



# ImageForge

BY MES-DEV

## User Guide

A clean, offline desktop image studio for Windows.

Resize, convert, optimise, watermark, redact, and generate icons & PDFs.

Resize

Convert

Compress

Watermark

Redact

Icons

SVG → PNG

Image → PDF

**Free to download & use — for life.**

100% offline · runs on your PC · no account

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# 1. Welcome to ImageForge

**ImageForge** is a desktop image studio for Windows, built by MES-DEV. It brings a full set of everyday image tools — resizing, format conversion, compression, cropping, watermarking, redaction, icon and PDF generation and much more — into one clean, fast application that runs entirely on your computer.

Everything happens **offline**: your images never leave your machine, and there is no account to create. ImageForge is **free to download and use for life**.

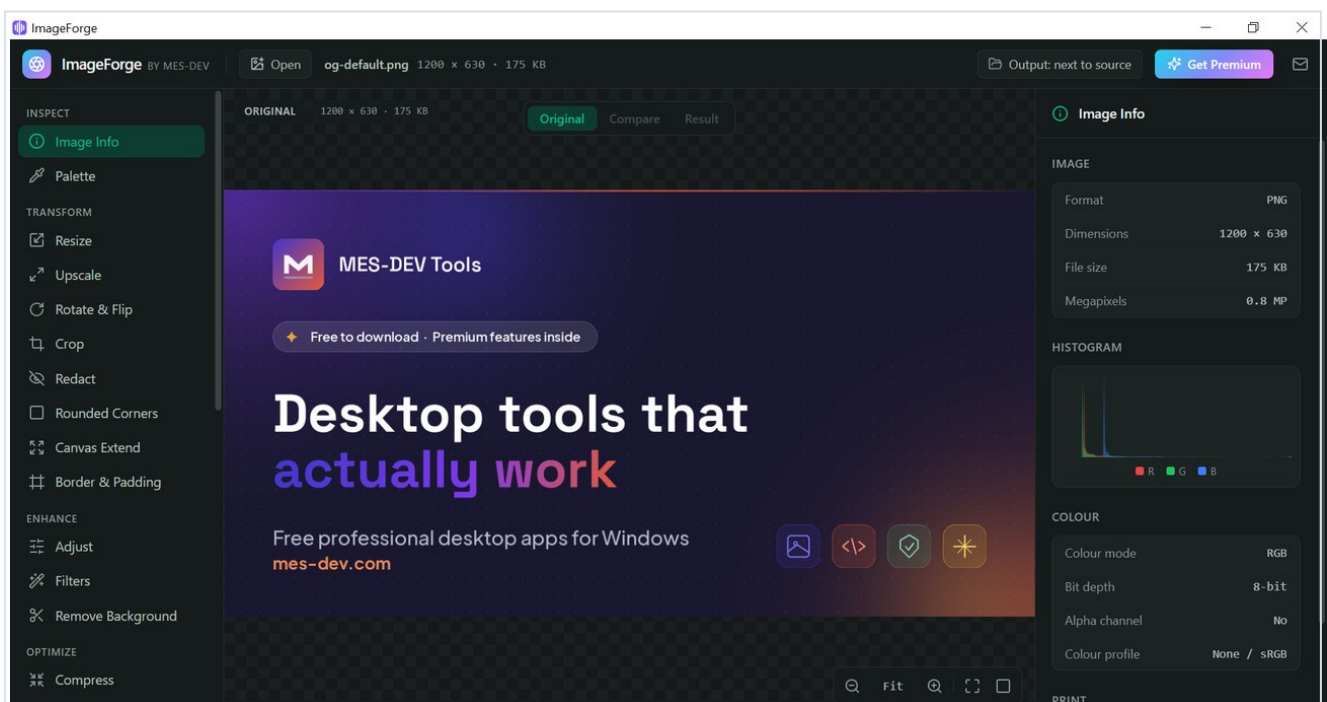
## Free & offline, for life

ImageForge is completely free to download and use, with no time limit. Nothing is ever uploaded — all processing runs locally on your Windows PC.

## How this guide works

Sections 3 to 10 walk through every tool, grouped exactly as they appear in the app's left-hand tool rail (Inspect, Transform, Enhance, Optimize, Generate, Watermark, Metadata, Batch). Each entry explains what the tool does, how to use it step by step, and what every setting means. Section 11 collects handy tips and answers to common questions.

# 2. The interface



*The main window: tool rail (left), canvas (centre), inspector (right).*

ImageForge has three main areas plus a top command bar.

