

In general we require images of the highest quality. There are some differences in our requirements for images supplied by authors and images supplied for competition and book submissions.

Image quality

- **Set your camera to the highest quality setting available.** We can accept PSD, RAW, TIFF and JPG images, however, we prefer PSD or RAW. JPG images are significantly lower in quality than PSD or RAW, as they are compressed, however we can accept them if you are not able to supply other formats.
- **We prefer images taken on a Digital SLR camera.**
- **Good focus is essential.** It is best to use a tripod as this keeps your camera steady and prevents blurring. Make sure your camera is focused on the main object you are framing.
- **Ensure you have good, adequate lighting.** Natural light from a nearby window or door should do the trick. If possible, try and shoot all photos in the same light, to ensure consistency across your published article.
- **If you know how, set the white balance before you begin shooting in a new location.** This will ensure even colour tones throughout all your images. If the white balance is set to auto, it may differ in each image. The correct white balance setting will differ depending on where you are, eg. natural light is a different colour to the light that comes from say, fluorescent lights.
- **Think carefully about how you are composing and framing your images.** A neutral background is preferred for images supplied of finished work, and for competition and book submissions. A white background, or as pale as you can possibly manage is best. Pay attention to objects in the background which may distract. Watch out for things like shaggy rugs, wrinkled sheets, leaves and grass as these can end up being visible over the feet or base of your finished furniture piece. If you are an author supplying images for a story it is also nice for people to be able to see your workshop, and we know our readers like studying the backgrounds of photos, so think about what would look best in the background of your photo. Workshops can sometimes have a lot of grey surfaces (corrugated iron roll-a-doors, concrete floor, machine tables). If you are taking a series of in-progress shots of a smaller item for a project type article consider using a sheet of melamine or a pale not too-woody surface as a non-distracting, lighter background.
- **Put your best face forward.** It's nice to be able to see the person who is writing the story, so please take some photos that include yourself in the image. We like to have some photos of people working.
- **We want to use photos straight from your camera—which means un-edited and un-changed.** Do not try to remove the background from an image using the Magic Wand tool or any other method, to produce a white background. If this is needed, we prefer to do this ourselves using our methods. If you want a white background on your image, it is best to actually take the photo on a white paper background. Coloured background usually reflects coloured light onto the item you are photographing. If you are unsure, please contact us with any queries you have, before you take the photos. **Please note:** work shown in photos for competition and book submissions must not be digitally edited.
- **If you are an author and absolutely must alter your photo using Photoshop,** or if you are a professional, trained Photoshop user, re-save it as a PSD file. Do not re-save a file in JPG format. JPG files are compressed files. Every time a JPG is re-saved, it will lose quality and become pixelated. Keep the image in RGB colour mode too. But once again, we prefer to do all image editing ourselves, to ensure consistent results over the entire magazine. This includes adding drop shadows.
- **Do not use any other photo editing program apart from Photoshop to edit, manipulate, brighten, or change your images in any way.** You may think you are improving them, but in actual fact you may be making the image worse. What looks good on screen doesn't always look good printed. Different monitors show colours and brightness differently. If you really, really, really want to edit your photos anyway, then send us both the original file and your edited version.
- **Title image.** If you are an author it is great if you can supply an image to be the lead-in photo of the article, a generic-type shot, perhaps including yourself. If supplying images for competition and book submissions include a good image of yourself with your piece as well.

Naming files

Please supply your images in the correct order in which they should appear in the article.

You do this a couple of ways:

1. Naming each file appropriately,

eg: *Table01.tiff, Table02.tiff, Table03.tiff.....etc*

OR by providing a list of photo captions

Photo captions

Please supply text captions for all of your images.

This greatly assists us with the layout.

Captions for images should be supplied in a separate text document or email, for example:

Image 1: IMG4778.jpg Machine cutting the side rails

Image 2: IMG4763.jpg Gluing up the frame

Image 3: IMG4854.jpg etc etc

Captions can be more descriptive if you wish, and even include additional information to what is in the main text.