

Using the Canvas Tool to Make Borders and Mats

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Borders and Mats provide a separation between the background and the image. By separating the image from the background the viewer is drawn into the elements of the image.

I. To make a thin border

1. Transfer image from Lightroom, OneDrive or wherever you store your images to Photoshop. If from lightroom right click on **Edit in Photoshop → Edit with Lightroom adjustments**.
2. Once image is launched in Photoshop, duplicate the background layer by clicking on CTRL J if using a PC (or CMD J) if using a MAC. By duplicating the Background **layer you** save a kind of a backup copy of your original image. Also, it enables you to correct the effect of sharpening, retouching, painting, etc. even after you re-open the image.
3. Navigate to the navigation bar at the top (top left corner) then left click on **Image → Canvas Size**.
4. A dropdown box will appear. Make certain the **Anchor** arrows are pointing out and the circle is in the middle.
5. Make certain **Relative** has a check mark.
6. Change **Pixels** to **Inches** for both **Width** and **Height**.
7. Typically I use a Black Border to begin with but that is a matter of choice.
8. For a small border I use 0.03 for both Width and Height, but that again is a matter of choice.
9. Type in size for both Width and Height.
10. Click on OK. (Now you have a thin border around the image)
11. At this point if you are going to use this image as a digital image for Exhibition or email transfer then go back to **Image → Image Size** and then resize to 1400 X 1050. (**Resample** box should be checked) I have found that **Preserve Sample 2.0** renders the best image. Click on **Reduce Noise** to 100.
12. Click OK
13. Go to **Layer → Flatten Image**. This puts all layers together for quick transfer of the image using up less space.
14. Complete the image by left clicking on **File → Export → Quick Storage as JPG**.

II. To make a Mat

1. Using the image with the thin border make certain you first make a copy to work with go to **Image → Canvas Size → Change Pixels to Inches → Type in 2.0 for Width and Height → Canvas Extension Color** and choose a color for your mat. Click on **Color** and choose a color from the color pallet or move your cursor over the image (cursor becomes a pen tool and click on a color of choice. By the way if you don't like the color you can always go to **Edit → Undo Canvas Size** and start over.
2. Complete task by following steps 10 through 14 in **I. To make a thin border**.

III. To make Multiple Borders

1. To make multiple borders follow steps 1.0 through 10.0 as many times as you want. After you have the number of borders that you are content with follow steps 11 through 14 in **I. To make a thin border**.