

Learn how you can simply edit images and avoid the mistakes

5 basic steps

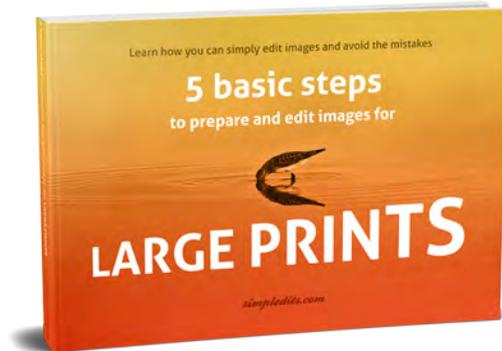
to prepare and edit images for



LARGE PRINTS

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Introduction



This free eBook is a photo editing guide that explains 5 basic steps how the photo editors choose, edit, and refine images before sending them back to a photographer, a client or a print house.

It helps you to see how to check and analyze photos for the Large prints, such as canvas or posters and why it is very important to keep these ways and techniques even for online displayed images.

It briefly describes editing, cropping and enhancing of the image. You will learn common image editing mistakes and composition rules.

Check out for photography styles that are used mostly. Find out which imperfections or disturbing parts to put away.

And finally why exporting images to JPG is not always a good idea and how to send large images for printing out.

About the author



Peter Marwins is an expert in the field of picture editing, and general graphic design. He has been working for print and online media houses, advertising agencies, photographers, graphic designers, artists, and an unending list of clients with diverse needs.

For over 20 years, he advised his clients how to prepare, process, and finish visual files with the right image editing, postproduction and printing.

His passion over years is in picture editing. He became a professional image editor and retouching expert, with a wide range of experience in photography and image manipulation.

With a tested and proven track record of retouching, scanning, proofing, image manipulation, photography, and digital printing experience in the demanding fashion, photography, and publishing industry, he has been able to help and teach professionals as well as all enthusiasts who are keen on understanding image editing.

**COMPLETE PHOTO
PREPARATION GUIDE**
**EDIT PHOTOS
LIKE A PRO**

5 chapters
64 pages on
*FIND THE SECRETS
AND RULES OF
IMAGE EDITING*

*Find out more in
eBook*



LET ME KNOW MORE!

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First Date with image editing

In 1991 as a student of a printing school, Peter first saw image retouching and cloning a part from digital image on computer screen, and he will never forget that moment and the image. It was an image of a British horse rider sitting on a brown horse.

The image editor was slowly showing what could be done in digital retouching those days. What an unbelievable masterpiece it was!

The image was scanned from reversal film 6x6 cm on Heidelberg scanner, which had one part in the first room where scanner operator would prepare and scan the original. The second part of the machine was in another dark room, where the operator would collect the film material from scanned, edited, and retouched images.

Can you imagine today a scanner that will take up the space of two rooms?
Or even work with a film material to create your photo?

On the other hand, let's learn how to make your image a final art.

Online image editing & upscaling sites

Make sure you have fast broadband when working with online image editors. Be prepared that all your work can be lost. Save often to computer.

Image Enlarger

The resulting image can only be enlarged to the limit of 4,500 pixel height or width.

Fotor

Well rated free online image editing program. Upscaling limited to original size.

PicsTouch

Tool to crop the images only as a JPG and under 10 MB size. Up-sizing up to 600%.

Pixl Editor

Limited to 4,000 px size

LunaPic

Editor that selects images from PC or social sites. It is an Add-on for web browsers

BeFunky

Limited to 4,000 px size

PicMonkey

Free editor that works in your browser. Images up to 4,000 x 4,000px, slow editing.

1.

Analyze the Big picture

Save time with simple advice right from the beginning.

*Open picture, decide if it is the right photo,
check image size, incoming formats.*

Photo by Roman Krchnak

Analyze image and check file size before processing

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TIP

Firstly, if you work with data on your PC/MAC, **import/copy the work files/ images to the main hard drive of your computer from any external source.**

Copying the files from the camera, Flashcard, USB flash drive or an external hard drive (HDD) **will save you some precious time and make your work fast.** In addition, you will save your original file too.

Imagine that you copy files from external hard drive 2 or 3 times slower, than you make a copy on your computer HDD. So how slow will be the speed every time you try to save your images to external drive?

Most of the files prepared before print are saved in RAW, JPG, TIFF. Using other formats for the LARGE PRINT will have a negative effect to the quality of your photo. The same applies for down-sampled images.

IMPORTANT!

If you plan to edit images, keep or save them for editing into Tiff, Raw format.

