

RAW vs JPEG



A never ending debate in digital photography, these two file formats offer different options, especially post-production and workflow.

Perfect to print A5 size
14cm x 21cm / 5.83" x 8.27"

COMPARISON

RAW

- Uncompressed file format
- Each camera maker has a different filename extension
- Traditionally needs a viewing/editing program to be processed (some newer cameras offer processing in-camera)
- Large size
- Preserves the most amount of information about an image and contains more colors and dynamic range
- Has to be post-process to get best results, the image looks dull without adjustments
- Gives extended control over exposure, colors, saturation, white balance, etc.

JPEG

- Standard file format
- The same filename extension in all cameras (.jpg)
- It's processed by the camera, so it can be opened/view in any program
- Smaller size image format
- Because it is so compressed, certain information is removed from the image.
- Capable of displaying millions of colors in a highly compressed file
- Easily post-processed but there will be a small loss in quality over time



RAW - Unprocessed
Original size: 32.3 MB



JPEG Unprocessed
Original size: 9 MB



RAW - Processed
-converted to jpeg for printing-
Original size: 14.8 MB

WHEN TO USE IT

RAW

- Journalistic photography
- Image will be heavily processed: fashion, graphic design, etc
- Need perfect white balance and tones, or want complete control over the final look
- Image will be used for large prints

JPEG

- Everyday snapshots
- Shooting for immediate display
- Shooting for web
- Restricted memory space
- Rapid succession burst shooting

Most common camera manufacturers and raw filename extensions:

Canon: .crw .cr2 | Nikon: .nef | Kodak: .dcs | Sony: .arw .srf | Fuji: .raf | Samsung: .srw