How to create spherical images in GIMP

In this tutorial, we will learn how to create spherical collage images using the Ellipse Select Tool and the Spherize filter that comes with GIMP.

In this tutorial, we will learn how to create a spherical collage using Ellipse Select Tool (**Tools> Selection Tools> Ellipse Select**) and the Spherize filter (**Filters> Distorts> Spherizee**) included with GIMP. To create reflection, we'll use a layer mask (**Layer> Mask> Add Layer Mask**) and the gradient tool (**Tools> Paint Tools> Gradient**). You can experiment with many tools in GIMP to add your own artistic effects. Let's get started!

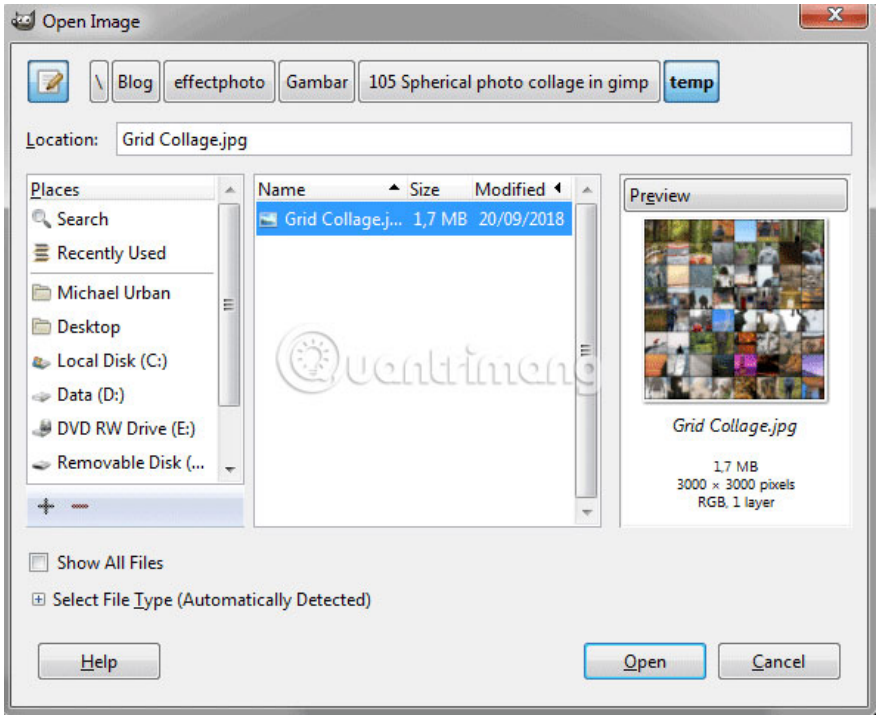
Instructions for creating spherical images using GIMP tool

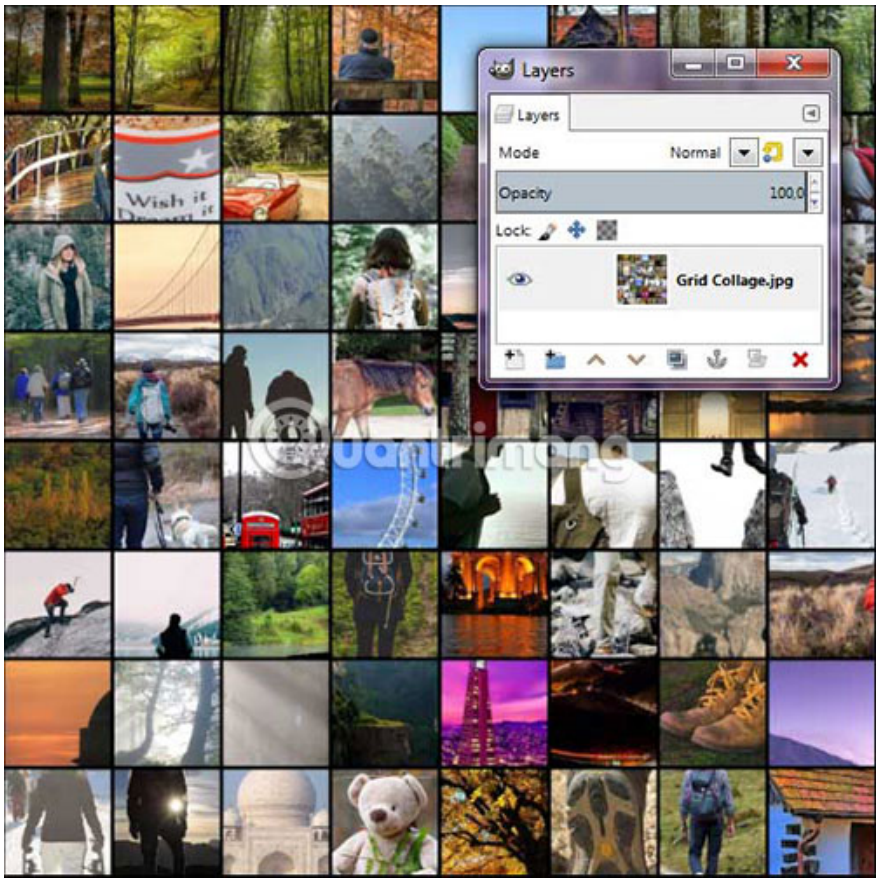
1. 1. Open the image in GIMP
2. 2. Add Transparency (transparency)
3. 3. Draw the circle selection
4. 4. Apply Spherize filter
5. 5. Delete the background
6. 6. Change the spherical collage size with Scale Tool
7. 7. Move the spherical image using the Move tool
8. 8. Duplicate the layer to create a reflection effect
9. 9. Flip vertically
10. 10. Add layer mask
11. 11. Apply Gradient
12. 12. Create New Layer From Visible
13. 13. Save the document

1. Open the image in GIMP

First, join multiple photos into one frame using GIMP, then export that collage in JPEG format.

