

Digital Photo Guidelines For Railpace Newsmagazine

Updated December 15, 2010

Thank you for your interest in submitting your digital images for publication in Railpace Newsmagazine. Welcome to the growing number of digital photographers in the pages of Railpace each month!

2005 marked our first full year accepting and publishing digital photos, and we were very pleased with the quality of reproduction that we were able to achieve. During **2006**, the vast majority of rail photographers moved to Digital to exploit its quality, flexibility, and ability to contribute news photos in an expedited manner.

By 2007, about 90% of the photos published in Railpace were now digital camera images, including the front and rear covers, and two-page spreads! **2010** marked our fifth year publishing digital photos.

Today, "prosumer" or "intermediate level" digital cameras provide images of excellent quality for magazine reproduction.

Even a 3-megapixel digital camera can provide a good quality 3-1/2 x 5-inch "news-photo" when the camera set to its highest recording quality. The recent generation of 8, 10, 12, and 18 mega pixel cameras provide resolution high enough for a 2-page spread (11x17"), and **produce resolution superior to 35mm film cameras.**

Digital has proven to beat film resolution when shooting in low light situations, such as railcar and station interiors, and at night photo sessions. Digital camera "Auto White Balance" and the option to manually set "light source type" is also a huge plus for night and indoor photography where fluorescent, incandescent, mercury vapor and sodium vapor lights are often encountered.

IT'S EASY TO CONTRIBUTE!

• **You can use our FREE FTP Photo Upload site to send us your out-of-the-camera JPEG (.jpg) or .RAW/.NEF files**

Trackside:

- It's important to **shoot your image at the highest resolution your camera can record.**
- Virtually all digital cameras record images in JPEG mode (.jpg file extension).
- Set your camera to the highest quality (no compression) setting.
- You will fit fewer images onto your flash card, but the trade-off is they will be the highest quality.

You paid for all those megapixels— so *use* them!

On Your Computer:

When you have digital image(s) that you want to share with us, simply do the following:

1. Make a low-res "thumbnail" (72 d.p.i., 10-inches across, approximately 300 KB) JPEG file and **send it to us as an e-mail attachment** "for approval."

• **E-mail the "for approval" file to the Railpace Editorial Office** at: railpace@ptd.net

• **Be sure to save this low-res thumbnail as a new file name, so that you don't over-write and downsample (reduce the file size/ quality of) your hi-resolution file !**

Include a brief photo caption or information in your e-mail explaining your photo.

2. If we can use your digital image in an upcoming issue of Railpace, we'll send you an e-mail response with the **URL** (internet address) of our FTP Photo Upload Site, and a **Passcode** which will allow you to Upload up to **four** hi-resolution images.

3. Simply **Upload** your hi-resolution JPEG or RAW file over our free FTP (File Transfer Protocol) site. **It's easy to use, there is no file size limit, and it's FREE.**

JPEG file format works best; .RAW .NEF and .TIFF file formats may also be sent; these work best if you have a fast (DSL or cable-modem) connection.

• The Railpace Digital Photo Upload page provides a place to type in your name, e-mail address, and **plenty of space for a detailed photo caption.**

• Include your postal (snail-mail) address if you wish to receive a complimentary copy by First Class Mail of the issue in which your photo appears.

The Upload submission page keeps all of your information together in one file, and saves you the extra step of having to E-mail detailed caption information separately.

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Adjusting and Processing Digital Images:

We recommend that you send us your unedited, HI-RES, out-of-the-camera JPEG file.

Kindly do not spend time editing your hi-res file, allow us to do that, so we're not trying to guess what corrections you may have already made, or have to un-do something you already did.

Getting Your Digital Images to Railpace

You can utilize our, FREE, web-based **FTP Photo Upload Service**, described above, or burn your digital file(s) onto a CD and **snail-mail or courier it to us.**

To send us your digital images on a CD:

BY MAIL:

Railpace Newsmagazine Editorial Office, PO Box 229, Greentown, PA 18426-0229

FedEx / UPS / DHL couriers

Railpace Newsmagazine Editorial Office, 130 Beechwood Cove Road, Greentown, PA 18426

Kindly do not try to e-mail huge, hi-resolution files! Many E-mail servers cannot handle large file attachments, and your e-mail may be rejected by your ISP's mail server.

The Photo Upload System is available 24 / 7; system performance is fastest after 10 PM at night.

Please be patient— it may take a while after the “progress bar” is filled for the screen to display the message **“Upload Completed”**

If you have Dial-Up or a very slow Internet connection, your Upload may time-out. Consider getting DSL or a Cable modem connection, or use a friend's computer with a faster connection to Upload.

Some contributors who use America On Line (aol.com) have reported difficulty Uploading files.

If you have trouble uploading, send an e-mail to railpace@ptd.net and we'll try to assist you. The free Upload system is very reliable, and is available 24-7.

Frequently Asked Questions

• **Why do I need a Passcode to get onto the Upload Service site?**

The Passcode is used to keep hackers, pranksters and other low-life from messing up a good system! The Passcode also provides privacy for your work, as it prevents other contributors from looking at— or tinkering with— your images, before they're published in Railpace.

• **Why am I restricted to Uploading only “up to four images”?**

Although file servers can accommodate **much larger file sizes** than e-mail servers can, **file storage capacity** is still not infinite. The four-image limit allows enough space for other contributors to also place their images. Think of the Upload Service as a temporary “bridge” where you pass images to us, it is not a “storage” or “photo gallery” site.

As a side benefit, the 4-image limitation **requires to you “edit” and choose your best submissions.** We just don't have the staff to look at hundreds of digital images, or review your entire 2-week vacation at Sand Patch... *you* are the Editor, choose what is best quality and **most newsworthy.**

• **What if I'm stuck with a dial-up connection to the Internet?**

You can try to upload your file, but it may be *painfully* slow, and may time-out. Consider getting DSL or Broadband (Cable), or find a friend who has DSL or Cable, and upload from their machine.

• **I need to send more than 4 images, such as for a feature article.**

In situations where you need to send us many images, please send us your images on a CD or DVD.

• **My Upload “Failed” and did not go through!** Be sure you are Uploading a JPEG (.jpg) **[preferred]**; or .RAW .NEF or TIFF file type. **JPEG (.jpg) files Upload best.** Your file may be **corrupted.** Reopen it and check it, **then re-save it with a slightly different file name.** • You may have used **prohibited characters** in your digital file name (such as a plus + sign); see the Upload page for restrictions • Your connection may be timing-out, especially if you have Dial-Up, or a slow internet connection. • The vagaries of the Internet...line troubles... network burps... try again later. • Some contributors who have America On Line (aol.com) have experienced difficulty Uploading files.

The FTP Upload Service is available 24/7; system performance is fastest after 10 PM.

We are honored to run your digital images in Railpace Newsmagazine. *Welcome Aboard!*

Check the Railpace website, www.railpace.com for periodic updates to this Digital Photography Guide.

Questions/comments/suggestions on this instructional presentation?

Please e-mail: railpace@ptd.net