

Your photos are ready. Here is what you can do with them.

Everything you brought me is on the wooden drive in this box, and your original photographs are back in your hands. You do not have to do any of what follows. But the first one is worth ten minutes of your time, and the rest are the things people tell me they wish they had known about sooner.

Before anything else, make a second copy

I do not keep a copy of your photos. Once you have the drive, it is the only digital copy in the world. A USB drive is a physical object, and physical objects get lost, dropped, and left in drawers that flood.

Copying the folder onto your computer takes a few minutes and costs nothing. If you would rather not use a computer, bring the drive back to me and I will put a second one together for \$20. Either way, please do not let this be the only copy.

1

Open the drive

Plug it into any computer. A window opens showing two folders. That is all there is to it. Nothing to install, no password, no account to make.

Originals holds every photograph scanned exactly as your print looks today. **Enhanced** holds the same pictures with faded color and flat contrast brought back, so a washed out photo from the seventies looks closer to how it did the day it was printed.

Every photograph is in both folders and the enhanced set costs you nothing. Use whichever you like the look of, and keep both. Nothing has been removed or changed in the originals.

On a Windows computer the drive shows up in File Explorer. On a Mac it appears on the desktop and in Finder. If nothing happens, try a different socket.

2

Put them on a digital photo frame

This is the one people love most. A digital frame sits on a shelf and cycles through your photographs all day. For most people it is the first time these pictures have been visible in thirty years.

- **Skylight** is the easiest to live with. You load photos by email or from your phone, and family members can send pictures to it too.
- **Aura** has the nicest screen and no subscription.
- **Nixplay** lets you set up several frames at once, which is useful if you are buying one for each of your children.

All three take the ordinary photo files that are on your drive. If you would like a hand loading one, ask me.

3

Give a set to the rest of the family

Now that the photographs are digital, everyone can have all of them. Nobody has to argue over who keeps the originals.

- Ask me for extra drives at \$20 each, boxed the same way as yours.
- Or upload the folder to Google Photos, iCloud or Dropbox and share the link. All three are free for a collection this size.

4

Print the good ones

A scan can be printed as large as you like, and a photograph on the wall gets looked at far more often than one in a folder.

- Walgreens and CVS in Cottonwood print from a USB drive at the counter.
- For anything you want framed, Mpix and Nations Photo Lab are worth the extra.

5

Make a book out of them

A photo book is the gift people keep. Shutterfly and Mixbook are the simplest to use, and Artifact Uprising is the one to pick if you want it to look beautiful.

One book of forty photographs beats a book of four hundred. Choose the ones with faces in them.

6

Put them on the television

Most smart televisions will play a slideshow straight from a USB drive. Plug it into the socket on the back, then look for Photos, Media or USB in the menu. It is a good thing to have running when family are over.

7

Write down who is in them

This is the part only you can do, and the part that gets lost. Names, places, years. A plain notebook is fine. In twenty years it will be worth more than the scanning was.

If you would like me to sort the files into named folders for you, that is \$49 an hour and most collections take about an hour. I am happy to do it after the fact, and I will give you an estimate before I start.

Verde Valley Photo Preservation

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Any question at all about your drive or your photographs, call me. I would rather you rang than wondered.