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This is a very basic quick start guide for ProJPEG 5.0. More detailed documentation can be found in the ProJPEG 5.0 Manual, if needed.

Installation in Photoshop:

To install ProJPEG in Photoshop, copy the plug-in from its location to your plug-ins directory, taking care not to unintentionally make a Short Cut, instead of copying the plug-in file. The "projpeg5.8bi" file must be copied. A Short Cut to the file will not work.

It is also normal, but not required, to place file format plug-ins, such as ProJPEG, within the File Formats directory inside the Plug-ins directory, but this is optional.

C:\Program Files\Adobe\Photoshop 5.5\Plug-ins\File Formats\projpeg5.8bi

Is a typical file path for ProJPEG installed under Photoshop.

After you have copied ProJPEG into your plug-ins directory, ProJPEG will be available the next time you launch Photoshop as a new format option when saving images using the Save As... or Save a Copy... commands.

You can confirm that ProJPEG is installed correctly and has been loaded by Photoshop in the Help->About Plug-in menu. A "BoxTop ProJPEG 5.0" item in this menu indicates ProJPEG has been loaded successfully.

Installation in Paint Shop Pro:

To install ProJPEG in Paint Shop Pro, copy the plug-in to the location of your Paint Shop Pro plug-ins designated under File->Preferences->General Program Preferences->Plug-in Filters. By default this location is:

C:\PROGRAM FILES\PAINT SHOP PRO 6\Plugins

If required, you can add up to three search paths for Paint Shop Pro to locate plug-in files in this dialog, allowing you to use plug-ins in other locations shared with other programs such as Photoshop.

After copying the plug-in to the correct location or setting appropriate plug-in search paths, you must check the "Enable plug-in automatic file format identification" option under:

File->Preferences->General Program Preferences->Plug-in Filters

This is the same dialog as above where plug-in search paths are set for Paint Shop Pro. Make sure that "Enable filters - Allow the use of external image processing filters" is checked, or Paint Shop Pro will load no plug-ins for use, this option is normally on by default, though.

ProJPEG will be available the next time you launch Paint Shop Pro as a new format option when saving images using the Save As... and Save Copy As... commands under the File menu.

Installation troubleshooting:

If you have properly installed ProJPEG, and it does not appear in Photoshop's formats menu after relaunching, you should check the following in order:

1: Confirm that you copied the plug-in to the plug-ins directory and did not make a Short Cut to it. Short Cuts appear as icons with a small arrow in the lower left hand corner.

2: Confirm the location that Photoshop or Paint Shop Pro are set to look for plug-ins in their preferences.

3: Under Photoshop (this is not applicable to Paint Shop Pro) confirm the document being saved is in RGB or greyscale mode, is flattened, and doesn't have more than one alpha channel. Photoshop will remove format options from the format menu when they are not capable of saving the working image document. You can use the Save A Copy... command with the "Flatten Image" and "Discard Alpha Channels" options checked to save an image through Photoshop without changing your working document in this case.

General usage:

When opening files ProJPEG works transparently. Photoshop will automatically choose it as the default method for opening all JPEG files. No special action needs to be taken, but to use ProJPEG specifically to open a file, select the open menu in Photoshop and after checking the "Show all Formats" checkbox to activate the format menu, select "BoxTop ProJPEG" from the formats menu before OK'ing the open dialog. Photoshop will then attempt to read any file with ProJPEG.

To save a file using ProJPEG, select the "Save as..." menu in Photoshop, then in the save as dialog, select "BoxTop ProJPEG" from the formats menu and click OK. The ProJPEG options dialog will then be shown for you to set compression parameters.

Minimally, you should adjust the quality slider to the desired amount while taking note of the image preview for quality and the file size display for final file size. This is the absolute and accurate file size of your JPEG file.

See the ProJPEG Manual and FAQ for additional information, if needed.

Tips for best results:

At the factory defaults ProJPEG typically outperforms Adobe's JPEG at default settings. If you just want to click the button, you can click the button. However, all images can be saved using more aggressive compression settings than the defaults.

You should take advantage of the interactivity and feedback provided by ProJPEG to find the best settings for each individual image. JPEG compression will vary image by image.

Images can be given target file sizes in ProJPEG now, which will allow you to enter the maximum desired size of the final JPEG file and have ProJPEG determine the needed settings to achieve that file size.

Getting help with ProJPEG:

You should refer to the ProJPEG manual and FAQ included with this distribution and then to the Web based version of the FAQ maintained at http://www.boxtopsoft.com first for the answers to most common questions.

Questions not answered in the FAQs should be emailed to info@boxtopsoft.com

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