

DIGITAL IMAGE PREPARATION

In addition to the regular competition rules the following apply to digital competition:

All digital images must be uploaded to **PhotoContest Pro** no later than midnight on the Friday preceding competition. Images that do not arrive on time will not be entered into competition and may be held for the following month. The closing dates for each month's competition are imbedded in the PhotoContest Pro software.

Any digital images that do not meet the sizing, color space or labeling requirements will be rejected by the software. These requirements are listed below in a step-by-step procedure.

Resizing images for digital competition using Elements 10 through present:

After any photo editing:

1. Open Elements; if Welcome Screen opens, choose **Photo Editor**.
2. Make sure **EXPERT** mode is selected. Any mode can be used, but EXPERT allows you to take full control over the adjustments you apply to your photos.
3. Select **Open**: your most recently used folder will open, or click the down arrow to view your most recently opened images.
4. Choose your image to resize.
5. If Camera RAW opens, select **Open Image**.
6. Select **Image >Mode**, verify or change to **RGB Color** and **8 Bits/Channel**.
7. Select **Image >Resize >Image Size**.
8. In **Image Size** window, ensure that **Scale Styles**, **Constrain Proportions** and **Resample Image** are checked. **Bicubic Sharper** or **Bicubic Automatic** should be selected in dialog box.
9. Under **Document Size**, set the resolution to **72 pixels/inch**. You must do this before the next step.
10. Under **Pixel Dimensions** set the height or width, whichever is larger, to **900 pixels**.
11. Click **OK**.
12. Your resized image should now appear very small. Select **View>Fit on Screen**.

OPTIONAL: Place a border around your image.

Use Keyboard shortcut CTRL+A (CMD+A for Mac) to place a selection around your image.

Select **Edit > Stroke (Outline) Selection**.

In dialog box, choose the width of your border, experiment, then choose the color by clicking box.

Select **Inside** for Location; **Blending Mode: Normal, Opacity 100%**.

Click **OK**.

To save image:

1. Select **File>Save as**.
2. Change File name as per PFLI nomenclature as follows : (C35-JDoe-S1-Red.jpg).
Club is fixed at C35; alias is your ID; class is B1, A1, S1, or C1 depending on your Competition class (C1 is used for Creative category images, no matter which competition class you are in); the image name can have capital letters and spacing to improve readability.
3. Verify or change Format to **JPEG (*.jpg)**

4. Click **Save**.

JPEG Options:

5. Quality: Select **12** or **Maximum**, or move slider all the way to the right (**Large File**)
6. Format Options: Baseline **Optimized**
7. Preview: On or Off, your choice, it shows image file size when selected
8. Click **OK** to save your image

*** Please make sure the File Extension of your images is jpg NOT jpeg.**

Resizing images using Photoshop CS4, 5, 6, and CC:

After any photo editing:

1. Select **File >Open**, then browse to your image directory, or
2. Select **File >Open Recent**, if your image is still in Recent File List
3. Choose Image
4. If Camera RAW opens, select **Open Image**
5. Select **Image >Mode, Verify or change to RGB Color and 8 bits/channel**
6. Select **Image >Image Size**
7. In **Image Size** window, ensure that **Scale Styles, Constrain Proportions** and **Resample Image** are checked. **Bicubic Sharper** or **Bicubic Automatic** should be selected in dialog box.
8. Under **Document Size**, set the resolution to **72 Pixels/Inch**.
9. Under **Pixel Dimensions**, set the height or width, whichever is larger, to **900 Pixels**.
10. Click **OK**
11. Your resized image should now appear very small. **Select View >Fit on Screen**.

OPTIONAL: Place a border around your image.

Use Keyboard shortcut CTRL+A (CMD+A for Mac) to place a selection around your image.

Select **Edit > Stroke**.

In dialog box, choose the width of your border, experiment, then choose the color by clicking box.

Select **Inside** for Location, **Blending Mode: Normal, Opacity 100%**.

Click **OK**.

To Save Image:

1. Select **File>Save as**.
2. Change File name according to PFLI nomenclature and alias: (**C35-JDoe-S1-Red Flower.jpg**).
Club is fixed at C35; alias is your ID; class is B1, A1, S1 or C1 depending on your Competition class. C1 is used for Creative Category Images no matter which competition class you are in; the image name can have capital letters and spacing to improve readability.
3. Verify or change Format to **JPEG (*.jpg)**
4. Click **Save**.

