

Creating Panoramas – Using Photoshop CS2

You can manually stitch multiple photographs into a Panorama using various Photoshop tools such as Layers, Masks, Transform, Dodge, Burn, and so on. However, starting with Photoshop CS, Adobe has automated the process with Photomerge™.

This Tutorial demonstrates how to use Photomerge™ to automatically stitch photographs into a panorama. The first part shows how to make the panorama using the **Normal** setting. The second part shows how to make the panorama using the **Perspective** setting.

Finally we will wrap it up with some tips.

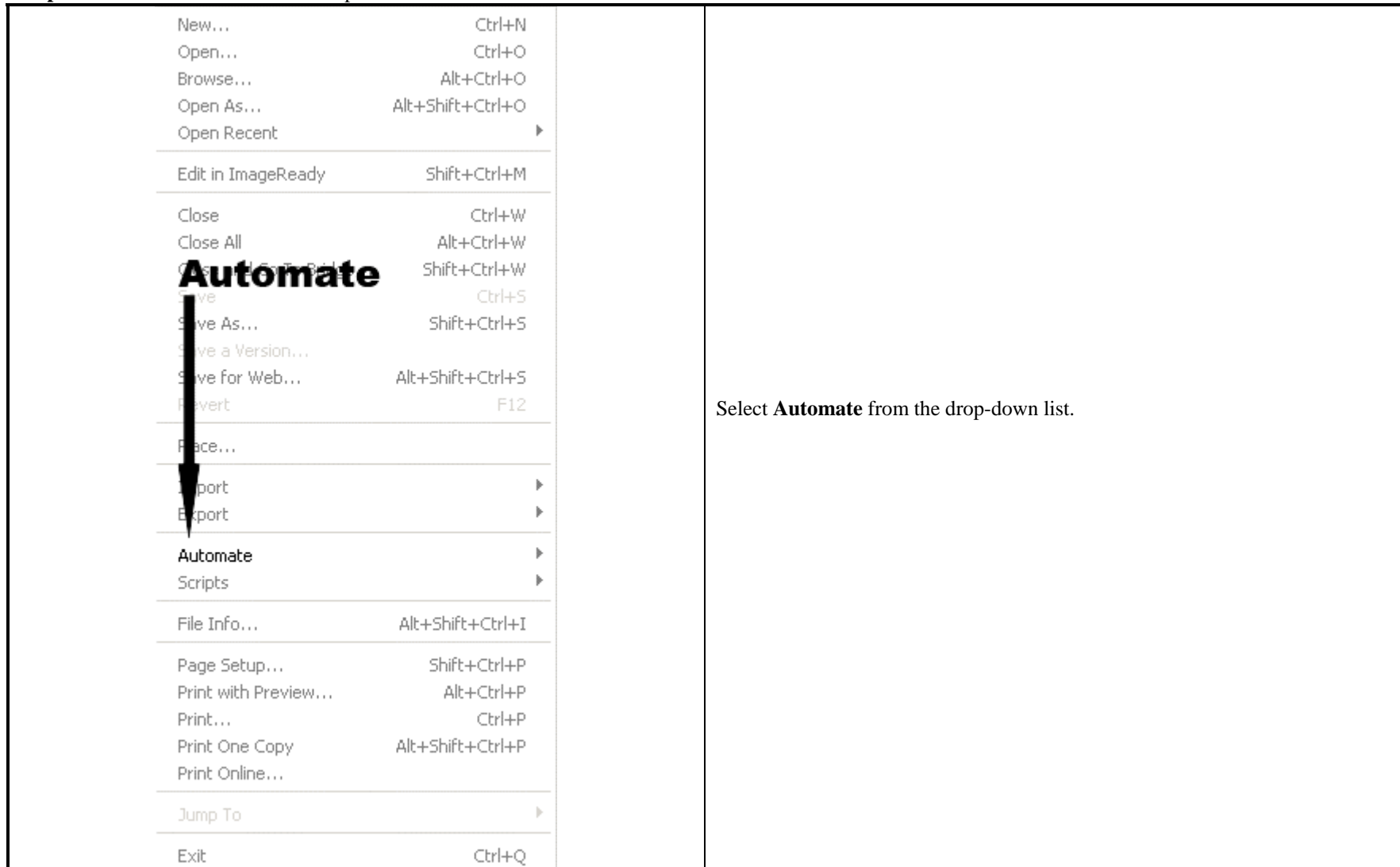
There is also an option to create the panorama using Layers. But how to use and manipulate the Layers is not covered in this Tutorial.

Step 1: In Photoshop, open the photographs that are to be made into the panorama.

