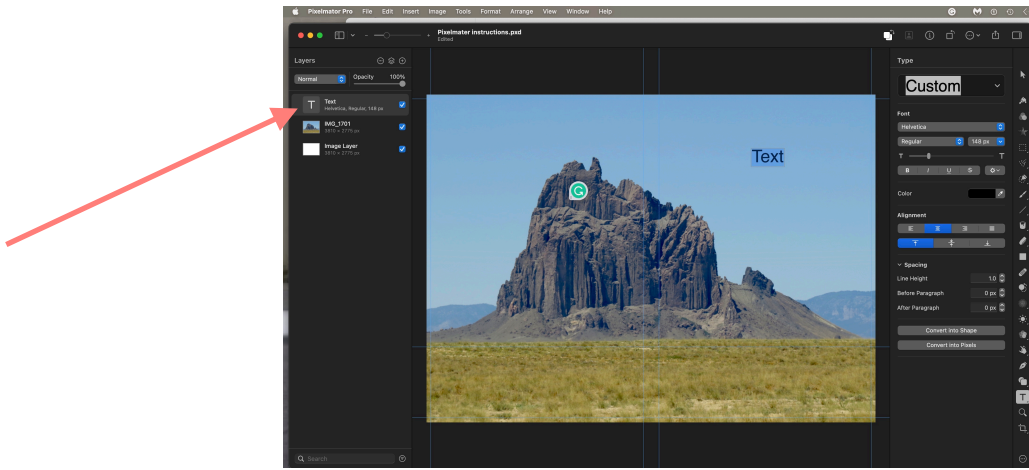
Supplementary commands for the Arrangement tool



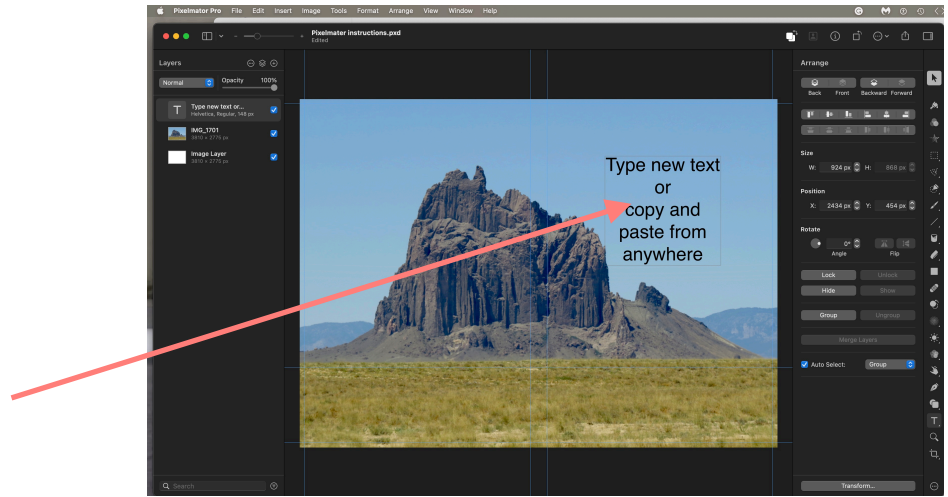
Supplementary commands for the Text tool. To use these commands once you have added the text box, highlight the text and select the font, text size, etc.

After using any tool it's a good practice to immediately end it's use by reselecting the Arrangement tool before going to the next task.

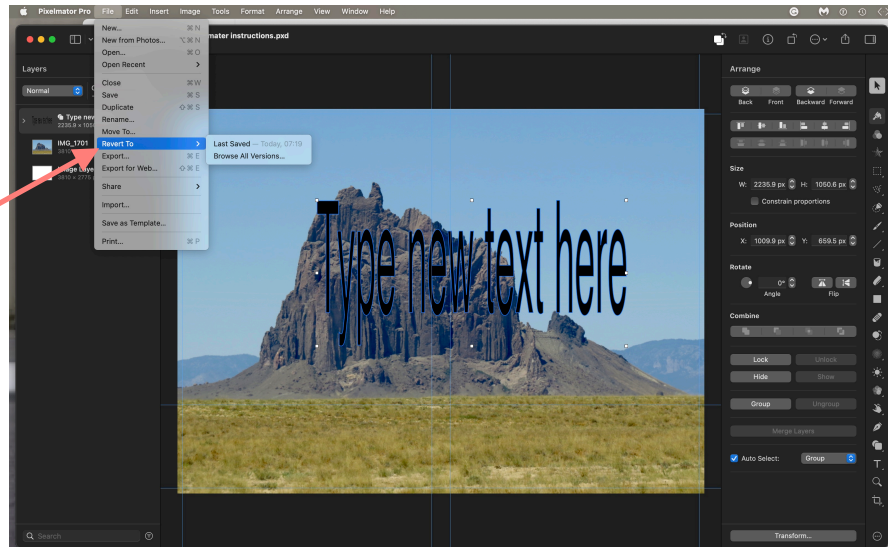
13 continued. Select the Text tool and move the cursor to the spot on the picture where you want the text to appear and double-click the mouse. Like all the items you add to the picture, the text box can be moved, altered, or deleted at any time after it has been added so don't worry about the exact placement. Also, note that the text box has been added to the top of the list of Layers on the far left side of the Pixelmator display. Items appearing on this list overlay items below in order of appearance. The order may be changed by selecting an item and dragging it to a new spot in the list. Unchecking the item by clicking on the check mark will remove it from the picture until the check mark is reactivated by clicking the box again.



