

**PREPARING AN IMAGE FOR
LOUISIANA PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY
DIGITAL PROJECTION COMPETITION**

Revised on 11/20/06

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LPS sponsors monthly competition of images displayed directly from a digital projector. There are no categories in the digital projection competition; that is, conventional, enhanced, B/W, etc images are all in competition with each other. A competition entry may be taken with a film camera or digital camera. In accordance with the LPS document "Monthly Competition Guidelines," the limit is two entries per LPS member, per month. After the competition, the LPS Equipment Manager or the Certified Digital projector Operator shall delete or destroy all competition image files and any related CD's. The image files will not be returned to the photographer.

Following is the procedure and guidelines for preparing and submitting digital images for inclusion in the Louisiana Photographic Society's digital projection competitions. The basic concept is that projected images should be 1024 x 768 pixels, sRGB color space, sharpened for projection and compressed to a JPG file format less than 600KB size. *(Specifics are given for Adobe Photoshop CS; other image editing programs will be similar.)*

1. After completing all creative modifications and adjustments to your digital image, save the image with a new (different) filename. This is to prevent possible damage to your original file. *(Click on File, Save As, type in a new filename, click on Save.)*
2. If your image has layers, flatten them. *(Click on Layers, Flatten Image. Click on File, Save.)*
3. If your image is not in the RGB color mode, change the mode. *(Click on Image, Mode, RGB Color. Click on File, Save.)*
4. If your image is not in 8 Bits/Channel (also known as 24-bit RGB), change the pixel depth. The image cannot be saved to a JPG format unless it is 8 Bits/Channel. *(Click on Image, Mode, 8 Bits/Channel. Click on File, Save.)*
5. If your image is not in the sRGB color space, change the color space. The LPS digital projector uses the sRGB color space. If your image is not in the sRGB color space then the colors may not look correct when projected. *(Click on Image, Mode, Convert to Profile. In the Destination Space, Profile pull-down menu, select RGB IEC61966-2.1, then click on OK. Click on File, Save.)*
6. At this point, the appearance of your image on your monitor's screen is as close as it is going to be to the appearance it will have when projected via the digital projector. So if you want to make additional refinements to tone, color balance, or saturation, for instance, now is the time to do it. However, do not sharpen at this point. *(To make tonal adjustments: click on Image, Adjustments, Levels or Curves. To make color adjustments: click on Image, Adjustments, Color Balance. To make saturation adjustments: click on Image, Adjustments, Hue/Saturation. Click on File, Save.)*
7. Resample your image to fit within the digital projector's resolution of 1024 pixels

horizontal by 768 pixels vertical. These values are maximums; do not exceed these values in either dimension. Our projector is limited to 1024 x 768 pixels. If you do not resample your image to this size, then the projector will do it for you (and you may not like the result!).

If your image orientation is landscape, change the width to 1024 pixels. The height will automatically change in proportion to the width. If the height is now 768 pixels or less, stop — you are done. However, if the height is greater than 768 pixels, change the height to 768 pixels. The width will automatically change in proportion to the height, and it will become less than 1024 pixels. *(Click on Image, Image Size. Near the bottom of the dialog box, make sure there is a check in the Resample Image checkbox. Select an interpolation method— Bicubic, Bicubic Smoother, Bicubic Sharper—as desired. Make sure there is a check in the Constrain Proportions checkbox. Near the top of the dialog box, in the Pixels Dimensions area, set the value in the Width box to 1024 pixels. Verify that the value in the Height box is 768 pixels or less. Do not make any changes in the Document Size area: Width, Height, or Resolution. Click on OK. Click on File, Save.)*

If your image orientation is portrait, change the height to 768 pixels. The width will automatically change in proportion to the height, and will likely become 511 pixels or less. *(Click on Image, Image Size. Near the bottom of the dialog box, make sure there is a check in the Resample Image checkbox. Select an interpolation method—Bicubic, Bicubic Smoother, Bicubic Sharper—as desired. Make sure there is a check in the Constrain Proportions checkbox. Near the top of the dialog box, in the Pixels Dimensions area, set the value in the Height box to 768 pixels. Do not make any changes in the Document Size area: Width, Height, or Resolution. Click on OK. Click on File. Save.)*

8. If you want to apply sharpening or additional sharpening to your image, now is the time to do it. Some images may have already been sharpened in a digital camera, scanner, image editing program, image capture program, etc. There are many ideas, opinions and methods for sharpening. Some people prefer to sharpen for creative effect using the full size file; that is, before Step 1 above. Others prefer to do all sharpening on the nearly completed projection version.

Because of these variables, specific sharpening requirements cannot be given. Instead, sharpen your image such that it appears good on your monitor when viewed at 100% magnification. If you use unsharp mask, some general starting point values are amount = 100% to 300%, radius = 1.0, and threshold = 3. *(Click on Filter, Sharpen, Unsharp mask. Set Amount to 100%, Radius to 1.0 pixels, and Threshold to 3 levels. Click on OK. Click on File, Save.)*

9. Compress your newly sharpened image file and change the filename in accordance with the system shown below.

If your image is not in the *.jpg file format (also known as file type or file extension), change it to *.jpg and adjust the jpeg compression quality so that the file size is less than 600 Kb. This can usually be accomplished by setting the compression quality to 12, but sometimes a quality of 11 or 10 will be needed to get a file size less than 600 Kb.

your name #1.jpg
your name #2.jpg.

(Click on File, Save As, type in a new filename, select Format as *.jpg, Save. In the JPEG Options dialog box, Image Options area, set Quality to 12, click on OK.)

10. Submit your image(s) to the certified digital-projector operator designated to handle the competition. **Your image file(s) must be received by the certified digital projector operator no later than 8:00 p.m. Tuesday before the Thursday competition.**

Submission Method 1: The preferred method is to send an email to the certified digital projector operator. Send digital projection entries to dpcontestcoordinator@laphotosociety.com.

Insert your image file(s) as an attachment(s).
In the subject line, type "LPS Digital projection Competition."
In the body text, type the filename(s) and image title(s) as shown below.

your name #1.jpg.....image title
your name #2.jpg.....image title

Note: With a dial-up Internet connection and a 56K modem, it will take approximately 10 minutes to send an email with two 600 Kb image files.

Submission Method 2: Mail or hand deliver to the certified digital projector operator.

Burn your image file(s) onto a CD-R disk.
On a label or piece of paper, write "LPS Digital projection Competition" and the filename(s) and image title(s) as shown below.

your name #1.jpg.....image title
your name #2.jpg.....image title

Package the disk and label appropriately for mail or hand delivery.

11. The certified digital-projector operator will send an e-mail confirmation to the photographer upon receipt of the images.
12. The certified digital-projector operator who *volunteered* to handle the competition will have to receive numerous image files; compile them into a slide show; and keep track of photographers, filenames, and titles. **Do not make his or her job more difficult than it already is: follow the competition rules and this procedure.**