



Guidelines for Providing Critiques

- This is not a photo contest but rather a sharing of images, techniques and personal reactions.
- You don't need to comment the same way as a judge would do.
- You can say how YOU react to the picture as a whole as if you saw it in a gallery and were making comments about it.
- You can say how you react to the digital techniques, their choice and their execution.
- You can say what you would have done to correct a similar problem.
- You can say how you could have achieved the same effect using another technique.
- You can suggest other things to do to the same image.
- It is all right to point out (nicely) anything you that you consider to be a defect.
- Don't get upset - not everyone sees their own crooked horizons!
- You can download the photo, work on it yourself, and email it back to the original maker in order to show what you would do to improve it or to show another version.
- We all know that there is often more than one way to perform a digital technique so let us be happy to hear the other methods.
- We don't know what the other person knows so let us take any constructive criticisms in a positive manner.
- The study group is supposed to be a fun sharing of ideas and an enlightening sharing of our reactions. The more creative the suggestions the better and more informed we will be.
- We do NOT score the photos. No numbers, no stars, etc. This is a "study" group, not a photo contest. Our purpose is to learn how other people react to our images, to learn what other people are doing, to share our methods, to learn how to improve our methods, to learn new methods, and to interact with other photographers.
- Let's appreciate the great comments and appreciate the learning that we acquire from the rest of the comments! Remember that not everyone has the same tastes. Not everyone visually likes the same cars, architecture, fashions, etc.! There isn't always a right or wrong, often merely preferences.

Guidelines for Submitting Images

1. All images will be sized to a maximum of 550 pixels on each side and then saved in JPEG format with a file size of 300KB maximum. In Photoshop or Photoshop Elements, you can do this by resizing your image in Photoshop's Image > Image Size menu or Elements 3.0 Image > Resize menu. In the dialog box check Resample. In the boxes in the top labeled Pixel Dimensions, change the pixel dimensions so that neither the height nor width is greater than 500 pixels. We want to point out that you do NOT have to change the resolution of the image. Changing this to 72 dpi is a myth. Resolution is only for determining the resolution for printing.

2. Pixel dimensions are the only numbers that need to be changed. In other image enhancing programs use a similar image resizing command. Next, Save As and pick JPEG and select a quality that keeps the file size to 300KB max. In Photoshop or Photoshop Elements 3 a good approach is to use the Save For Web command in the File menu and you can get a visual comparison of the image after compression so that you can pick the quality that gives you the best image, again keeping the file size under 300KB.

3. In Photoshop a good way to limit your file size is that in the Save For Web dialog box you will find a little arrow on the right side above the word Optimized. If you click on this arrow you will find a selection "Optimize to File size". If you select this, you can enter 300 in the Desired File Size box and Photoshop will select the quality that will keep the file under 300KB.

4. Instructions for those using PaintShop Pro (version 7):

Step 1 - (Resizing): Image -> Resize -> check "Pixel size" and enter one dimension (Width if your image is in Portrait format or Height if your image is in Landscape format) and make sure that BOTH Width and Height are within the PSA guidelines. Leave the "Maintain aspect ratio" box checked, so your image isn't distorted during resizing. When satisfied, click OK.

Step 2 - (Export to JPEG): File -> Export -> JPEG Optimizer -> both Uncompressed (original) and Compressed sizes are displayed at the top of the panel. Slide the bar under "Set compression value" to left or right, until the COMPRESSED size is within the PSA guidelines. When satisfied, click OK and name your file.

5. Please send the image as an e-mail attachment and the write-up as part of the e-mail message. If you want you can send separate smaller thumbnail images in addition to the study image to show how you created your image. Some suggested items to include in the descriptions that accompany each photo is whether the original image is from a film or digital camera; how the image got into the computer; the photo editing program used; the effect you were trying to achieve; and a description of the subject matter.

6. Use your name as the monthly image filename or one suggested by your administrator. This helps identify each month's submissions and saves steps for the administrator when sending the images to the website. Don't forget to provide a descriptive title for the online display. Note – If someone wants to steal an image from the web they are stealing pixels and 550 pixels on a side aren't enough to produce a good print. For example, many feel that a printing resolution of 240 ppi is the lowest resolution that will produce an acceptable print. Divide a total of 550 pixels by 240 pixels per inch and you get a print of about 2 inches square.