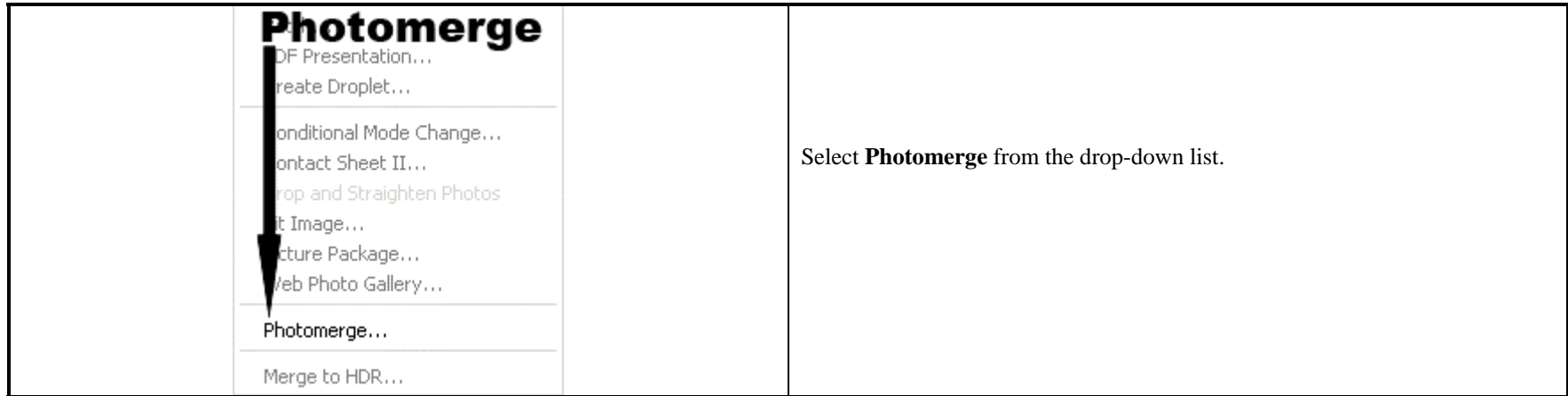
Step 2: Select **File** from the Menu bar.



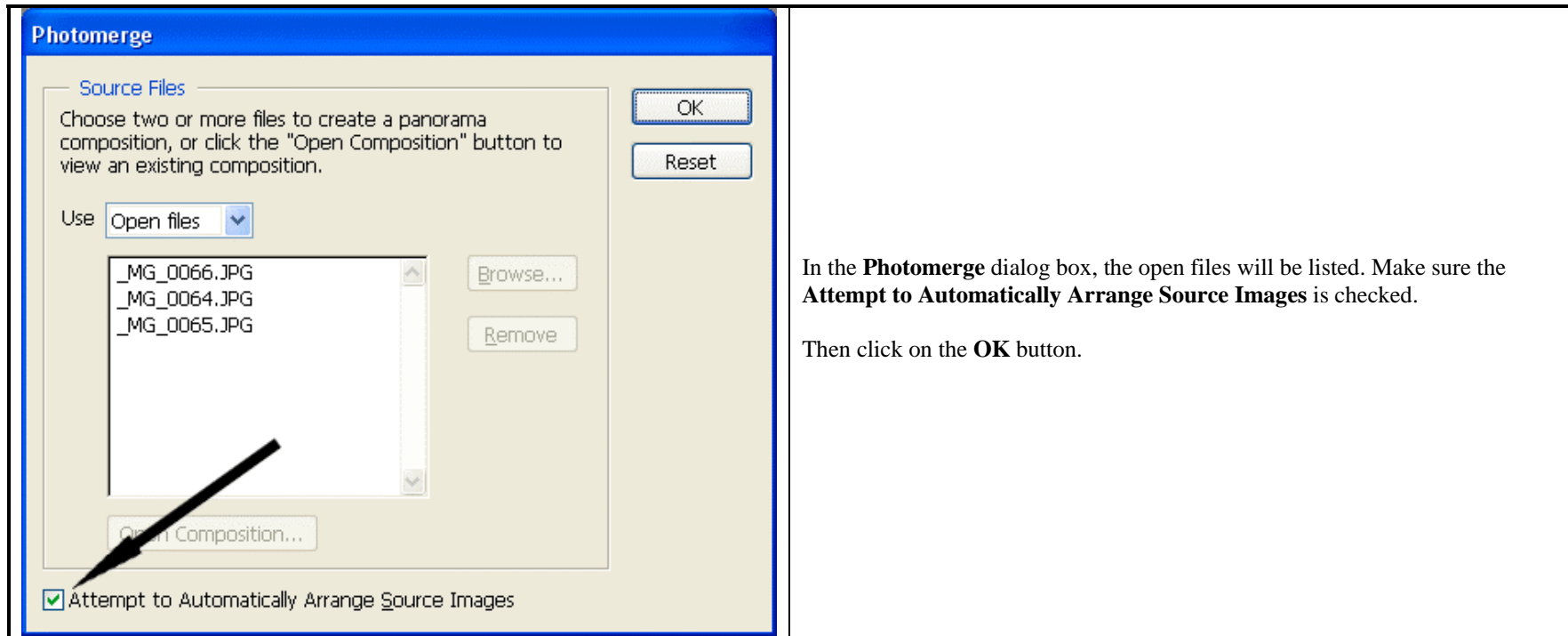
Step 3: Select **Automate** from the drop-down list.



Step 4: Select **Photomerge** from the drop-down list.

