

Producing an Optimal Digital Image in iPhoto

Background

This document explains how to create a JPG export file in iPhoto that you can submit to the website.

The original image from your camera may have a size exceeding 4000 x 3000 pixels – the actual size varies depending upon the camera manufacturer and the settings you have set on your camera when taking the picture.

You need a smaller image size for uploading to the website and for display at the club meetings. It has decided that submitted images cannot have a width or height that is larger than 1280 pixels and should have at least one dimension that is exactly 1280 pixels (with the other side falling proportionately to something less than 1280 when resized).

That number was chosen because it works well for our purposes and for the projector that we have for displaying images at our meetings.

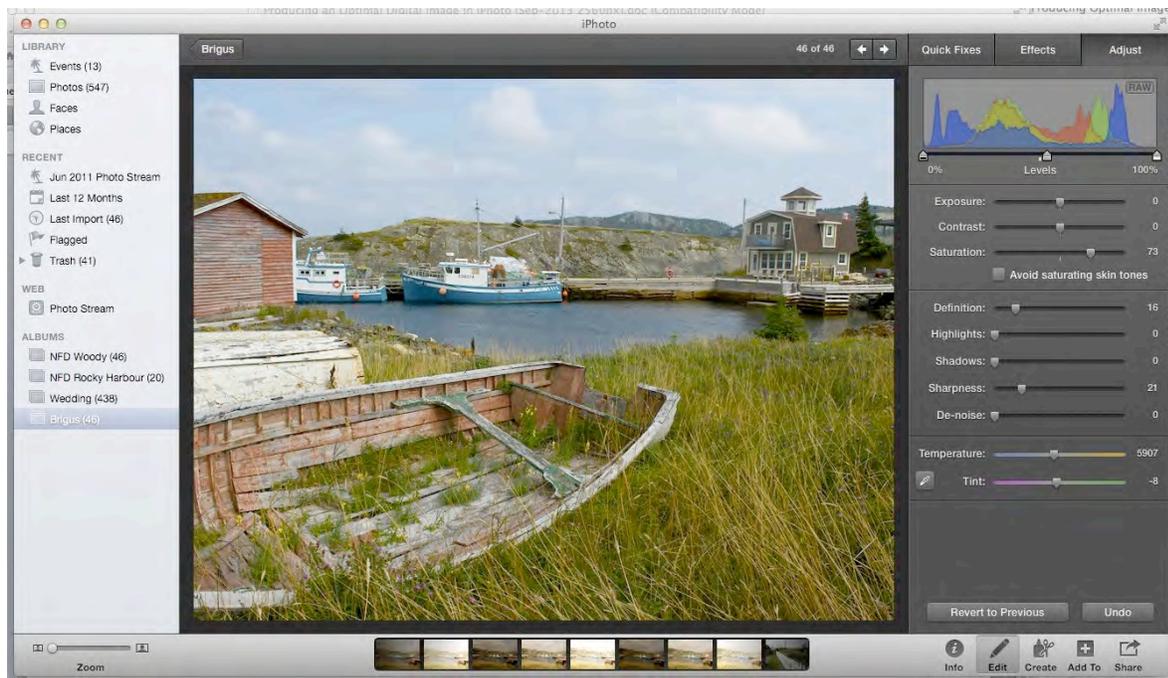
The procedure to export an optimal image in iPhoto is quite straightforward. The basic workflow is to edit your image using all the tools you wish to use – for example to enhance the colour, fix blemishes, sharpen your image, crop it to tighten the composition and so forth and then to use iPhoto's Export option to produce a smaller copy of the file for upload.

Detailed Steps

Follow these steps to produce an optimal digital image for submitting to the website. These instructions apply only to iPhoto.

