The Basics of Saving & Sharing Photos for *The Gourd Magazine*

American Gourd Society's
Magazine Editor: Lynne East-Itkin

In December 2021 and January 2021 AGS offered a Photography Workshop. This is a "tutorial" based on those workshops.

Why did we offer TWO Zoom presentations about photography and are sharing this tutorial?

Everyone appreciates the beautiful images in The Gourd Magazine…but some are better than others.

So, we wanted to share some basic information that might help members personally, teachers & chapters (good photos help "sell" the classes at workshops and festivals), and of course AGS and The Gourd Magazine will benefit when we receive beautiful photos.

Objectives

1. What makes a good photo for printing in the magazine?

2. How to determine the DPI/PPI of your photos

3. How to save & rename photos

4. How to upload photos to AGS' Sharefile

What will you find in this tutorial?

Mainly we present what makes a good photo: one that is in focus, good lighting and a background that isn't cluttered.

You will learn about the importance of file size for printing and how it is very different from those online.

Lastly you will learn how to send photos for the magazine.

Heads-up: The camera phone used throughout is an iPhone 11. For Android phone users you will find most of the same options available but setup is different. Get the User Manual for your phone to learn how to take advantage of the options that will help you.

What Makes a Good Photo for Printing in *The Gourd Magazine*

1. Crisp & In Focus
2. Attention to the Background
3. Good, Filtered Light
4. Original, full size photos at least 300 DPI
5. Rename or caption photos
6. Upload to Sharefile

Each of these points is covered over the next few sides

Crisp & In Focus

1. Take more than 1 photo of the gourd (teacher/subject, venue, step of a tutorial), etc. so you have choices
2. Focus on subject and blur the background
3. Use a timer or tripod to avoid movement when touching phone
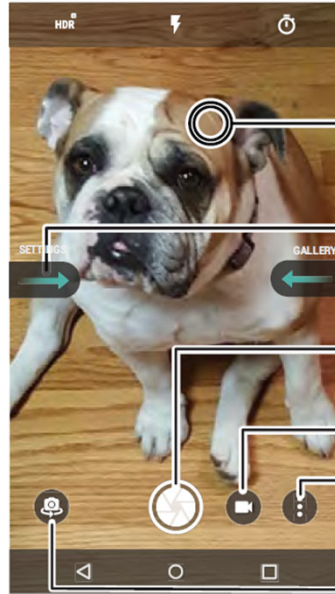4. Good contrast between gourd and the background
5. De-clutter the background

Crisp & In Focus

1. Take as many photos of the subject as possible
2. Take pictures from different angles
3. With and without flash
4. Use a photo cube or other plain background
5. Use a tripod to steady the camera (a timer helps too)

"Touch to Focus"

Camera shows a grid and is looking for faces to focus on.

If you want to focus on a certain point, you touch the screen where that feature is and the camera will focus there.

Example: You want the whole dog in the picture but want the head in focus.

Tap anywhere to change the focus.

Touch your screen to move the focus point where you want the focus to be

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Touch to Focus

When to use this feature: you've taken a picture and while you want to include everything, but you want to focus on one thing in particular.

In the example here you have 2 choices.

 A) center on the dogs face and the legs become outside the frame of the picture (or take the picture from further away).

   or

 B) touch the screen where the dog's face is and it becomes the focal point.

Blur the Background (iPhone 11)
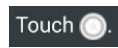
1. Touch Portrait icon on iPhone

2. Be 1 to 1.5 feet of subject

3. Touch screen where to focus to main subject

4. Use slider bar for amount of blur

5. Take picture

iPhone:

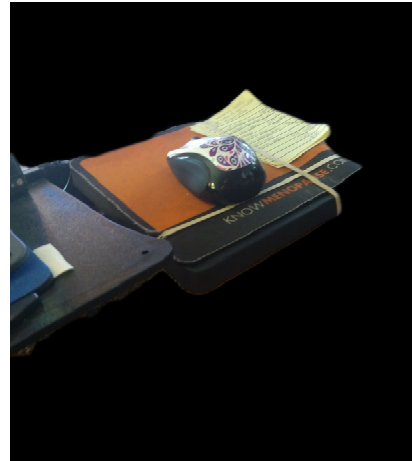To blur the background and follow these steps

How to Blur the Background (Android phone)

- Note: different phones will have different options; refer to phone manual for what options are available
- Moto Z3

To find these options, tap Menu ⋮ in the camera screen:

Options	
Professional mode	Control all camera settings manually.
Slow motion	Take a slow motion movie
True B&W	Take black-and-white photos.
Depth enabled	Blur your photo, change the background, or mix color with black and white using two built-in cameras and a special photo editor.
Panorama	Take a wide-angle shot. Use the on-screen guide to slowly pan while you are taking the photo.
Video	Take a video.
Photo	Take a photo.

