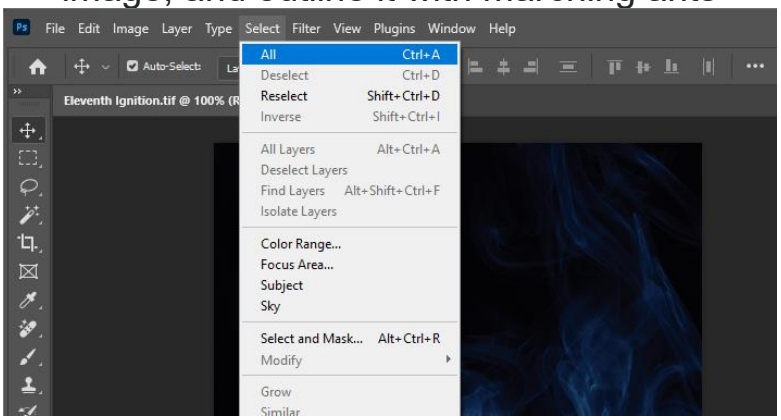
Adding a Keyline in Lightroom or Photoshop

A keyline in photography is a thin border around the outside of an image, often used to help make the edges of the image distinct from the background it is displayed against. In our club we often see this used on projected images with black or dark backgrounds. When projected, the keyline makes the bounds of our images clearer to the viewer.

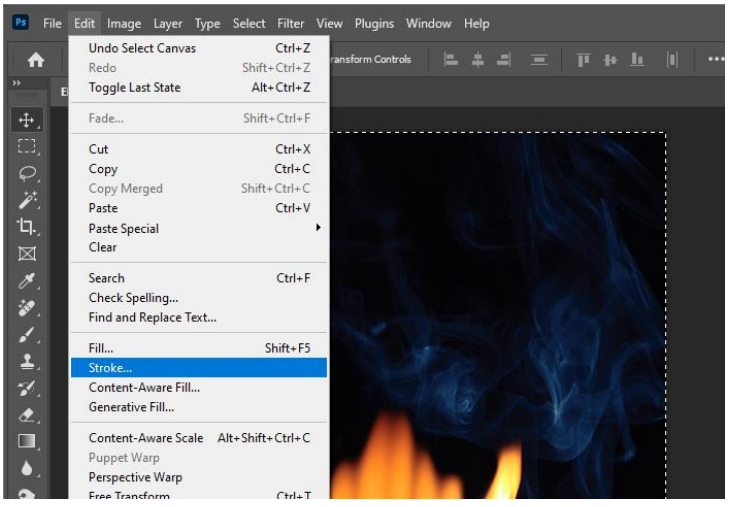
This tutorial will outline a simple method to add a keyline (or 'Stroke') using Adobe Photoshop or Lightroom Scroll down to find the method for Lightroom.

