

Combining Actions

When you have the same adjustments you want to make to several images, the best and most time effective way to do it is to create an **action**.

Don't be scared of actions – they are very handy and break down to 3 simple steps:

- i) You start recording,
- ii) you do the adjustments to one image and then
- iii) stop recording.

We have already covered the basics when making an action in a previous tutorial (see <http://southshieldsdigigroup.co.uk/making-and-action>), but in this handout we are going to split each step into a separate action then combine them to give us more flexibility. Best to show this by example.

Now, I want to resize for social media, add a logo and change the colour profile to sRGB (best for the Web).

Resize: I am going to make two actions: one for landscape (wider than tall) and one for portrait orientation (taller than wide).

Open your landscape picture.

Open your Actions tab. If it's not visible go to Window>Actions (shortcut Alt+F9).

Click the little page icon with the upturned corner at the bottom of the Action palette to create a new action. NB. You can make a new set to put these action into to keep things tidy.

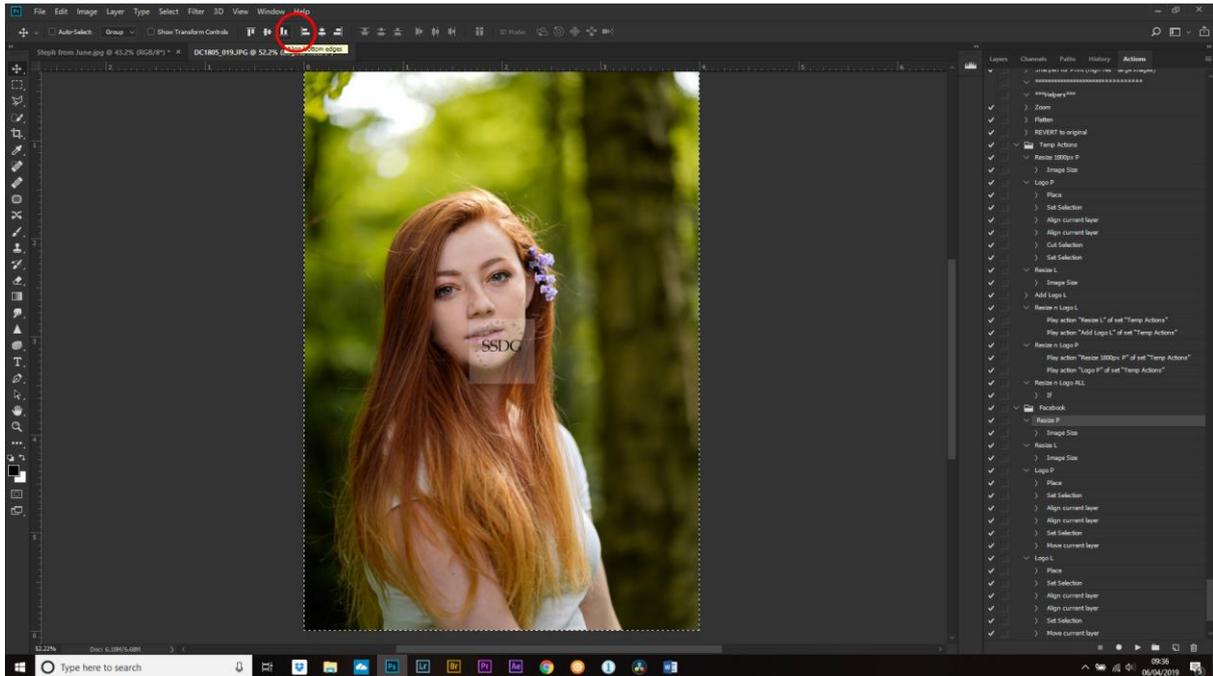
Give the action a memorable name and choose the set you want to keep it in. Here I called it Resize L (for landscape). Image>Image Size, change the resolution to 300px/in and width to 1800px. Press the little square to stop recording.

Open a portrait image and repeat, making the longest side 1800px and call it Resize P (for portrait, of course!)

Logo: Now to add a logo. I have made a quick logo for the Digi Group for demonstration purposes and saved it as a semi-transparent PNG file. Don't worry about this, any image/jpg will work too as long as it's big enough (about 1000px wide is plenty).

Start recording another action – call this one Logo P (your resized portrait-orientation pic should still be on screen). **File>Place Embedded**, and click on your logo and **Place**. The logo will come in on a new layer. To resize, hold Shift+Alt and drag the corner inwards. Leave it in the middle and click the tick.

Select>All (Cntl+A), then select the move tool (V). Use the align tools along the top to put it where you want. I am going for the bottom right corner.



Deselect, then use the arrow keys to move it 10px inwards and 10px upwards.

Stop recording.

Do the same for your resized landscape-oriented pic. I put the logo in the bottom left corner.

Combining: You can now create a new action called Resize and Logo P.

Start recording. Click on the action Resize P and play, then Logo P and play the action. Stop recording.

Do the same for the landscape-oriented pic.

Tip: test these actions on other pictures to check that they work.

Now, what we really want is one action which will resize and logo both portrait and landscape-oriented pics. This is where we use a **Conditional**.