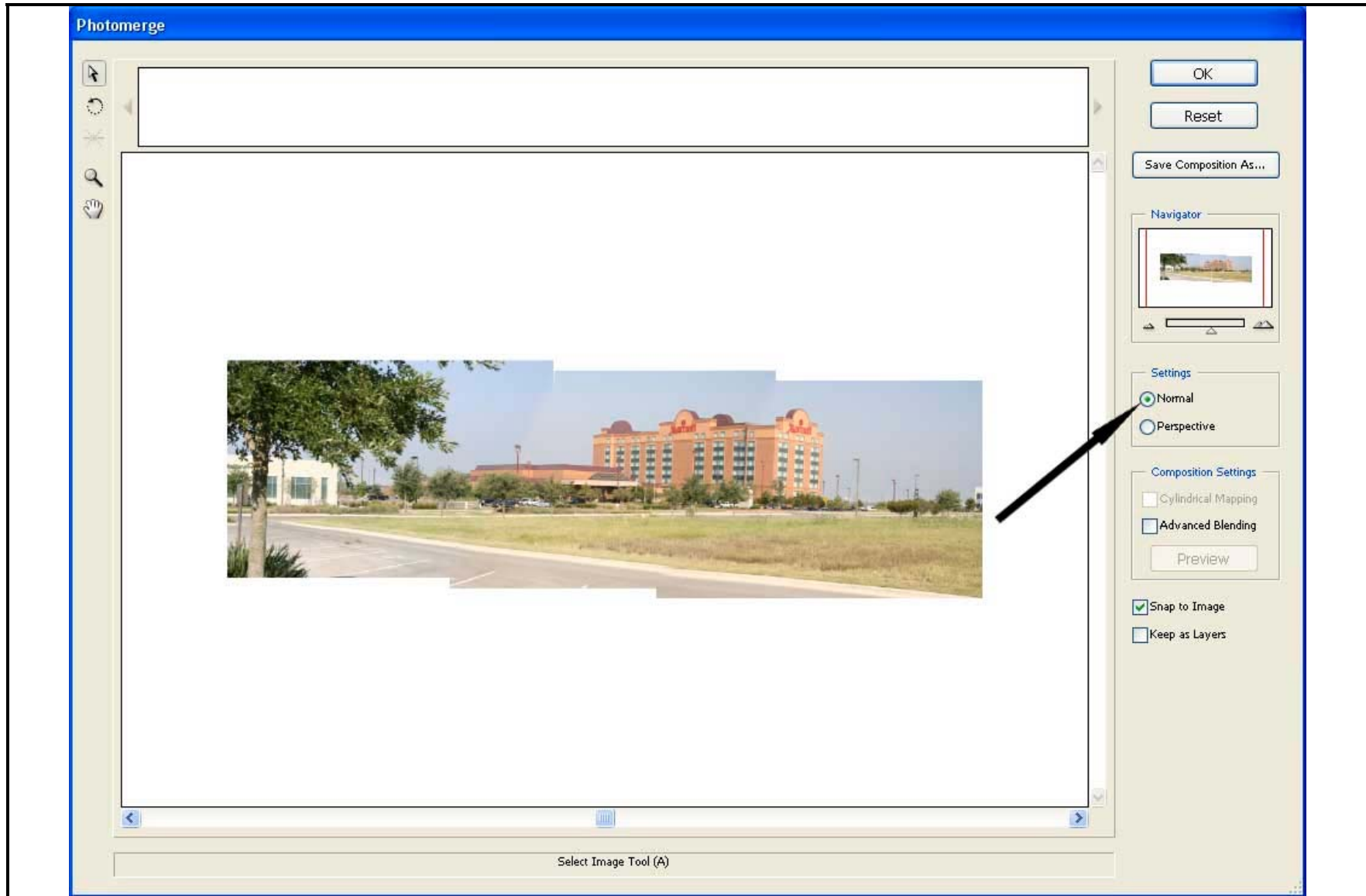


Step 5: In the **Photomerge** dialog box, the open files will be listed. Make sure the **Attempt to Automatically Arrange Source Images** is checked. Then click on the **OK** button.



Part 1: Creating a Panorama using the Normal Setting

Step 6: On the next page, it shows the preview of the panorama with the **Normal** setting, which is the default setting. At this point, simply click on the **OK** button.