PHOTOSHOP VERSION

1. Open the "**Select"** menu and choose "**All".** This will select the entire image, and outline it with marching ants

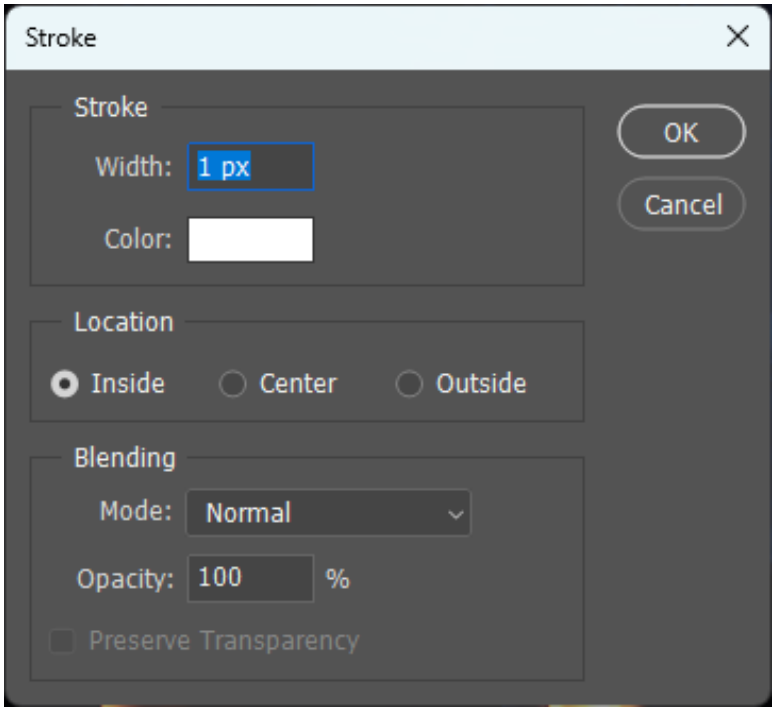


2. Open the "**Edit"** menu and choose "**Stroke**…". This will open a pop-over where we can choose the options for drawing a line around the selected area.



3. In the pop-over set the **stoke width** to “**2px**”, the **stroke colour to “White” or any colour you want**, and set the **location to “Inside**”. Then press “**OK**”. This will now draw a 2-pixel wide, white line around the selection, just on the inside of the marching ants. It is advised that a stroke of between 1 and 5 pixels is best.

You can also choose a colour – white is usually fine but if you want to bring out a colour in an image the click on ‘**Colour**’ and a colour picker will pop up. Choose your colour and click OK in the colour picker and then again in the main stroke box



You can now go to **Select > Deselect** (ctrl+d / command+d) to remove the marching ants. You should see the keyline.

To save - use the File ‘Save As’ option & it may be useful to add ‘Stroke’ to the title.

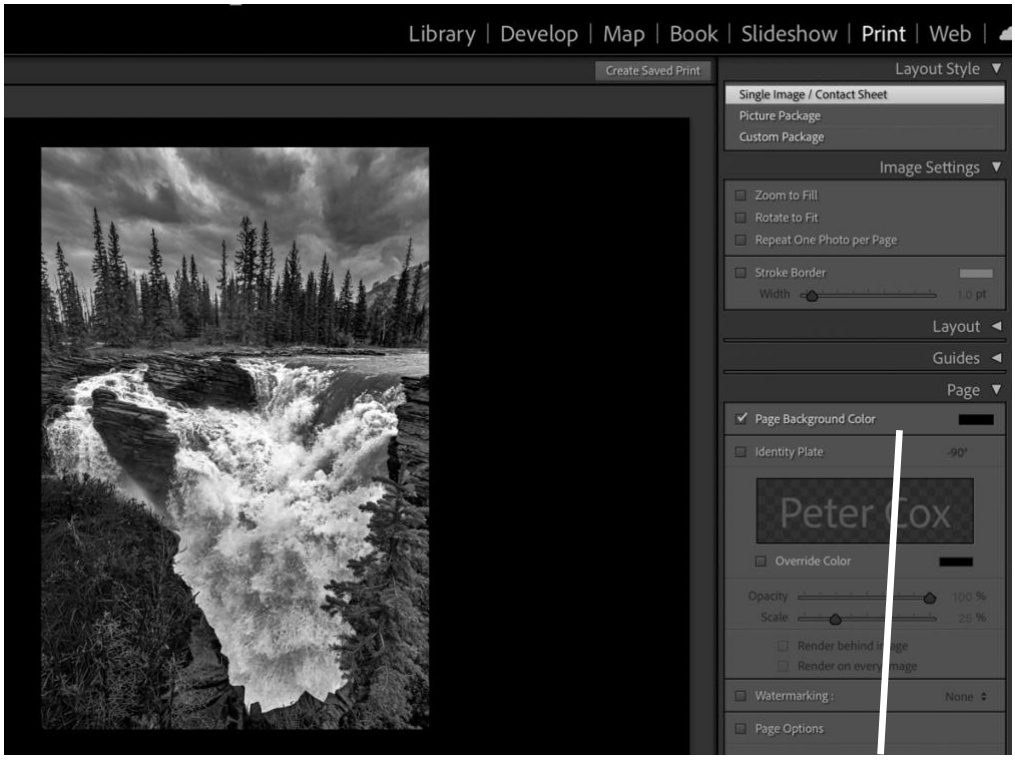
Of course, if you desire a different colour keyline or a slightly thicker line, this can be configured in the above pop-over.