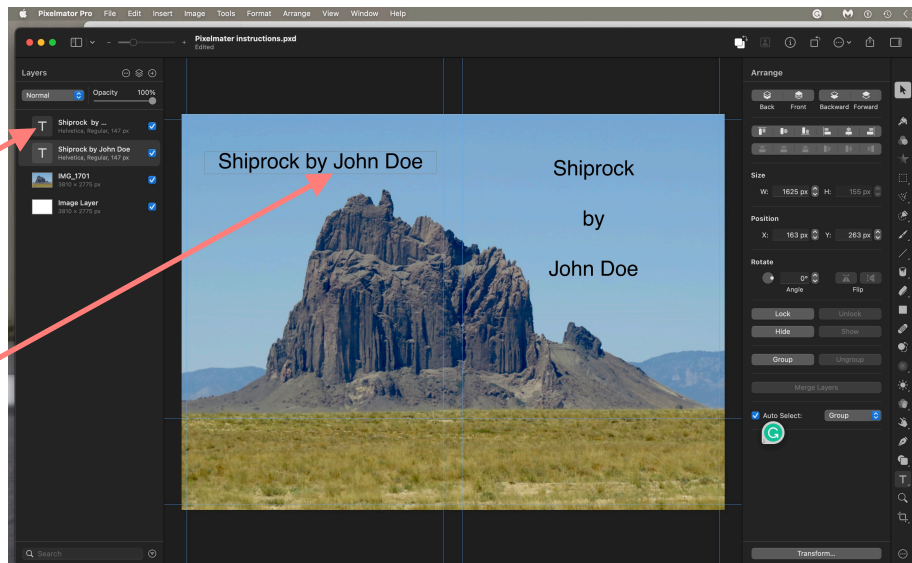
When the Text box appears on the picture highlight it by clicking and dragging over the word Text as you would in any word processing document. When the word Text is highlighted you may begin typing as you would in a word processing document or paste words over it which have been copied from any other software.



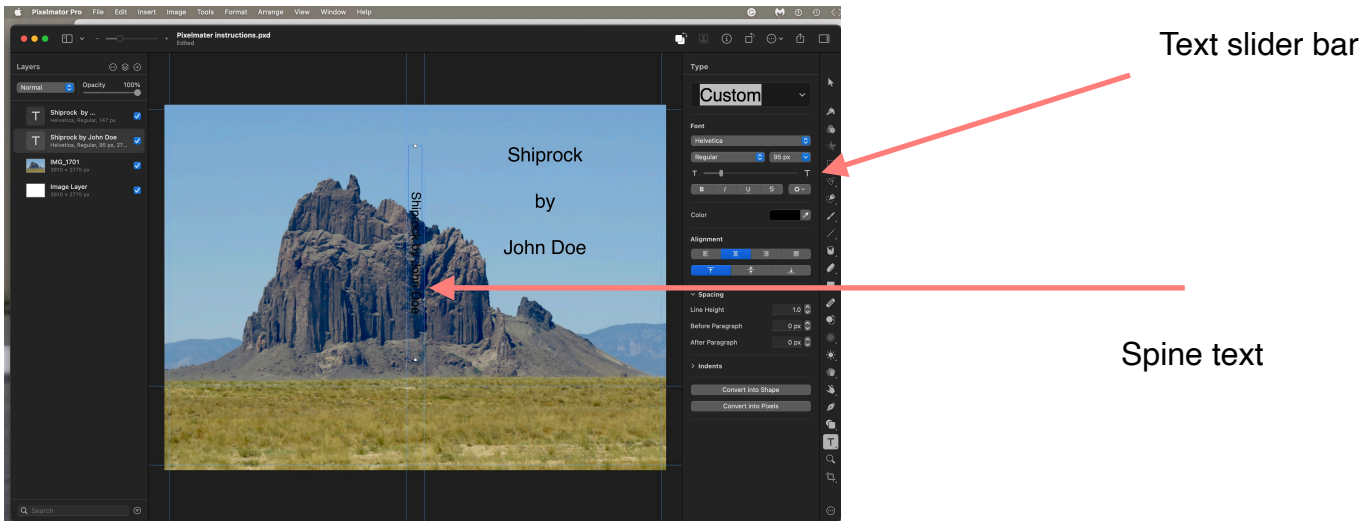
The tools available in Pixelmator are extensive and sometimes inadvertent changes are made by mistake that are difficult to reverse or fix. The picture below shows the result of such a mistake. When this happens it is possible to revert to the last version that was saved by selecting File and then Revert To Last Saved. Saving good versions as you add layers is good practice. The Save command is under the File pulldown. It may also be beneficial to make Duplicate copies as well by selecting that option under the File pulldown.



