

Preparing Digital Images for Projection

By Dennis Goulet

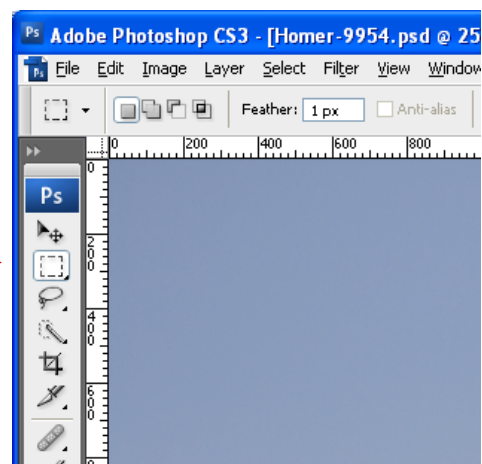
Sizing for Projection

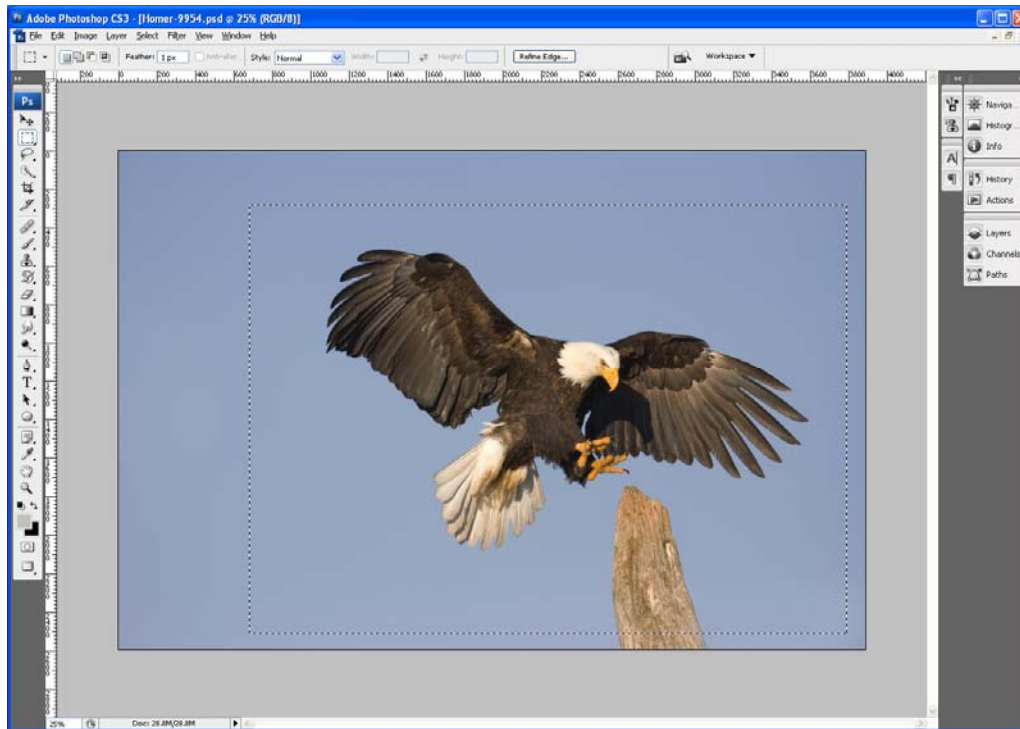
Open the image in your image editing software. Complete all the editing of the image you intend to do. Sizing is done after the image is the way you want it to look. In this sample image, you can see the subject is off-center and some of the sky can be eliminated to make a more pleasing image. Using this method, any shape image will be resized to fit within the required 1024 X 768.



Select the Marquis tool and outline the area of the image you want to crop from the original image.

Once the selection box is drawn, you can move it, but not change dimensions. If it's not the way you want it, just re-draw the selection.



