

What is raw? What is the Raw image file?

The popular image formats such as .JPG, .PNG or .BMP are probably well known. But have you ever heard of Raw? This is an important image file that anyone who is interested in photography needs to know. So what is Raw image? What is different from the usual image formats like .JPG? The following article will explain to you.

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What is the Raw image file?

Raw is simply a type of image file, like JPEG. However, while JPEG images are considered to be processed images, Raw images - labeled as RAW on most cameras - are files that store image data in an unmodified state from Sensor. Most camera manufacturers use their own proprietary Raw file formats, such as Canon's .CR2, Nikon's .NEF and Sony's .ARW. Adobe has also created a Raw file format called .DNG (*digital negative*).

Technically, Raw data does not form an actual image in the same way as a standard JPG or PNG image, it is simply an information file that needs to be translated by an application capable of reading data. Raw material there.

Raw photo editing software

Every camera manufacturer that has its own Raw file format creates a dedicated application for translating Raw image data from their cameras. Examples are Nikon's View NX and Capture NX programs, Canon's DPP (Digital Photo Professional) and Sony's Imaging Edge software. Typically, each such program can only read the Raw file type provided by the same camera manufacturer, and cannot translate data from another Raw image.

However, the biggest market for Raw image processing software is the third-party market, typically Adobe's Camera Raw tool included in Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Bridge and Adobe Lightroom (all three programs use the same "engine" to interpret Raw files). Many other applications are also dedicated to processing Raw, including Capture One Pro, Affinity Photo or On1 Photo RAW.



A major benefit of using a raw third-party processing program is that it is capable of editing almost any Raw format of different camera models (meanwhile, the software of the camera Camera companies usually only have the ability to read Raw files from their own cameras). There are also many other benefits to using a third-party application, such as generally better image quality, or a more efficient overall workflow.

Compare Raw with .JPG

Here are some of the main advantages of an unmodified picture, as opposed to a completely edited form like .JPG (can be easily printed or shared on social media without Need to handle):

- Raw files can withstand significant processing volumes without showing signs of deterioration in image quality.
- In addition, the raw process itself is considered *non-destructive editing* , which means that all adjustments are not actually applied to the Raw file itself, they are merely changes in the raw data interpretation and is only completed when the Raw file is saved or exported to another format, such as .JPG or .TIF.

For .JPG, images in this format are a compressed file, with fixed values ??for colors and tones. Therefore, any major adjustments on the .JPG image create a significant loss of image quality. The .TIF files are similar, however .TIF images are much less compressed, so they can withstand large edits with less quality loss than .JPG.



Through the article, I gave an overview of Raw photos along with some related information such as Raw photo editing software and compared Raw to .JPG. Hopefully the information just shared above will help you!

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