

WEB PREPARATION for DARKROOM PHOTOGRAPHY

Follow this recipe to prepare your prints for the Student Photo Gallery. The 5 basic steps are to scan the print, straighten it, color correct it, then 'save for web' at 2 different sizes and finally upload the finished web files to the OWLbox.

CREATE a PERSONAL WEB FOLDER on the DESKTOP

log in _____ to your computer
create _____ a new folder called *YOUR_NAME*
store _____ all web files here
when you are done with the Web Preparation
you can move the files into OWLbox

SCAN the PRINT

Use these setting on any scanner in the lab.

reflective, not film
24 bit color (8 bits / channel, not 32/16)
300 ppi resolution
100% size (actual size of the print)

hit _____ the **PREVIEW** button
drag _____ the **CROP BOX** around the picture
leave _____ a reasonable amount of extra white space
for straightening
hit _____ the **SCAN** button (double-click)
save _____ the resulting file immediately into your **WEB FOLDER**

STRAIGHTEN/ REALIGN the PRINT

It is important that the image area be straight on the page. There are two strategies: the first straightens a print, the second also corrects for any distortion.

The Crop Tool Method

select _____ the **CROP** tool [C]
select _____ the **STRAIGHTEN** tool in the top toolbar
drag _____ the cursor along the bottom edge of the photo
from one corner to the other side
release _____ the mouse to straighten the photo
use _____ undo if not perfect the first time [CMD] Z

The Perspective Crop Method

select _____ the **PERSPECTIVE CROP** tool [C]
drag _____ the **CROP** tool around the picture area
align _____ each of the 4 corners to exactly match the corners of the picture, then-
pull _____ the **CROP RECTANGLE** away for the image to include some extra space
use _____ the middle **HANDLES** of the **CROP RECTANGLE**, not the corners
click _____ inside the crop rectangle to do the crop

WEB PREPARATION for DARKROOM PHOTOGRAPHY, cont'd

CROP to INCLUDE BORDERS and WHITE SPACE

Using either of the Straightening methods can also give you properly sized borders. What we want is a photograph with a black border surrounded by a white border. The white border should be visually equal to or smaller than the black border. If the white space is too big the picture will appear floating in an empty white space.

crop _____ the print to include only a small amount of white space around the black border.

tone CORRECT the PRINT

Scanners tend to be cautious with their tonal range, to avoid clipping the shadows or highlights. Usually the shadows are not dark enough. You need to apply a Levels Adjustment Layer to fix this and expand the print to a full tonal range.

Levels Adjustment Layer – Set Tonal Range
add _____ a LEVELS adjustment layer
slide _____ the SHADOW POINTER and HIGHLIGHT POINTER
to match where the histogram shows maximum black and minimum white

Sometimes the background will have a color cast other than white. This means the entire scan is the wrong color. This can be corrected with one click.

Levels Adjustment Layer – Remove background Color Cast
in the same LEVELS adjustment layer
select _____ the HIGHLIGHT EYEDROPPER
click _____ in the background area to adjust it to white
check _____ that the rest of the color is not adversely affected

When saving files for the web they will be converted to the sRGB color space. This is a dumbed-down color space developed so pictures will look good even on the cheapest monitors. This process inherently lightens prints, usually too much.

Levels Adjustment Layer – Darken the Midtones
in the same LEVELS adjustment layer
slide _____ the MIDTONE POINTER
slightly to the right to darken the print

WEB SCANNING for DARKROOM PHOTOGRAPHY, cont'd

SAVE for WEB – TWICE

First, save the adjusted scan into your personal folder.

Then, you need to make a full-size web picture and a thumbnail.

use FILE> SAVE FOR WEB & DEVICES [CMD] [OPT] [SHFT] [S]
preset = jpeg high
conver to sRGB = on (double check that the shadows do not get washed out!)
quality = bicubic sharper

use these sizes:

normal:

web picture = 600 pixels on the SHORT side

thumbnail = 100 pixels on the SHORT side

square:

web picture = 750 pixels on the SHORT side

thumbnail = 120 pixels on BOTH sides

duplets:

web picture width = 1200 pixels to fit on the page

thumbnail = one frame only at 100 pixels on the SHORT side

extra wide series:

make the height = 300 to have the page scrollable to see the series

thumbnail = one frame only at 100 pixels on the SHORT side

FILE NAMING CONVENTIONS

These names need to be EXACTLY his format, and need to be EXACTLY the same for each crit.

Use you real name, not your nickname (within reason; Sam rather than Samuel is fine).

Use these filename formats for each medium (all lowercase except at the end):

Critique Prints

your_nameC1T.jpg

your_nameC1W.jpg

If there are multiple prints, use this format:

your_nameC1Ta.jpg and *your_nameC1Tb.jpg*

your_nameC1Wa.jpg and *your_nameC1Wb.jpg*, etc.

UPLOAD FILES to OWLbox

All working files should be saved to your personal folder inside the **WEB FOLDER** of the computer on which you are working.

upload the Web Files to OWLbox,

into the proper critique folder for your class, after everything is made