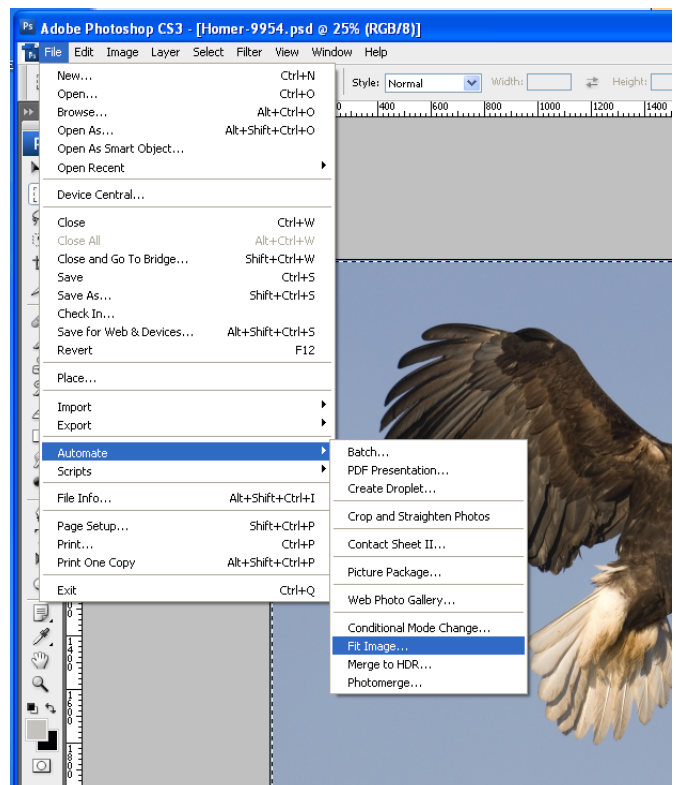
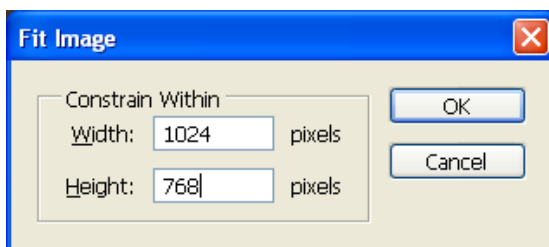


Once the selection is correct, crop the image using the Image pull-down menu and select Crop. The image will be the shape that you want, but the dimensions will not be less than the required 1024 X 768.

To reduce the pixel count, from the pull-down menu, select File – Automate – Fit Image.

Enter 1024 in the Width box and 768 in the Height box. The image will now be resized to be within those dimensions.

Click OK. Now the image is ready to sharpen.