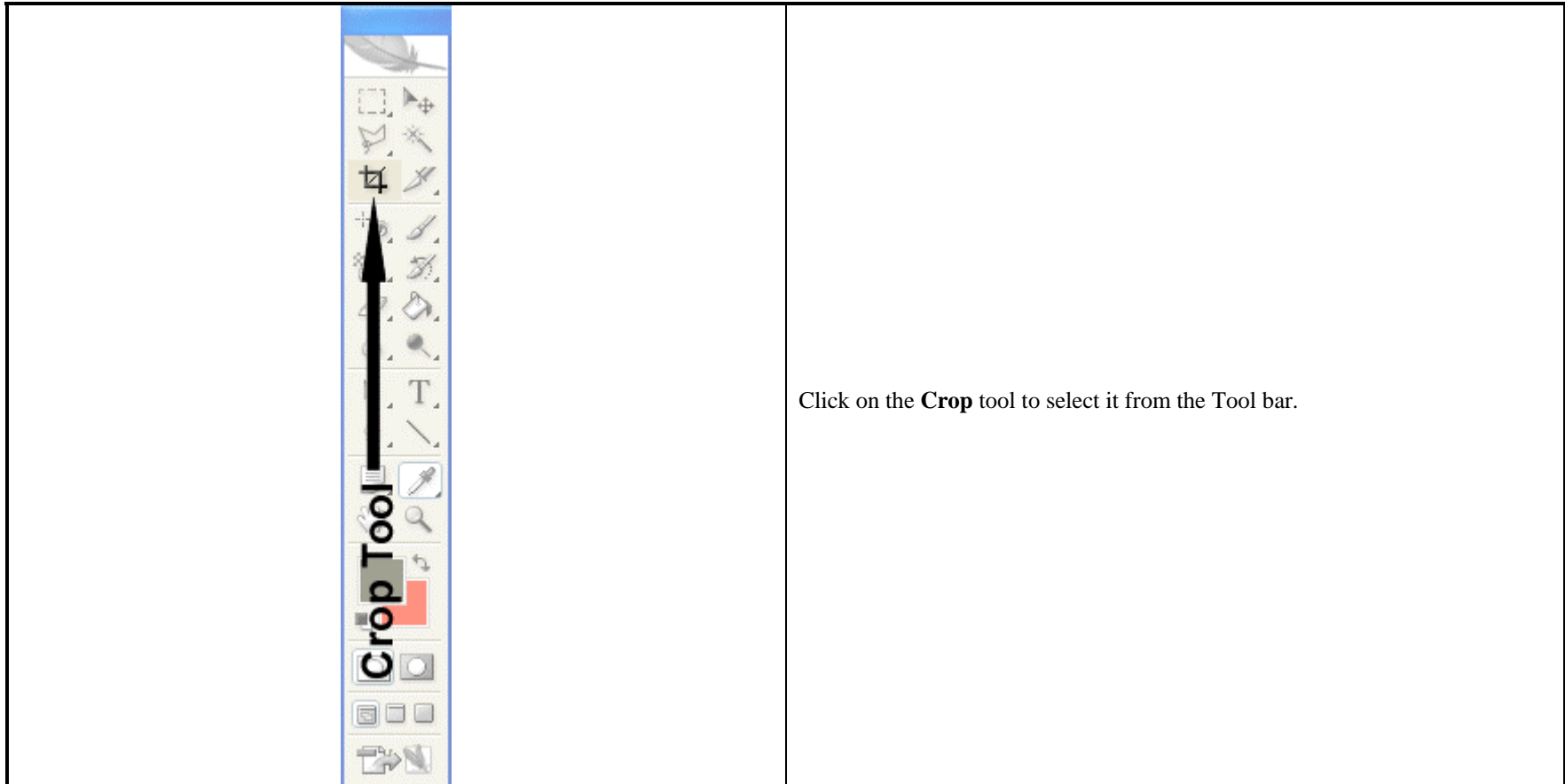


Step 7: The panorama shows up in its own window, like the one shown below. However, there are empty areas of the canvas, as highlighted by the arrows. The next step will get rid of them.