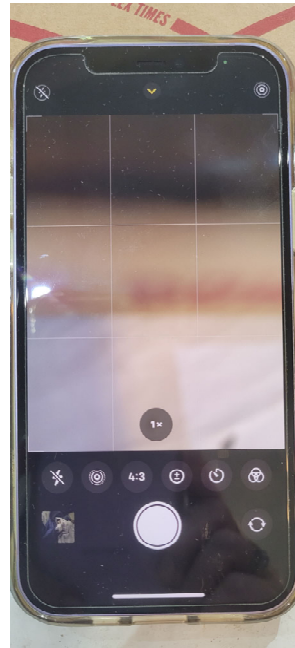To find these options, swipe right on the camera screen:

Android phone

Search the Users' manual for the word "blur"

Zoom In

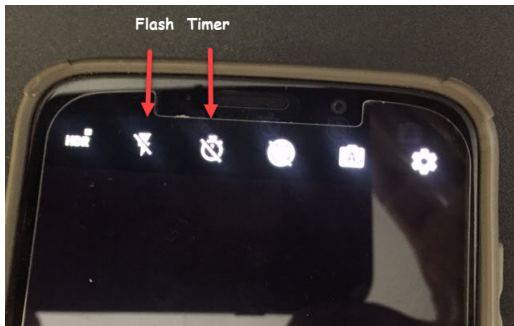- Zoom to focus more on subject and less on the background

Zoom

Zoom into the subject – fill the screen. When in focus the details of the subject will be noticeable and background is minimal

Avoid Movement of Camera

- Set a Timer (usually 3-10 Seconds)

- Use a Tripod

How to Avoid Movement of Camera

- Use of a Tripod helps prevent movement of the camera
- Use of a Timer (there's an app or feature on your phone) also helps prevent movement that can occur when you touch the button

Attention to your Background

- Good Contrast
  - Light background for brown gourd
  - Black, white, contrasting color

- Avoid Clutter
  - Poster board: Tape it to the wall, have the back/matte side out and curved onto the table
  - Hang a blanket/curtain and drape it
  - Light box

When you can…Select a Plain Background

- For a tutorial, you can set up a table with a poster board taped to the wall and it curves onto the table and photos can focus on the step being illustrated (and not a messy worktable)

- For photos from a gourd show competition, set-up a photo taking station with a photo cube/light box or a table & poster board

- For a mobile photo booth you can create a backdrop with a curtain hanging from a rod and 2 poles (two people hold the curtain behind the subject gourd and 3rd person takes the photos)

- Side note: Iron the fabric of the photo cube or curtain

Light Settings on your Phone

You can turn off the Flash
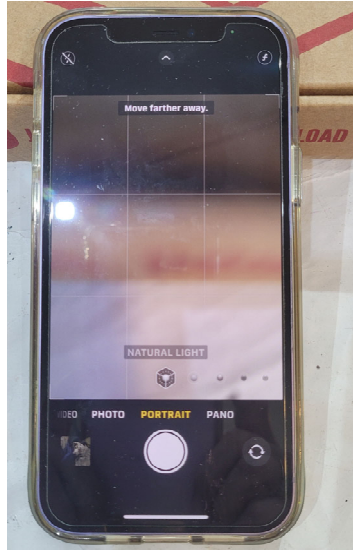
Flash On

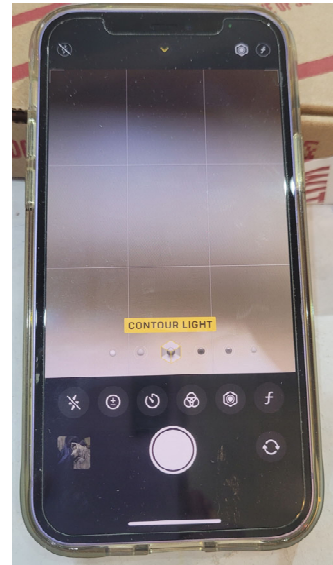**Flash Off**

Flash – On or Off?