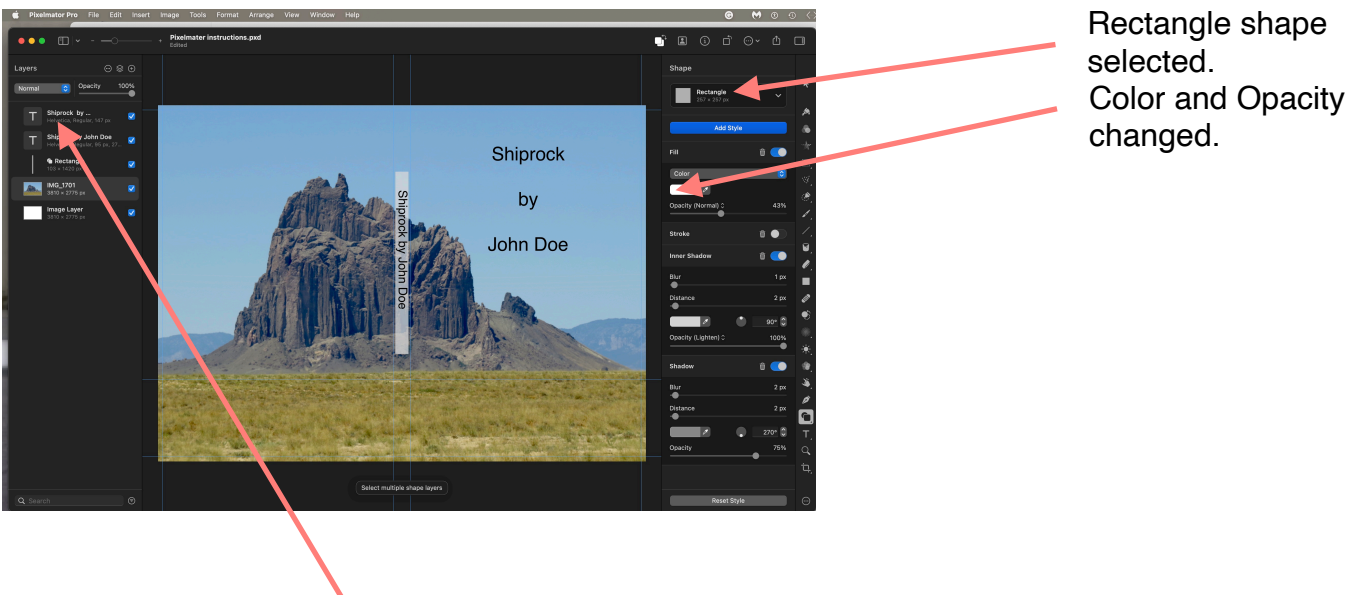
14. The picture below shows that the last save version has been restored and another text box has been added in preparation for placing the title and author's name on the spine portion of the book. Note that a new layer has been added to the list



14 continued. The spine text has been rotated 90 degrees by selecting it with the Arrangement tool and using the Rotate supplementary command. Then with the Arrangement tool still active the text was dragged to the spine position and centered between the blue spine guides that were added in step 7. With the move complete the spine text was reduced in size to fit on the narrow spine width by selecting the Text tool, highlighting the text and using the slider bar to reduce the text to fit.



The black spine text gets lost in the background color of the rock. So a white rectangle has been added using the Shape tool. The shape was selected by selecting Shape at the top of the supplementary commands and selecting Rectangle. The color white was selected and the Opacity was changed so some of the rock shows through. Also note that the Layer order was changed to place the spine text at the top of the list with the rectangle just below it. Adding the rectangle could have been avoided completely by changing the text color of the spine text to a lighter color.



The order of the layers has been adjusted to put the text on top of the white rectangle that is still above the rock that shows through because the opacity has been increased.

After thoughts

If you copy and paste into a Text make the font size of what you are copying at least 64 before you copy it in order to be able to see it after the paste.

If you go back to continue adjusting any item make sure you highlight the Adjustment tool first and select the item before you start using the applicable tool on the item. For example, if you wish to change text, click on the Adjustment tool and select the text so that the little white adjustment handles show up. Then change to the text tool to make the adjustment.