Making seamless patterns in Photoshop

Patterns are easy to make and use in Photoshop. They don't have to be symmetrical to repeat seamlessly so you can use any image you want .
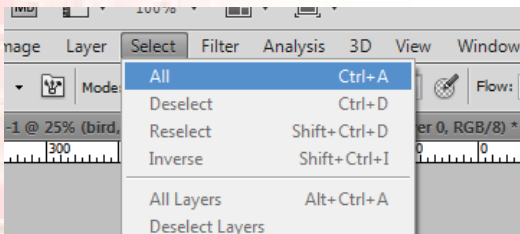
I'm going to show you how I made the pattern here in easy to follow steps.

Step 1.

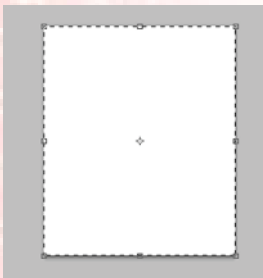Start with a new document. For this example I made a 250 x 300 px one.

Step 2:

To get a crisp pattern, you need to get an accurate centre point for the document. To do this, go to: Select > All (you will see a marquee of marching ants appear around the document boundary).
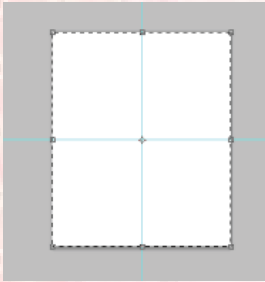
Step 3:

Go to Edit> Free Transform – this will pinpoint the centre of the document.
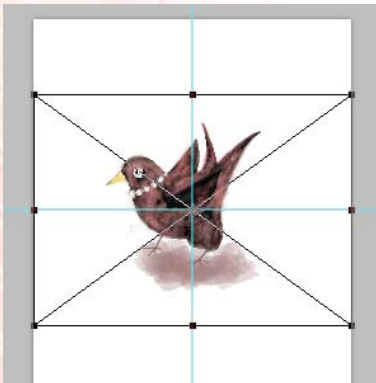
Step 4:

Grab a guide from each of the horizontal and vertical rulers and drag to the centre point. This gives you four quarters.

Step 5:

Place (File > Place) the image that you want to make a pattern from on the canvas – PS automatically centres it this way.
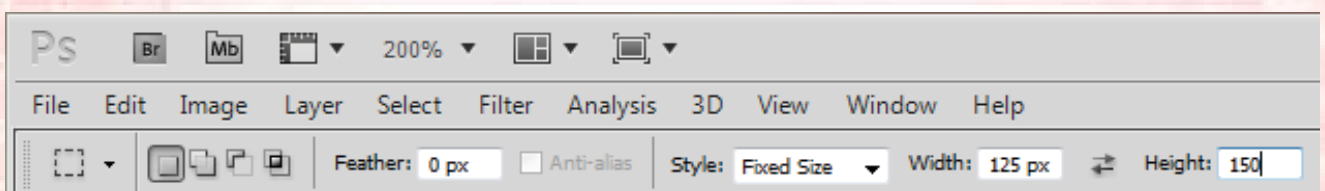
If you rescale, use Free Transform and hold down Alt-Shift while you shrink or enlarge it. This keeps the image in proportion and also reduces or enlarges it from the centre so the image remains centred on the canvas.

Step 6:

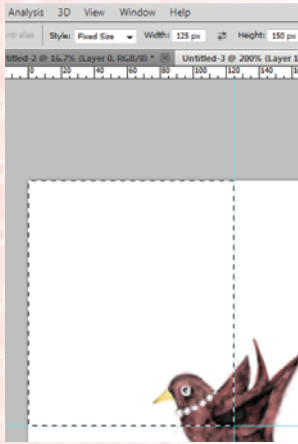We now need to select the portion of the image in each quarter, one at a time.

Go to View > Snap to Document Boundary. Then either draw a 'square' marquee from the top corner to the centre of the document or set the size of the marquee to fit the quarter exactly. We used a canvas of 250 x 300 px. Half the width is therefore 125, half the height is 150.

