

Preparing Your Border Pack

A guide for authoring borders, frames, and looks for mono+ — for brands, venues, and anyone building a pack. It covers the file formats, dimensions, and limits that make a pack install cleanly and look right, and it is honest about where each choice holds up and where it does not.

THE ESSENTIALS

Every border and frame is a PNG with transparency. The transparent areas are where the photo shows through — the center of a border, the opening of a cutout. This is why frames are PNG and not JPEG: JPEG has no transparency, so the photo could never show through. Author in any image editor, keep the see-through areas fully transparent, and export as PNG.

There are two delivery paths, and they have different size targets. Author to the one you are using. Borders sent from the Mac Companion for ProRAW capture are authored large, to stay sharp against the full-resolution master. Borders delivered as a scan-to-install pack are authored to match standard capture and to keep the download quick. The two are covered separately below.

THE THREE FRAME TYPES

mono+ recognises three kinds of frame. Choose the one that matches what you are making.

Single Frame

A standard border that overlays every capture. Any shape, any aesthetic. Keep the center transparent to reveal the photo through the frame. This is the type for most borders, and it is also the type to use for a border with a see-through cutout that you simply want to shoot through in normal mode.

Photo Booth Strip

A composite frame for Booth mode — the outer frame, the gutters, and any background for the multi-shot strip. Booth mode forces 1:1 square framing automatically and restores your previous ratio when you switch out of Booth mode.

FunHouse Frame

A boardwalk cutout board with a defined hole, where an on-screen guide directs the subject to align with the opening before the shot. A true FunHouse Frame needs its hole position set precisely, and that is a Mac Companion job — the Companion has the visual hole picker (drag the circle to the opening, size it with the slider). If you only want a border with a see-through hole to shoot through in normal mode, you do not need FunHouse — make it a Single Frame with the cutout where you want it, and deliver it as a pack like any other border. Reserve FunHouse for when you want the alignment

guide, and author it in the Companion.

DIMENSIONS — TWO TARGETS

Dimensions are not only about sharpness. For scan-to-install packs, mono+ reads the frame's dimensions and sets the capture aspect ratio automatically. So authoring to the right size does two jobs: it keeps the frame sharp, and it makes the frame select the correct ratio on its own.

For scan-to-install packs (standard capture)

Author to match a 12-megapixel capture. These sizes keep files small and installs quick.

Square (1:1)	2048 x 2048
Portrait / Full	3024 x 4032
16:9	1920 x 1080 (or same ratio)
2.39 cinemascope	2390 x 1000 (or same ratio)

Author square frames as exact squares. A frame at exactly 2048 x 2048 is read as 1:1 and forces 1:1 square framing; it restores your previous ratio when deselected — the same behaviour as the built-in instant borders. Author portrait frames at 3:4 or clearly taller; anything meaningfully taller than square is treated as Full and does not force a ratio. Do not author a near-square frame and expect Full — keep squares square and portraits clearly portrait.

For the Mac Companion (ProRAW capture)

Borders sent from the Companion are scaled onto the full-resolution ProRAW master, so undersized files render soft. Author large:

4:3 Full	6048 x 8064
1:1	6048 x 6048
16:9	6048 x 3402
2.39:1	6048 x 2531

These are the sizes to use only when authoring for Companion ProRAW delivery. Do not use them for scan-to-install packs — a 6048-pixel full-coverage frame becomes a very large file and a slow install.

FILE SIZE — KEEP PACKS QUICK TO INSTALL

A pack installs by downloading each frame in turn over the connection. The more, and the heavier, the frames, the longer the install. Aim to keep a whole pack under about 15 MB total. That is a budget across all the frames in the pack, not a per-frame limit — a handful of light borders is well within it; one heavy full-coverage frame can use most of it on its own.

Borders with a transparent center stay small naturally, because the empty area compresses to almost nothing — these can be authored at full size and remain light.

Full-coverage art with no transparency, such as a carnival cutout board, is inherently heavier, because a full-colour image cannot compress the way an empty center can. Size these consciously: a smaller cutout frame keeps the pack quick, and the loss is not visible at the sizes these are meant for.

The hard ceiling is 50 MB per file, but that is a guard rail, not a target. If a single frame is approaching even a quarter of that, it is too large — reduce its dimensions or reconsider whether it needs to be full-coverage.

WHAT PRINTS, AND AT WHAT SIZE

Be honest with yourself, and with your customer, about how a frame is meant to be used — it makes for a satisfied buyer rather than a disappointed one.

- Borders with a transparent center print well at any reasonable size. The photo carries the resolution, and the frame is a thin overlay, so a full-resolution capture with a border prints as large as the photo would on its own.
- Full-coverage frames — carnival cutouts, boothstyle art, anything where the frame itself is the image — are social-first and print-friendly to about 4 x 6. They are arcade souvenirs, not gallery prints. At a small print size they look right; at a large print size the frame will soften. Author them for the screen and the small keepsake print, and say so where you sell them.

Stating the limitation up front turns it into a spec. A customer who knows a carnival frame is a 4 x 6 souvenir is a happy customer; one who prints it at gallery size and finds it soft is not.

ADDING A LOOK

A pack can carry a look as well as, or instead of, frames — a complete style in one scan. There are two ways to include one.

- A built-in filter: choose one of the built-in looks by name. The pack carries the filter's identity, and mono+ applies its factory character. Nothing else to prepare.
- A saved preset: export your own tuned look from mono+ through the PRO panel share sheet, then add that preset file to the pack. This carries the full character you dialled in — tone, grain, decay, print colour — not just the base filter. This is how a signature look travels intact.

BEFORE YOU PUBLISH — A CHECKLIST

- Every frame is a PNG, with transparency where the photo should show through.
- Square frames are exact squares (2048 x 2048); portrait frames are 3:4 or taller (3024 x 4032).
- You used the scan-to-install sizes for packs, or the Companion ProRAW sizes for Companion delivery — not the other way round.

- The whole pack is under about 15 MB; no single frame is anywhere near the 50 MB ceiling.
- Full-coverage frames are sized for social and prints to 4 x 6, and described that way.
- A true FunHouse Frame's hole was placed in the Companion; a plain cutout is a Single Frame.
- Any look is either a named built-in or a full preset exported from the PRO panel.

A new pack stays Off until you set it Live, so nothing appears before you are ready. Set the cover image and description, review the pack, then publish.