



GLAMOUR SHOT Although it might appear that a martian was needed to take this photo, this is actually a self-portrait captured by Curiosity's Mars Hand Lens Imager ([MAHLI](#)) on October 31, 2012. Sitting at the end of the rover's 2.1-meter-long robotic arm, the scientific camera snapped 55 hi-res images from different angles. The photos were stitched together to produce this mosaic, which includes only part of the robotic arm. Images like this one help mission engineers document the state of the rover.

In the photo, Curiosity is parked at Rocknest, an area in Gale Crater where the rover scooped its first soil samples, as evidenced by the four visible scoop scars. The base of Mount Sharp—the science team's ultimate target—appears in the upper-right corner of the picture. —KF