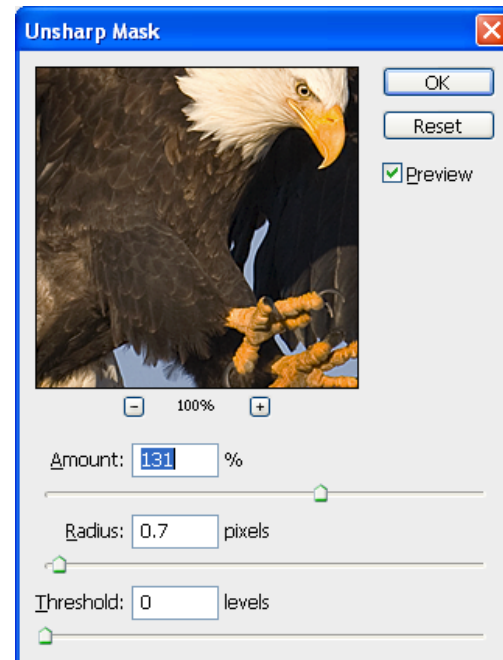
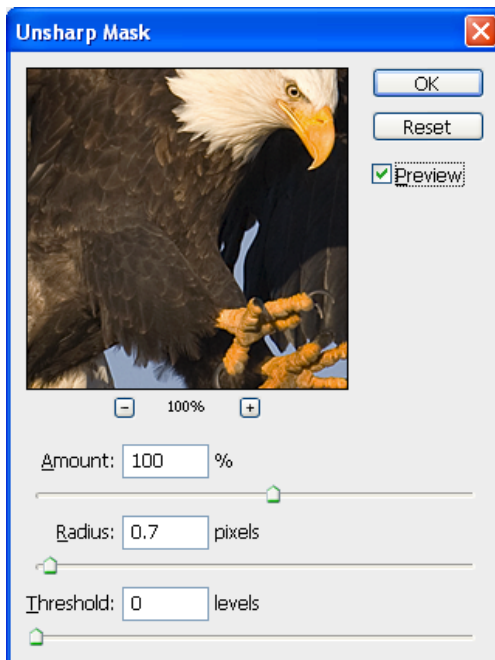
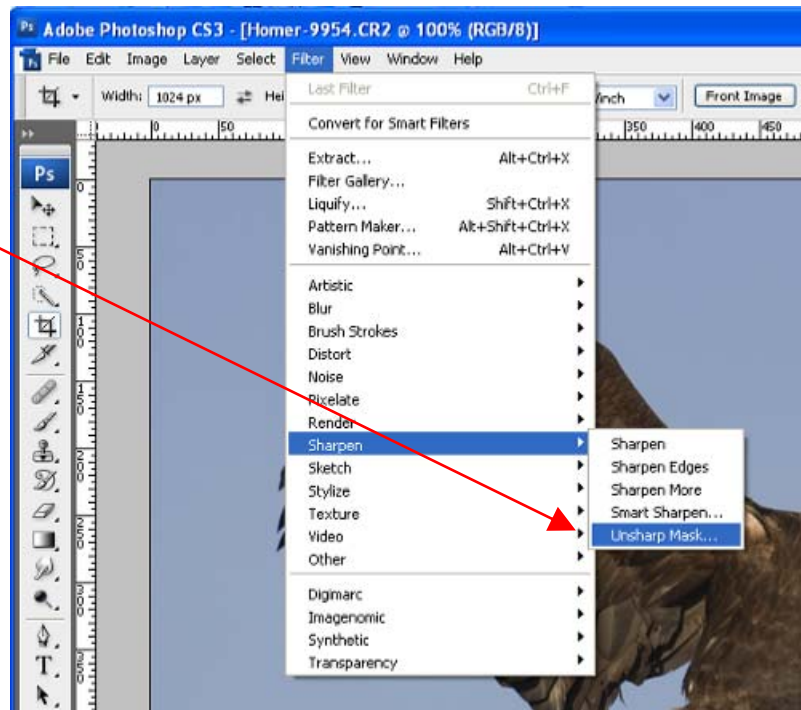


Sharpening for Projection

From the Filter pull-down menu select Sharpen – Unsharp Mask.

A window will open with three adjustments offered: Amount, Radius, and Threshold.

Rather than go through a detailed explanation of the effects of Radius and Threshold, lets just set the Radius to something between 0.5 and 1.0, and Threshold to 0. You can adjust these later to explore the effects. Start with Amount set to 100%.

