

Requirements & suggestions for digital photography of AOS Awards

All award photographers may now submit digital images as specified below OR a bracketed set of up to 5 slides (3 “best exposure”, 1-each at half stops over and under exposed). There is no need to submit full sets of 30 award slides. You will not be reimbursed for any expenses beyond a **bracketed set for each award!**

Principles for photographing orchids are the same regardless of film or digital camera. Please see the [Revised Guidelines for AOS Awards Photographers](#) for general award photography guidelines and slide labeling information.

- Digital images shall be captured with SLR or EVF cameras capable of at least 6 mega-pixel (2000 x 3000 pixels) resolution with 8 mega-pixel or greater resolution preferred.
- Shoot digital images as highest quality JPEG's, TIFF or RAW. **DO NOT send TIFF or RAW files** to AOS!!! Image files should be **submitted as high quality** (lowest compression), **full size JPEG FILES ONLY** and burned to CD to be sent to AOS.
- Photographer should **name files using ONLY the pre-assigned award number** supplied by judging center chair or secretary. For example: **20075021.jpg**
- If photographer wishes to have visible copyright watermark on judging center distribution and e-AOS images, photographer should submit a second low-res image at 1200x800 (or 1200x900) pixels with inconspicuous watermark along edge or bottom of image. Watermarked file should be named using same award number as high-resolution image file. If submitting two files, place high-resolution images in a directory (folder) on CD named **ARCHIVE**, and low-resolution watermarked images in a directory (folder) named **WATERMARK**.
- If camera provides a choice of aspect ratio (proportion of image) please use 3:4.
- Use a low ISO setting (64 or 100) to minimize noise.
- As with film photography, use the smallest f-stop possible for the lighting and ISO setting you are using in order to ensure sufficient depth of field for the subject.
- If using a constant light source (as opposed to flash) be sure to set proper white balance by either using a camera preset, or a WB reading off of a white sheet of paper. If using flash, set white balance for flash and use correct shutter speed for flash sync.
- It may be helpful, especially with light colored subjects, to shoot awards at -1 or -2 contrast to preserve highlight detail.
- Set your camera LCD brightness to show a close likeness to the actual files as they appear on your computer. **Always check LCD for proper exposure and correct framing of subject.** Digital cameras provide us the opportunity to confirm a good photo instantly. Do not rely on post-processing to “make it right”.
- Images are not to be digitally manipulated using computer software. The photograph should be a faithful record of the orchid as it was awarded. Do not “touch up” photos to remove stakes, botritis spots, mechanical damage, etc. Image processing should be limited to minor correction of color-contrast-exposure.
- Back up images before deleting them from media card!!!
- See www.aos.org/aos/judging/awrds-cc.aspx for a basic exposure and color correction tutorial. See [Revised Guidelines for AOS Awards Photographers](#), for photo requirements for various awards and general photography suggestions.