- **Tool rail (left).** Every tool, organised into groups. Click a tool to open it; its controls appear in the inspector on the right.
- **Canvas (centre).** Shows the image you are working on. For most tools it offers a **Compare** view with the original and the result side by side. Some tools (Crop, Redact) turn the canvas into an interactive workspace, and the batch, PDF and SVG tools show their own workspaces here.
- **Inspector (right).** The settings for the current tool, and the action button (Save / Export / Apply).
- **Command bar (top).** The **Open** button, the current file's name and size, and the **Output folder** selector.

### Opening an image

- Click **Open** in the top bar and choose a file, or
- **Drag and drop** an image anywhere onto the window.
- Supported inputs include JPG, PNG, WebP, TIFF, BMP, GIF, AVIF and SVG. (SVG files open in the SVG to PNG tool automatically — see section 7.)

### The Compare view

For single-image tools, the top of the canvas has three buttons: **Original**, **Compare** and **Result**. As you change settings, ImageForge renders a live preview so you can compare the before and after instantly.

When you are happy, use the **Save / Export** button in the inspector to write the file.

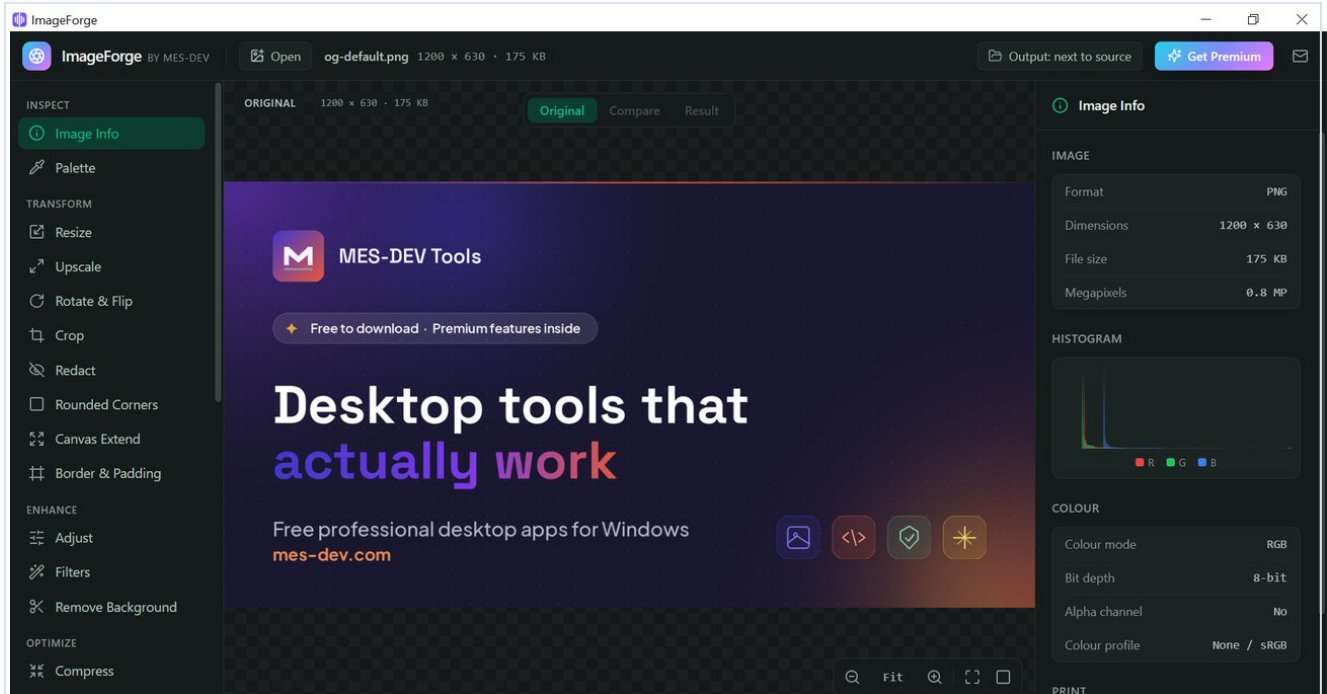
### Where files are saved

The **Output folder** selector in the top bar controls where results go. By default this is *next to the source* image; you can point it at any folder instead. Tools that produce many files (icons, batches) let you choose a destination folder in their own panel.

## 3. Inspect

### INSPECT

#### Image Info



ImageForge — Image Info

A read-only overview of the current image. It reports the file format, pixel dimensions, file size and megapixels; shows an RGB **histogram** of the image's tonal distribution; and lists colour details (colour mode, bit depth, alpha channel and colour profile) plus print DPI. Nothing here changes the image — it is purely for inspection.