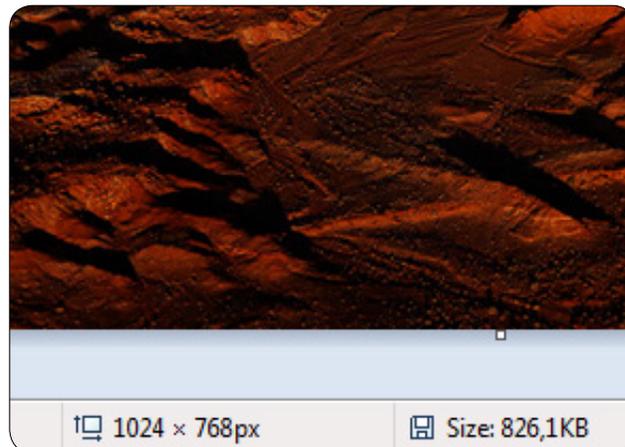
Basic check of an image size

Where to check for image size?

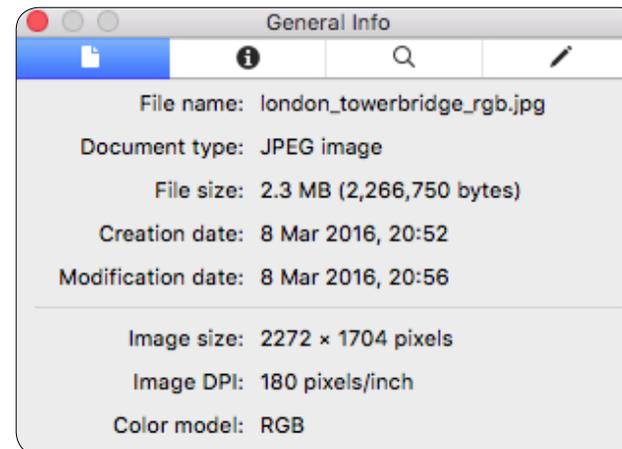
Mostly it's in any app menu under Edit, Canvas size or Properties of the image.

You can always find this information in pre-installed apps as **the Paint app on Windows**. You can check resolution in the Paint app status bar in the bottom of your application window.

In the **Preview on OS X** you can check it in Tools/Show inspector, shortcut Cmd I, and same command applies for **Photos application on OS X**.



Information from Paint app [PC]



Information from Preview [MAC]

COMPLETE GUIDE
HOW TO PREPARE
YOUR PHOTOS FOR
ANYTHING

EDIT PHOTOS
LIKE A PRO

5 chapters
64 pages
Find out how you can
edit images as a PRO
image editor



GET ME THERE!

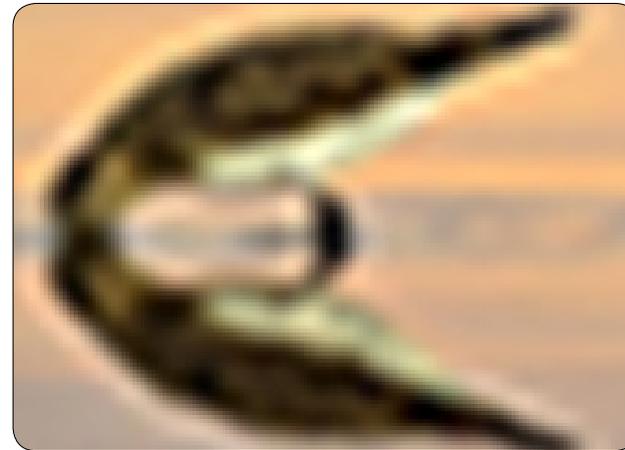
Bitmaps vs. Vectors

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basic knowledge

Bitmap is a rasterized image with exact numbers of pixels. When upscaled over 20% and more, picture can and will get pixelated.



Bitmap image 100%



Bitmap image enlarged to 500%

Vector image is made from lines, points and curves that are scalable to any size without quality loss.



Vector image 100%



Vector image enlarged to 500%

Analyze the Big picture

Check the following settings before opening the photo for Large up-scaling:

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TIP

1. Image data size in Megabytes/MB

The approximate size of the image file format suitable for up-scaling is at least in **JPG 1,2 MB**, **PNG 10 MB** and **RAW/TIFF/DNG** format from 12 MB and above.

2. Minimal size of the picture recommended: Any bigger size over format A3. A3 print measures **29.7 x 42.0 cm** or **11.69 x 16.53 inches** or **4,961 x 3,508 px**.

3. Resolution is the most important. With minimal A3 size we need at least **300 DPI** [Dots Per Inch] **and above**. This doesn't apply to **vector images**.

4. Quality of the picture and most common defects

Well-known defects in images are **chromatic aberration**, **distortion** and **pixelation**.

