

How to Enter an Image in Digital Competition



St. Louis Camera Club
(revised September 22, 2009)

Steps for submitting an image for a digital competition (Summary)

- Resize your image to
Max of 10" wide by 7.5" high at 140dpi (Required)
(this is also max of 1400 pixels by 1050 pixels)
- Place a border around your image. (Optional/See discussion)
- Convert your image to sRGB color space
(Optional/Recommended)
- The image file must be in JPEG format. (Required)
- The image file size must be 800 KB or less. (Required)
- Submit your image by accessing the club web site at <http://www.stlcameraclub.com> and following instructions.
(Required)
- *For more detailed instruction please continue...*

Preparing an Image for SLCC Digital Competition (Required)

To Resize an image in Photoshop :

- From menu select Image/Image Size
- Check “Constrain Proportions” and “Resample Image”
- Enter Width as 1400 pixels or Enter 140 ppi Resolution and 10”
- If Height is greater than 1050 pixels or 7.5” , change it to 1050 pixels or 7.5 inches which will also reduce Width
- Click OK
- If you send more pixels than these limits, you will only degrade your image because you will be forced to use a lower quality conversion to JPEG and the extra pixels will be ignored anyhow because this is the limit of our projection equipment.

Should You Add A Border

- Only if it improves the artistic composition.
 - An image with a black background may benefit since it will be displayed on a black screen.
 - Border must improve the composition and not detract from it.
 - Any color in the border must complement the composition and not detract from it.
- Nature competitions judge the quality of the 'nature story' more important than artistic composition.
 - Many Nature judges personally dislike borders on nature images so it must have unusual artistic value.
 - Lack of a border on a nature image with black background can sometimes emphasize the impact of the nature subject.

Preparing an Image for SLCC Digital Competition (Optional)

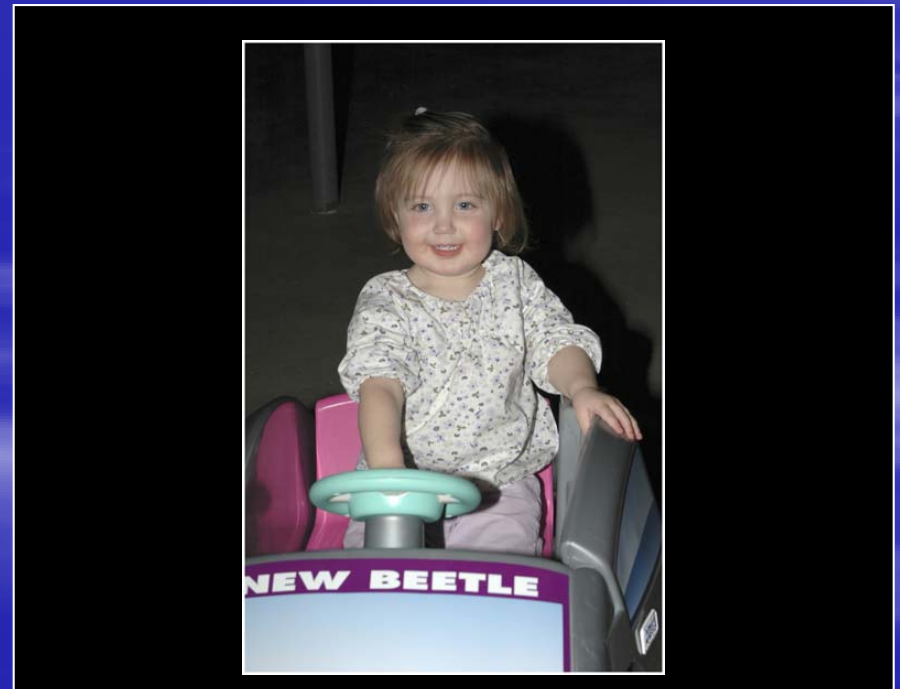
How to Put a border around image in Photoshop:

- Select the entire image by clicking on Select/All or Press Ctrl+A (shortcut)
- On the tool bar make the default color White (or whatever color you choose to best aid your composition)
- From menu select Edit/Stroke
- Enter 1 or 2 px for Stroke width
- Color should be the default color you selected.
- Check Inside for Location
- Blending Mode should be Normal and Opacity 100%
- Click on OK
- Press Ctrl+D (shortcut) to remove the selection or deselect the current selection by clicking on Selection/Deselect.
- To view the effect press the F key twice to view the image on a black background.

Preparing an Image for SLCC Digital Competition

(Example to separate image from background)

- White Border (In Photoshop Click on Select>All, then Edit>Stroke, Set width , select color and Inside)



Preparing an Image for SLCC Digital Competition (Optional / Recommended)

(so winners will display to best advantage on the web site)

Convert Image to sRGB in Photoshop:

