

Adding a single keyline around an image

- Open image.
- Double click the Background layer to unlock it. This is important otherwise the Stroke command mentioned below will remain inactive.
- Size the image for its intended purpose first (print, projected digital image comp, etc).

Note: an easy way to size for a PDI competition is to use the Crop Tool for the Photoshop Tool Box on the left hand side of your Photoshop screen. It's the fifth one down and looks like a hash key. When this tool has been selected you can input the crop dimension in the width and height boxes at the top. You want 1600px for the width and 1200px for the height. This constrains the crop tool to give these exact dimensions when you drag across the image.

- Having got the image to the size you need, now is the time to add your keyline around the image. To do this go to the top of the screen and "Select > Select All". Alternatively you can use the keyboard shortcut of "Cntrl+A". You should now see *matching ants* around the image.
- Now go to "Edit > Stroke". By default the Location radio button is set at Centre. Change it to "Inside". *Note that Photoshop will keep this setting forever unless you change it ...which I never have!*
- Now select the size of your stroke. For PDI comps this wants to be about 2 or 3 pixels, no more. I use 2px.
- Now select the colour of your stroke. For dark images I usually select a very, light grey.
- Click OK, which then adds the line around your image.
- Go to "Select > Deselect" or press "Cntrl+D" to remove the marching ants.
- Job Done

Adding a double keyline around an image

- Double keylines are usually meant to prints, not PDI's (Projected Digital Images)
- Follow all the above steps as a first operation. However for prints you can use a bigger stroke weight of usually somewhere between 3 and 5 pixels. The stroke colour can be anything you want providing it contains the image, is visible and compliments the image in question. Having said that I most commonly use a weight of 3 or 4 pixels, with the colour set to black.
- I assume that you have now placed the first keyline around your image, all as before, and now want to do a second one
- Make a new blank layer by clicking the icon at the bottom of the layer menu. Drag this new layer below your image.
- No go to "Image > Canvas Size". Make sure the centre square is selected, which is usually the case by default.
- Input an appropriate dimension to increase the canvas by. I usually use something like 0.25cm. Click OK. You should now see that there is a larger transparent layer behind your image.
- Goto "Edit > Fill" and select a colour. This only applies if you want something other than the white of your paper to show between the two lines you are about to create. Most times the paper colour is fine in which case you don't need to take this step. Your choice!
- Go to "Edit > Stroke" and select a colour, which for me is usually just black.
- Select a stroke weight, which for me is usually exactly the same as the first line I created. Click OK.
- Deselect the marching ants, as before.
- Job Done