5. Color space is in **RGB** from digital cameras **and converted into CMYK** is used for print ready files.



300 DPI for print



72 DPI for displays



25 DPI



10 DPI

2.

Edit

Crop & Enhance

*Look inside the picture quality.
Common image editing mistakes. Composition rules.
Edit images and check Histogram,
use Levels and Saturation.*

Photo by Roman Krchnak

Common image editing mistakes and what to check out.

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TIP

As it was mentioned before, you can open the best-looking image and pick it for your print. You will give it a desired upscaled size, close to or even over 40 inch/1 m.

When you look closer you see that the picture is pixelated, it may look blurry, lines at the edges in image are with some green, red or blue lines (chromatic aberration) and JPEG pixel artifacts might just be too visible now.

Even dust marks from camera sensor grow to be too visible as well... and your image just doesn't look sharp and clean.

Check also if you've done all basics and avoided mistakes that can ruin your work.

What to definitely check when you first open a picture is

- » sharpness and composition
- » what is in the black/dark parts of the images
- » how overexposed/light the photo is

Find out more common editing mistakes such as

- » Bad crop of the image
- » Final resolution
- » Over-sharpening
- » Clipped highlights
- » Weak contrast
- » Unreal photo color temperature

and more in eBook



GET ME THERE!

Crop your image with composition rules.

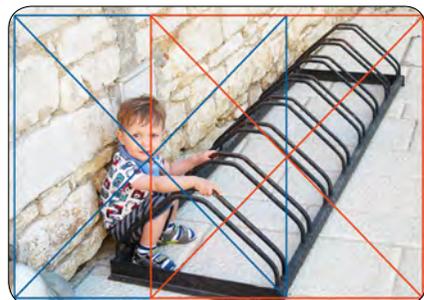
Decide which part of the picture you want to select. To help you with right selection use these basic composition rules, which will help you to select the best part from your image. These are "Rule of Thirds", Golden Ratio, Diagonal composition and Triangle composition.



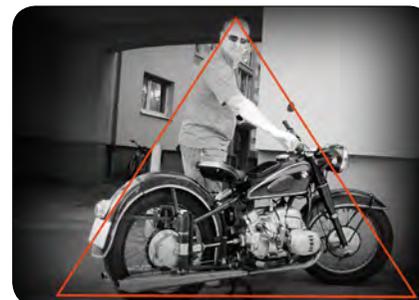
The "Rule of Thirds"



Golden Ratio



Diagonal composition



Triangle composition

If you want to know how to crop with composition rules, see the samples and make the right selection with the eBook



GET ME THERE!

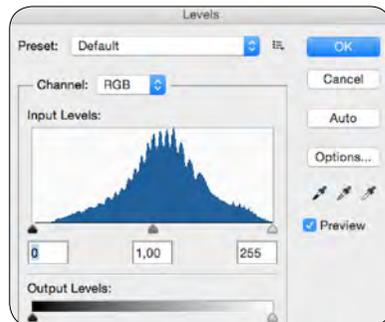
Histogram and Levels

Histogram

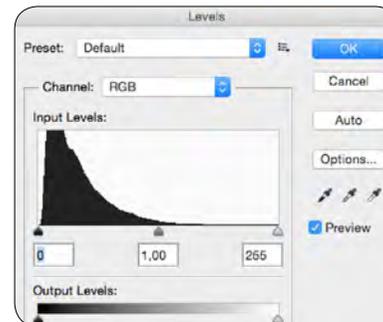
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basic knowledge

If you open the Levels or Curves tools in most of image editing apps, you'd see the histogram inside. Histogram is a graph, which **shows you the amount of tonal range** in the color raster graphic - your camera picture. You can find histogram in digital cameras on display too, when shooting and checking your photos.

Levels



Example of a Histogram in blue



Sample of the strong shadows.



Dark image, strong shadows

Check in Levels the shadows, or the highlights of the image to see if the photo is too dark or too bright.

Click and drag triangles to adjust slides, that **represents 3 values** for tonal range of the image. Dark/**Shadows**, Grey/**Midtones** and White/**Highlight tones**.

Saturation/Vibrancy

This is the most powerful color cleaning and color enhancing tools. However, lets be honest, would you have your face color as bright orange, sky bright-bright blue and grass greener than green is just so surreal. So be careful and use it wisely not to make a surreal art. If you want to create Andy Warhol style art that is a completely different story. :)



The natural real look of the scene and accurate skin color.



Oversaturated. Saturation is set to 70% to show you how it should not look like.

Black & White

As the opposite for oversaturated pictures, you can try to give to your image another meaning. Black & White style gives to a photo more artistic look if there is more contrast around the main subject.