Scroll down for the Lightroom version

LIGHTROOM VERSION

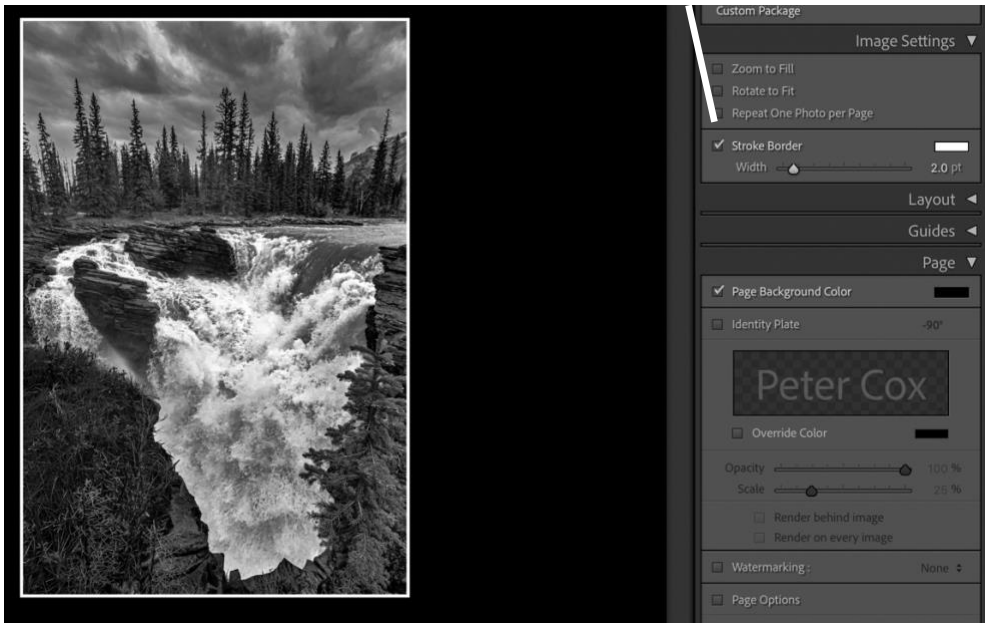
Lightroom doesn't have a clear feature for this, so we have to do a workaround:

