

Macro Stacking

By Bernard

What is Stacking

- Stacking is when you take multiple photographs of a subject
 - at different focus points to create a blended image with a deep depth of field.
 - Or a blend of a number of images to use specific parts of an image to create a blended single image.
- Effectively it is using a number of layers to create one composite image.

Equipment

A Sturdy Rest



A Flash wit or without a Diffuser



Camera



Preferably a macro Lens



All Set Up



Photographic Technique For Macro

- Macro
 - Can be done with some form of support or hand held.
 - You can use a flash or not. Depends on the lighting and the subject.
 - Set your lens to manual focus and set desired focus distance.
 - Set your camera to manual and set your exposure. Apperture depedns on lighting
 - Choose a focal point on the subject, normally the eye. **This is critical for Post Processing**
 - Because of the shallow depth of field and the closeness to the subject not all of it is in focus.
 - Back away from the subject, keeping the eye at the focal point, until the first part of your subject is in focus and take a photograph.
 - Move slightly forward and take another photograph.
 - Repeat as many times as necessary until you get the back of your subject in focus.
 - Once you have all your photographs load them into Bridge/Light Room /Photoshop where the magic happens.

Photo 1



Photo 2



Photo 3



Photo 4



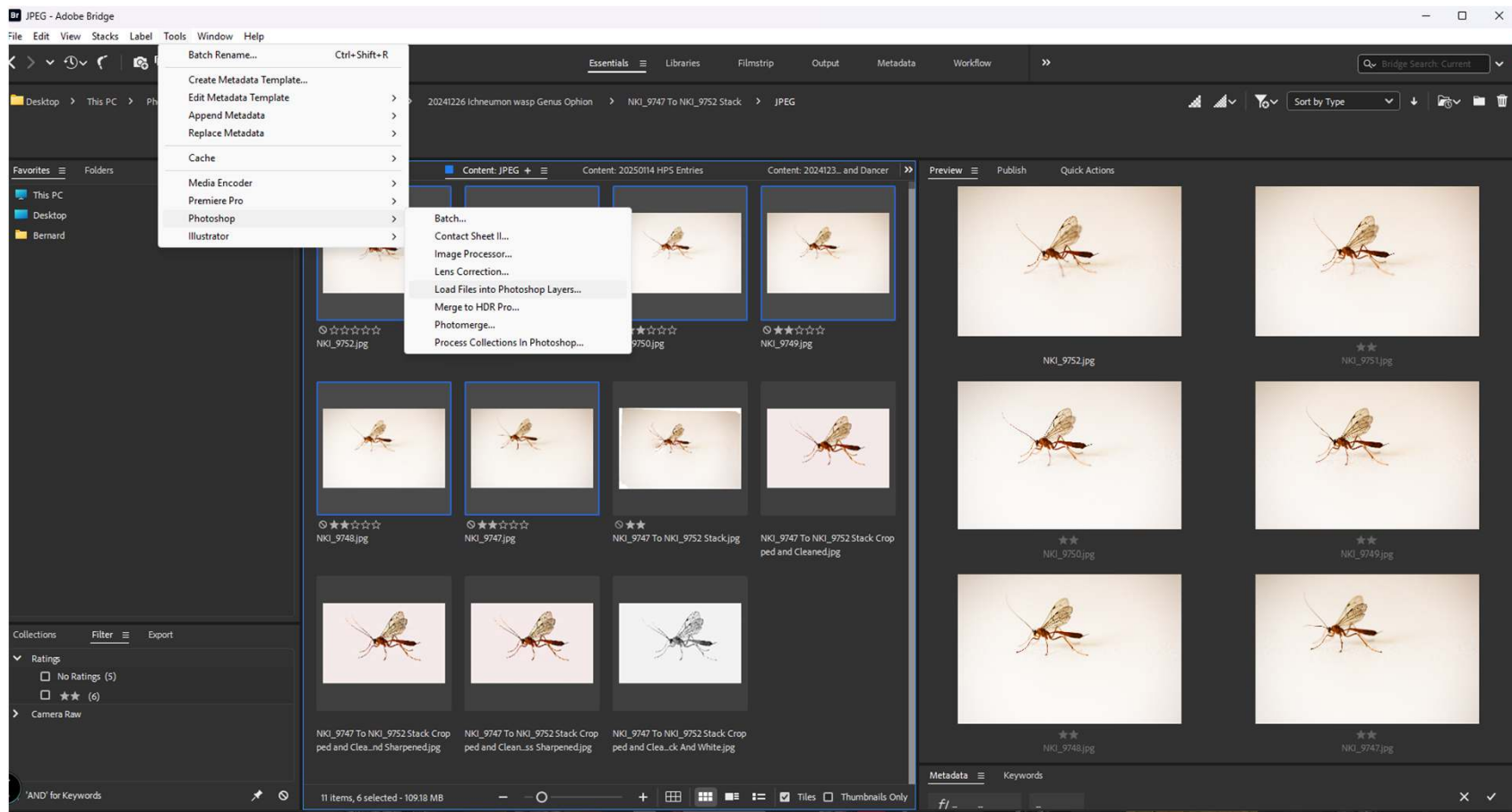
Photo 5



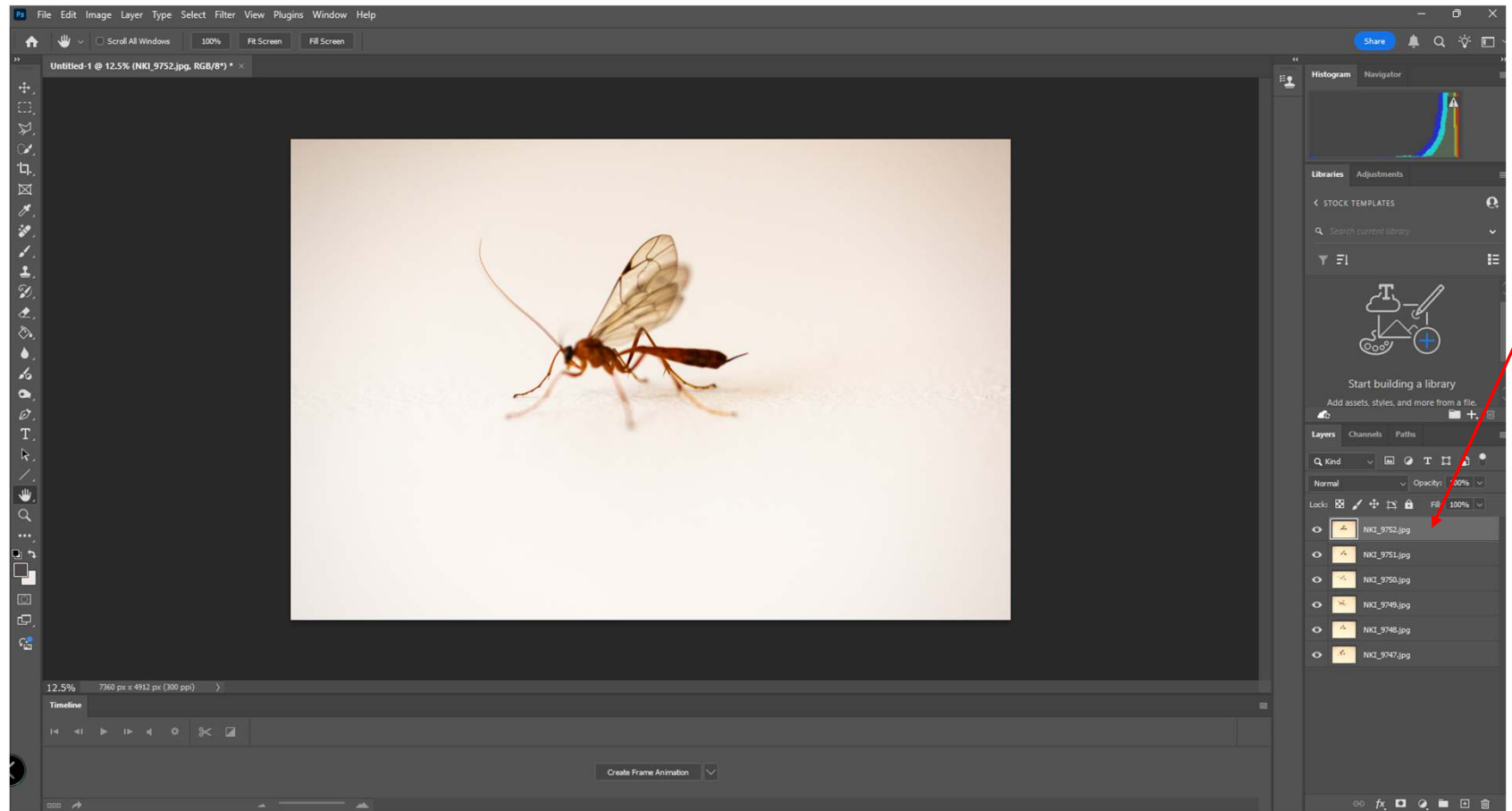
Photo 6