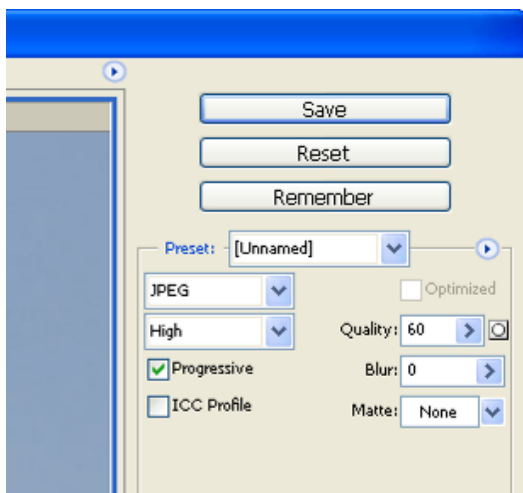
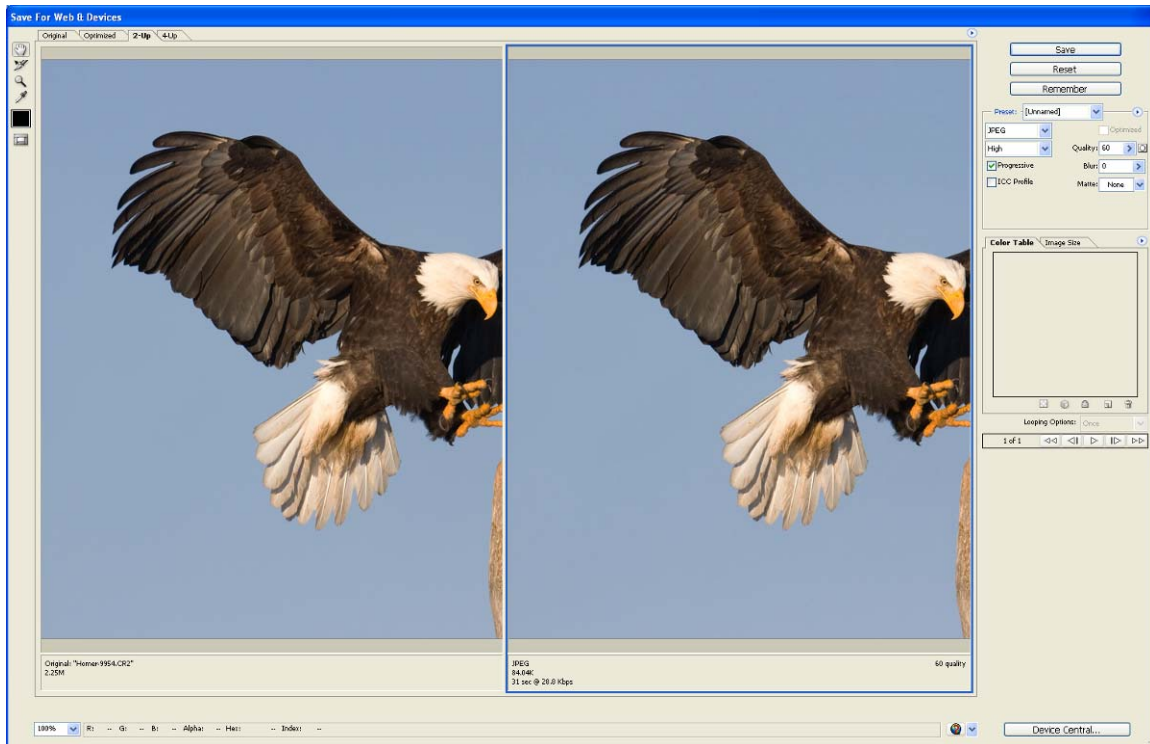


Make certain the image is being viewed at “full size” or 100%. This will be an accurate presentation of how the image will look when projected. You can observe the effect of sharpening on the image, by checking and un-checking the Preview feature in the window.

Adjust the amount to get the look you want. Sometime it is not effective to sharpen too much, for this image I was satisfied with 131. Now you can save the image for projection.

Saving for Projection

The competition rules state that the image must be in the sRGB color space and not larger than 500K in file size. If the image is not in the sRGB color space it must be converted to that profile first. The best way to minimize the file is to use the “Save for the Web and Devices” under the File pull down menu. Select the 2-Up tab at the top to see the before and after images side-by-side.



Set the image format as JPEG, and adjust the quality to the lowest possible while ensuring the image shows no defects. In this case using a quality of 60 creates an image size of 86Kb, from an original JPEG that was 2.25 Mb.

When you are done, click on Save. A window opens which allows you to name the file as you wish, and select a folder where the file will be saved.