#### How to use

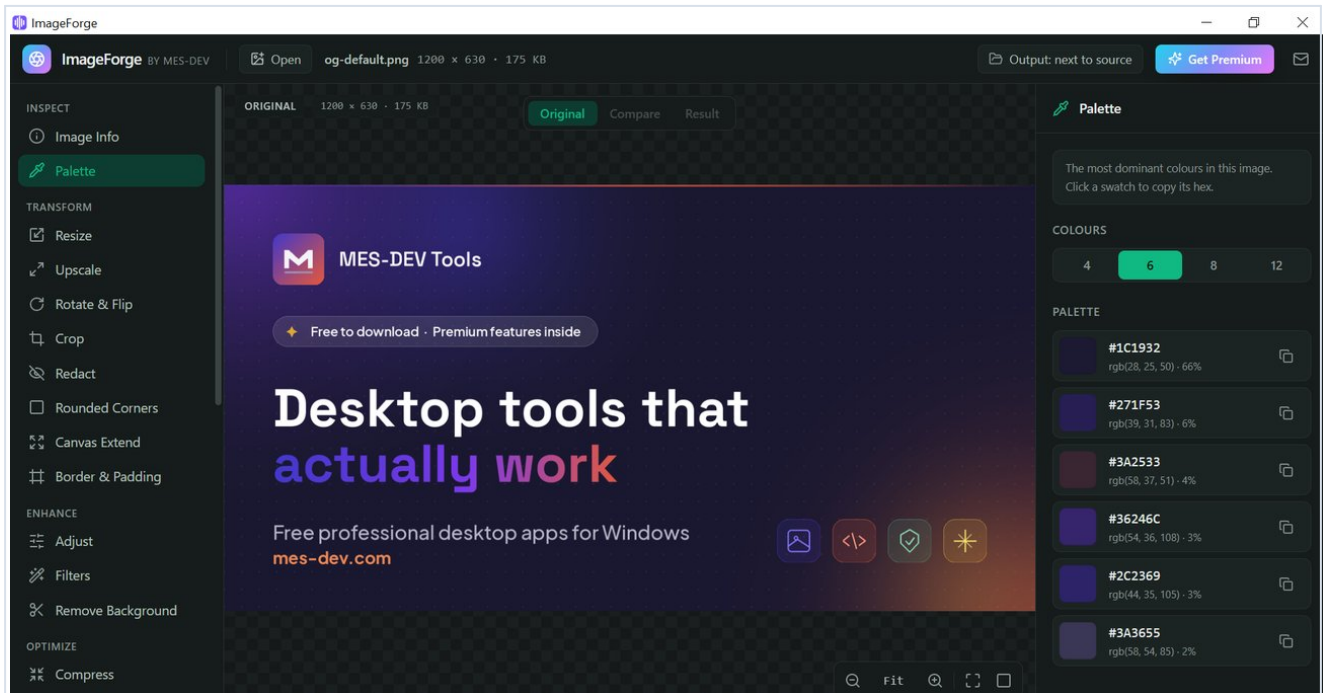
- 1 Open an image. The details fill in immediately.
- 2 Read the **Image**, **Colour** and **Print** panels for the file's properties.
- 3 Use the **Histogram** to judge exposure and contrast: peaks to the left mean shadows, peaks to the right mean highlights. The red, green and blue curves show each channel.

#### Tip

The histogram is a quick way to spot a flat or under-exposed image before you open the Adjust tool.

## INSPECT

## Palette



ImageForge — Palette

Extracts the most dominant colours from the image. Each swatch shows its HEX code, RGB value and the share of the image it represents. Clicking a swatch copies its HEX code to the clipboard — handy for building a matching colour scheme in a design or web project.

## How to use

- 1 Open an image.
- 2 Choose how many colours to extract: **4, 6, 8** or **12**.
- 3 Click any swatch to copy its HEX code (for example **#1C1932**).