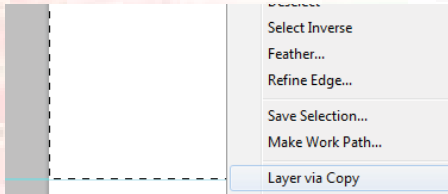Enter the values in the Width and Height fields.

Select the marquee then select Fixed Size from the drop-down Style menu.
Click on the top left quarter of the canvas. The marquee will automatically fill the top left quarter now.
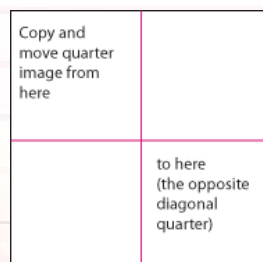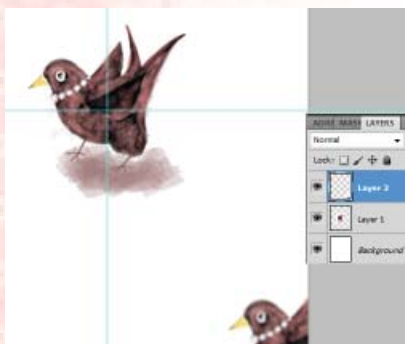
The screen grab below shows one quarter selected.

Step 7:

Right-click and select Layer Via Copy. This copies the portion of the image in the quarter selected and pastes it onto a new layer.
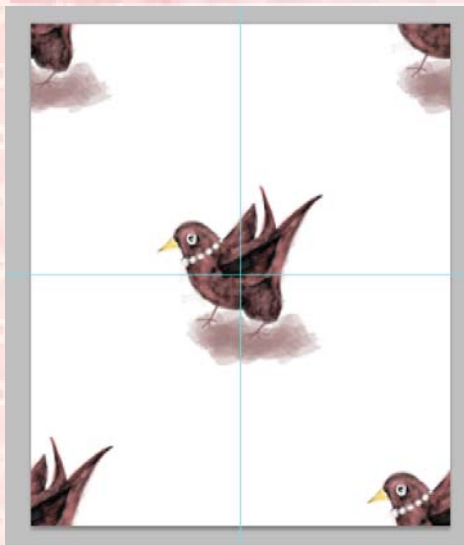

Step 8:

Select the move tool (the black arrow from the Tool presets) and move the quarter image into the opposite diagonal quarter.

Copy and move quarter image from here
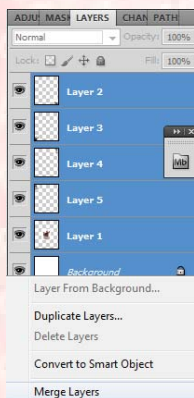
to here (the opposite diagonal quarter)

Go back to the original image layer and repeat steps 6 to 8 to capture and move the remaining three quarters. The end result is an odd looking thing!
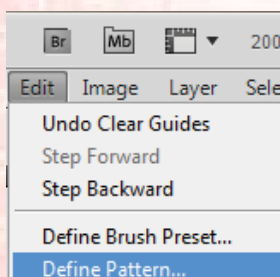

Step 9:

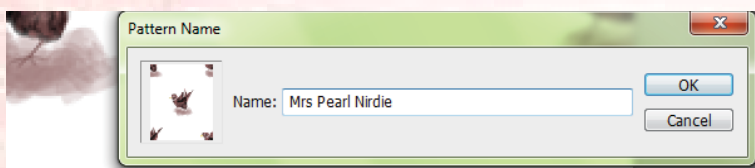Merge all the layers together. Select the layers, right-click and select Merge Layers.

