

# A little cropping can enhance photos

Years ago, I remember seeing a mattress tag that spelled out in no uncertain terms "do not open under penalty of law." How ridiculous, I thought, yet I bet there are people who wouldn't think of snipping off that sacred tag.



**Focus on Photography**  
Monte Nagler

In numerous photography judging and critiques over the years, I've noticed a similar reverence. That is, people hesitate altering the size of their finished prints and slides. They feel either they can't cut down that 8 by 10 enlargement or they're not aware of the improvements that can be made by slight cropping.

Yes, cropping your photograph when needed can dramatically improve the impact

and strength of your final image.

I've seen many a gorgeous, well-composed and well-executed print that suffers, for example, only from that distracting bright patch of sky in the upper corner. Cropping just a half-inch or so off the top of the shot eliminating the "hot spot" will impressively improve your shot.

Or your favorite zoo shot of the giraffe stretching his neck upward to reach the berries on the branch. Wouldn't a vertical crop enhance this picture? You bet.

A cropped print may preclude you from using pre-cut mats available in many stores. But for just a couple dollars more, any frame shop can customize a mat for your cropped print.

Slides can be cropped, too. In fact, a slide presentation can be made much more interesting by cropping some of the images providing a variety of size slides. Your local photo

dealer stocks Gepe brand slide mounts, easy to assemble and available in many pre-cropped shapes.

In discussing cropping, I am not suggesting photographing the whole scene and then deciding later what parts to crop out. I believe in cropping through the camera to obtain the best possible negative or slide. Then use cropping if necessary to enhance your photograph.

Cropping can dramatically improve your pictures. Just think, if you begin to crop your photographs, you might just trim off that mattress tag!

Monte Nagler is a fine art photographer based in Farmington Hills. You can leave a message for him at (734) 953-2047.



This is sunrise at the famous temple Angkorwat in Cambodia. You can see how cropping to a "panorama" makes for a strong photograph.

## WHERE CAN I FIND?

Through reader feedback, this interactive feature is dedicated to helping readers locate retail merchandise that's difficult to find if where a product is sold or service is available, call (248) 901-2555 and leave a message with your name and phone number. Please be patient about your requests and feedback; we receive an overwhelming number of phone calls. Also, please spell any uncommon items. If you don't see information about your request, we couldn't find it. Requests are published twice.

### WHAT WE FOUND

**Hudson's MAURICE SALAD DRESSING RECIPE**

3 hard cooked eggs finely chopped  
1 Tablespoon minced parsley  
1 onion grated  
1 pint Miracle Whip salad dressing  
1 pint Hellmann's Mayonnaise

Mix ingredients together preferably in a blender for a smoother dressing.

Makes 1 quart, keep refrigerated for 4 or 5 days.

Bonnie Bell bronzing gel can be purchased at the Dollar Tree store on Grand River in Redford.

For large size and tall women's clothing, children's clothing and home décor try

the Consigning Women on 33463 W. Eight Mile Road in Livonia.

For a 14-inch Madame Alexander baby doll try Guys & Gals on Maple & Orchard Lake roads in the Orchard Mall (248) 851-1260 and Adventures in Toys on Maple Road in Birmingham (248) 646-5556.

For panoramic sugar Easter Eggs try Kemintz Fine Candies on 896 W. Ann Arbor Trail in downtown Plymouth (834) 453-0480.

Marshall Field's in Westland sells the Maurice salad dressing. It's also available at the Family Buggy restaurant on Middlebelt and Plymouth in Livonia. It's sold by the pint.

Men's washable slippers with a back size 10 can be purchased at Mittelzfeld's in downtown Rochester.

To sell your used record albums try Desirable Discs on Michigan Avenue or Telegraph near Cherry Hill and Ford roads in Dearborn (313) 581-1767, (313) 359-9630.

Henri's Tuxedo salad dressing can be purchased at the following stores: Desirable Discs on Telegraph and Cherry Hill in Dearborn (313) 359-2650, and H&D Party Hut on 26968 Plymouth in Redford.

Township.

Sugarfree bubble gum can be purchased at the Bulk Food Warehouse on the northeast corner of Wayne and Warren roads in Westland (734) 525-2922.

For a bedspread with shells and lighthouses try area Kohl's stores.

### FIND AND SEARCH

A reader has a Gateway computer to donate to an organization.

### WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FOR

A store that sells lemonheads candy for Robert.

A person who makes teddy bears from old chenille bedspreads for Pat of Troy.

A store that sells a light with an attached large magnifier (6-inches) for Joanne of Farmington.

A store that sells Enchanted Apple hand & body cream (formerly sold by Victoria's Secret) for Donna.