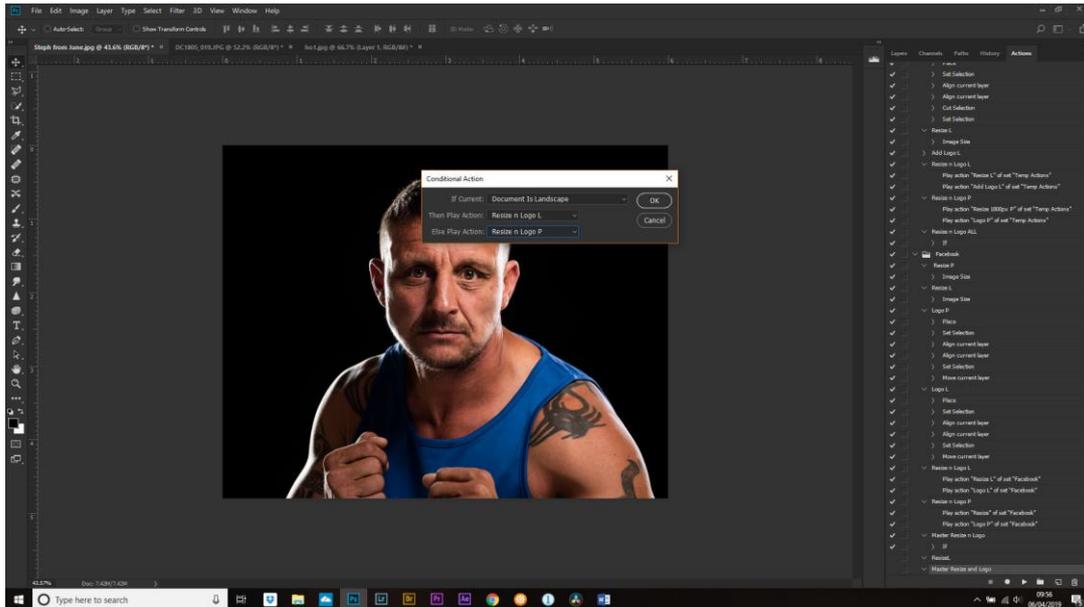
Conditionals: Conditionals simply mean that if it is one thing then do this action and if it's something else do a different action.

Open a landscape image

Create a new action and call it Master Resize n Logo.

Click the little lines top-right in the actions palette to get the dropdown and select **Insert Conditional**.

If: document is landscape, then play action: Resize and Logo L, else play action: Resize and Logo P. Stop recording.

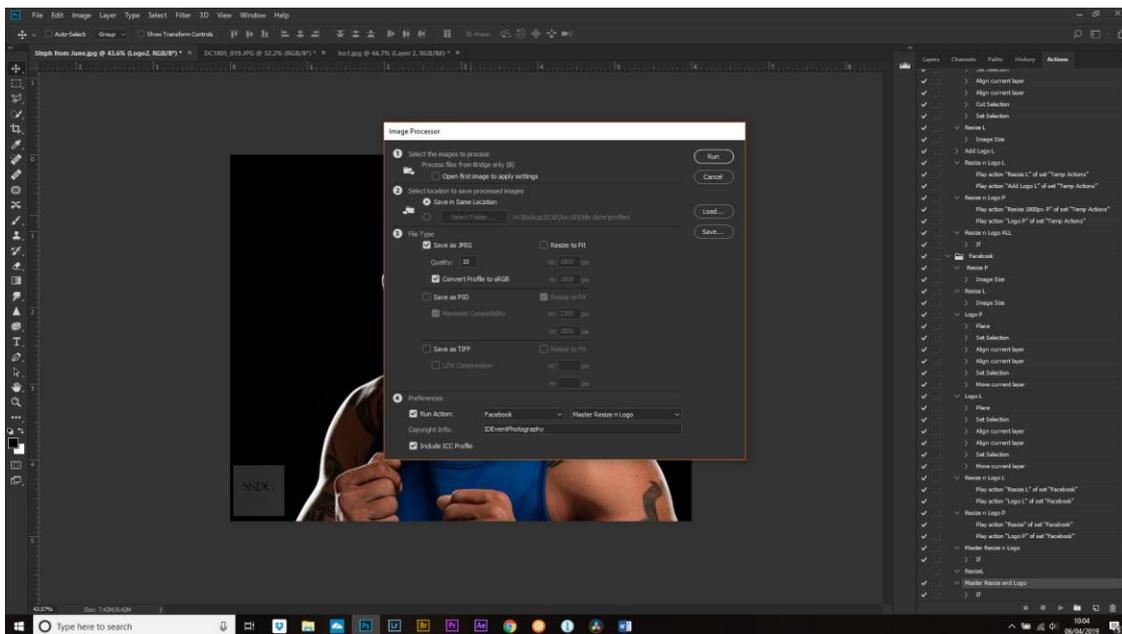


Using the Action on Multiple Images: Now test it out on a few pictures in a folder. These can be either jpg, psd or RAW (although it might stop and ask you to click ok).

Select your images either in **Bridge** (tools>Photoshop>image processor) or **Photoshop** (File>Script>Image processor).

Go through each step in turn on the dialogue box.

- 1) Which images you want to run the action on
- 2) Where you want to save the results
- 3) How you want them saved (jpg and sRGB profile)
- 4) Which action to apply.



Open a new image and click Run to check everything worked okay.

Done!