
PictBridge - direct print services for your digital camera

Sometimes it just isn't practical or even useful to have to download images from your digital still camera to your computer and print the images from there. It's just more effective, especially with the increasing processing power onboard today's digital still cameras to edit and manipulate images, to print them directly from your camera - without a computer in between. That's what the PictBridge protocol does. It allows digital still camera owners to:

- Print images display on the camera
- Print two or more images selected from a camera display
- Print images automatically using the DPOF (Digital Print Order Format) specification
- Print an index of all images
- Print all images
- Print part of an image using a "clip" area
- Print multiple copies of an image
- Print images with a date stamp
- Specify the size of a print
- Display status information on the camera - connection, printer error, print progress, end of print job, cable disconnection safety
- Discontinue a print job
- Restart a job from a recoverable error.

How It Works

PictBridge uses a standard USB connection between the printer and the camera. This connection ties a print client and storage server on the camera to a storage client and print server on the printer. The storage client requests the image data from the storage server and the printer executes the job based on requests from the camera. Therefore the camera print client requests a job from the print server whose storage client requests the data from the camera's storage server. Sounds simple, doesn't it?

Communications

Based on the simple request/response architecture noted above, communications consist of:

- Discovery - this just confirms that both devices support PictBridge
- Configure - this operation lets each device understand what PictBridge capabilities it supports
- GetCapability - from the camera to the printer, this operation let's the camera know what the printer can do
- StartJob - when you issue the print command, this is the command sent to the printer
- GetFile - when the printer asks for data from the camera, this is the command it issues

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- Notify - when printing is finished the printer tells the camera the result of the job by issuing this command.

The Camera & Imaging Products Association promotes the standard and is the authority for allowing products to use the name and the logo of PictBridge on them. Logo and name use is based on certification by CIPA and includes a testing and compliance process.

If you're in the market for a new photo printer and/or digital camera, we highly recommend that you make sure that both of them are PictBridge certified. You'll be very glad you DID purchase PictBridge compliant devices when you need to print an image fast, and don't have the time or energy to "hassle" with a computer.

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