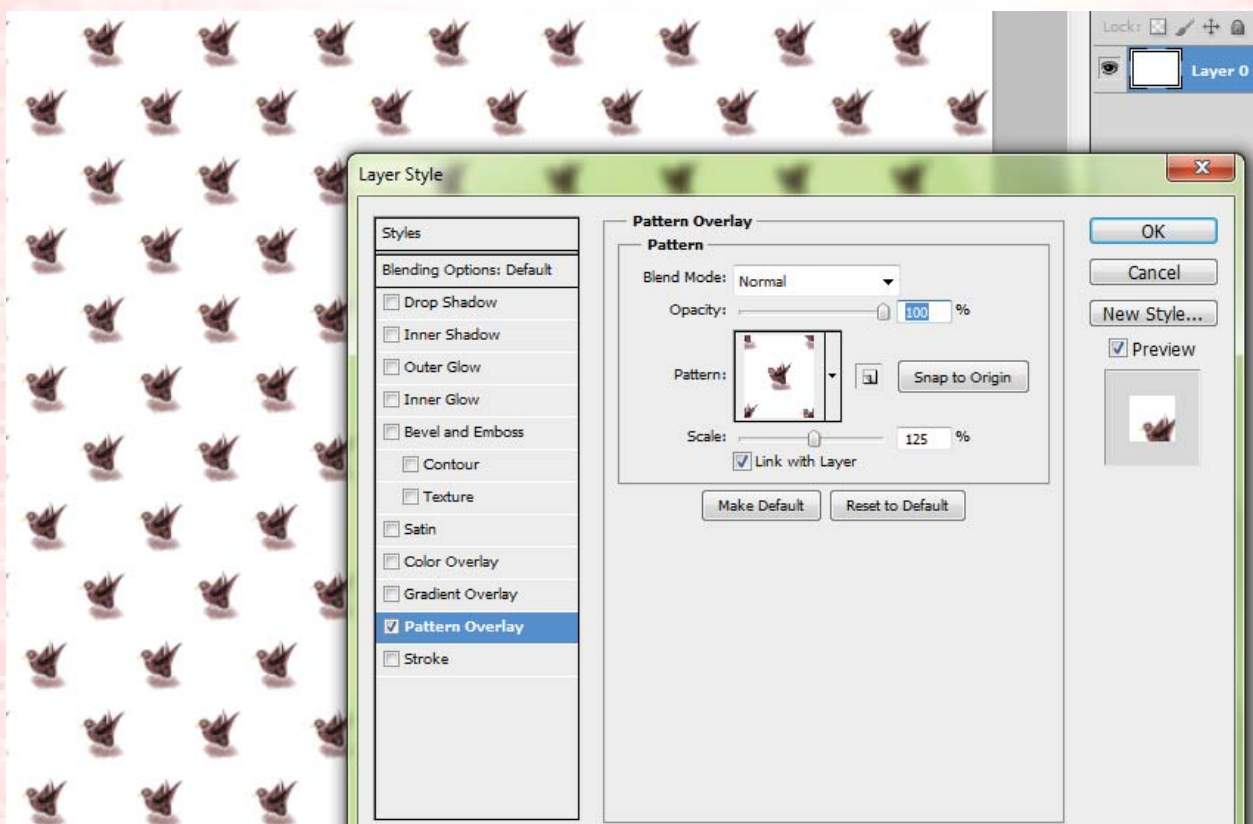Step 10:

Go to Edit > Define Pattern

Step 11:

Give the pattern a name:

Pattern Name

Name: Mrs Pearl Nirdie

OK

Cancel

The pattern is created.

Layer Style

Styles

Blending Options: Default

☐ Drop Shadow
☐ Inner Shadow
☐ Outer Glow
☐ Inner Glow
☐ Bevel and Emboss
  ☐ Contour
  ☐ Texture
☐ Satin
☐ Color Overlay
☐ Gradient Overlay
☑ **Pattern Overlay**
☐ Stroke

Pattern Overlay
Pattern

Blend Mode: Normal

Opacity: 100 %

Pattern: Snap to Origin

Scale: 125 %
☑ Link with Layer

Make Default   Reset to Default

OK
Cancel
New Style...
☑ Preview

Lock: ☐ ✎ ✛ 🔒

👁 Layer 0

I've opened it in the Layers Panel (double-click to bring up the layer options) and scaled the pattern down.

OK it to apply the pattern to the layer. Alternatively, you could use the Stamp Tool from the Tool presets and apply a pattern selectively using a brush, for example.

There, all done and ready to go to. Hope you found it easy to follow.
Enjoy!

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