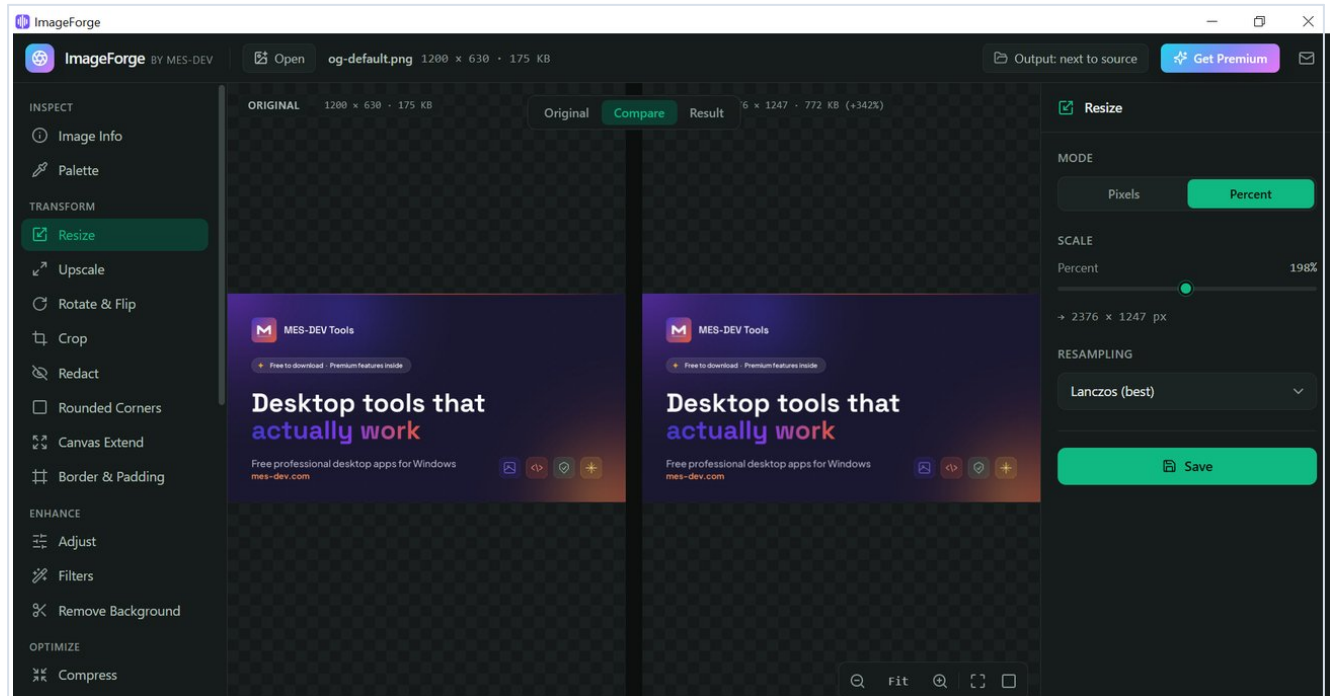
## Settings

| <b>Colours (4/6/8/12)</b> | How many dominant colours to pull out of the image.                                       |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Swatch</b>             | Shows HEX, RGB and the percentage of the image that colour covers. Click to copy the HEX. |

# 4. Transform

## TRANSFORM

### Resize



ImageForge — Resize

Changes the pixel dimensions of an image. You can resize to exact dimensions, by percentage, or to fit inside a bounding box while keeping the original proportions.