Use the **File> Open** command **.** in the top menu, or press **Ctrl + O** to open the image. The **'Open Image'** dialog box will appear, allowing you to navigate to the file you want to find and click its name. Navigate through the folders in the **Places** panel and **Name** until the image name appears in the **Name** table **.** Click on the image you want to open. When the image file is selected, you can view the preview of the image file on the right side of the box (although it's not easy to find a thumbnail-based image). Click the **Open** button **.**





2. Add Transparency (transparency)

Alpha channel represents transparency of the image. Because this image has only one layer, this background layer does not have an Alpha channel. Use **Layer> Transparency> Add Alpha Channel** to add transparency.

3. Draw the circle selection

Select **Ellipse Select Tool** from Toolbox or use **Tools> Selection Tools> Ellipse Select (E)** . Click and drag the mouse to select the part you want to grab in the image. Release the mouse when done. You will see a dotted line around the selection.

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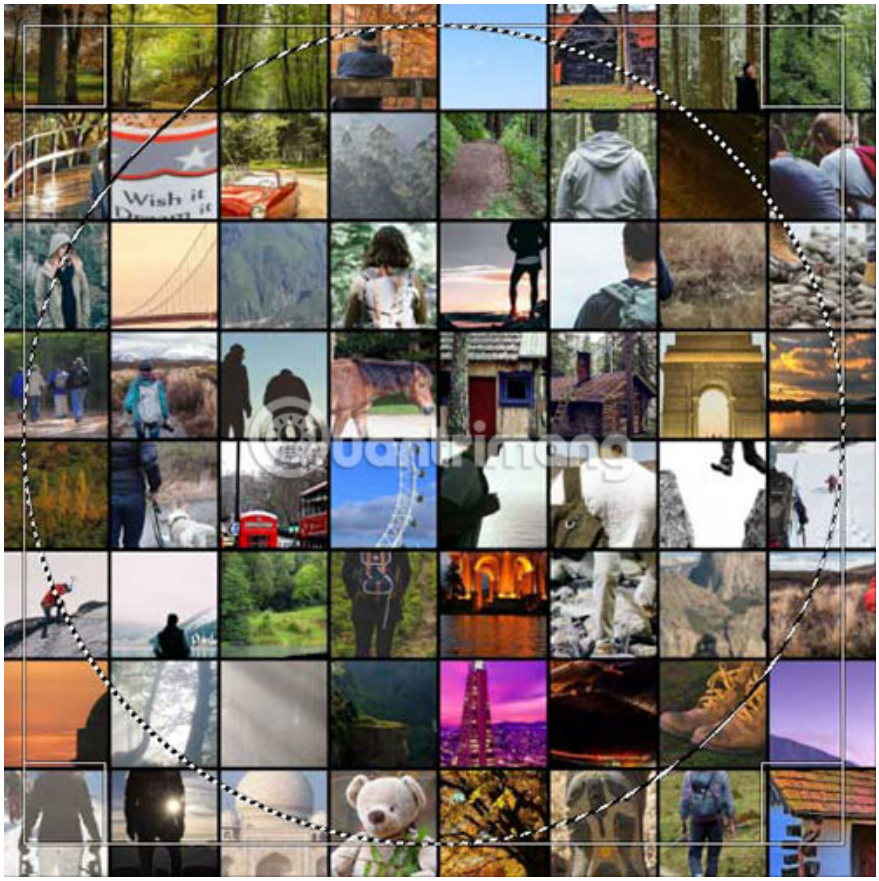

4. Apply Spherize filter

Go to **Filter> Distort> Spherize** to apply the Spherize filter. The Spherize dialog box appears. Here, you can set **Mode** to **Radial, Angle of View** to **0** , **Curvature** to **1** , **Amount** to **1** , **Resampling Method** to **Linear** and select **Use the selection as input** . Click **OK.**

5. Delete the background

Go to **Select> Invert** to **invert** the selection and delete the background by going to **Edit> Clear** . Now, we have a spherical image. Use **Select> None** to delete the selection.

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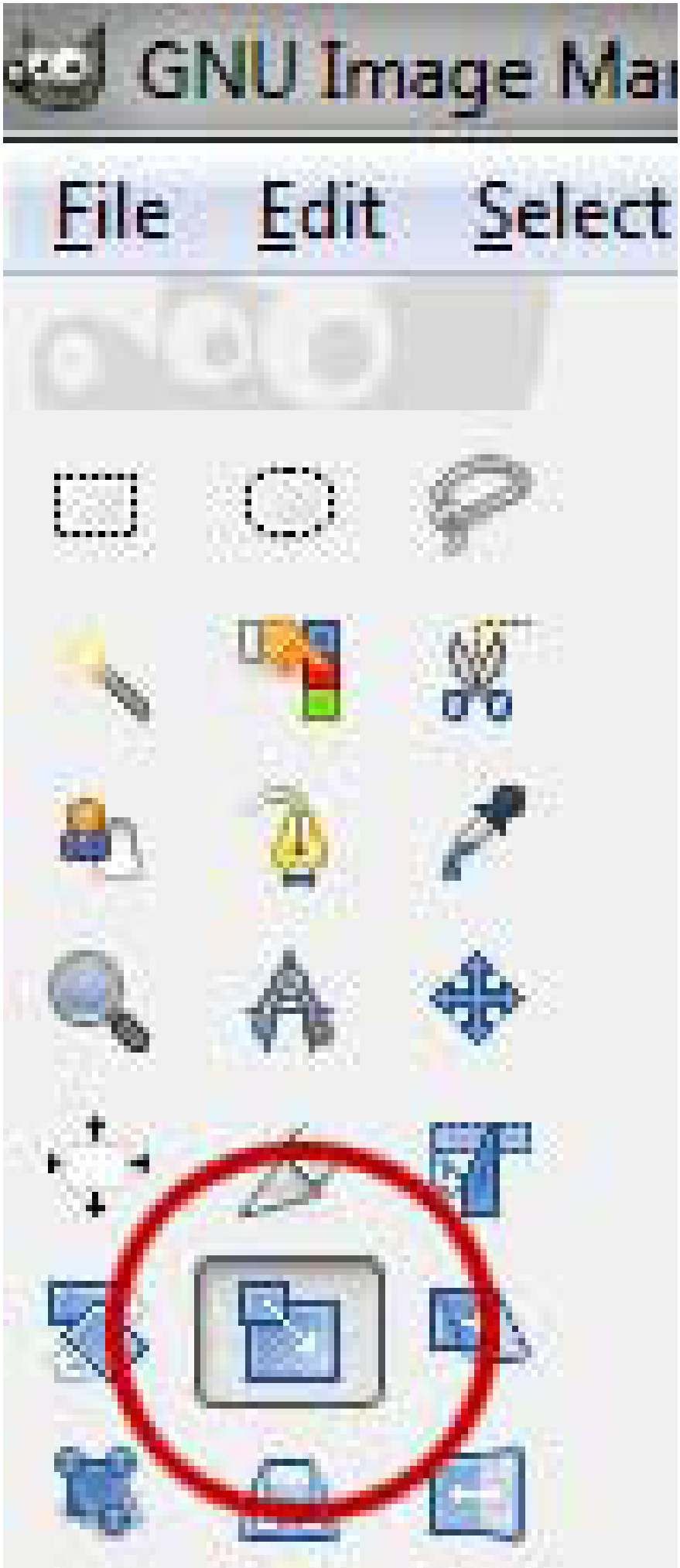
6. Change the spherical collage size with Scale Tool

