



## Downloading Pictures Some Lessons Learned

by Jack Wilfore

Most of the time, I direct-connect my camera to the USB port on my computer. I then turn on the camera, and the process begins. This works fine when there are not very many pictures in the camera and the camera batteries still have a lot of capacity left. The more serious and worst thing that can happen in this process is ... if the batteries fail during the transfer, you may damage your memory card and/or you may actually lose some of those wonderful pictures. And the more pictures, the longer it takes to transfer.

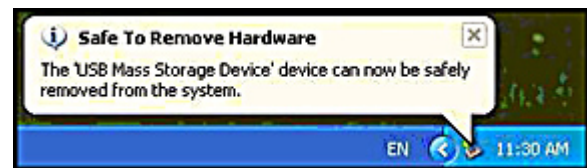
[Click here for more details on downloading pictures from your camera.](#)

A better approach is to use a “memory card reader” which is inexpensive and easy to use. This requires no batteries, and works well when you have a lot of images on the memory card. The only issue here is that there are many different types of memory cards and memory card readers, so read your camera manual and be sure you know what kind of memory card your camera uses.

Either way, when the transfer is done – and anytime you are using USB devices, be sure to use the “Safely Remove Hardware” icon in the task bar in the lower right hand corner of your screen. Use the following procedure to insure that the transfer is complete, and you won’t damage anything.



Click on the icon, select the USB device to disconnect and remove the device from the USB port once you get the following icon.



[Click here for more details on safely removing a USB device.](#)

So once the mechanical connection is made and the transfer is ready to begin, the next issue to consider is where and how to store photos. This is surely your choice and a matter of personal preference, but it can get confusing. Where it becomes a problem is in the beginning. In addition to the XP transfer, there could be several image editing programs such as the software that came with the camera, or Picasa or Photoshop etc. that also want to download your pictures for you. This is where the confusion begins. If the download function of these programs has not been turned off and the preferences have not been set, they all may be competing for that task. Here is where you come in. Decide which program you want to download your images, set the preferences, and then turn off the download feature of all the others – that sounds easier than it is, but making that effort will eliminate all the confusion.

For example, I like to use Photoshop Elements to do all my image transfers. Why? Because 1) it automatically creates a new unique “date/time stamped” folder each and every time I connect my camera or card reader and 2) the Preferences allow me to direct those images. In my case, I have created a folder

called “from the camera” within “My Pictures.” This is where all of my downloads go ... to the “from the camera” folder in My Pictures. Adobe also has the ability to rename these images as they come into the computer, a rather nice feature to help with organizing your pictures,

The Preferences for Photoshop Elements 3.0 and 4.0 are found in the Editor (Edit>Preferences>Organize

& Share) and/or in the Organizer (Edit>Preferences). From the Preferences Window, simply select “Camera or Card Reader” as show below, and use the Browse feature to direct the download. If you don’t want Elements to download your pictures ... unclick the Use Adobe Photo Downloader.

Any questions should be directed to Jack at [jwilfore@hargray.com](mailto:jwilfore@hargray.com).