#### How to use

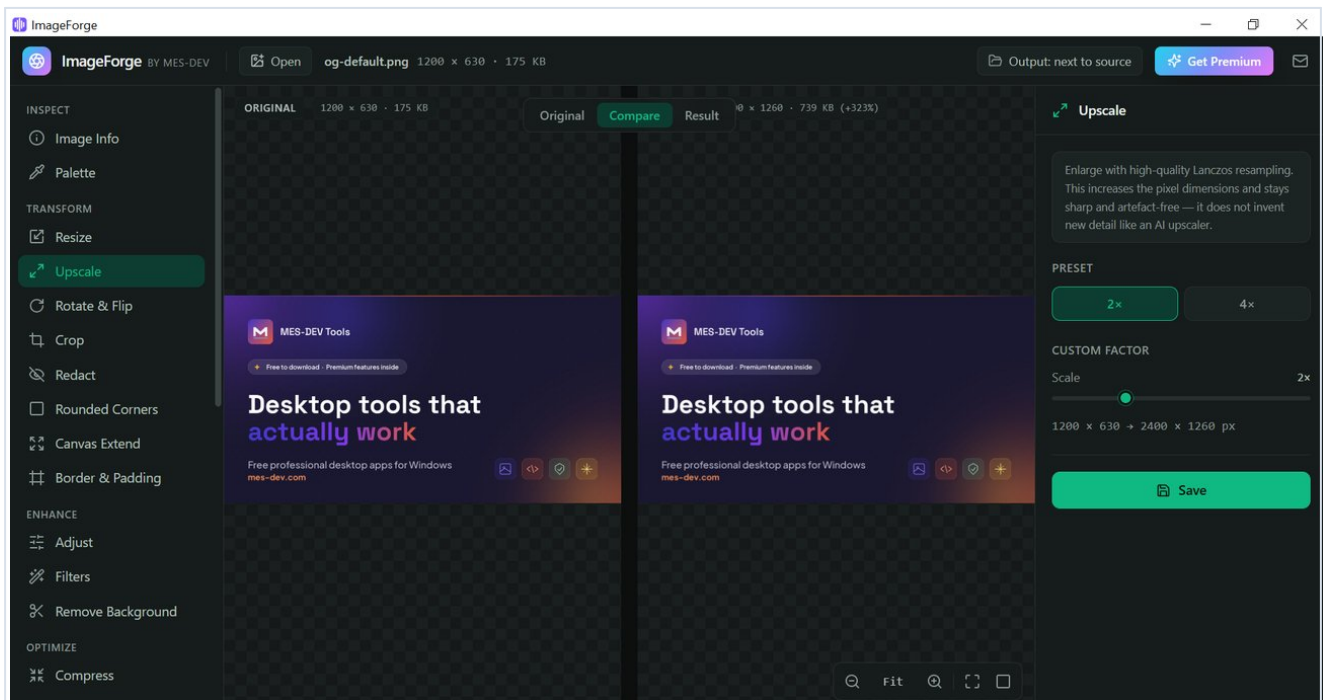
- 1 Open an image.
- 2 Pick a mode: **Pixels** (exact width and height), **Percent**, or **Fit within** a box.
- 3 Enter your target values. With the aspect lock on, width and height stay proportional.
- 4 Check the live preview in Compare view, then click **Save**.

#### Settings

| <b>Mode</b>               | Pixels (exact), Percent (scale by %), or Fit within (scale to fit a box, preserving aspect). |
|---------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Width / Height</b>     | Target dimensions in pixels.                                                                 |
| <b>Aspect lock</b>        | Keeps width and height proportional.                                                         |
| <b>Resampling quality</b> | Lanczos (best) is the default; also Bilinear and Nearest for speed.                          |

## TRANSFORM

## Upscale



ImageForge — Upscale

Enlarges an image using high-quality Lanczos resampling. This increases the pixel dimensions and keeps edges clean — it is honest resampling, not AI, so it will not invent detail that is not there, but it produces a sharp, artefact-free enlargement.

## How to use

- 1 Open an image.
- 2 Pick a preset — **2x** or **4x** — or drag the **custom factor** slider.
- 3 The resulting dimensions are shown as you change the factor.
- 4 Preview, then click **Save**.

## Settings

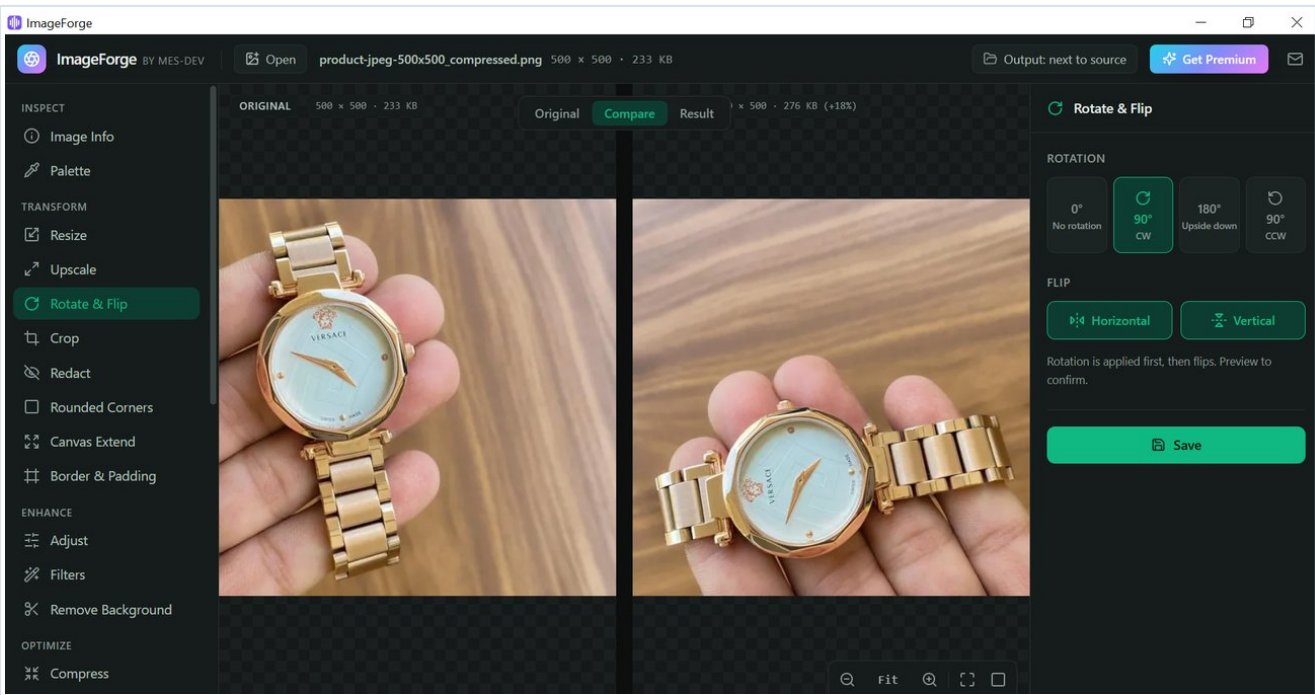
| <b>2x / 4x</b>       | Quick enlargement presets.           |
|----------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <b>Custom factor</b> | Fine control from about 1.25x to 4x. |

