

Scanning, Files, and Digitizing your art

A Basic Guide

Why digitize

Defined: the act of creating an electronic version of your art.

- To archive your art even after the original has sold
- Easier and higher quality images for online portfolios and social media
- To reprint images for sale
- Ease of professional accessibility; Such as submitting work to magazines, shows, or publications.

Two ways to make a digital image



Scanning Pros-

- More detailed image
- Higher resolutions available
- With editing skills you can work around most of the cons

Scanning Cons-

- Scanning Beds are limited in size, might required 'stitching' together multiple images
- Some scanning services won't offer color corrections

Photography Pros-

- Easier to do, cheaper to do usually people already have a camera
- Outdoor indirect lighting works in place of studio lights
- Works for 3-D art!

Photography Cons-

- Risk of shadows/glare effects
- More distance from surfaces means more risk of things getting in the way
- **NOT RECOMMENDED** to use phone, but do-able in a pinch.

File Types:

Jpeg- Universal, fastest web loading, its compression settings can cause artifacting or reduced quality, perfect for portfolio websites/quick image sharing.

Pdf- Supports multiple pages, prioritizes text, easiest to print.

Gif- Supports animation, compresses with less quality loss than jpeg, but more than png. Universal.

Png- Supports transparency, higher quality settings than jpeg, nearly universal, slightly slower load times to jpegs.

Tiff- Zero compression means large files with preserved quality, ideal for storing originals for your records. Used often by digital artists/designers.

PSD/IND/Adobe specific- Not Universal. LARGE. Custom features to the specific program

File Sizes

Proportions- the inch by inch (or metric) size of your art. Is NOT affected by your device screen size, but can be by the file limits, like ones found in most email accounts and on phones.

Resolution- Dots per Inch(DPI) refers to the pixels in a square inch of a Raster File. 72 dpi standard for phones. I'd call 300 dpi minimum to call it high quality, but you can go up to 2400 on most scanners/cameras.

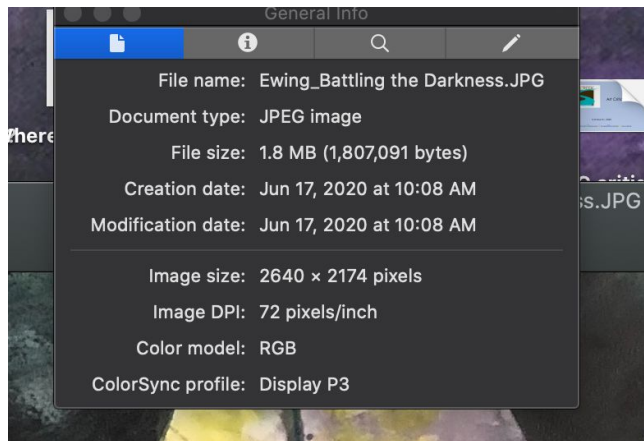
Byte- Refers to a digital information in regards to storage. Prefixed with a numerical in multiples of 10. Byte=1, Kilo=1000, Mega= 10^6 , Giga= 10^9 , Tera= 10^{12} , most consumer grade ends at Terabyte for now. All of the above factors, plus things like layers and transparency,etc. Will account for total file size.

Phone cameras will counter their low resolution by making the proportions of the photos very large, average on iphone being like 50 or so inches tall when transferred to your computer. And this can counter most of the resolution issue if you're in a pinch!

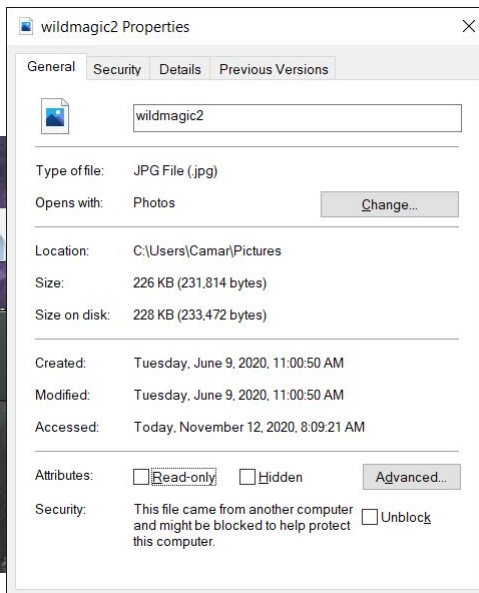
How to Check files:

Right click, select File info or Properties from the menu, and you will see basic information as described above! Or, open them up in your art program of choice to check in there!