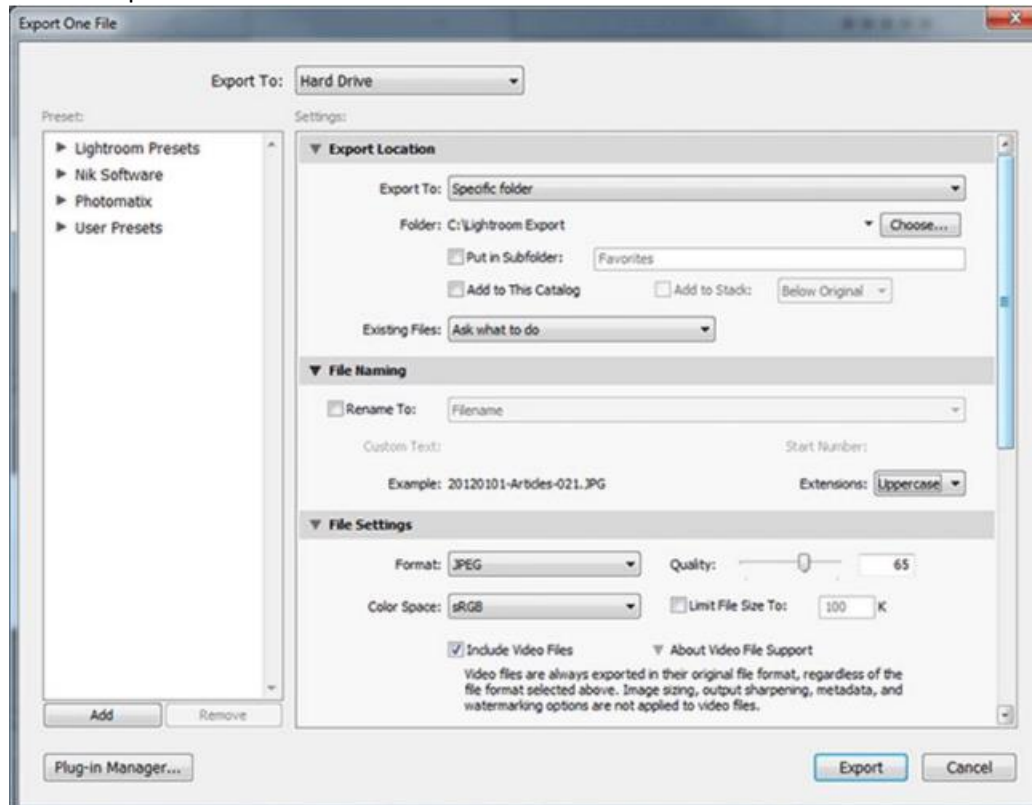
JPEG Options:

5. Quality: Select **12** or **Maximum**, or move slider all the way to the right (**Large File**)
6. Format Options: **Baseline: Optimized**
7. Preview: On or Off, your choice; it shows image file size when selected
8. Click **OK** to save your image

*** Please make sure the File Extension of your images is jpg NOT jpeg.**

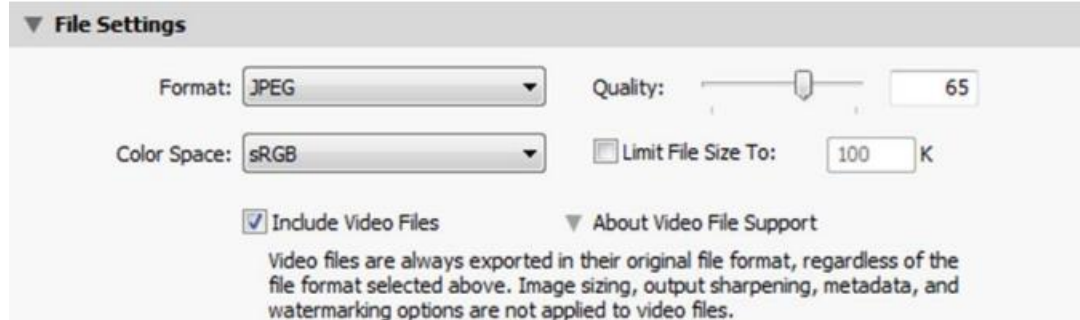
Resizing an image in Lightroom

1. Select the image(s) you want to resize, then go to **File>Export** or press CTRL+SHIFT+E on your keyboard (CMD+SHIFT+E for Mac). An export window will come up that looks like this:



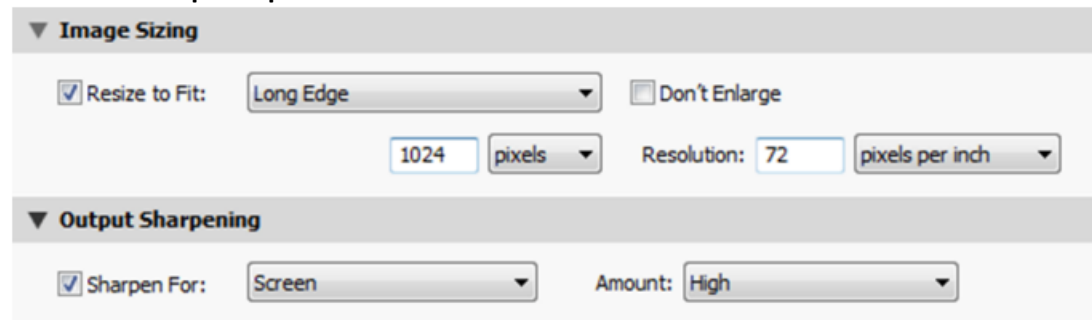
2. Make sure Hard Drive is selected in the topmost **Export To** menu.
3. Under **Export Location** choose a folder location in the **Export To** menu:
Specific folder - to export to a specified folder.
Same folder as original photo - self-explanatory. Another option is to export to your Desktop or any of the above mentioned folders, then check **Put in Subfolder** and type a name to create a new folder. For **Existing Files**, if set to **Ask what to do**, the system will ask what to do if a file of the same name is already present in the export folder. It is best to keep this setting.
4. Under **File Naming**, if you check **Rename To**, your files will be renamed to whatever you choose. Check this box and select **Custom Name-Sequence**; then enter a name in the **Custom Text** window. Following PFLI naming convention, you should enter C35-youralias-yourclass1. **Start Number**: should be set at 1. The files will be renamed sequentially C35-youralias-yourclass-1 ...-2 ...-3, etc., so it is a safe method for multiple files. You will have to add the individual titles of each image to the files in the export folder. **Extension** does not matter. Either will work.

5. The **File Settings** section is where you begin to manage the file quality of your digital images and set the required parameters necessary for competition:



When exporting images for competition, you should always choose JPEG as the file format; the image should save with the **JPG** extension. Right next to it there is a “Quality” slider. It has been suggested to slide it all the way to the right, thinking that it will preserve the best quality. Well, it does, but it also results in humongous image sizes! For example, let’s say at 65 in Quality and 1024 pixels wide, an image is 370KB in size. The same image at 75 quality creates a 421KB file. Finally, 100 quality results in a 989KB file! That’s more than twice the size, going from 75 quality at 421KB to 100 quality at 989KB! Experiment and see what works for you. Export an image at various quality settings from 65 to 100 to determine if you can see any difference between the images, you might not be able to. Choose the Quality setting that works for you.

6. Under **Image Sizing**, make sure to check **Resize to Fit**. This is what will actually resize the image to a smaller version. Select **Long Edge**, which limits the width or height of the image (depending on whether it is horizontal or vertical) to a certain value. That is the value you set in the first input field. Use **900** for digital images and make sure **pixels** is selected in the menu. For **Resolution**, input 72 and make sure **pixels per inch** is selected in the menu.



7. The **Output Sharpening** section is *very important*. It is where you set the amount of additional sharpening that Lightroom should apply to images after they are exported. What you pick in this section really depends on how much sharpening you have already applied to the photograph in Lightroom. Generally, set **Output Sharpening** to **Screen** then choose **Standard** or **High** for **Amount**. If your exported image looks too sharp or begins to look “crunchy,” choose **Standard** instead, because **High** might be too much.

PLEASE experiment before uploading images to PhotoContest Pro.

8.. Lastly, leave **Do nothing** under **Post-Processing>After Export**.

Once you are done, just click the **Export** button on the very bottom of the window and the image(s) will start exporting.

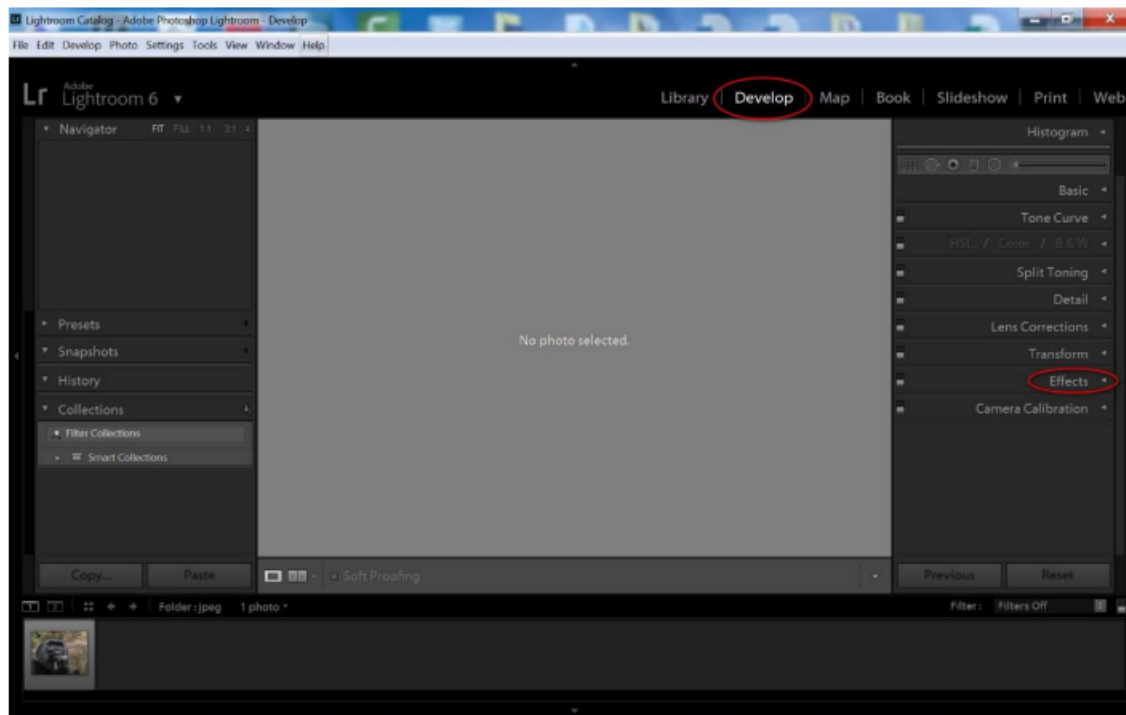
That's it! The good news is, once you set the settings in this window, Lightroom will always remember them, so you can reuse the settings without having to modify them each time.