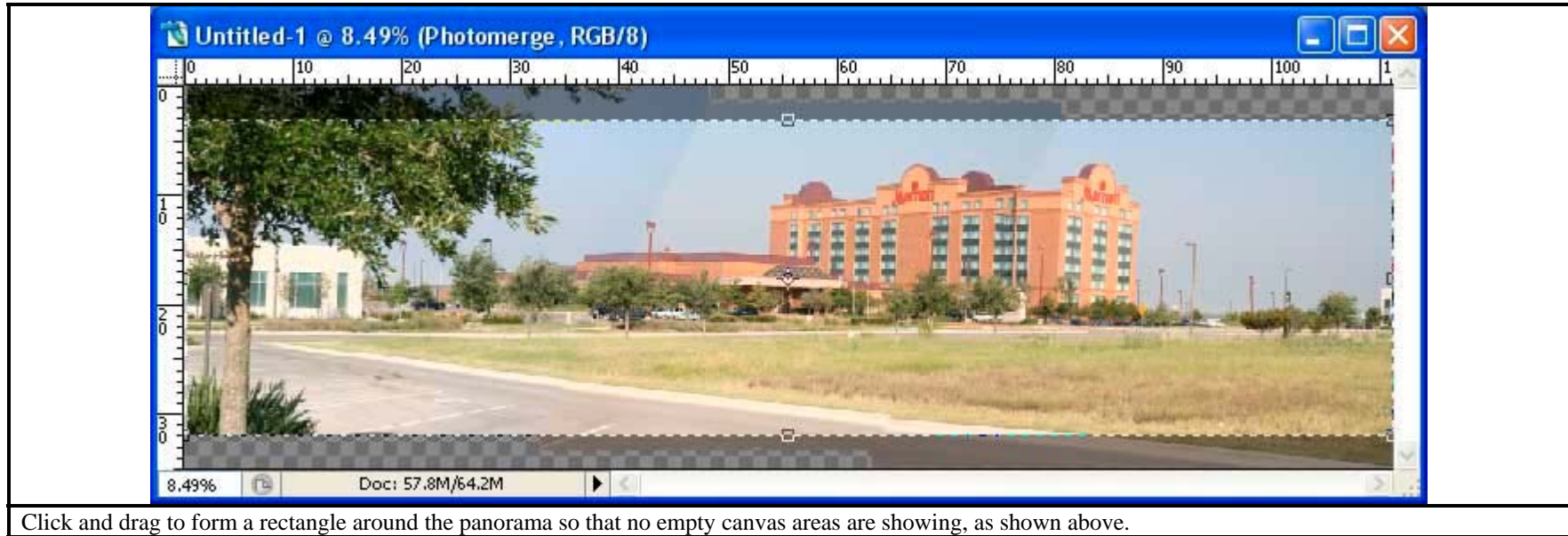


The panorama shows up in its own window, like the one shown above. However, there are empty areas of the canvas, as highlighted by the arrows.

Step 8: Click on the **Crop** tool to select it from the Tool bar.



Step 9: Click and drag to form a rectangle around the panorama so that no empty canvas areas are showing, as shown below.



Click and drag to form a rectangle around the panorama so that no empty canvas areas are showing, as shown above.

Step 10: Click on the checkmark to apply the **Crop**.



Click on the checkmark to apply the **Crop**.

This is how the panorama looks after cropping.

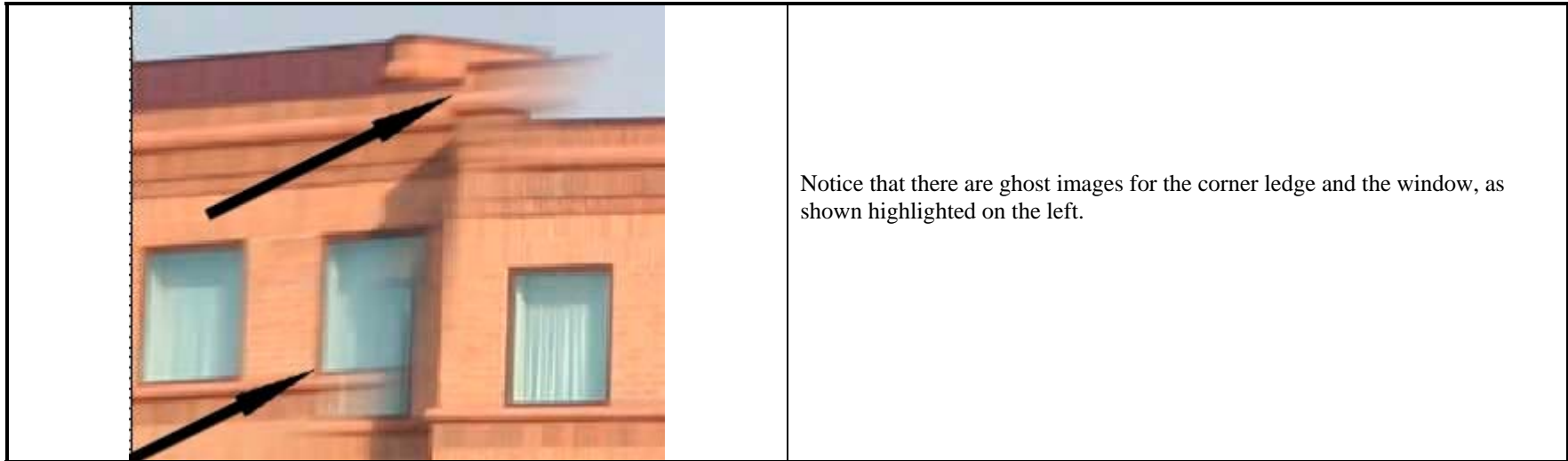


This is how the panorama looks after cropping.

There are a couple of problems with the panorama as the 3 images don't quite line up correctly. It is very obvious when you zoom in on the area that is highlighted below. Please refer to the next page that illustrates the problem.