## Tip

Upscaling cannot add detail that was never captured, but Lanczos keeps edges clean. For the sharpest result, follow an upscale with a light pass of the Sharpen tool.

TRANSFORM

Rotate & Flip



ImageForge — Rotate & Flip

Rotates the image and flips it horizontally or vertically. Useful for straightening photos or mirroring a graphic.

How to use

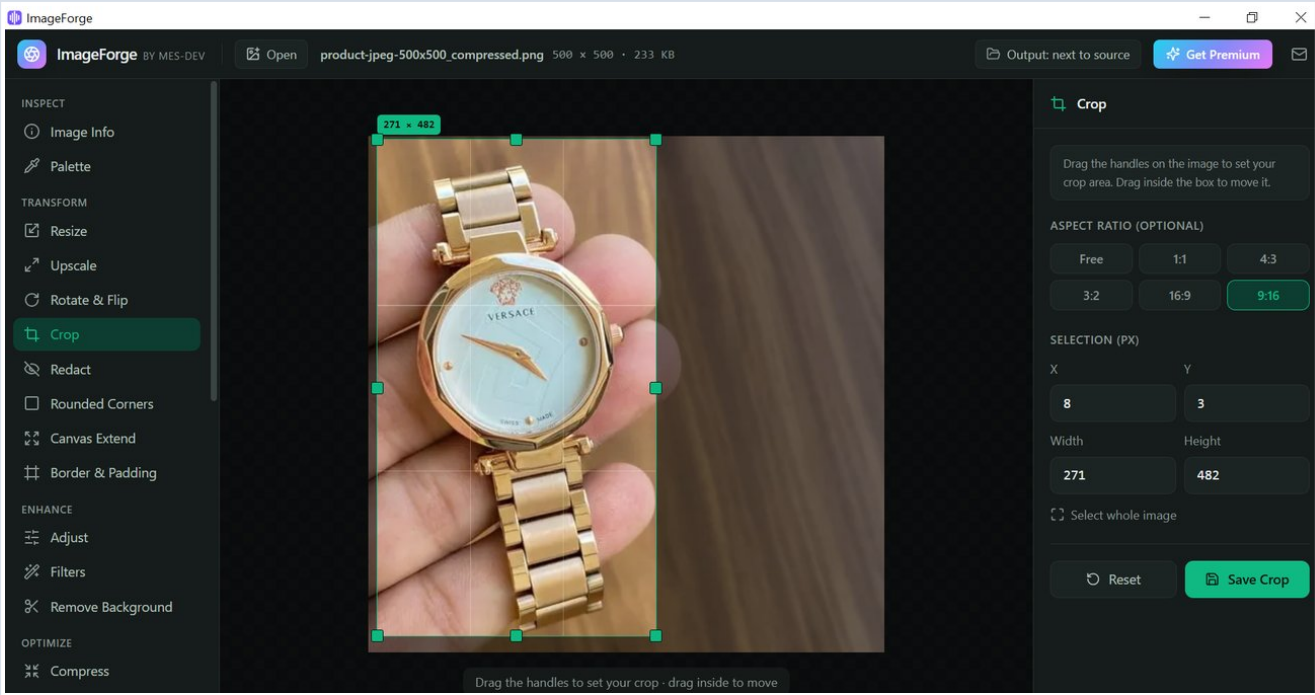
- 1 Open an image.
- 2 Set a rotation angle, and/or toggle **Flip horizontal** or **Flip vertical**.
- 3 Preview, then click **Save**.