Flash can create a "glare" on gourds, especially when the gourd has been varnished

Shadows are also created by light (even when the flash is off ambient light will create shadows)

Light Settings on your Phone (iPhone)
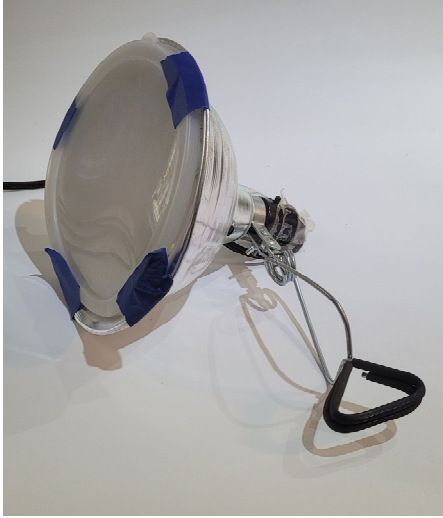
Natural Light
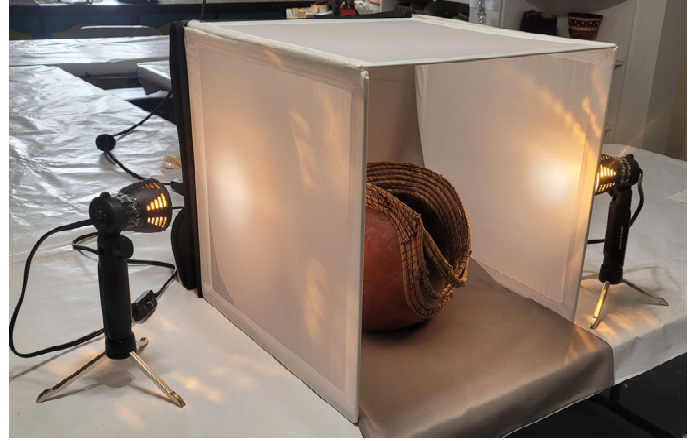

Contour Light

Different phones have different camera options.

The iPhone has a setting called "Contour Light" which puts the light on the subject and a heightened drama - dramatic shadows with highlights and lowlights

Diffuse Light

Diffuse with lid of Tupperware
bowl taped to light fixture

Diffuse through sides of light box

Diffuse Light to Avoid a Hot Spot

1. It can be a sample as taping a plastic lid over the light fixture
2. Place the lights outside the light box/photo cube
    - Light the object from 2-3 sides

Needed: High Resolution Images

DPI = Dots per inch

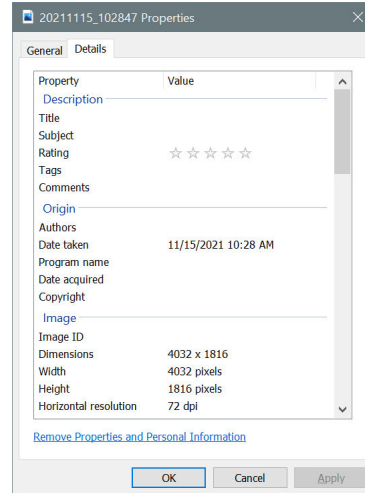• Printing quality is 300 DPI or higher

PPI – Pixels per inch

• Camera phone images are 72 PPI

• Social Media sources are "down sampled"

• Image details include PPI for length & width as well as megabytes (swipe up to see details)

• Send the original and do not crop

What is the Definition of a High Resolution Image

• For The Magazine the image must be 300 DPI

• Camera phone images are 72 PPI

• Send original, uncropped photos

• Do not send images from social media because the images are down sampled and small files

Camera Phone – Example 1

Yes, it's the kitchen sink !

