

# Digital Photo Guidelines For RailpaceNewsmagazine

Updated November 1, 2015

**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. Ten years later, Digital photography has basically vanquished film as the medium of choice for railfan photographers. It is thought that when Digital cameras reached 6 megapixel resolution, they were about equal to the resolution obtainable from a 35mm slide. Digital cameras have now moved on to 12... 18... 24... and even 50 megapixels for full-frame sensor DSLRs. As they say, do the math. Digital also offers the ability to vary the ISO to accommodate interior photos, bad weather, and low-light situations, and night photography. Plus Digital does much better than film with shadow areas, which tended to “block up” (appear totally black with no detail) in color slides.

Digital camera “White Balance” adjustments (along with photo editing programs such as PhotoShop, LightRoom, etc.) enable the photographer to set (or later adjust) “light source type” when fluorescent, incandescent, mercury vapor and sodium vapor lights are encountered.

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IT'S AS EASY AS 1 – 2 – 3 TO CONTRIBUTE!

## 1: Trackside:

- It's important to **photograoh at the highest resolution your camera can record.**
- Virtually all digital cameras today record images in JPEG and RAW
- 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!

## 2: On Your Computer:

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

- **Make a low-res “thumbnail”** (72 d.p.i., 10-inches across, KB) jpeg file. and **send it to us as an e-mail attachment** “for approval.” to: [railpace@ptd.net](mailto:railpace@ptd.net)
- **Be sure to save this low-res thumbnail as a new file name, so that you don't over-write and reduce the file size/ quality of your hi-resolution file !**
- Include a brief photo caption or information in your e-mail explaining your photo.
- If we can use your digital image in an upcoming issue of Railpace, we'll promptly 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 (one-at-a-time).

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

**JPEG file format works best;** .RAW .NEF .CR2 .ORF and .TIFF file formats may also be sent; these work best if you have a fast interent 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 on the Upload page if you wish to receive a complimentary copy by First Class Mail of the issue in which your photo appears.

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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 and your name and your mailing address separately.

**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.**

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](mailto:railpace@ptd.net) and we’ll try to assist you. The free Upload system is very reliable, and is available 24-7.**

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## 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. • You may have used **prohibited characters** in your digital file name (such as a plus + sign); see the Upload page for restrictions The FTP Upload Service is available 24/7; system performance is fastest after 10 PM.

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

Questions/comments/suggestions on this instructional presentation? Please e-mail:  
[railpace@ptd.net](mailto:railpace@ptd.net)