Settings

| Angle                      | Rotation in degrees.           |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Flip horizontal / vertical | Mirror the image on each axis. |

TRANSFORM

Crop



ImageForge — Crop

An interactive crop. Drag the handles on the image to set the crop area, with rule-of-thirds guides to help composition. You can lock to a common aspect ratio or crop freely, and fine-tune the exact pixel selection in the panel.

How to use

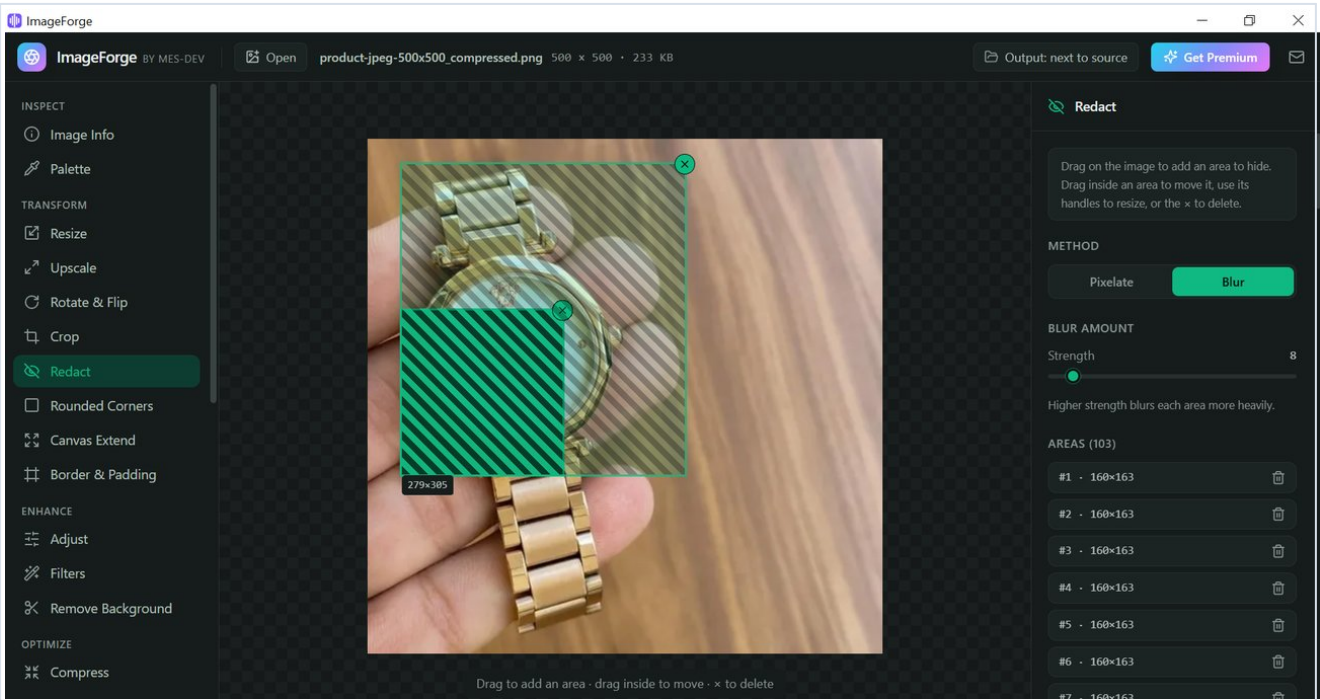
- 1 Open an image and select the **Crop** tool.
- 2 Drag the handles to size the crop box; drag inside the box to move it.
- 3 Optionally choose an **aspect ratio** (Free, 1:1, 4:3, 3:2, 16:9, 9:16).
- 4 Fine-tune X, Y, Width and Height if needed, then click **Save Crop**.

Settings

| Aspect ratio               | Free, or a fixed ratio the crop box will keep. |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| Selection (X/Y/W/H)        | The exact crop rectangle in pixels.            |
| Select whole image / Reset | Snap the box to the full image or clear it.    |

TRANSFORM

# Redact



ImageForge — Redact

Permanently hides parts of an image by pixelating or blurring rectangular areas — ideal for removing faces, licence plates, names or other private details from a screenshot before sharing. You can add as many areas as you like.