Use **Tools> Transform Tools> Scale** to change the size of the spherical image you just created. Click anywhere in the collage. In the **Scale** dialog box **,** click the chain icon to keep the collage from distortion. Manually enter new values ??for the width and height of the image or through the up and down arrows. Click the **Scale** button when you're done.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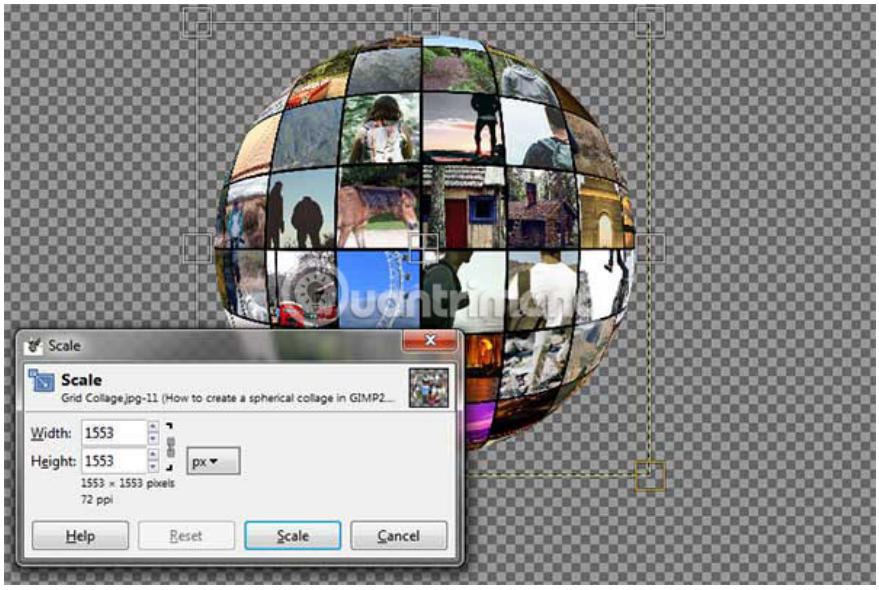
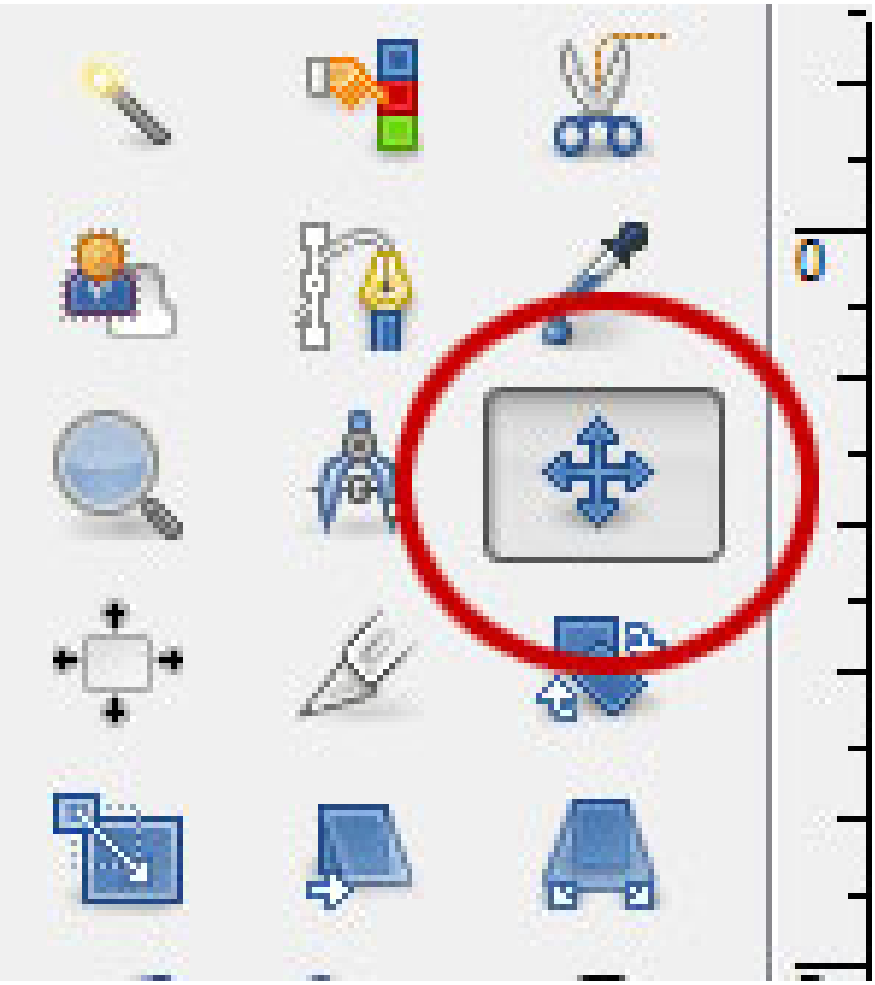


