

# Making Money at Microstock

## What is “stock” photography?

- Stock photography is the supply of photographs licensed for specific uses.

## “Microstock”

- Microstock means micro-payment
- Photographer portfolios are online
- Photographers must be accepted before becoming able to submit photos for sale
- Photos can be uploaded to multiple sites
- Uploaded photos are reviewed individually, and either accepted or rejected

## Getting accepted

- Most sites require you to register, then submit 10 photos for review
- Submit a VARIETY of your VERY BEST photos
- Do NOT submit flowers or pets or mountains unless they are stupendously exceptional; uniqueness valued
- Do NOT submit photos with special effects, but DO make adjustments with your photo editing software that make your photo “pop” - without overdoing it
- “Focus on a single, interesting subject. Consider subjects, concepts or places that are hard to shoot.”
- Required: Perfect exposure, good composition, sharp focus (on the right spot), no distracting background, no noise (shoot at low ISO),
- Do a photo search on the site to see how high the standards are

## 8 Microstock sites

1. **Shutterstock** - <http://www.shutterstock.com/>
    - Lowest payout/downloaded photo, but a good moneymaker because of volume
    - Great photographer forum; good learning tool
    - Now has 15 million images (1 million in 2006), so they have become increasingly picky
  2. **Dreamstime** - <http://www.dreamstime.com>
    - high payout per image
  3. **iStock** - <http://www.istockphoto.com>
    - the original (began in 2002)
    - very fussy about what they accept
  4. **Bigstock** - <http://www.bigstockphoto.com>
    - easier photo acceptance than most, but getting harder; owned by Shutterstock
  5. **Fotolia** - <http://us.fotolia.com>
  6. **123 Royalty Free** - <http://www.123rf.com>
  7. **Canstock** - <http://www.canstockphoto.com>
    - wonderful key word helper; very slow sales
  8. **Veer** - <http://www.veer.com>
    - new; narrower focus; very picky
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9. **SXC - stock.chng** - <http://www.sxc.hu/>
    - No \$\$; rejection of photos still possible; owned by iStock; lots of tutorials