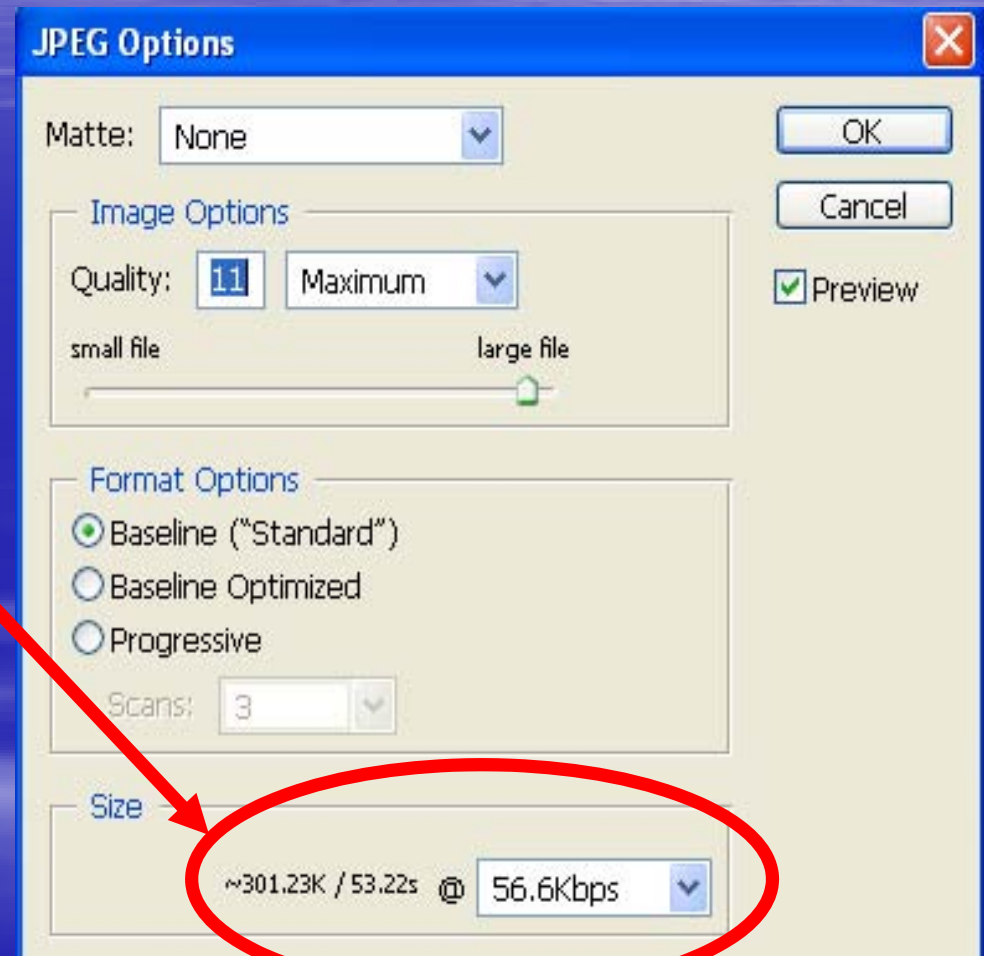
- From the menu select Image/Mode/Convert to Profile.
- If Source Space Profile is not sRGB then you should convert.
- Set Destination Space Profile to sRGB (name is probably really sRGB IEC61966-2.1)
- Engine should be Adobe (ACE).
- Intent should be either Perceptual or Relative.
- Black Point Compensation and Dither should both be checked.

Preparing an Image for SLCC Digital Competition (Required)

- Save with new name and format
 - Press Ctrl+Shift+S or Click on File, Save As
- You must select Format: JPEG (*.jpg, *.jpeg, *.jpe)
- With the new system for submission on the web, you may **name** your file whatever you please and store it anywhere. The filename will not be used in competition nor recorded.
 - It is recommended that you record the filename along with the Title you use when submitting it so you can remember which of your images have been entered into competition.
 - It is also a good practice to save a copy of each file that has won in competition in a “Winners” folder so you do not accidentally enter a winner a second time.
- Click Save to move to the JPEG options screen.
 - See next page

Preparing an Image for SLCC Digital Competition (Required)

- From the Save As screen click Save to get to the screen of JPEG Options
- Check the Preview option
- At the bottom of this screen see a line like “~nnn.nnK/nn.nnS @ 56.6 kbps”
- The first part of this (nnn.nnK) is the estimated size of the file after jpeg compression
- Change the Quality to give a size that is nearly but not larger than 800K.
- Files larger than 800K will be rejected.
- Click OK



This diagram is for Photoshop Cs & CS2. CS3 shows estimated size directly below the Preview option.

Procedure for entering a digital competition: (Required)

- **Images must be submitted by:**
 - **Accessing the St. Louis Camera Club Website**
 - Look on the home page for a link to the page for submitting images for competition.
 - **Only members may enter.**
 - **Entry of your first and last name and a title will be used to create a filename for your entry in the competition. Pay particular attention to the list of forbidden characters which must not be included in any of your names or titles.**
 - * ? : “ / \ < > | are prohibited in creating a Windows filename.
 - Apostrophe and # create major problems on the web site.
 - The apostrophe must not be included in a name like O'Donnell .
 - The apostrophe must not be included in a title like John's Dog.
 - The # symbol must not be included in a title like Flower #2.
 - **You must browse your computer to find and select the file to submit.**
 - **You must select the correct Class you intend to enter.**
 - Entry into the wrong class will cause disqualification in the competition.
 - If you have never won in club competition, you are in Class B and are not listed.
 - If you are unsure of your correct class, consult “Lifetime Points and Class” on the web site.
 - **You will get a confirmation message and an email confirmation.**

Questions

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