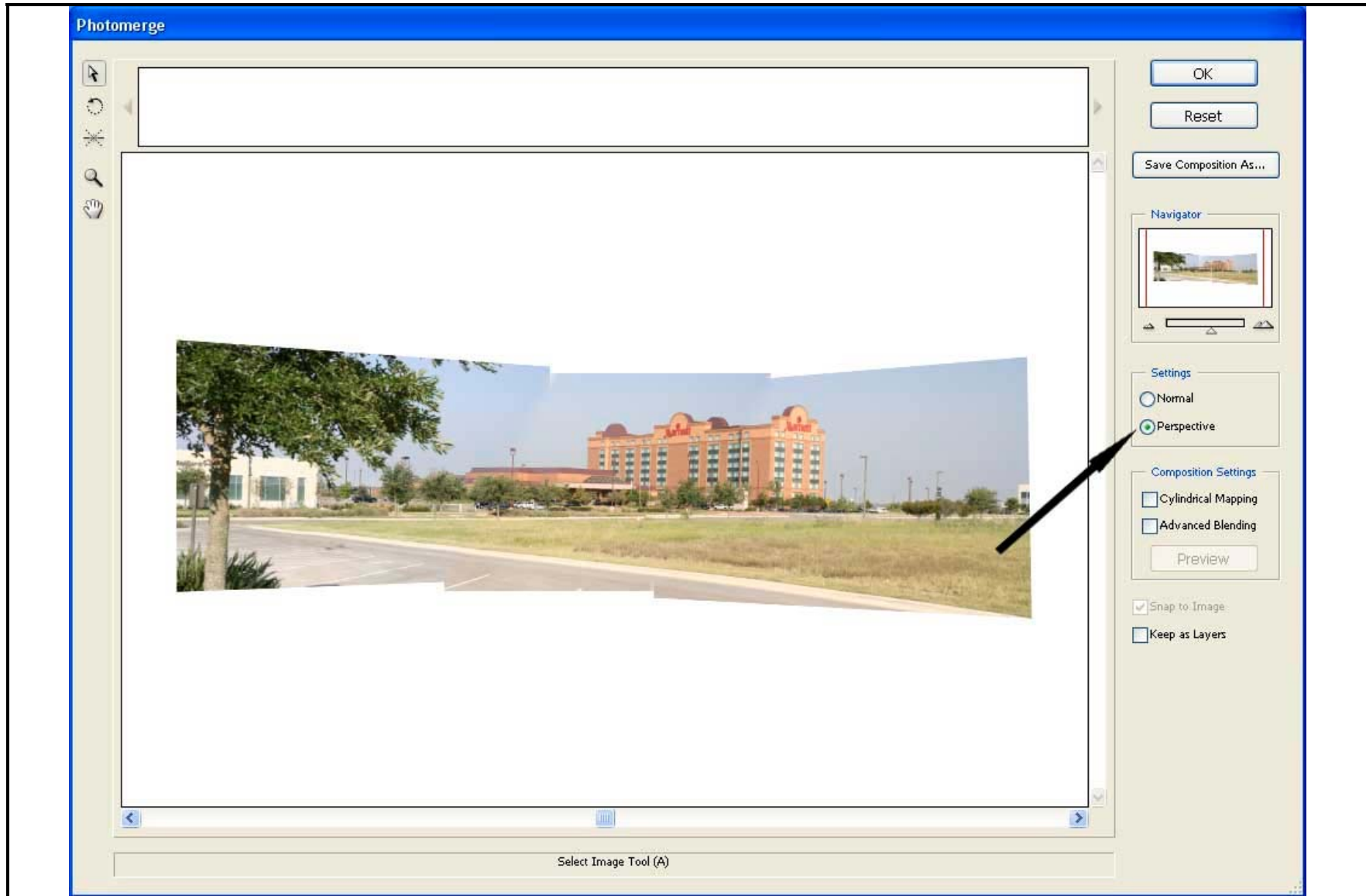
Notice that there are ghost images for the corner ledge and the window, as shown highlighted below.



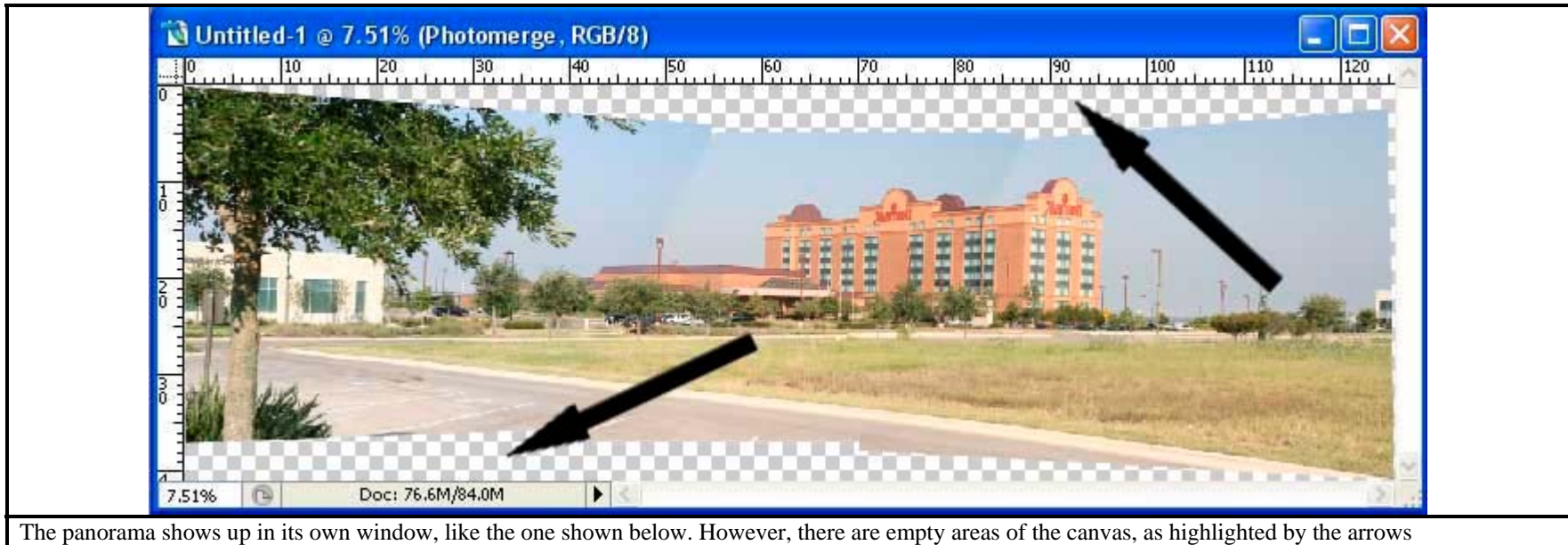
How can you fix that? Try using the **Perspective** setting, which is covered in Part 2.

