Resizing a Batch of Pictures

By Kevin Fay

Introduction

For the SPS monthly exhibitions starting in September 2022, we adopted a maximum file size of 1920 x 1080. Resizing images has always been one of the hurdles for new members to exhibit, especially if they have never resized images before. This article will give you an explanation of why we resize files, what these 1920 x 1080 numbers mean, and one great way to resize an entire batch of pictures in just a few steps.

Why we resize image files

There are two reasons we resize image files. The first is for ease of emailing. Suppose you had five pictures that you wanted to email. If they were full resolution jpeg files at, say, 8MB each, your email attachments would be 40MB. The email would not get through the internet, since your email service (and ours) has limits far less than that. The second reason is that our HDTV screen can produce great images at an image size of 1920 x 1080. For files larger than that, the image quality does not get much better. We would just have bulkier files to handle. So, it makes sense to stop at 1920 x 1080.

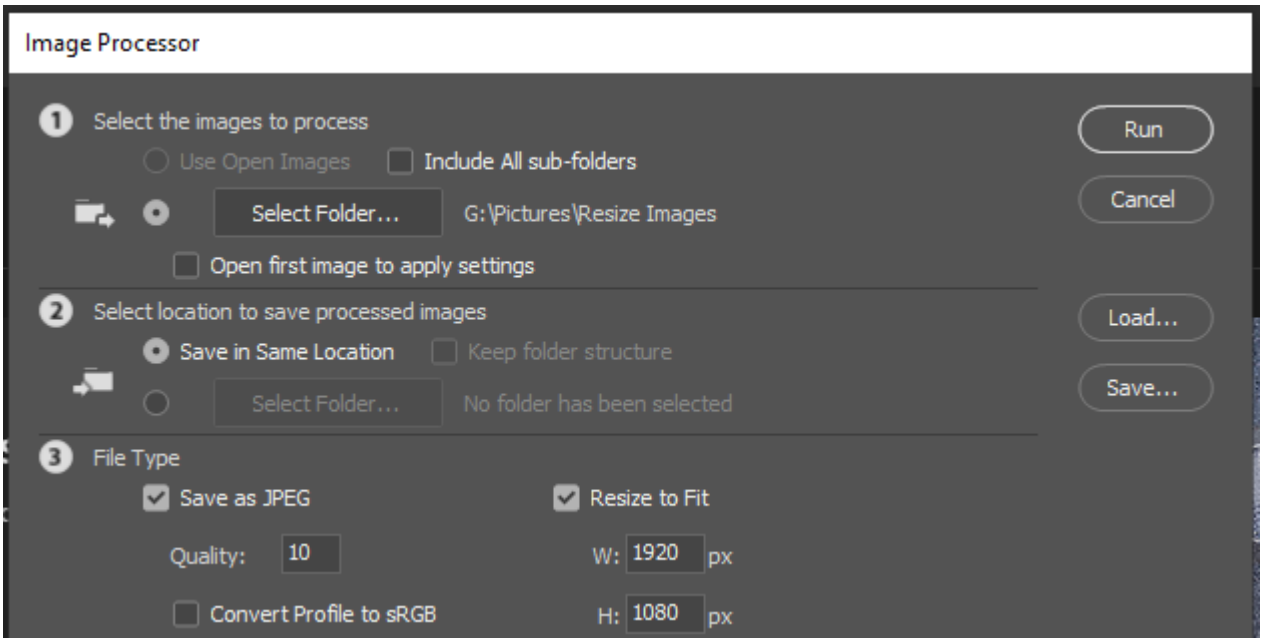
What 1920 x 1080 means

These numbers refer to the maximum width of an image file (1920 pixels) and the maximum height (1080 pixels). The image resizing process compresses the file (removing pixels) until both dimensions are under the height and width limits.

Resizing a batch of pictures

Photoshop has an easy way to resize a whole batch of pictures in just three steps:

1. Open Photoshop.
2. Then click File, Scripts, Image Processor.
3. This window will open. Hit Run, and you are done!



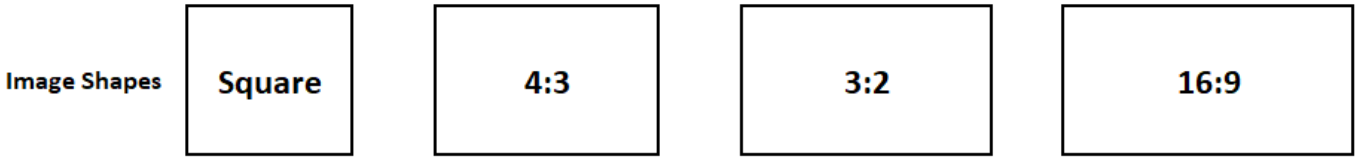
Photoshop does not modify your original pictures. It creates a folder called JPEG (right under your selected folder) and leaves compressed copies of each file in that folder. After you run this, go check out the two folders. You will see that the original pictures retain their original dimensions, but the copies in the JPEG folder have the smaller dimensions that meet our 1920 x 1080 maximums.

if you have run the process before, the above is all you do. If not, you need to do the following setup steps:

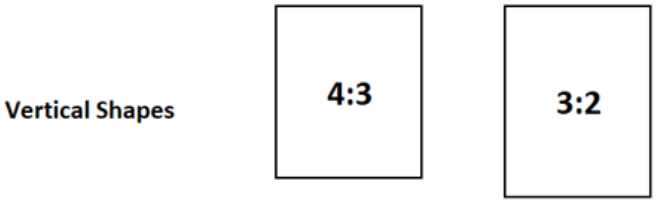
- Select Folder – Browse to a folder where you will have the pictures to resize. Click O.K. As you can see, my folder is called Resize Images. Whenever I want to resize pictures, I copy my files into this folder. That way, I never have to change this setting in the Image Processor window.
- File Type and Quality – You want to check JPEG and pick a Quality. The max is 12. They say you are fine with an 8. I hedge and go with 10, so my files are a little bigger. Everything I have read says there will be no improvement in appearance by selecting more than 10. You would just have bulkier files.
- Resize to fit – Check this box, so your picture does not get distorted, and enter our width and height limits. Then enter the Width and Height limits of 1920 and 1080.

Unless you want to change controls for some reason, you only need to set these once at startup. Then you can resize batches of pictures whenever you want with just four clicks: File, Scripts, Image Processor, Run.

This is all you need to know. If you are a normal well-adjusted person, **read no further!** But if you just have to know why most of your resized pictures are not exactly 1920 x 1080, see the examples below:



	Square	4:3	3:2	16:9
	Width x Height	Width x Height	Width x Height	Width x Height
Full Resolution	4000 x 4000	4000 x 3000	3000 x 2000	19200 x 10800
1920x1080 Resize	1080 x 1080	1440 x 1080	1620 x 1080	1920 x 1080
Width / Height	1.000	1.333	1.500	1.778



	4:3	3:2
	Width x Height	Width x Height
Full Resolution	3000 x 4000	2000 x 3000
1920x1080 Resize	810 x 1080	720 x 1080
Height / Width	1.33	1.50

In all of these examples, the height of the resized files is 1080.

Note that the verticals still have a height limit of 1080. The height limit for verticals is not 1920.

The only image that attains the full width of 1920 is the 16:9 horizontal image. The only file that would ever have a height less than 1080 would be a very wide horizontal image. Example: 16000 x 8000 (2:1) would become 1920 x 960.