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basic knowledge

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I WANT TO KNOW MORE!

3.

Tweak ***create your style***

***Add filters, play with 4 basic photography effects,
add your feelings and mood to the picture.***

Photo by Roman Krchnak

Effects, Filters & Feelings

IMPORTANT!

Continue working in the RGB color mode to keep the best of the colors. CMYK is losing most of the colors because of the limited color space.

Here are just some basic styles to make your picture stand out from others. To cover all aspects of the effects, filters, add-ons and styles, this free eBook would be endless.

Once perfect picture shot with your camera, with these styles, you can add a nice bit of a final touch.

How deep you can go with experiencing and experimenting with any of effects and filters, it is all up to you.

You can buy/download the filters or just search for filters and styles for your app.

So enjoy tweaking the pictures you want to put on big size board, canvas, glass or even a wood.

Please find the four photography styles that are most popular in photography editing on next pages. **High Contrast Look, Muted Look known also as Soft haze effect, Monochromatic look, and Vintage/Retro style.**

4 photography styles to make your image look better

High Contrast Look



Monochromatic look



Muted Look or Soft Haze effect



Vintage/Retro effect



If you want to know how to simply apply these great effects to your photos, see the eBook



I WANT TO KNOW MORE!

4.

Upscale and finishing touches

*Check the common up-sizing picture defects.
See what needs to be removed/retouched and cleaned.*

Common up-sizing pic defects and how quality of original image affects final result

Most common enlarged picture defects:

Large amount of noise or grain
Pixelated images
JPEG artifacts

IMPORTANT!

If it's possible always edit image in raw, tif or psd format and RGB color space.
Do not sharpen your images before upsizing!
This will have a negative effect to the quality of your photo.

The most important information with upscaling the image is that all sizes up to **20"/50cm** can be resized at **300 DPI**.

The final result of editing and upscaling is always dependent on a quality of the original photo. This is also mentioned in the beginning of this eBook, when explaining how to choose the right photo for upsizing and preparing an image for a large format.

COMPLETE IMAGE EDITING GUIDE

How to Look inside the picture to check the quality

How the quality of the original photo can affect the final image result

List of common editing mistakes

Why sharpening unedited image is a mistake

All about this and even more you can find in the eBook



I WANT TO KNOW THIS!

Clean up the image

What exactly do we want to retouch away and how are we going to clean-up the image?

Generally, **remove any visible sensor dust and crud from the lens**. Spots, dirt, and dust are sometimes visible on photos taken at apertures, smaller than f/16. It is from dirty camera sensor and it is mostly seen on sky area or flat areas. I use the Healing Brush and Clone Stamp to remove such dirt from the image.

Look for any imperfections or disturbing parts

On people
On things,
or in a countryside.



Unwanted object - photographers tripod

5.

Export save & upload

Saving final result to JPG.

Sending image over to printer over cloud storage services.

Why e-mail isn't always suitable for sending files over.

Exporting images to JPG

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TIP

For JPG » less disk space, faster sending, up to 20 MB can be sent via email

Against » loss of quality, each repeated saving is adding jpeg artefacts.

IMPORTANT!

Make sure that you export or save image at the end of editing.
If you want save editing during the process of editing save it to TIFF format.

When is better to save photos in TIFF format, and why PDF is better for saving image size and sending, you can find in eBook



I WANT TO KNOW MORE..



Sending images

You have possibility to send images over 20 MB to the printer with the one of the best cloud storage, such as benchmark for any others - **Dropbox**. There are also **Google's Drive**, **Apple's iCloud**, **Microsoft's OneDrive** that will allow you to share your file over URL link to your image printing servis, local printer or a print house.

This link can be placed to the e-mail and the picture can be easy downloaded.

Some print services offer that you might send file using their web site uploading service or FTP server. Or even choose image from Dropbox or the social media galleries. Some of them even includes Facebook, Instagram, Flickr.

But be aware of social media images as these are compressed and with low resolution. You don't expect using it for large print that this small sparrow will become a size of an eagle, do you?



Thank you for letting me to share this basics with you

It was really a pleasure to show you this basic steps.

I believe that anytime you will come back to this free eBook you will find that “other thing” that will help you to progress on image editing and don’t let it be a one-time thing.

If you found your way through this eBook enjoyable and all the information gave you a clearer view on image editing, you can save some more time now.

I will be very happy if you let me know what this eBook brought to you. Write me an **email or leave a **comment** about what you enjoyed most and maybe you couldn’t find.**

If you are looking for complete step by step guide to prepare and finish your images, see the eBook **EDIT PHOTOS LIKE A PRO.**

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