Part 2: Creating a Panorama using the Perspective Setting

With the files still open, repeat **Step 2** through **Step 5**. Next in the **Photomerge** dialog box, click on the **Perspective** setting, as shown on the next page. Then click on the **OK** button.

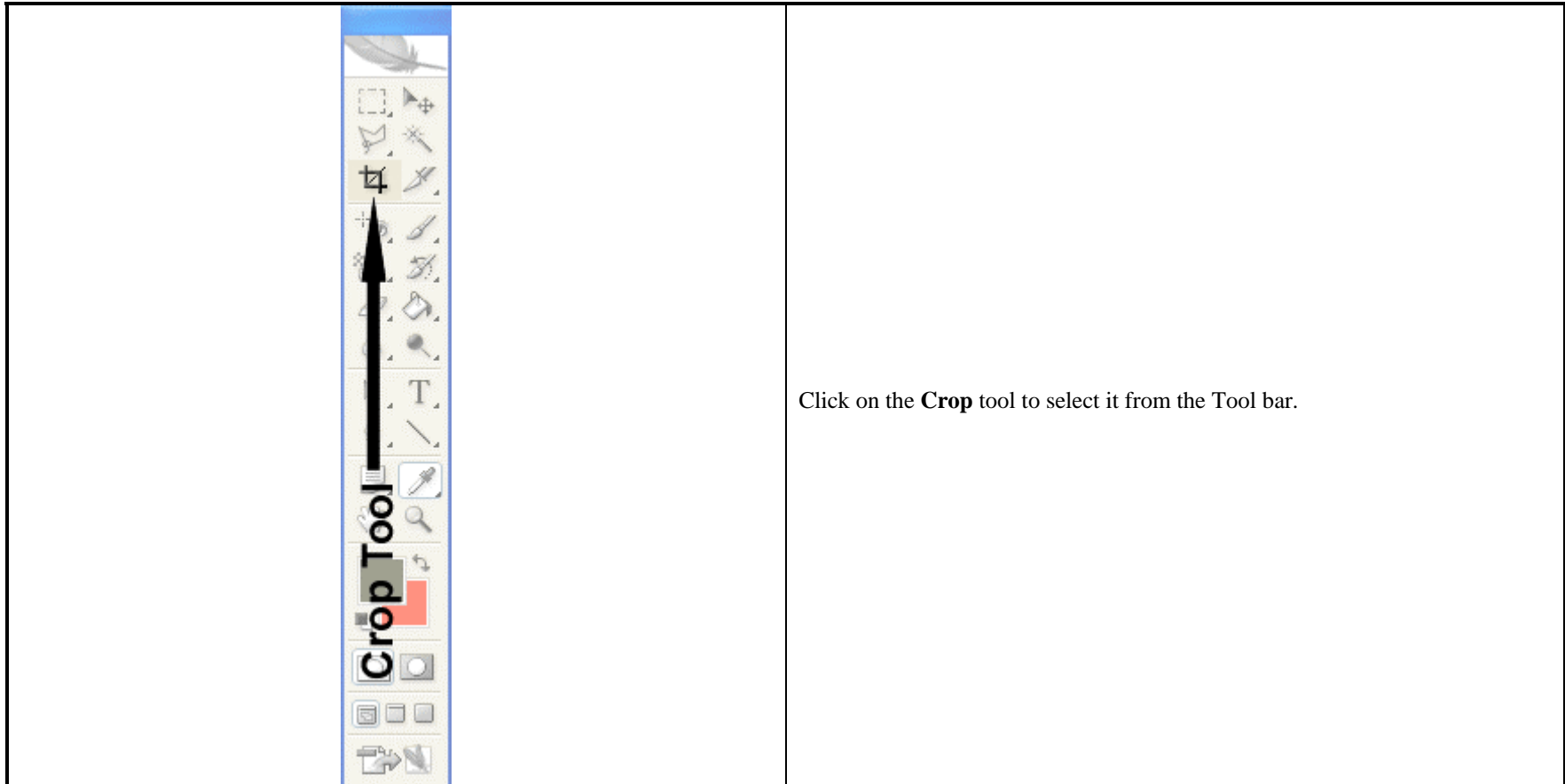


Step 11: The panorama shows up in its own window, like the one shown below. However, there are empty areas of the canvas, as highlighted by the arrows. The next step will get rid of them.