Photos and their Properties

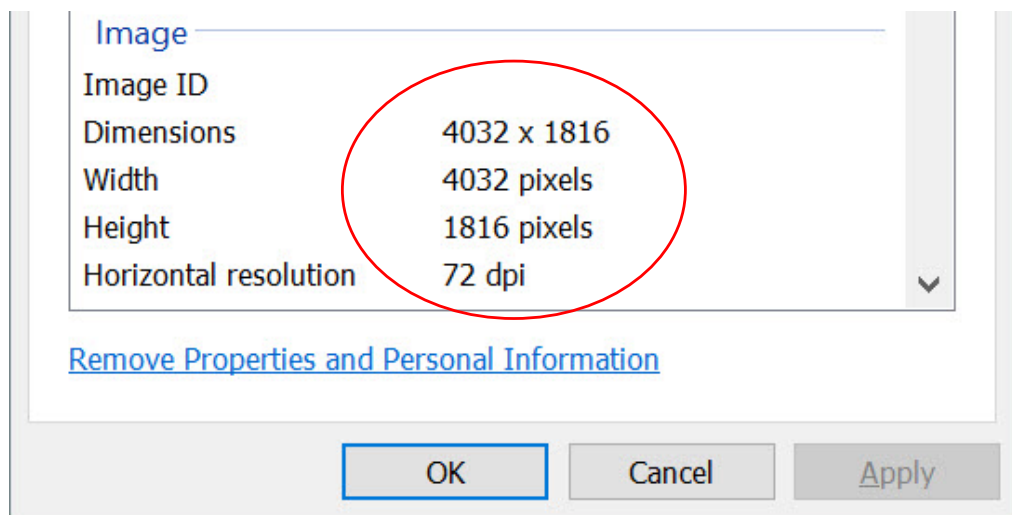**Camera:**

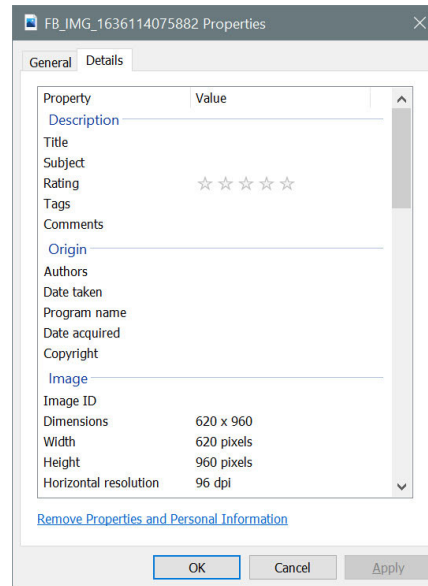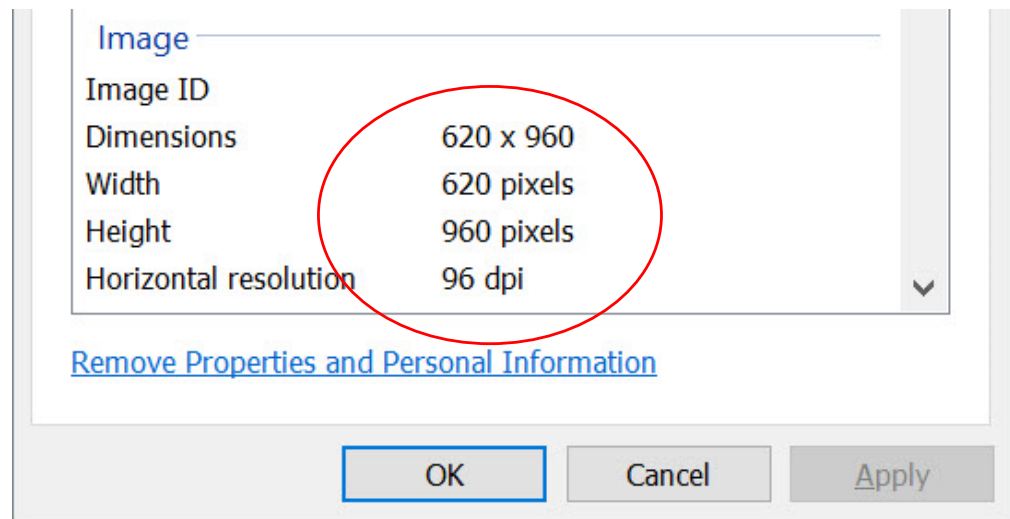It's all about the pixels

Image Saved from Facebook – Example 2

Photos and their Properties

Facebook: Look at the pixels

High Resolution Images = 300 PPI

How to determine max image size by dividing these # by 4.17

- Example 1: 4032 x 1816 ÷ 4.17 = 967 x 435
  Excellent!

- Example 2: 620 x 960 ÷ 4.17 = 149 x 230
  Poor

Example 1: From the camera

Example 2: From a Facebook image

Sending Photos to AGS: Sharefile

1. Send the _original_ photo at the full size

2. Large photos are easier to send/upload to the AGS Sharefile site instead of sending them as email attachments

3. Its much easier for the Editor to get them from Sharefile too

4. Use this link: https://americangourdsociety.sharefile.com/r-r5275b74bae246dc9

Use AGS' Sharefile to send us Photos and Articles

- Use the link in this tutorial and from the magazine (ps, we can email it to you if you need it)

  https://americangourdsociety.sharefile.com/r-r5275b74bae246dc9

- Send us (upload to Sharefile) captions for the photos or rename them with the caption

Photo Guidelines

- Select the best photos that accompany your article (limit them to 12-15, not every picture you took!)

- Please include a <u>companion document </u>with a caption for each photo (names of people in the photo, category or award the gourd received)

- …or rename photos with the caption.

Photo Guidelines

- Pick the best photos…not every one you took.
- Please limit them to 12-15 pictures that tell the story of your show or illustrates your tutorial instructions

Thank you