
Pet Portraits: From Photo to Fabric

Photo Instructions (revised 29/01/2018)

If you need help with this step:

- E-mail me your photo (.jpg file) well in advance of the class. For a \$10.00 fee, I will do the alterations for you and email you a file of the posterized photo for you to print from your own computer or have printed at a copy shop.

Photograph Requirements:

- Black & white 8.5" x 11" photo that you have posterized on your computer to show the light-medium-dark areas (see instructions below for preparing the photo). I suggest bringing an additional copy for practise.
- Original 8.5" x 11" photo (either colour or black & white). You'll use this as a reference photo.

Tips for choosing a Photo:

- Photos showing your pet's personality are ideal.
- The photo should have good resolution and strong contrast with plenty of light on the pet, which produces shadows & reflections and conveys details. The better your image, the easier it is to work with and the better the results will be.
- Look for photos that show eyes having a glint of light on them.
- Aim to fill most of the page with the face and neck/chest of your pet so you can focus on just two major areas: neck/chest and face/ears.
- You may need to crop the photo slightly to remove extra background, but do not crop so much that it compromises the resolution.
- Be aware that teeth pose additional challenges but a big open smile can also be part of your pet's personality so if you're up to the challenge, go for it!
- If the photo is not yours, you must obtain permission to use it if you are considering publicly displaying or selling your final art quilt. Copyright-free photos are available online by doing a Google search.

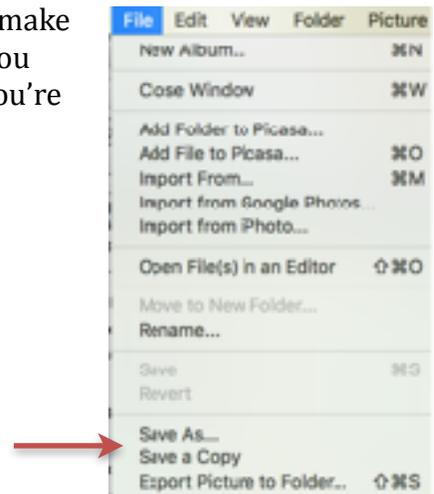
If you do not already have Picasa (which has been discontinued), I suggest using the **Pixlr Editor** website: <https://pixlr.com/editor/> as another free alternative. Photoshop is also a good option if you already own the program.

If you are using **Pixlr Editor** website, follow these instructions:

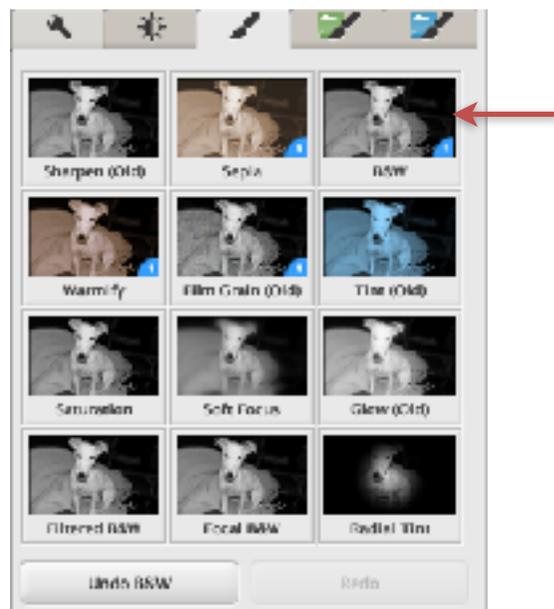
1. **Save a Working Copy:** You should always work from a copy of your original. Save a working copy on your computer and note its location before opening [Pixlr Editor](#).
2. **Open your image:** Click the *Open From Your Computer* button to locate and upload the working copy of the photo from your computer.
3. **Convert to Black & White:** From the Adjustment menu use the Desaturate tool to convert the portrait to black and white.
4. **Posterize the Photo:** From the Adjustment menu use the Posterize tool to posterize. You should aim for 4 - 7 levels of posterizing. Try adjusting the levels up and down to see the variations it creates, then choose the level that appeals to you.
5. **Save the Image:** Click *Save* from the File menu and save to your computer.
6. **Print the Photo:** Refer to Step 4 in the Picasa instructions below.

If you already have **Picasa** on your computer, follow these instructions.

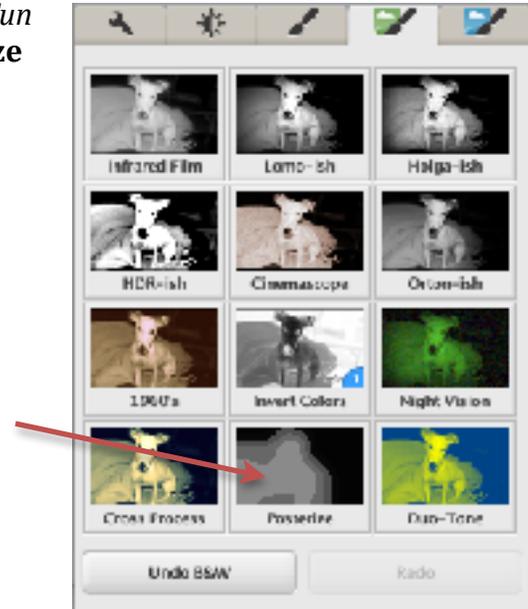
1. **Save a Copy.** Click on the *File* tab and use **Save a Copy** to make several working copies. This will be your backup in case you get confused or mess up and can't undo a mistake while you're editing the photo.



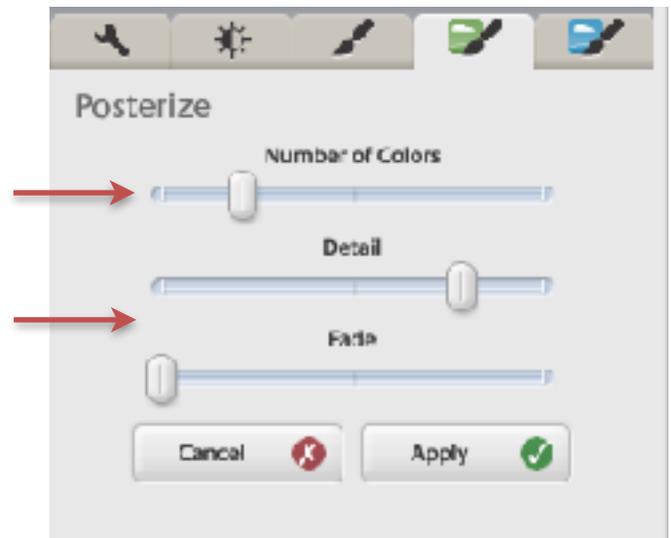
2. **Convert to Black and White:** Click on the 3rd tab (*More Fun and Useful Image Processing*) and use the **B&W** tool to remove the colour from the photo.



3. **Posterize the Photo.** Click on the 4th tab (*More Fun and Useful Image Processing*) and use the **Posterize** tool to simplify your photo.



4. **Adjust the Number of Colors and Detail** to increase or decrease the posterization until you have about 4 -7 shades. Aim for fairly simple lines/shapes with adequate detail to make out the favourite features in your subject. Keep in mind, you will be cutting these shapes from fabric so simplification is key!



5. **Print the Photo**

- Print on a single 8.5" x 11" page of regular white paper. Don't enlarge it!
- If you print several versions, all images must be the same size.
- Print a same-sized original photo.
- Bring the posterized version and the same-sized original photo to class.