7. Move the spherical image using the Move tool

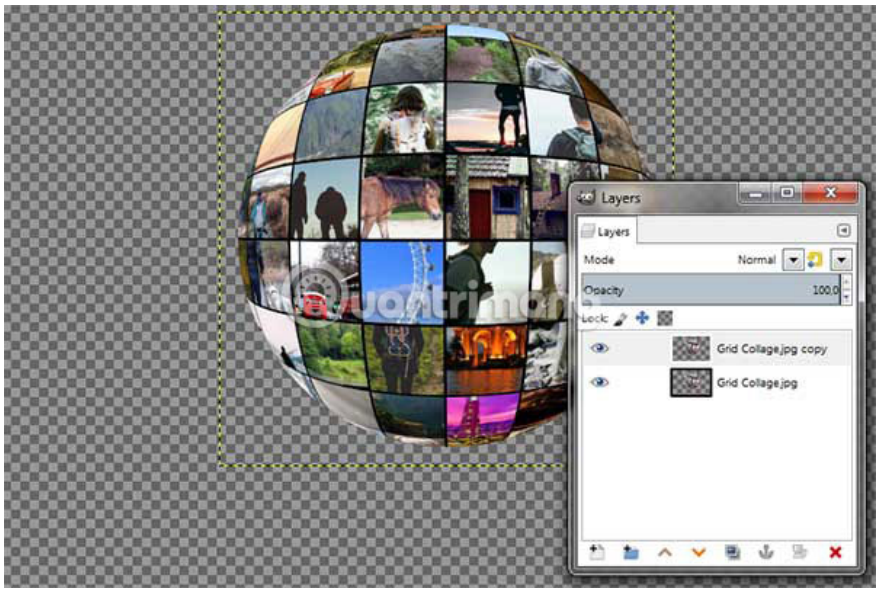
Use **Tools> Transform Tools> Move** to move the spherical image. Click and hold anywhere inside the image then drag.

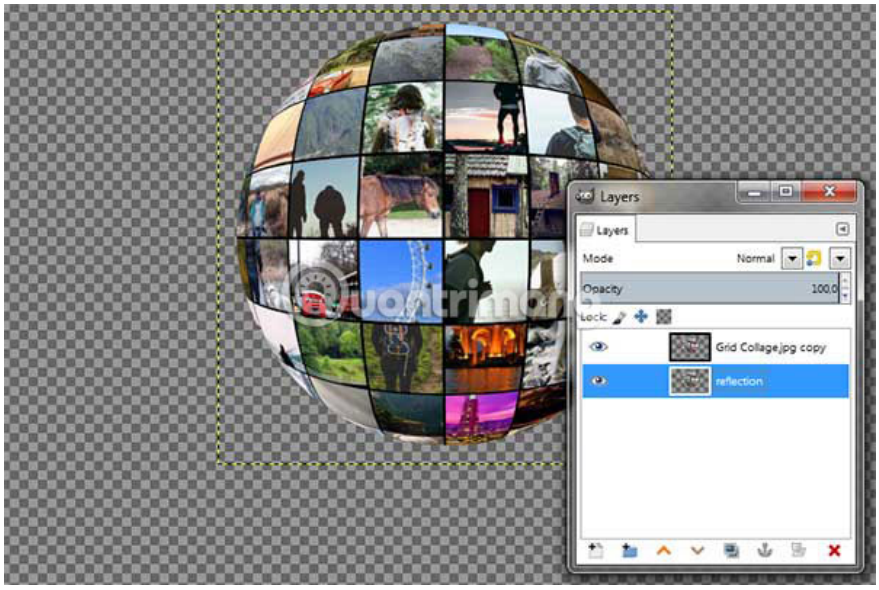


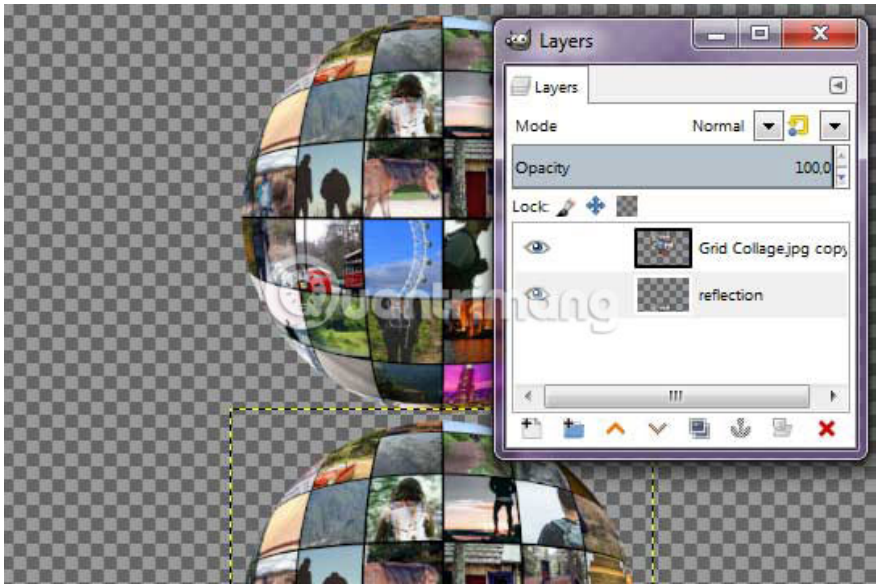
8. Duplicate the layer to create a reflection effect

Use **Layer> Duplicate Layer** (or by using the keyboard shortcut **Shift + Ctrl + D**). A new layer is an almost identical copy to the active layer that will be added to the image. Rename the new layer copied to **Reflection.**

Now, select the layer just copied on the **Layers** dialog **.** Click on the **Move Tool** icon or use **Tools> Transform Tool> Move** , then click and hold anywhere in the copy layer, then drag it below the original layer.