In Adobe Bridge

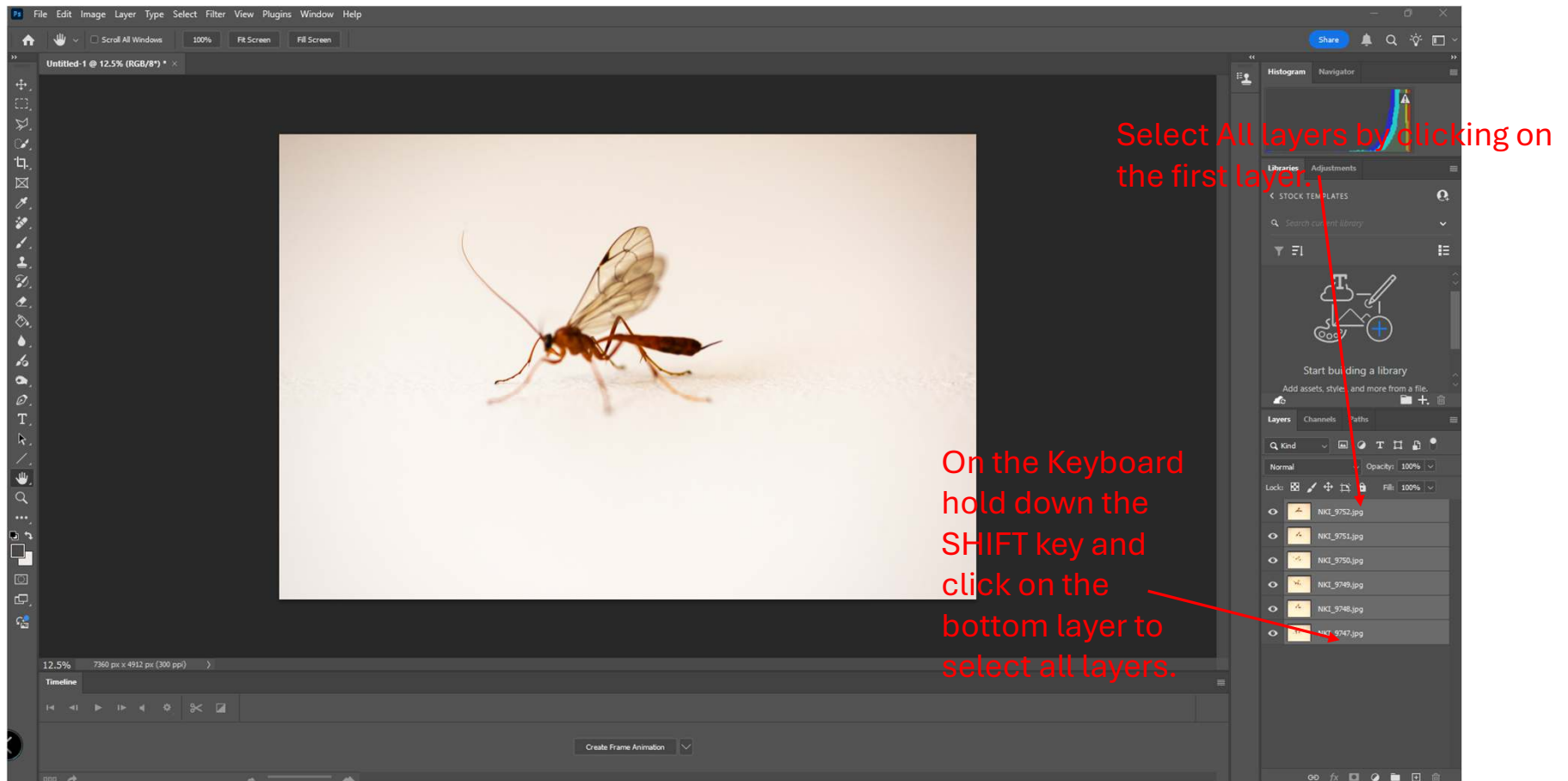


In Photoshop Step 1



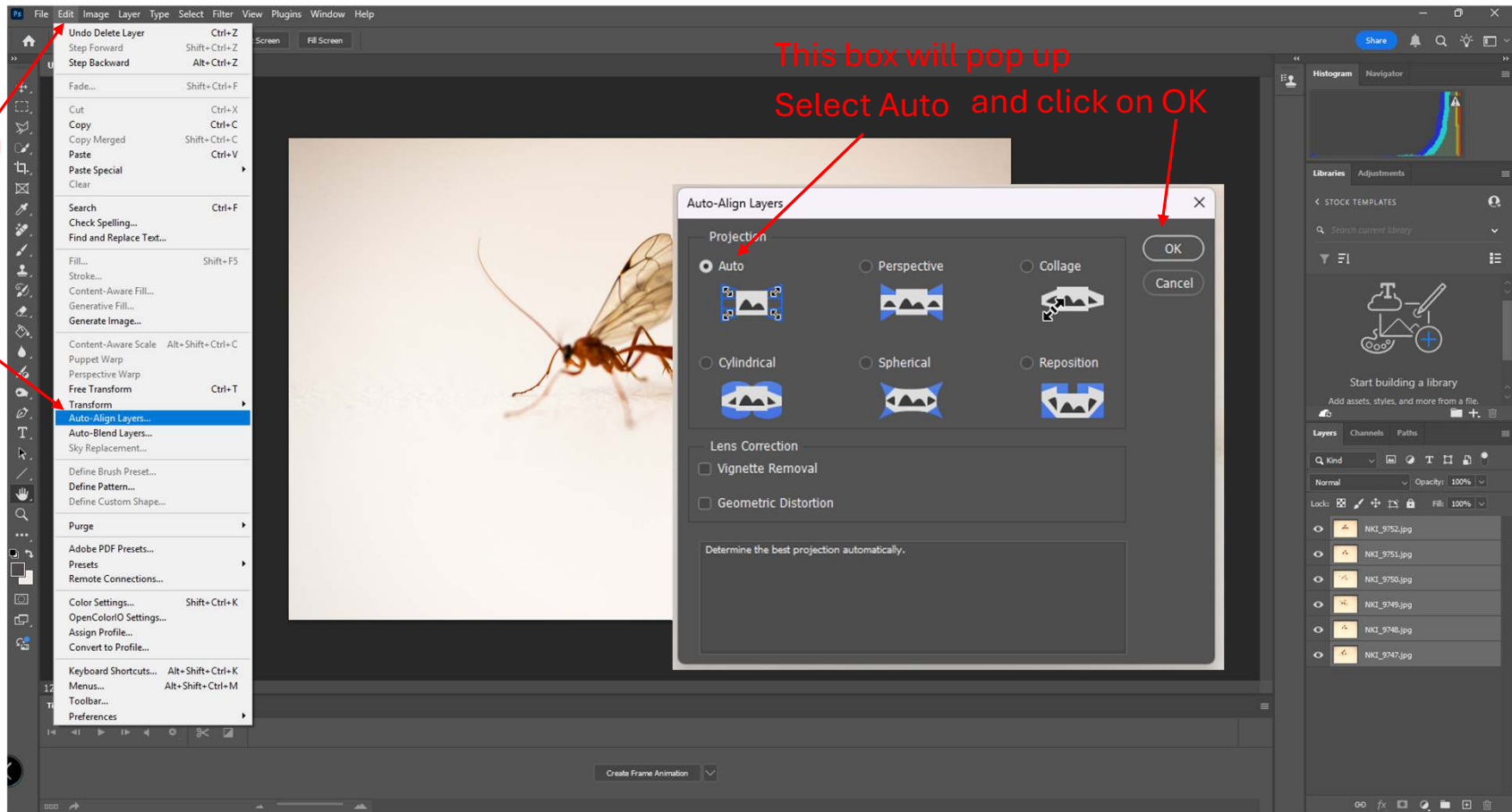
Loaded
into
Layers

Photoshop Step 2

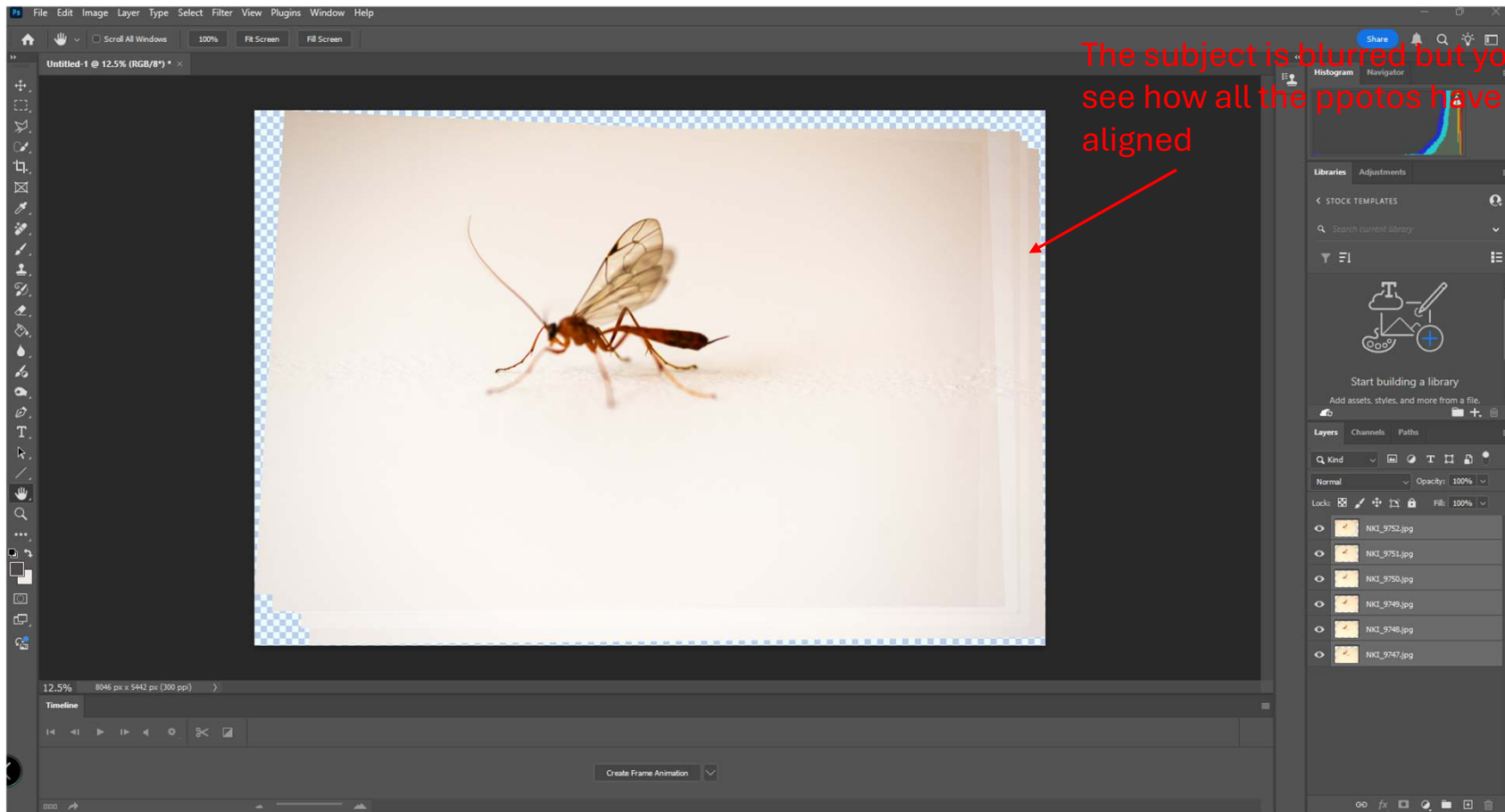


Photoshop Step 3

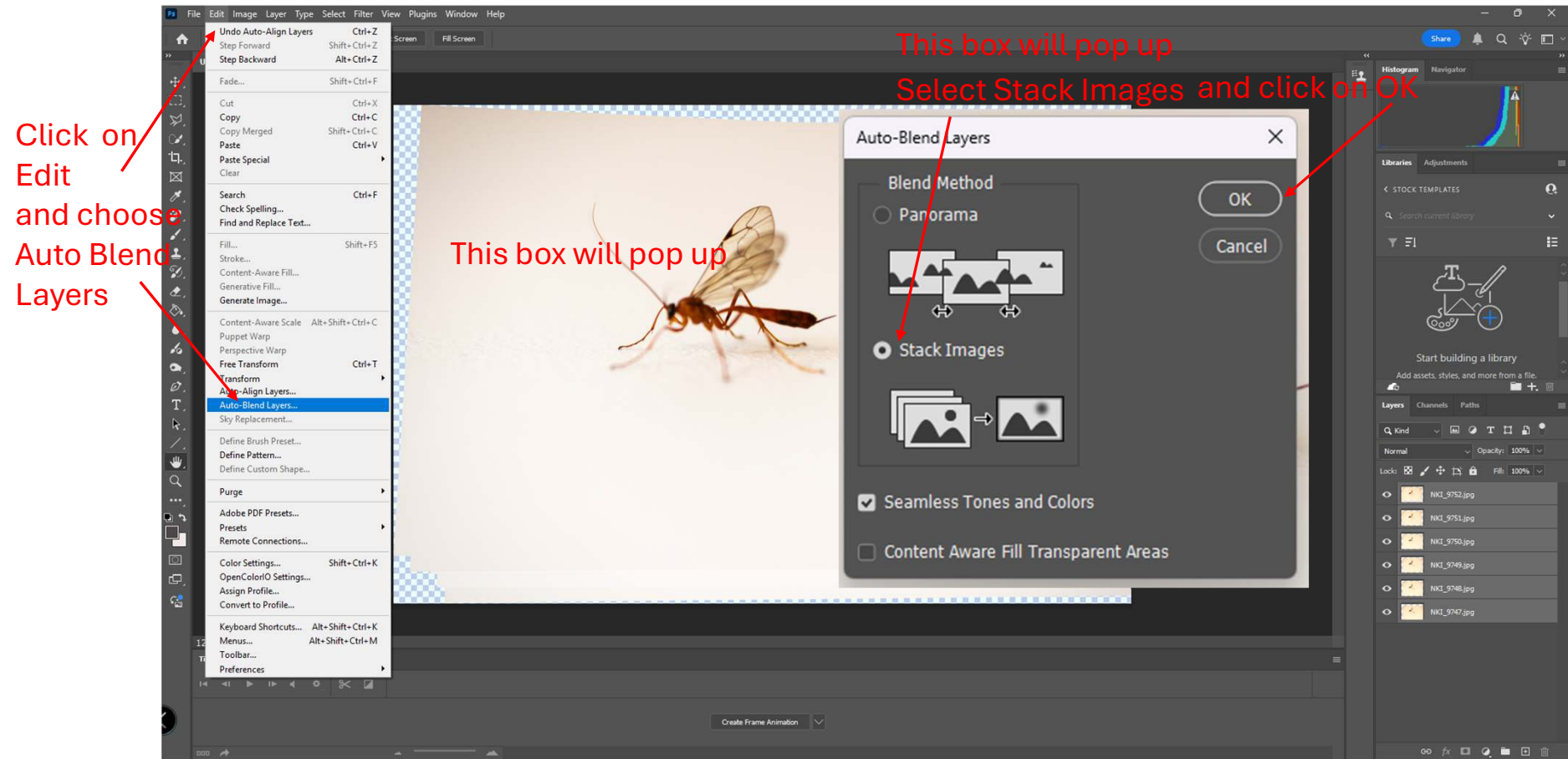
Click on
Edit
and
choose
Auto
Align
Layer



