

Ron and Mike's Image Checklist

Before U Send

If you listen carefully to judges making comments throughout a competition evening a pattern usually emerges as they continually criticise particular and specific features of images. In a print competition witnessed by the late Eddy Sethna, he related the tale of one judge spending the entire evening complaining about the colour of the mount! Be that as it may, there are certain things that will frequently draw criticism and many of these can be eliminated relatively easily. The basic premise should be, 'don't give a judge anything to whinge about!' – doing so draws their fire, leaving them unable to find technical faults and often leave an image in the mix until later on in the elimination process.

Now, with the best will in the world, we often get so carried away with how clever our image is that we forget to complete a final check on the basics. Having spent hours performing fancy tricks with Photoshop it is easy to forget to consider whether a little vignette on an image would just apply the finishing touch, for example.

The second page of this PDF contains a check list of the things you should at least consider before you add files to your competition entry. Although it is not, and can never, be complete, it does at least remind you to think about the basics! One other thing to bear in mind is that many judges look badly upon multiple entries of very similar images. The expression most often heard is, "if you can't decide which is the best image don't ask me to do so". So don't use the competition as a sifting filter for a bunch of images which are essential the same.

