

## **Why Do Photos Need Editing Before Posting Online?**

I'm sure that you have all opened a web page, or a photograph on the internet and it seemed that it would never finish loading. That's because the image file was larger than needed to display on your computer monitor. It took a long time to deliver over your internet connection and it unnecessarily slowed down the page load speed. This file download wasted your time because it delivered to your computer a large amount of data that it did not need and could not use.

An image taken from most cameras and scanners must be resized before uploading to the internet. Today's large format cameras collect enough image data to print photographs. Photo printing requires a large amount of information to direct a printer to accurately replicate the image on paper. Images taken directly from many cameras can be up to 8MB (8,000KB) in file size and over 3,000 pixels by 2,000 pixels in dimension. Image display on a monitor is a completely different environment than photo printing. A computer monitor cannot use all of the photographic information that is required for photo printing.

### **Image Pixel Dimensions:**

The display, or resolution on a computer monitor, is composed of thousands of pixels. The monitor display size (or resolution) is indicated by a number combination, such as 1024 x 768. This indicates that there are 1024 lines of pixels horizontally across the monitor, by 768 lines of pixels vertically.

Most computers today have a monitor resolution of 1024x768. Some monitors have a larger pixel resolution, but older monitors have lower resolutions; usually 800x600. The same picture on a low resolution monitor will cover a larger percentage of the screen than it does on a higher resolution monitor. An image that is 800x600 pixels in dimension will fill a monitor that is 800x600 in resolution. An image that is wider or taller in pixel dimension than a monitor can display will over fill the screen requiring the viewer to use scroll bars to pan across the image.

It is also important to note that most computer monitor displays range from 75 pixels per inch to around 150ppi. Posting an image that is set to more pixels per inch than a computer's attached monitor can display will cause the computer's operating system to resize the image. In effect, the computer will be editing your photo for you. Not your best bet for having your photo displayed well. It is therefore in your best interest to edit your web image to 75 pixels per inch. By doing so, you will ensure that the photograph is configured to display correctly on any monitor.

When editing your photos for the internet, you should always adjust the pixel dimensions first. By setting the pixel dimensions first, you will have resized your image to the dimensions that you wish to have it displayed on a viewer's monitor, plus you will have reduced the file's size. If the file size is still too large after adjusting the image's pixel dimensions, you will then need to use compression to bring the file size down.

### **Image File Size:**

Although a photograph may be of a correct pixel dimension to display well on a monitor, it may still be too large in file size and must be compressed. The accepted standard for maximum image file size on the internet is 100KB. A 100KB file will be quick to load on virtually any internet connection.

Image file sizes vary by the amount of data needed to display the image. The more detail and colors in an image, the larger the file. Though they may be of the same pixel dimensions, a simple image of a single color will require much less data to display than an image like a bouquet of flowers with its high detail and thousands of colors.

Image compression works by combining image data in adjacent pixels into one pixel. And yes, compression will affect the quality of the image when it is displayed on a monitor. Compression can be applied in various amounts. The higher the compression, the smaller the file size; and the lower the display quality. Most compression tools display the compression amount as a quality value and have "Before" compression and "After" compression displays of the photo so you can see what the adjustments are doing to your image.

### **Image File Formats:**

JPEG (sometimes listed as JPG) is always the best format to use for photographic images you will be sharing online. JPEG is a standard file format that any computer can read. Most cameras and scanners save in JPEG format. JPEG format is capable of utilizing file compression to keep file size down.

### Photo Editing Software:

Most of us have photo editing software on our computers. Some of this software is very good; some not so much..... Some photo editing software does not provide a method of compressing a photo file. You need BOTH pixel dimension and image compression controls to do the best job of editing your photo for the Web. If the editing software on your computer does not provide for file compression, then you may want to consider upgrading to better software.

Corel PaintShop Photo Pro is a very good photo editing program at a reasonable price. The latest version of this software can be seen by clicking this link. <http://www.corel.com/servlet/Satellite/us/en/Product/1184951547051#tabview=tab0> Paintshop Photo Pro includes an application called JPEG optimizer for editing photos for the Web. This optimizer allows control of both pixel dimension and compression.

Alternately, there are free photo editing applications on the internet. Some of these applications require a download to your computer to function. However, there are some that you simply upload a photo to and edit on line. You can then download the edited photo back to your computer for your use. One simple to use online editing application is Web Resizer. <http://www.webresizer.com/resizer/>

### Photo Editing Demonstration:

Using Web Resizer, I will go through the editing process using one of my photos to prepare it for posting to the ABS Forum. If the photo editing software on your computer provides for file compression, the steps will be very similar to what I demonstrate with Web Resizer.

I've uploaded the original image and set the size of the optimized image to 640 pixels wide. The smaller pixel dimension of the photo fell below the maximum limit allowed by the ABS Guidelines (480 pixels), so all is well with the dimensions. If the original photo was more square in dimension, then the adjusted smaller dimension may still have been too large. In that case, I would need to adjust the photo based on the smaller dimension of 480 pixels.

ALWAYS ADJUST THE PIXEL DIMENSIONS FIRST!!