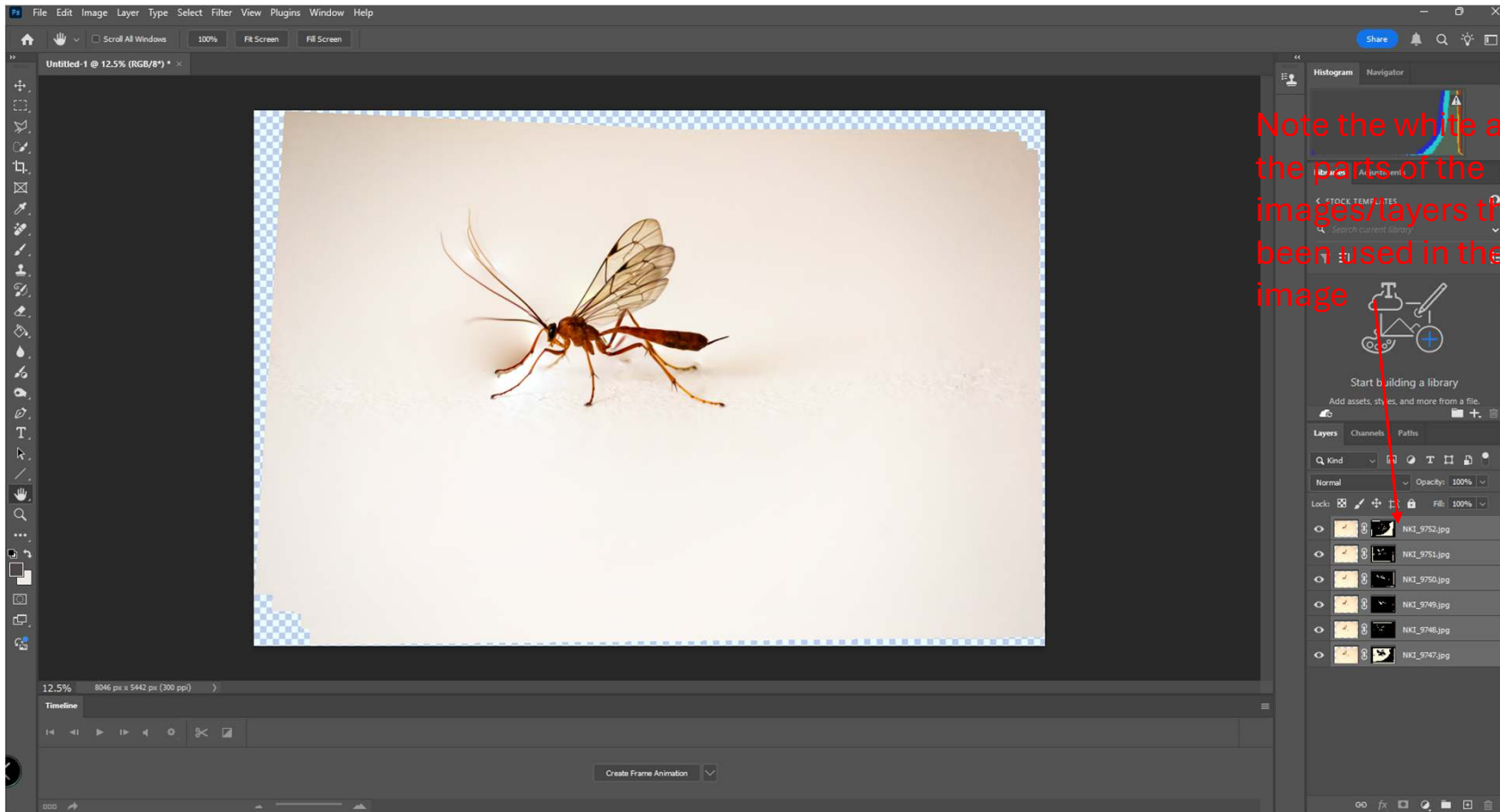
Photoshop You will get an image like this



Photoshop Step 4



Photoshop You will get an image like this



Note the white areas are the parts of the images/layers that have been used in the new image

Photoshop Steps 5.....

