

## Preparing Un-Mounted Prints for Competition Using Your Own Printer

The purpose of this tutorial is to provide step-by-step instructions on how you can prepare competition prints at home using your own printer. The result will be a print with a thin white (or other color) line (stroke) around the image and a ½" black border around the entire print. The intent is to create a presentation similar to what one would achieve by printing conventionally and then mounting on a board. It will also provide enough of a border to enable the "gripping" mechanism on the print box to hold the print for judging without blocking any part of the image itself.

Since I use Photoshop Elements 9, the steps outlined here will reference that program, but any image editing program can easily accomplish the same thing.

By way of illustration, the steps below will refer to printing a 12x18 image on 13x19 paper, but the process will work equally well with any size image/paper combination.

1. Crop the final image to 12x18
2. Put a 1 or 2 pixel stroke around the image, using the same procedure as you would for a projected image. I find that a 2 pixel stroke works best for this size print.
3. Got to Image >> Resize >> Resize Canvas and enter the paper dimensions (13x19) in this case. Do NOT press "Enter" yet
4. At the bottom of this same window you will see "Canvas Extension Color" and the word "Background" in a box – do NOT change.
5. Immediately to the right of this box will be a small white box – click on this box to open the "color picker" box. Place your cursor at the extreme corner of the box which will produce "black" and click.
6. Click "OK" to close the "color picker" box. The "Canvas Size" box will now be on the screen. The little box to the right that was originally "white" should now be "black". Now click "OK" on the "Canvas Size" box.

The completed image on the screen will now show the white stroke and the ½' black border around the print. Remember to set your printer for "borderless" to print this image.

Using this same procedure, you can produce any size and/or any color border or "stroke" you want. As an example; if you want a ¾" border instead of a ½" border, simply crop your image to 11 ½" by 17 ½" before you put the "stroke" around your image and keep the "canvas size" at 13x19.