The panorama shows up in its own window, like the one shown below. However, there are empty areas of the canvas, as highlighted by the arrows

Step 12: Click on the **Crop** tool to select it from the Tool bar.



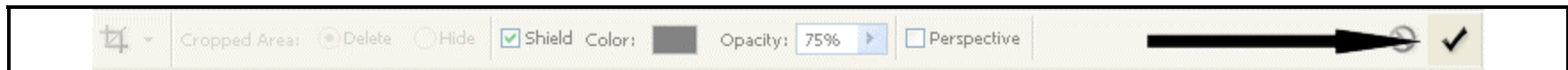
Click on the **Crop** tool to select it from the Tool bar.

Step 13: Click and drag to form a rectangle around the panorama so that no empty canvas areas are showing, as shown below.



Click and drag to form a rectangle around the panorama so that no empty canvas areas are showing, as shown above.

Step 14: Click on the checkmark to apply the **Crop**.



Click on the checkmark to apply the **Crop**.

This is how the panorama looks after cropping.

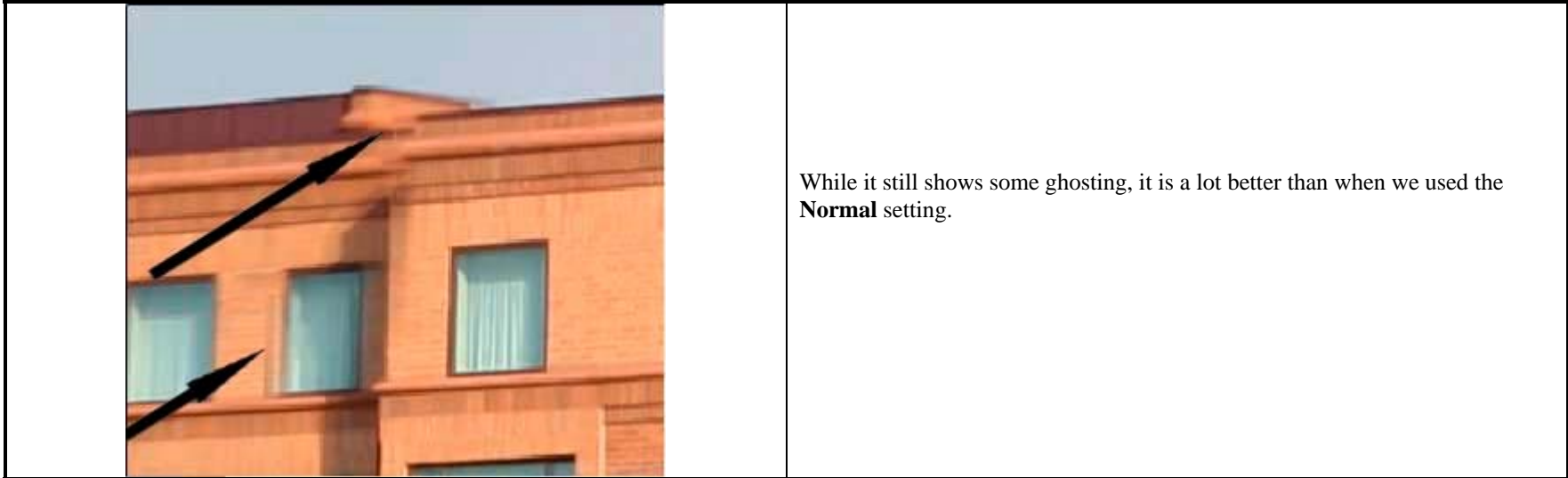


This is how the panorama looks after cropping.

Let's zoom in on that same corner. Please turn to the next page for a close-up.



While it still shows some ghosting, it is a lot better than when we used the **Normal** setting.



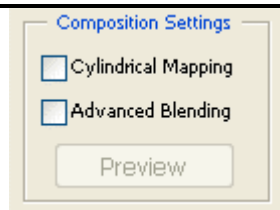
Tips:

Tip #1: Before doing the **Photomerge™**, you could adjust the **Levels** of each photograph. That will help lessen the amount of work that the **Photomerge™** tool needs to do while stitching the photos together and will make for a better matching on the seams.

Tip #2: While **Photomerge™** goes a long way in helping to stitch together the photographs to create the panorama, it is still not perfect. The recommendation is check the item, **Keep as Layers**, in the **Photomerge** dialog box and work on the individual layers to maximize the panorama. However, this Tutorial does not go into how to use layers to perfect the panorama.

Tip #3: In the **Photomerge** dialog box, the **Select Image Tool**, the **Rotate Image Tool**, and the **Zoom Tool** only work to a limited degree, if you are trying to fine tune the panorama. A better option is select the **Keep as Layers** option and do the fine tuning outside of the **Photomerge** dialog box.

Tip #4:



In the **Photomerge** dialog box, there are a couple of **Composition Settings**, as shown on the left. In my testing, the **Advanced Blending** did not help make the stitched photos match up better on the seams.

And if **Perspective** is selected, **Cylindrical Mapping** did not make the seams match up any better.

However, maybe they will work better for you, so it might be worth trying.