1. Open the image needing a keyline (confusingly this is called a 'stroke border' in The Print Module of Lightroom:

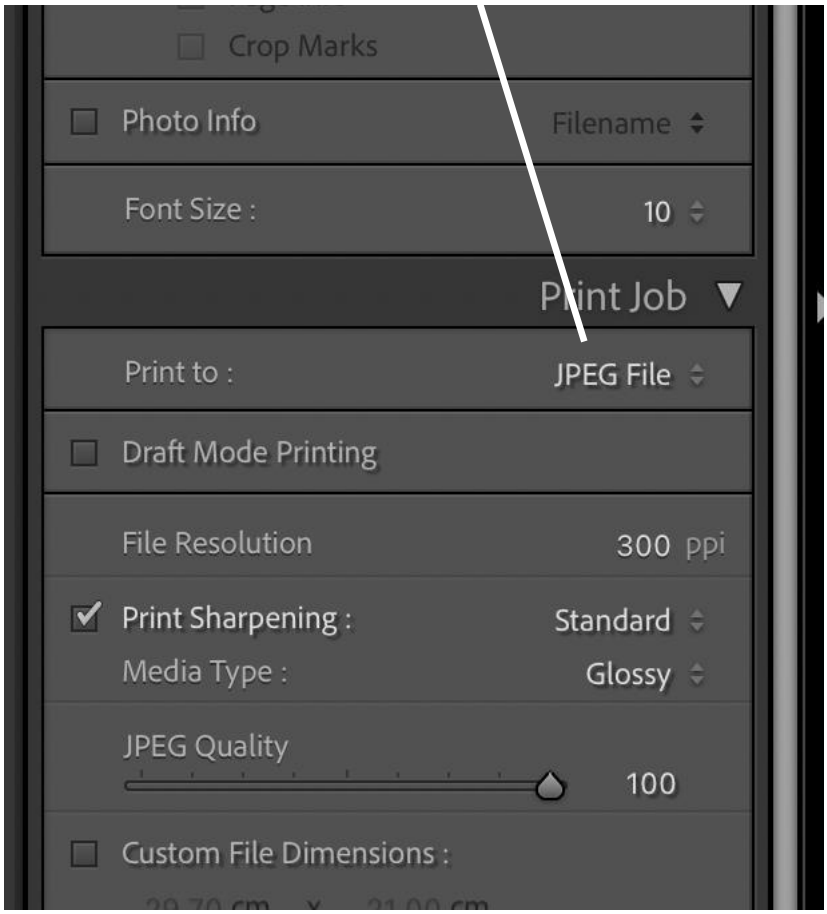


It is helpful to set the **Page Background Colour to Black** – making it easier to see the keyline as you add it.

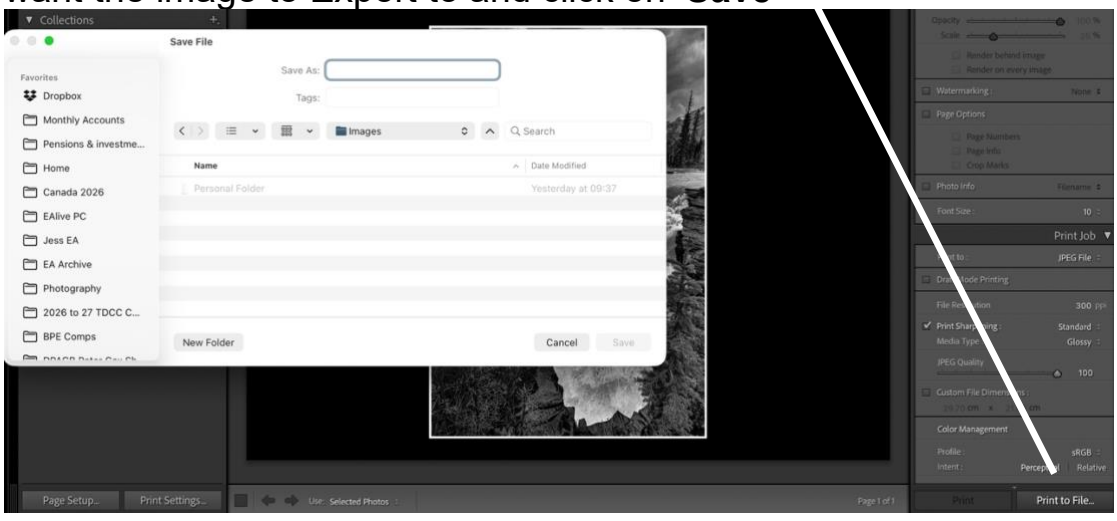
2. Click on the box to the left of the words **'Stroke Border'**, Choose a colour from the right side box and choose a size from the slider below – no more than 2pt (similar to pixels)



3. Scroll down the right side menu until you find the area titled: '**Print Job'** Below this is the subheading: **Print Mode –** click on the dropdown to the right and select **"JPEG File"**



4. Select the bottom right box '**Print to File'**. And your explorer / finder will appear. Choose a image name in "**Save As**" and a folder where you want the image to Export to and click on '**Save**"



The image will now appear as defined in that folder

5. **Now – Import & Crop** – you will find that the image has saved with a black area around it. To remove this, re-import the image and crop it in the Develop module. It is then complete and ready to export
6. Remember to reset the "**Print to' option to "Printer**" so it doesn't print to file next time you use it.