Simple Method to Create Photo Borders in Lightroom

(In all fairness, this is actually a vignette placed on top of your image)

It's easy to create simple black, white or transparent photo borders in Lightroom, using the **Effects** panel in the **Develop** module.

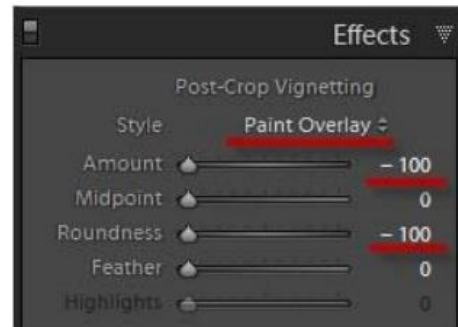
The **Effects** panel is on the right side, towards the bottom of your panels.



Click on the **arrow** to open the **Effects** panel. Set the **Style** to **Paint Overlay**, so that highlights don't show through your border.

1. Black film-style border

Set Amount to -100, Midpoint to 0, Roundness to -100 and Feather to 0.



Classic Black Film-Style Black Border

2. White border

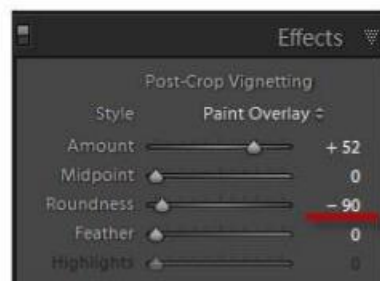
Set Amount to +100, Midpoint to 0, Roundness to -100 and Feather to 0.



White Border: Amount set to +100. (Note that thin black frame is not part of the result.)

3. Wider border

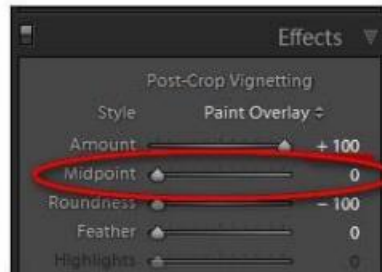
Increase Roundness:



Increase Roundness to Widen Border

3. Narrow border

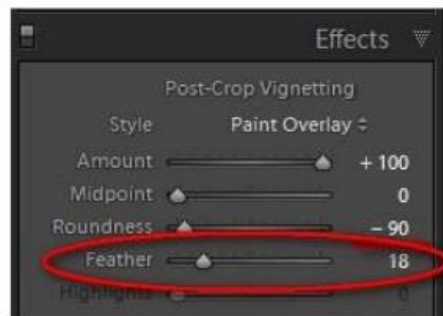
Increase Midpoint:



Increase Midpoint to Narrow Border

4. Softer Border

Increase the Feather Setting to soften the border edge:



5. Transparent Border

If your border is black: Set Amount to any value greater than -100 and less than 0.

If your border is white: Set Amount to any value greater than 0 and less than +100.



Adjust Amount setting to your liking for transparent border.

Some of you will be excited by this functionality, and some of you will be disappointed that there isn't more flexibility — for example, to create squared-off corners, color borders, or multiple borders.

(Although limited, this is the simplest method that I have found to place a border effect on your images in Lightroom without multiple resizes or using the Print module. This method should be done after you complete your edits and either before or after you resize your image. It will not alter your image dimensions.)

Alternatively, you could design a layout with borders using the Print module, and print your result to JPEG rather than to your printer.

Courtesy of <https://laurashoe.com/2013/10/11/how-to-create-photo-borders-in-lightroom>. You can watch a video demonstration at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=21ekE7p_ajY