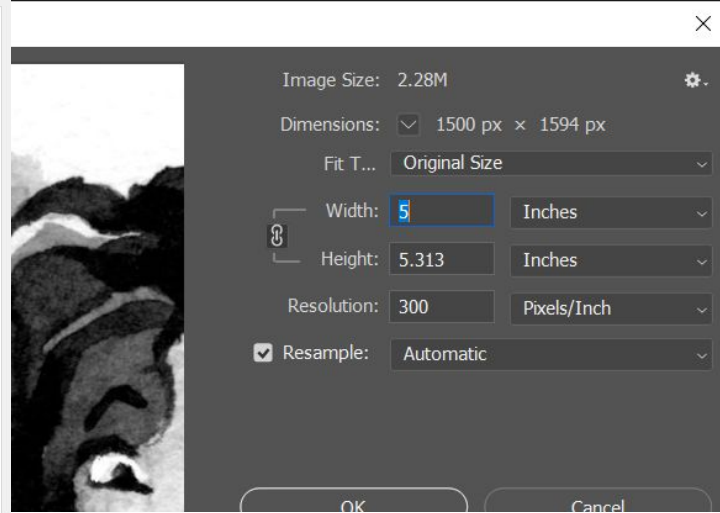
Macs OS:



Windows:



Photoshop:



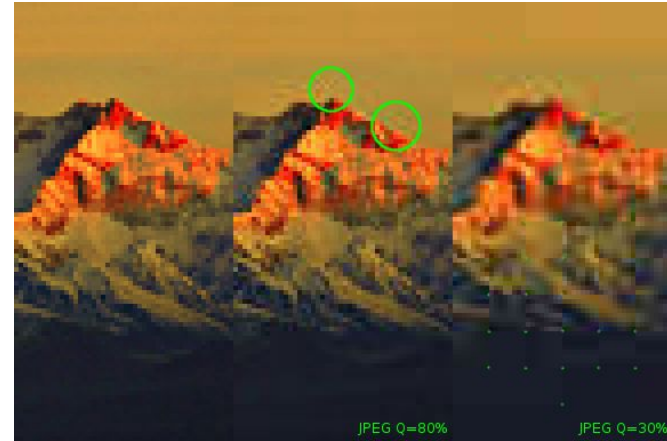
Things to look for:

Shadows and lighting- you want as uniform a lighting as possible, and to get whites white and blacks black in reprints.

Pixels- too much compressing (saving and re-saving can cause this) can create visible squares and fuzziness.

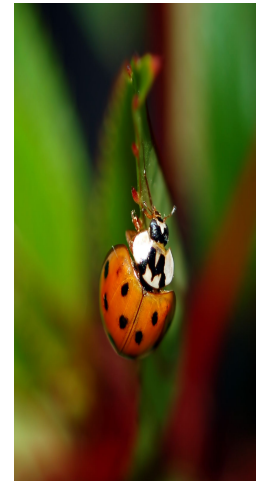
Artifacting- old or overly compressed Jpegs can create unique distortions and Noise (like dust, scratches, and static effects)

Distortion/proportions- forcing an image to stretch or squash a little like a fun house mirror.



Stretched ->

Original ↓



File Storage and sharing

Computers, tablets, phones, portable hard drives, flash drives, will all have various Byte storages and can be used to store images. Always have originals in two locations as backup in case of crashes or loss.

Google Drive, DropBox, WeTransfer, and other web services can be used to easily send large files when they can not be emailed. Dropbox and Google Drive can also store a limited number of files for online access backup.

Emails have sending and receiving file size limits. And some auto delete after a certain amount of time.

Digitizing Services:

Full Service:

- Wimsey Cove Framing and fine art printing in Annapolis, Where you'll find me!
- Falcon Printing and Framing in Annapolis
- Look for any business with "Fine Art Printing" in their services
- Staples, Office Depot, print shops etc. are faster and cheaper, but depending on whos working might not know all the details in scanning things.

Self Serve:

- Schools (with art programs), Libraries/community centers, and often office supply stores will have a scanner you may use, Might charge for it, and you'd have to learn to do it yourself for this option.

Extra Links:

<https://scantips.com/basics9jb.html> -Details on Jpeg compression and artifacting.

<https://www.wix.com/blog/2018/07/different-types-of-files/> - More detailed list of file types.

<https://www.gihosoft.com/tips/best-free-file-sharing-sites.html> - Consumer reviews of file sharing sites.

<https://www.photopoea.com/> -In Browser Photoshop alternative.

Adobe is industry standard but expensive! Here's some alternatives:

The infographic is titled "Adobe Alternatives" and features a legend in the top right corner with two colored circles: a green circle for "Free" and a yellow circle for "Single Purchase". The main content is organized into a grid of colored boxes, each representing an Adobe product and its alternatives.

Adobe Product	Free Alternatives	Single Purchase Alternatives	Honorable Mentions
Ps (Photoshop)	Affinity Photo, Krita, GIMP, Fire Alpaca, Medibang Paint, Photopea	Paint Tool Sai, MyPaint, Paint.NET	Paint Tool Sai, MyPaint, Paint.NET
Ai (Illustrator)	Inkscape, BoxySVG, Vectr, Figma	Affinity Designer	Clip Studio
Id (InDesign)	Viva Designer, Scribus	Affinity Publisher	Canva, SpringPublisher
An (Animate)	Open Toonz	Cacani, TVPaint Animation, ToonBoom Harmony, Clip Studio (EX version)	Krita, Pencil 2D, Fire Alpaca
Lr (Lightroom)	Darktable	RawTherapee	
Dw (Dreamweaver)	Aptana Studio	WebStorm	
Ae (After Effects)	Blender	DaVinci Resolve	
Au (Audition)	Audacity	Fairlight	