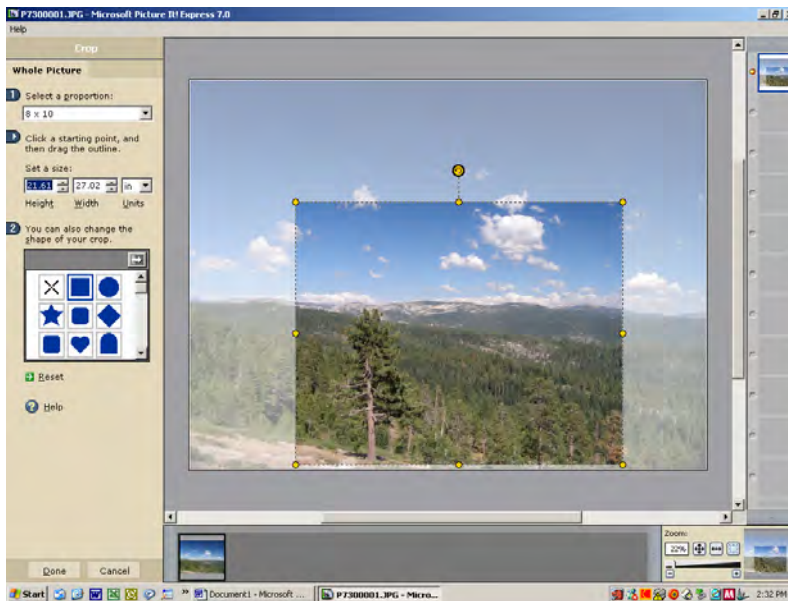


Cropping a Picture

By
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Most of us from time to time fail to properly compose a picture. Is that putting it mildly enough? The worst thing we do consistently is to stand too far back when we are taking pictures of people. If we have enough extra pixels to work with, we can cure this problem to some extent in the editor. One editor that is available to many is *Microsoft Picture It! 7.0 Express* that I believe comes included with Windows XP. At least I think that is how I got my copy. There is a *Microsoft Picture It! Photo Premium 9* available for not much money. I think I got mine for about \$10. In it, or any other editor, click on “Crop” and a window will pop up with the possibilities. *PI! Express* Allows you to select the size you want to cram the pixels into. This is helpful. In the example here I chose 8x10. More often I choose 4x6 for a 4x6 borderless print. There are no people in this picture but I wanted to get the horizon away from the middle (a no, no) and move the foreground tree over a little. Picky, picky.



The procedure is that after you select “Crop” and choose the size, click where you want the upper left hand corner of the new picture to be and drag the marker down to the right as far as you want. It is possible to go back and grab corner handles and modify the result of your first try. Notice that *PI Express* also has some cutesie patterns that might be useful or fun to try.

Anyway, it makes a nice picture without so much blank blue sky.



OK, so I am not an artist but I hope you get the idea about what you can do with cropping.

Adobe *Photo Shop Elements 3* is the best reasonably priced editing program I know about but I am sure there are many others. If you can find *Microsoft Picture It! Photo Premium 9* for a reasonable price, it is better than the 7 version. This same process in *PSE 3* is about the same but perhaps a little more rigorous preserving the pixels and setting the size. Don't worry about it. Use what you have or can afford.

If your camera gives you some extra pixels to work with, cropping is a great and useful feature. It does not take many pixels to make a nice 4x6 print. (See the chapter on Pixels & Dots and the one on Choosing a Digital Camera.)