A store that sells fat Henri's Tuxedo salad dressing for Jeanne of Bloomfield (Meijer's used to sell it).

A store that sells a plastic and canvas shoe holder (holds 30 pair of shoes); the top fits over a door and it has Velcro

on the bottom to hold to a door for Cindy of Canton.

A store that sells Secret unscented antiperspirant roll-on for Kathy.

A business that buys used opera 12-inch vinyl records for John.

A store that a used flat duck boat for fishing in shallow waters for Leo of Livonia.

A store that sells the equipment used to transfer 8mm film to videocassette or DVD's (Kmart used to sell the machine) for Joan of Wayne.

A store that sells the Coca-Cola hats and scarf for the Coca-Cola teddy bear for Fran of Farmington.

The recipe for Blazo's bannery pie or where the pie can be purchased for Sue of Canton.

A consignment store that accepts women's tall full figure full-length fur lined leather coat for Bernice of Southfield.

A store that sells leggings by Energie (formerly sold at Meijer's) for Terr of Garden City.

Some one who can repair an antique bathroom weight scale (needs the springs) for M.R. of Redford.

Some one who can repair wooden chairs for Renee of Westland.

Compiled by Sandi Jarackas

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# Umbrellas are up, outdoor dining season has begun

Monday's snowstorm caught everyone by surprise, but warm weather is on the way. Some restaurants have begun serving outdoors, others are waiting until May.

We're gathering information about outdoor dining destinations for a story to be published in our Eating Out section in May. If you own or have a favorite restaurant that features outdoor eating in

warm, sunny weather, please contact Eating Out correspondent Eleanor Heald on her voice mail: dial (734) 953-2047 on a touch-tone phone, mailbox 1864\*. Leave your name, the name of the restaurant and a call back phone number.

Big Rock Chop & Brew House, 245 S. Eton in Birmingham opened its outdoor terrace on April 1. The

terrace seats 150 people. It's open 11 a.m. to 2 a.m. Monday-Friday, noon to 2 a.m. closed Sunday. For more information, call (248) 647-7774.

You can also dine outside at Compari's, 350 S. Main St. in downtown Plymouth, weather permitting, of course. The patio, which overlooks Kellogg Park, seats 30 people. It's open 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday, 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Tuesday-

Thursday, 11 a.m. to midnight Friday, noon to midnight Saturday, and 3-9 p.m. Sunday.

Ernesto's plans to open its patio after Memorial Day weekend. It seats 80 people and is open 4-10 p.m. weekdays and 4-9 p.m. Sunday. Call (734) 453-2002 for reservations and other restaurant information.

**Celebrate With Us!**

Join Sasha Cohen, Michelle Kwan, Irina Slutskaya, and a cast of Gold, Silver, and Bronze Medalists!

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**UPCOMING**

**An Evening with Audra McDonald**

Audra McDonald and Trio  
Ted Sperling music director and organ  
Mary Ann McCreeshney bass  
Harriet Dale drums  
with guest Celia Keenan-Bolger vocalists  
Fri 4/18 8 pm  
Michigan Theater - Ann Arbor

"Broadway's most adventurous singer!"  
(Time) The first performer in theater history to receive three Tony Awards before age 30 (for Carousel, Master Class and Ragtime), Audra McDonald was also nominated for an Emmy in 2002, promising equal success as she begins a film and television career.

Prepared with the generous support of Robert and Phyllis Heald, and local support provided by Janssen and the National Endowment for the Arts.  
Ticket Sponsor: HONOR 11.1 PM

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**Gabrieli Consort and Players**

Bach's St. John Passion  
Paul McCreesh music director  
Sat 4/19 8 pm  
Michigan Theater - Ann Arbor

The Gabrieli Consort and Players began as an ensemble that focused on historically informed performances of Renaissance music. It now captivates audiences with its bold readings of the masterworks of the Baroque period, especially its vivid and moving interpretations of Bach.

**PROGRAM**  
Bach St. John Passion (1724)  
With a Singsong (1711-12)  
Special thanks to donors who support the 22nd Annual Choral Union Series.

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**The Hilliard Ensemble**

Moritur ("We Die")  
Christopher Poppen conductor  
Thu 5/1 8 pm  
St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church - Ann Arbor

The New York Times said of Moritur, "Perhaps it speaks to a time newly immersed in grief, introspection and foreboding. How else to explain the astounding popularity of Moritur? Moritur is performed at the highest level...the performances are everywhere engaging and at times truly sublime." Taken from the CD of the same name which reached cult status a year ago, the program includes Bach choral works, as well as pieces for solo violin.

**ums 734.764.2538 www.ums.org**  
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