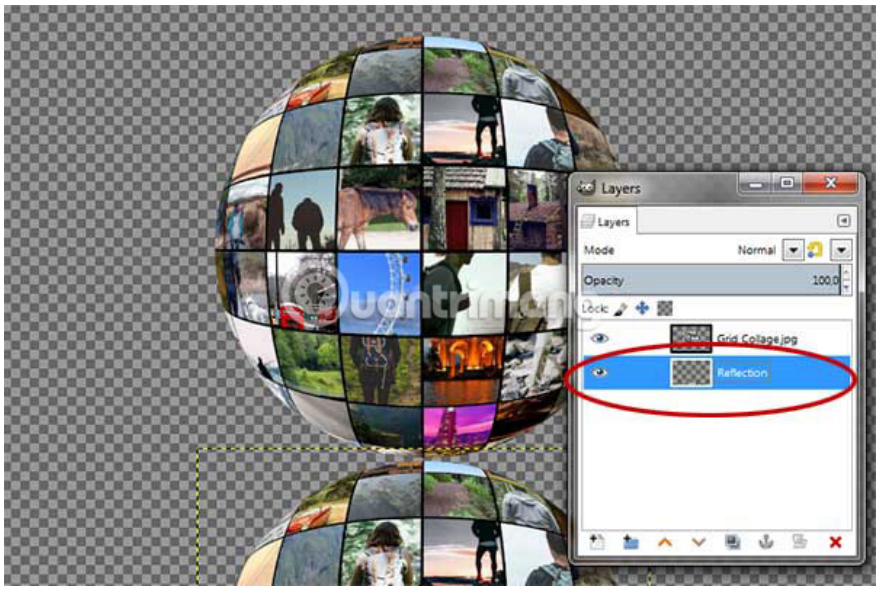


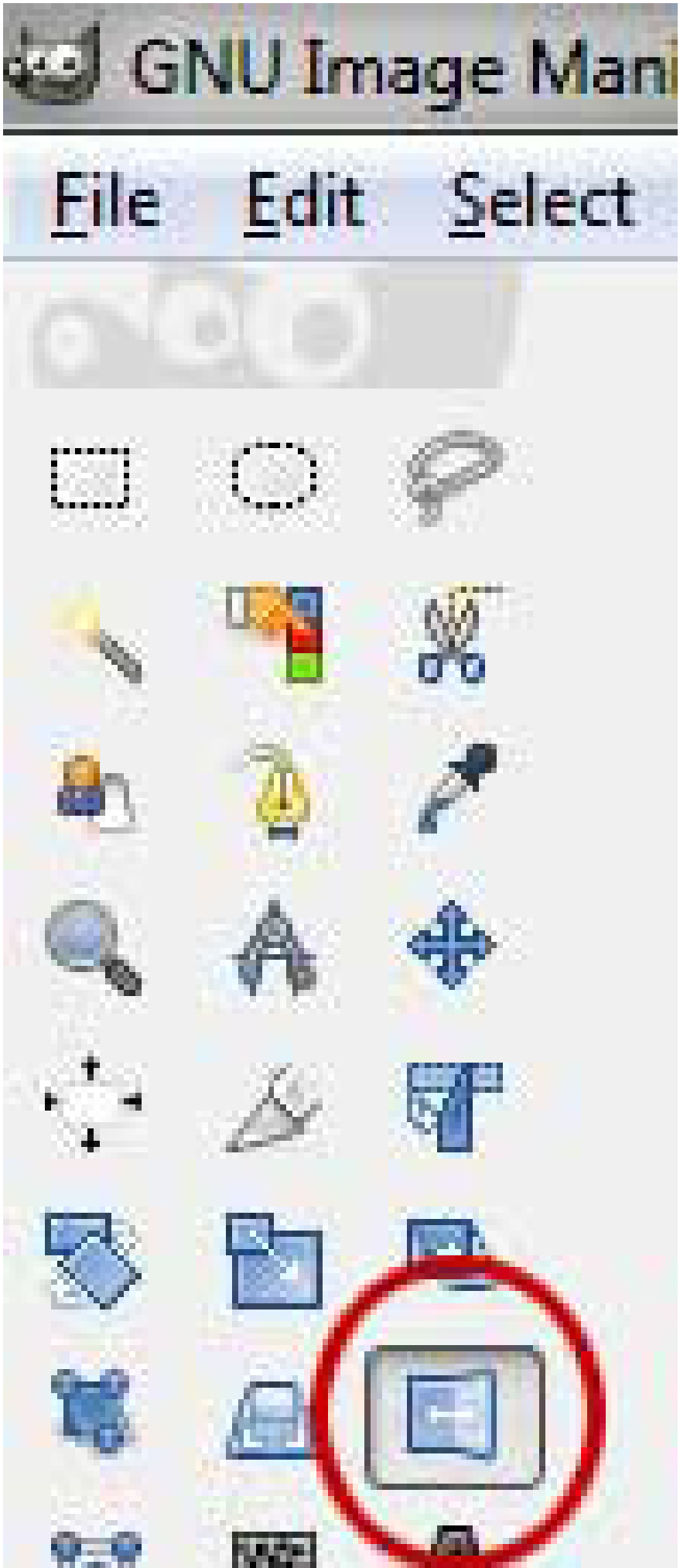




9. Flip vertically

Select the Reflection layer on the Layers dialog. Use **Tools> Transform Tools> Flip** or just press **Shift + F** to flip the Reflection layer. Select the **Tool Options** dialog box. Select **Layer for Transform** and under **Direction,** select **Vertical.** Click on the image to flip it vertically.

