

# PRINTING GUIDE

Understanding Photography Files and Sizing

TML STUDIOS

You've had a beautiful photography session, and now it's time to turn those digital images into prints for your home. Here's a guide to help you understand image files, sizing, and the options available for creating stunning displays.

## 1. Understanding Digital Files

- **High-Resolution Files:** These files are ideal for printing, as they retain sharpness and detail even at larger sizes. I provide high-resolution images for prints so you can achieve high-quality results.
- **Web-Resolution Files:** These are optimized for online sharing and social media. They're smaller in size and generally not suitable for printing due to lower resolution. Avoid using these files for anything beyond small prints (4x6) to prevent blurry or pixelated results.
- **JPEG Format:** This is the most common file type for photo prints. It's easy to use and provides high quality with manageable file sizes.
- **RAW Files:** I shoot in RAW format, but these files are not shared as they require special editing software. I will edit RAW files and convert them to JPEGs or other formats for your prints. The RAW files can not be printed from and are very large!

## 2. Choosing Print Sizes

- **Small Prints (4x6, 5x7):** These sizes work well for table frames, albums, and small collages. They're easy to display on shelves, desks, and as part of a gallery wall.
- **Medium Prints (8x10, 11x14):** Medium prints are great for individual frames or grouped together on a photo wall. They're often chosen for standout images that deserve extra space to shine.
- **Large Prints (16x20, 20x30, or larger):** Large prints make a statement, especially above a fireplace, in the living room, or a child's room. They're best for one or two of your favorite images where details and expressions are key.
- **Panoramic Sizes (10x20, 12x36):** These sizes work well for group or landscape shots and look beautiful above furniture or as part of a photo wall.

### 3. Aspect Ratios and Cropping

- **Aspect Ratio Explained:** The aspect ratio is the proportion of width to height in an image. Common photo sizes have different aspect ratios, which may mean some cropping to fit certain sizes. For example:
  - 4x6 photos have a 3:2 aspect ratio.
  - 5x7 and 8x10 photos have different aspect ratios, so your image may need adjusting.
  - If you require a specific aspect ratio please reach out and I can arrange that for you.
- **Avoid Important Details at the Edges:** When choosing sizes, be mindful that images may be cropped, especially for non-standard sizes like 8x10. Keep key details away from the edges of the frame to prevent accidental cropping.

### 4. Print Finishes and Materials

- **Glossy Finish:** Glossy prints have vibrant colors and sharp details but can reflect light and show fingerprints, so they're best for smaller prints or frames with glass.
- **Matte Finish:** Matte prints reduce glare and are great for larger prints or photos you'll handle frequently, such as in albums or without frames.
- **Lustre Finish:** This popular choice combines the best of both glossy and matte, with a slight sheen that enhances colors without the reflection.
- **Canvas Prints:** Canvas prints offer a soft, textured look that works well for portraits or larger wall art. They're durable and frameless, giving a modern, gallery-style feel.
- **Metal, Wood, or Acrylic Prints:** These are unique, eye-catching options for special images, often adding depth or a contemporary style to family photos.

### 5. Resolution and Quality for Larger Prints

- **Image Resolution:** For larger prints, the resolution is essential to ensure your images remain sharp and clear. With my high-resolution images, you won't run into any issues.
- **Image Size and Quality:** Make sure your images are saved in the largest available size for large prints. Please let me know if you're unsure about a file's suitability for larger prints.
- **Professional Print Labs:** For larger prints or specialty items, consider letting me take on the project. Using a professional print lab is always recommended because they provide color accuracy and high-quality materials that often surpass standard consumer options.

### 6. Common Print Sizes and Suggested Uses

- **4x6, 5x7:** Great for gifts, albums, or displaying on small shelves.
- **8x10, 11x14:** Ideal for framed family portraits on walls, desks, or entryways.

- **16x20, 20x24, 24x36:** Perfect for feature images on large walls, creating a focal point in the room.
- **Panoramic Sizes (10x20, 12x36):** This is suitable for landscapes, family group shots, or unique wall displays.

## 7. *Tips for a Successful Printing Experience*

- **Plan Ahead for Display:** Try and think about where you'll display each print and choose sizes that fit the space. Mix and match different sizes to create a dynamic gallery wall.
- **Use UV-Resistant Glass for Framing:** To protect prints from fading, especially in sunny rooms, use UV-resistant glass or opt for canvas or metal prints with protective coatings.
- **Ask Your Photographer for Recommendations:** If you're unsure about print sizes or finishes, your photographer can help suggest options that match your home decor and style.

## 8. *Storing and Backing Up Digital Files*

- **Store High-Resolution Copies:** Keep a backup of your high-resolution digital files on a secure cloud service or external hard drive. This allows you to print new copies anytime.
- **Create a Digital Album:** Digital albums are great for sharing with family or revisiting memories whenever you like. They also make it easy to reorder prints if needed.
- **I Archive all my Sessions,** if you ever lose them please reach out!

*Enjoy displaying these moments throughout your home, where they'll remind you daily of your family's unique story.*