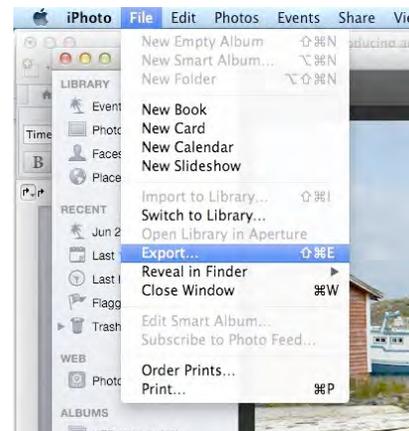
- **Complete all your editing work** and crop your photo. The changes you make to your image in iPhoto are not permanent and can be changed, re-done or un-done. Within iPhoto you can enhance the colour and contrast under the **Adjust** tab; and you can fix blemishes and crop the photo under the **Quick Fixes** tab.
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- **Sharpen your image.** The sharpen tool is under the **Adjust** tab. Don't over do it or your image will appear un-natural. Sharpening can improve the look of an already in-focus image, *but it can't satisfactorily repair an image that is inherently out of focus.*

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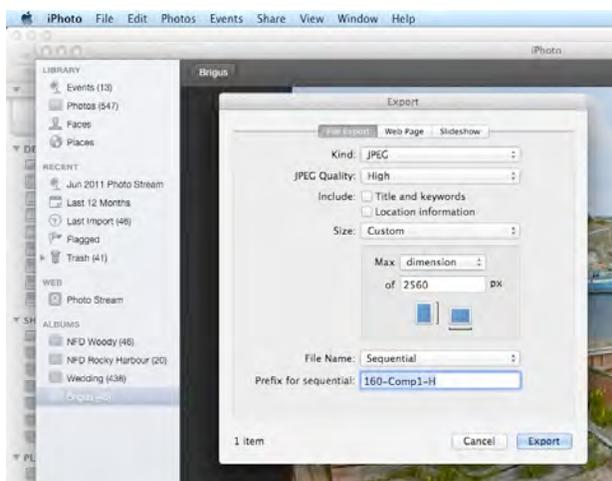
When you are finished editing, from the iPhoto menu, choose **File > Export**.

.... which will bring up the Export File Dialog.



From the various dropdown boxes and choices choose JPEG for Kind; with a quality of High (do not set maximum or the file will become too large to upload).

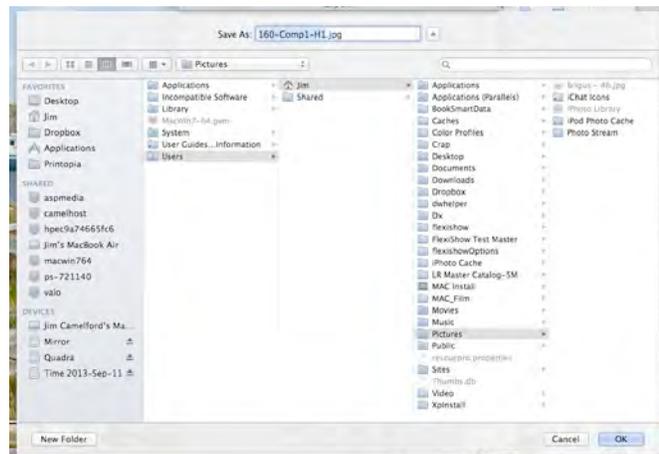
For Size, choose Custom – and set the Max control to “Dimension” with a value of 1280. There are other choices, but use this combination.



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In the File name box, provide a filename. This file name should start with your member number following by a descriptive phrase for the image. Eg: 130xx-sunset_waterfall.jpg

When you click on [Export], your Mac will provide you with a standard Finder navigation window to allow you to choose where to store the saved image. Any folder is okay – but you should create a folder with a name that identifies what the images are for. Eg: Depth of Field Challenge.



Afterwards, with Finder you can navigate to the exported image folder and check your image; show it in Preview by double-clicking it and so forth. When you upload to the club's website, you will navigate back to this location to pick up the image.

This image (i.e. your *exported* image) is separate from and in addition to your original image and is stored in a different place. In your *exported* image, your editing changes and the file's new pixel dimensions are permanent. This is the image that you will submit to the website.

While your original image has had some enhancing adjustments made to it, those changes can be reverted with iPhoto and you could easily create other exported images later from your original if you wished to do so.

After uploading your photos to the website, you may wish to clean up the export folder and delete these exported images – or keep copies organized there for later reference. It's your choice – but remember these are different from your original 'master' images and you shouldn't confuse the two.