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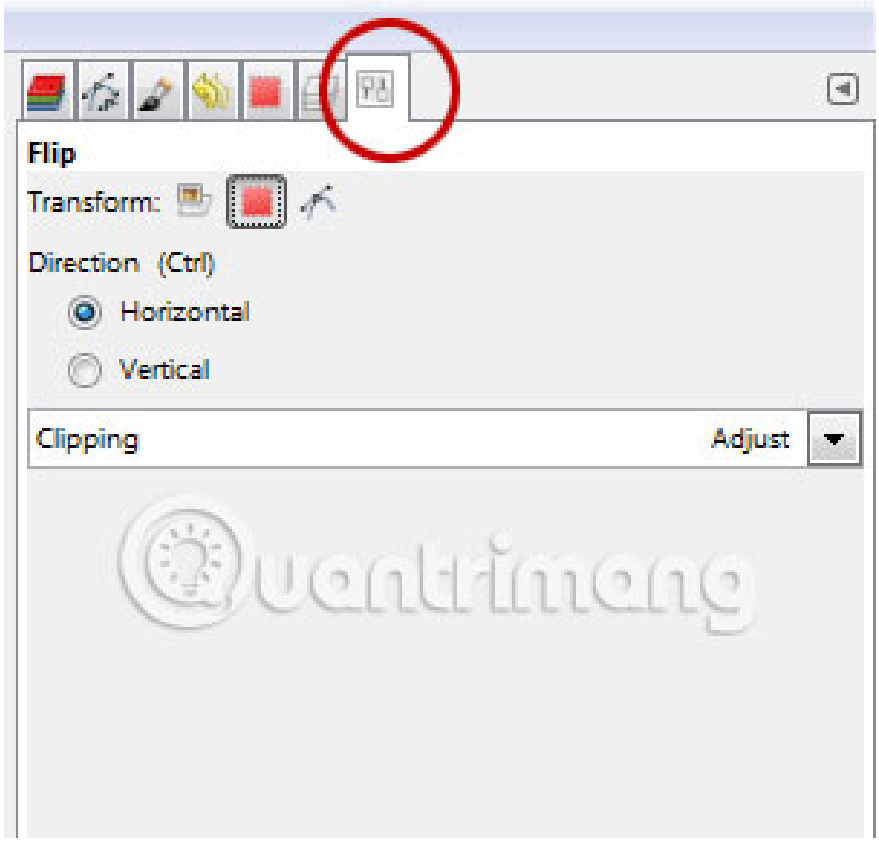
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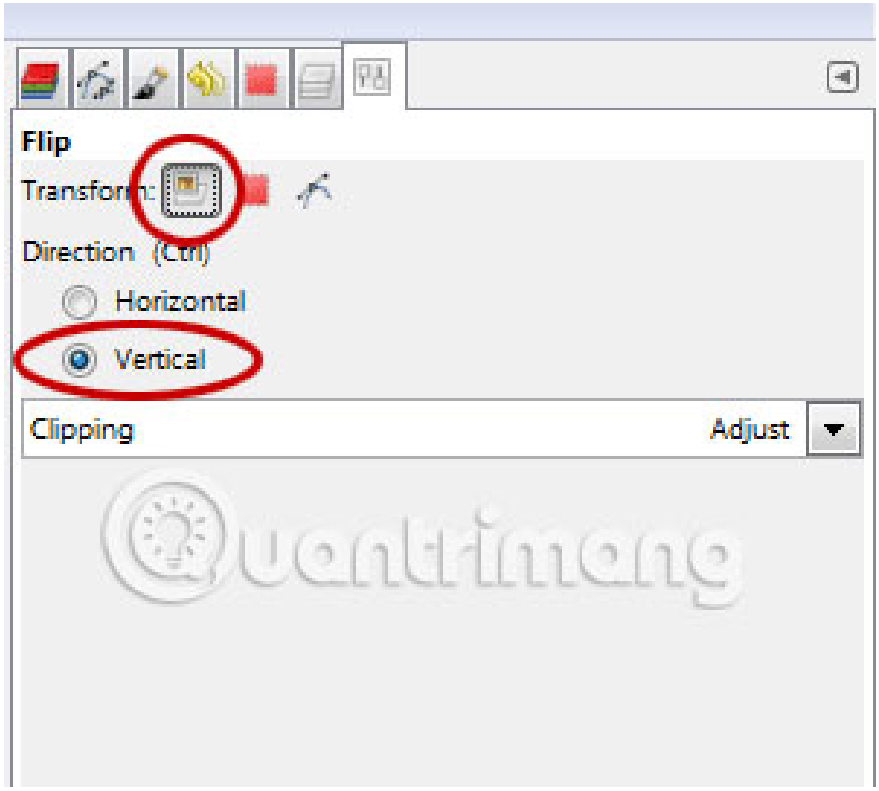
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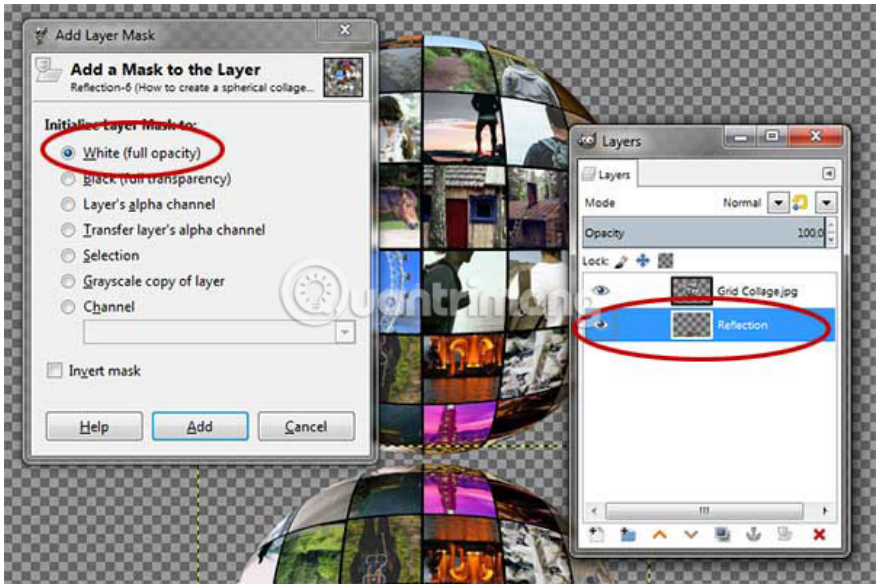
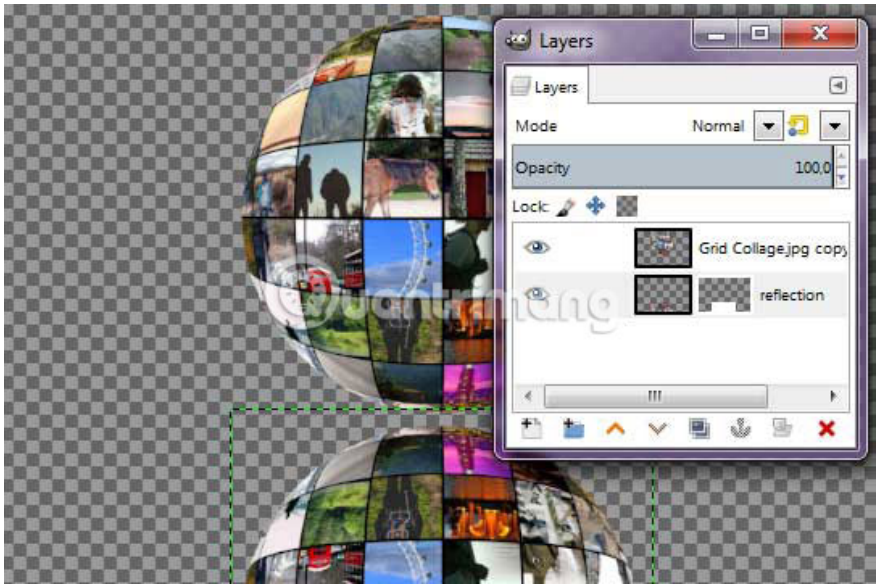
10. Add layer mask