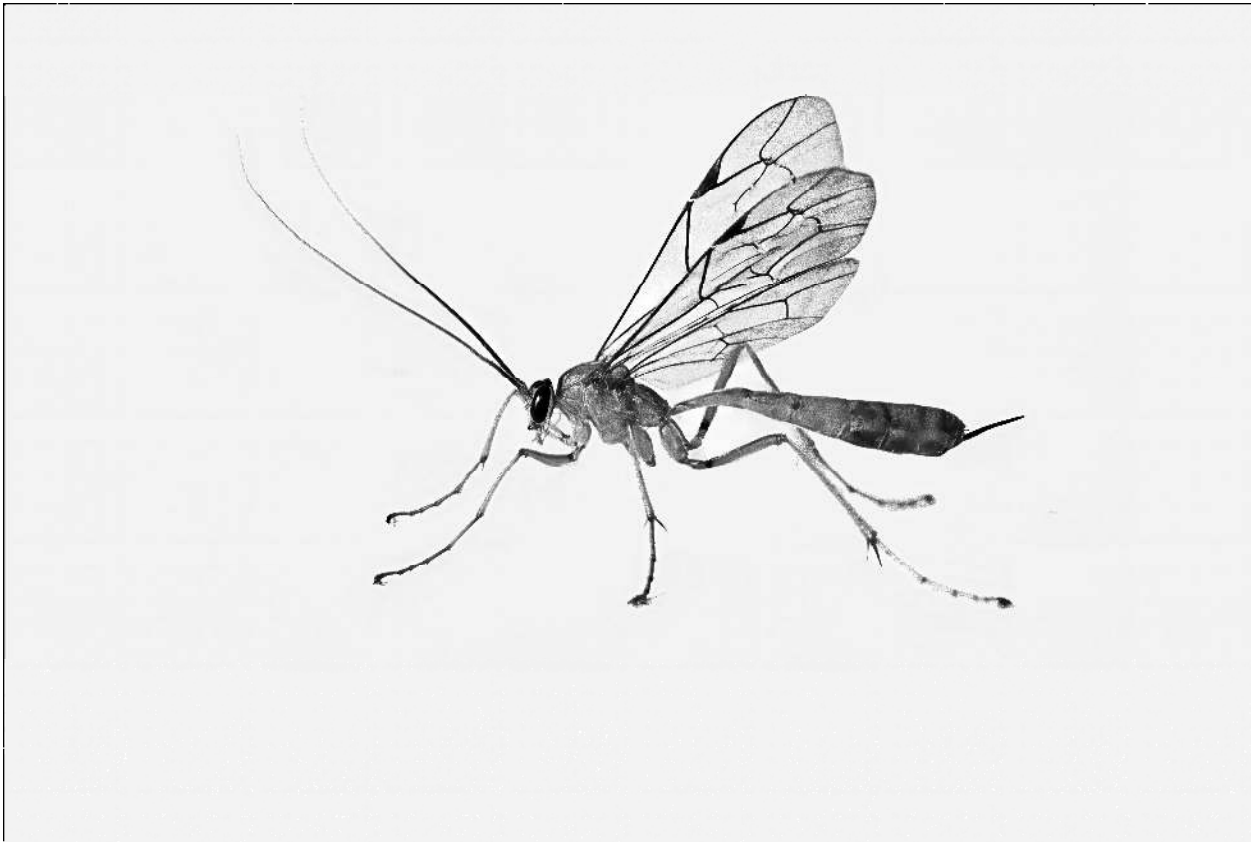
- Now you can start cleaning up your image using
 - Layer Masks
 - The Clone Stamp Tool
 - Or a myriad of other techniques

Final Result 1



File Name: NKI_9747 To
NKI_9752 Stack
Cropped and Cleaned
And High Pass
Sharpened.jpg

Final Result 2



File Name: NKL_9747
To NKL_9752 Stack
Cropped and Cleaned
And High Pass
Sharpened Black And
White.jpg