The result is a correctly proportioned image in pixel dimensions, but still too large in file size (71.11KB). Since the ABS Guidelines require than an image file be less than 50KB, I need to change the Image Quality setting to compress the file.



size 71.11KB (93% smaller)  
width 640 pixels  
height 457 pixels

size 1061.83KB  
width 2861 pixels  
height 2043 pixels

[download this image](#)

apply changes start over help

BASIC

New size: 640 width height (5 to 2000)  
Rotate: none 90° 90° 180°  
Sharpen: 40 (0 to 500)  
Image quality: 80 (10 to 100) Compare Image Sizes

ADVANCED



I entered different values in the Image Quality adjustment until I wound up with the largest file possible, while still being under the maximum allowed in the ABS Guidelines (50KB). This will ensure that the photograph will look its best when displayed on a monitor.



size **49.46KB (95% smaller)**  
width 640 pixels  
height 457 pixels

size **1061.83KB**  
width 2861 pixels  
height 2043 pixels

[download this image](#)

[apply changes](#) [start over](#) [help](#)

BASIC

New size: 640  width  height (0 to 2000)  
Rotate:  none  90°  90°  180°  
Sharpen: 40 (0 to 500)  
Image quality: 68 (10 to 100)  Compare Image Sizes

ADVANCED



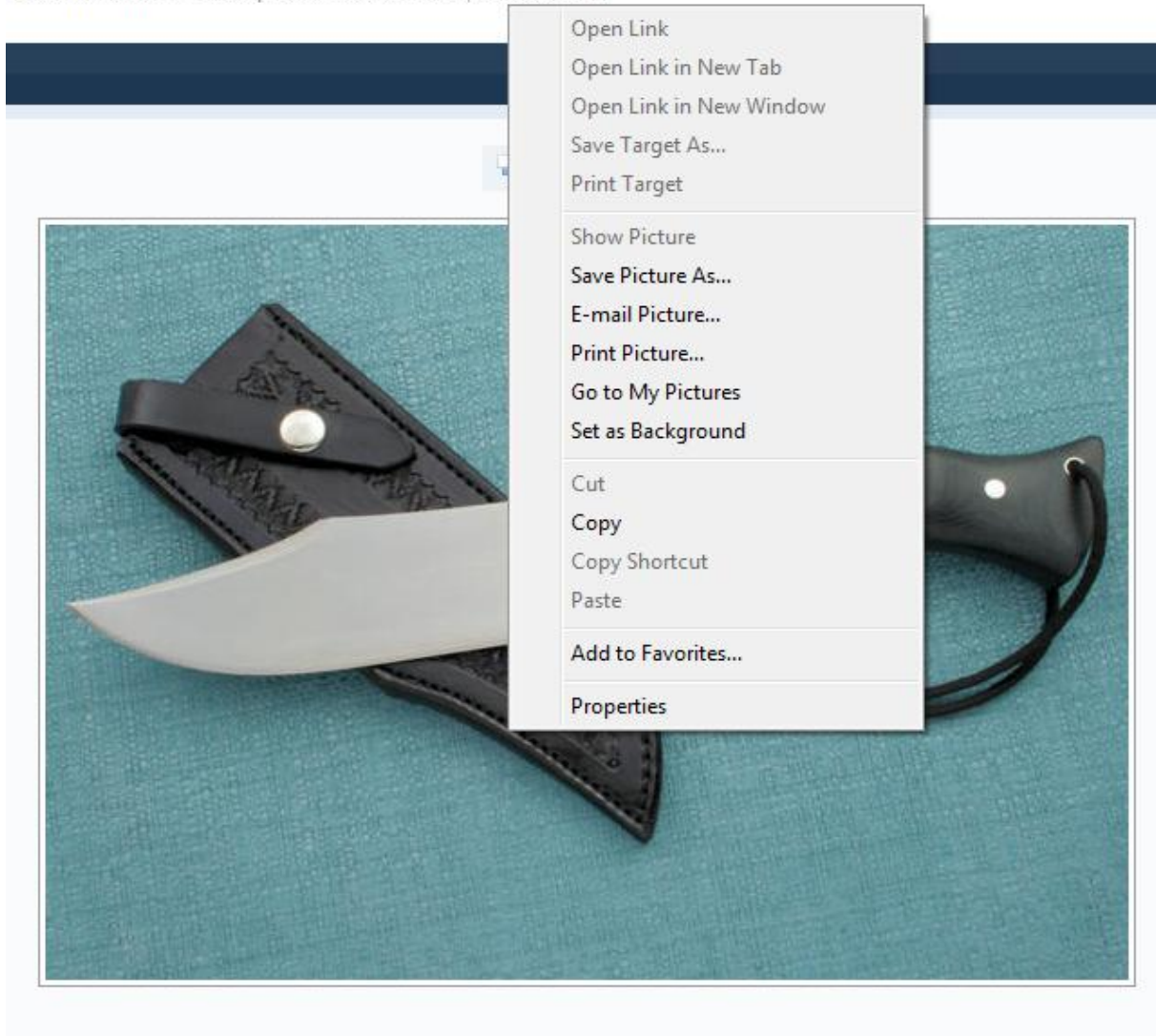
Do not save changes until you are satisfied that you have the image adjusted to your liking. Editing a photo more than once can cause more quality losses.

The photo can now be downloaded from Web Resizer to your computer for use on the internet.

**After You have Uploaded Your Photo to the Internet:**

After you have loaded your photo to the internet, you can double check the pixel dimensions and file size of the uploaded image. First, hover your cursor over the photograph. Then, right click your mouse and the menu shown below will appear.

Steve Culver Knives > Camp Knife - Steve Culver, Master Smith



Click on "Properties" and you will have another window open with the specs of the photo. Included in this information are the (File) Size and the Dimensions in pixels per inch.