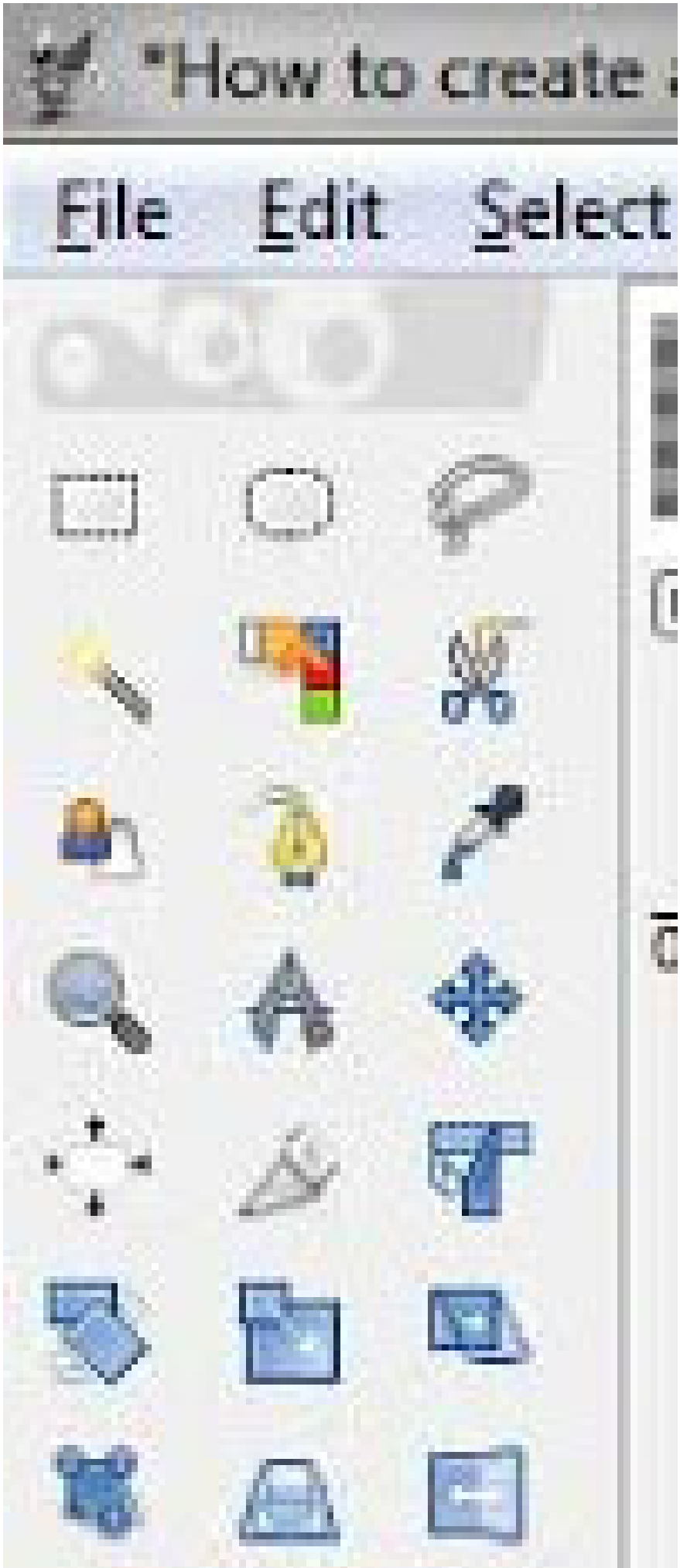
Make sure that the Reflection layer is selected on the **Layers** dialog **.** Use **Layer> Add Layer Mask** . The **Add Layer Mask** dialog box will appear. Here, you can choose **'White (Full Opacity)'** .





11. Apply Gradient

Select the **Gradient Tool** from the Toolbox or use **Tools> Paint Tools> Gradient** . Select the **Tool Options** dialog box and set **FG** to **BG.** Make sure the foreground and background colors are black and white by pressing the **D** key on the keyboard. Click the layer mask box. Apply the gradient by clicking and dragging the document from bottom to top.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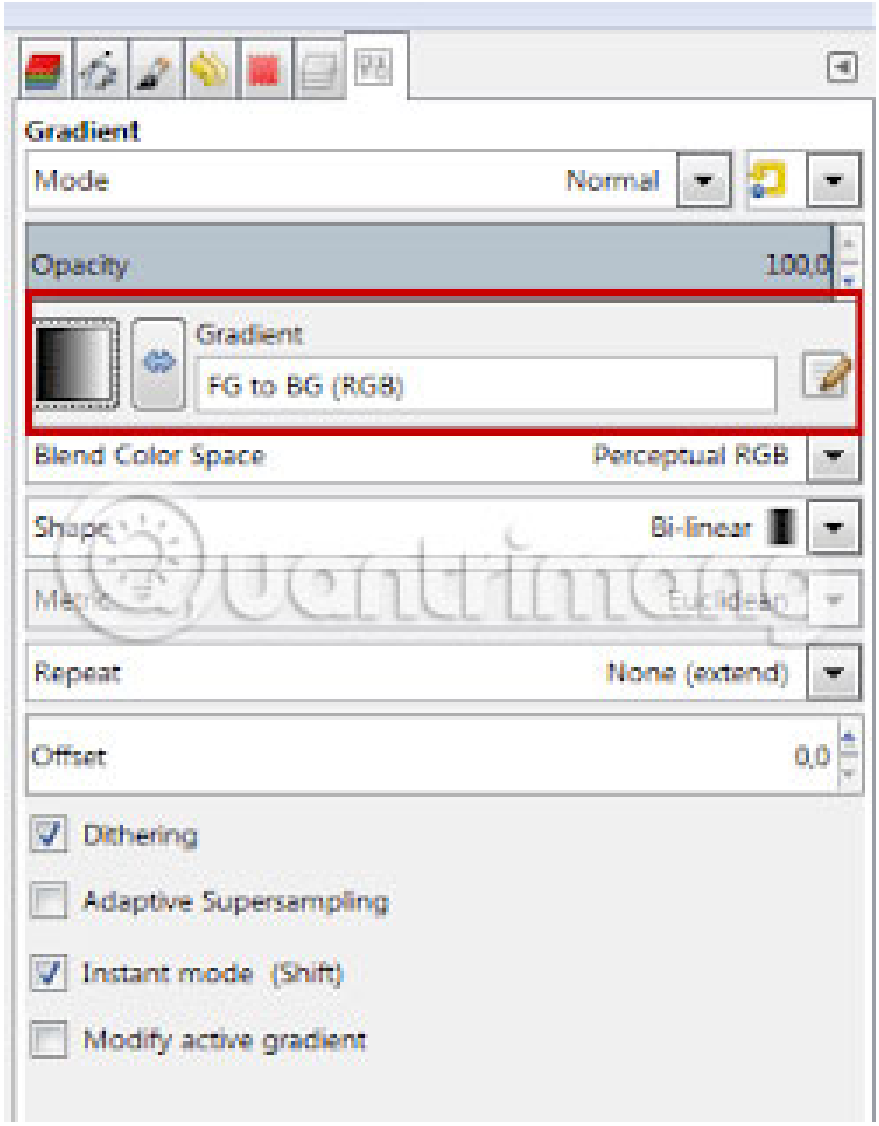
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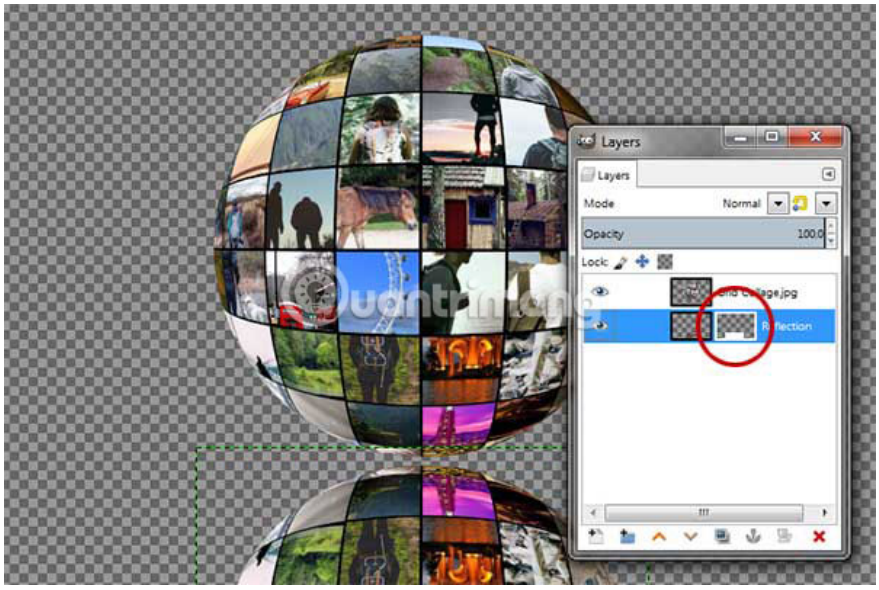
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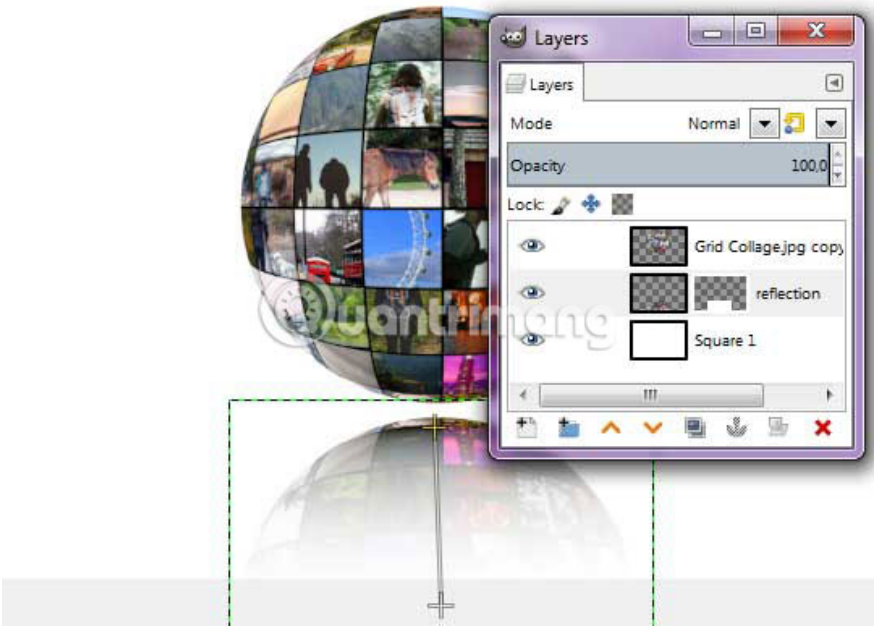

12. Create New Layer From Visible

Move to **Layer> New from visible** . This will merge the visible layers into a new layer above the top. You can duplicate this new layer and arrange it as you like.

13. Save the document

Use **File> Save** in the top menu, or press **Ctrl + S** to save the created image file. The **Save Image** dialog box will appear. Navigate to the folder where you want to save the file. Enter a name in the **Name** text box and select the default GIMP **(* .XCF)** format. XCF is GIMP's original format and is very useful because it stores everything about images, as well as allows you to edit images in GIMP later, in case you notice any problems that arise after finish. Click **Save** to save the file.

Once completed, you'll probably also want to export images in a more widely used format, such as JPEG, PNG, TIFF, etc.

Here are the results:

Hope you are succesful.

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