### How to use

- 1 Open an image and select the **Redact** tool.
- 2 Drag on the image to add an area. Add several if needed.
- 3 Drag inside an area to move it, use its handles to resize, or the **x** to delete it.
- 4 Choose the method — **Pixelate** or **Blur** — and set the **Strength**.
- 5 Click **Save redacted**.

### Settings

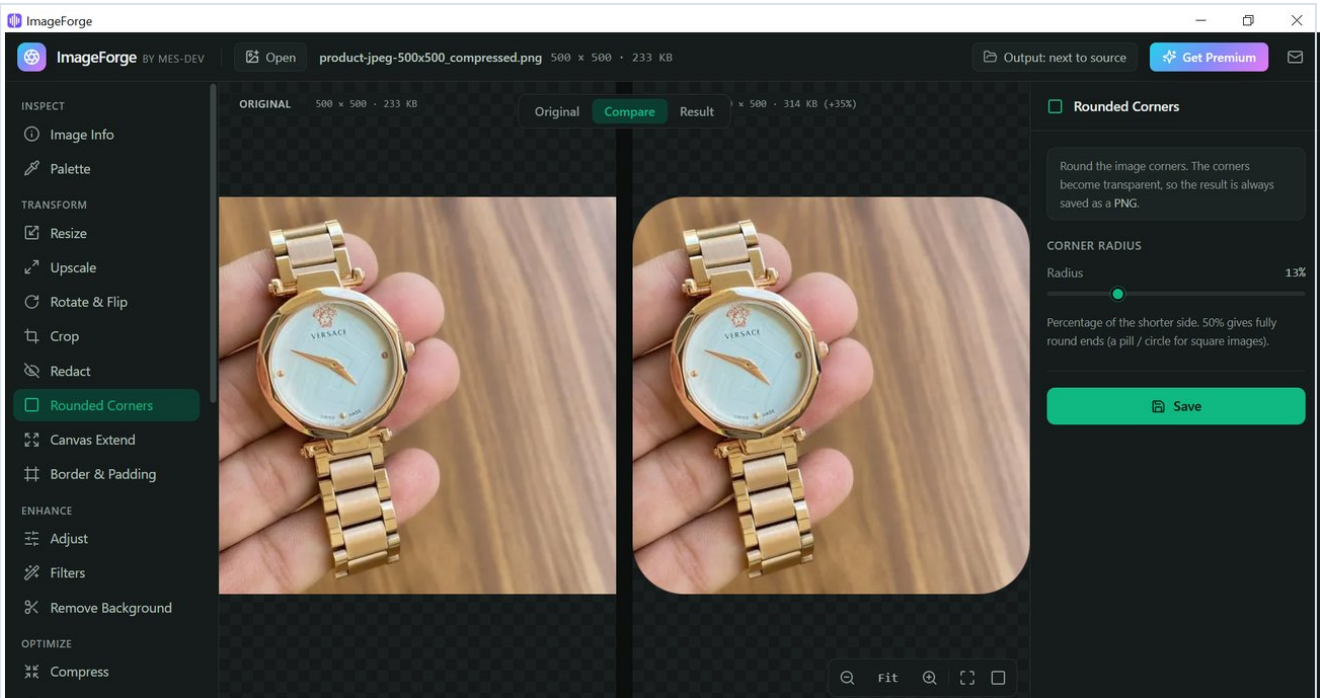
|            |                                                                      |
|------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
|            |                                                                      |
| Method     | Pixelate (blocky) or Blur (soft). Both obscure the area.             |
| Strength   | Pixelate: block size. Blur: blur amount. Larger = harder to recover. |
| Areas list | Every area you have added; remove any from the list.                 |

### Privacy

Redaction is baked into the exported image — the hidden pixels are genuinely gone, not just covered.

TRANSFORM

# Rounded Corners



ImageForge — Rounded Corners

Rounds the corners of an image. The corners become transparent, so the result is always saved as a PNG. The radius is given as a percentage of the shorter side, so it scales sensibly for any image size.

How to use

- 1 Open an image and select **Rounded Corners**.
- 2 Drag the **Radius** slider (0-50% of the shorter side).
- 3 Preview the rounded result, then click **Save** — the file is written as a PNG.

Settings

|        |                                                                                |
|--------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|        |                                                                                |
| Radius | Corner radius as a percentage of the shorter side. 50% gives fully round ends. |

TRANSFORM

# Canvas Extend

Enlarges the canvas around the image without scaling the image itself — the picture stays the same size, and new space is added around it. This is the opposite of cropping. The new area can be a solid colour or a mirror of the image edges.

How to use

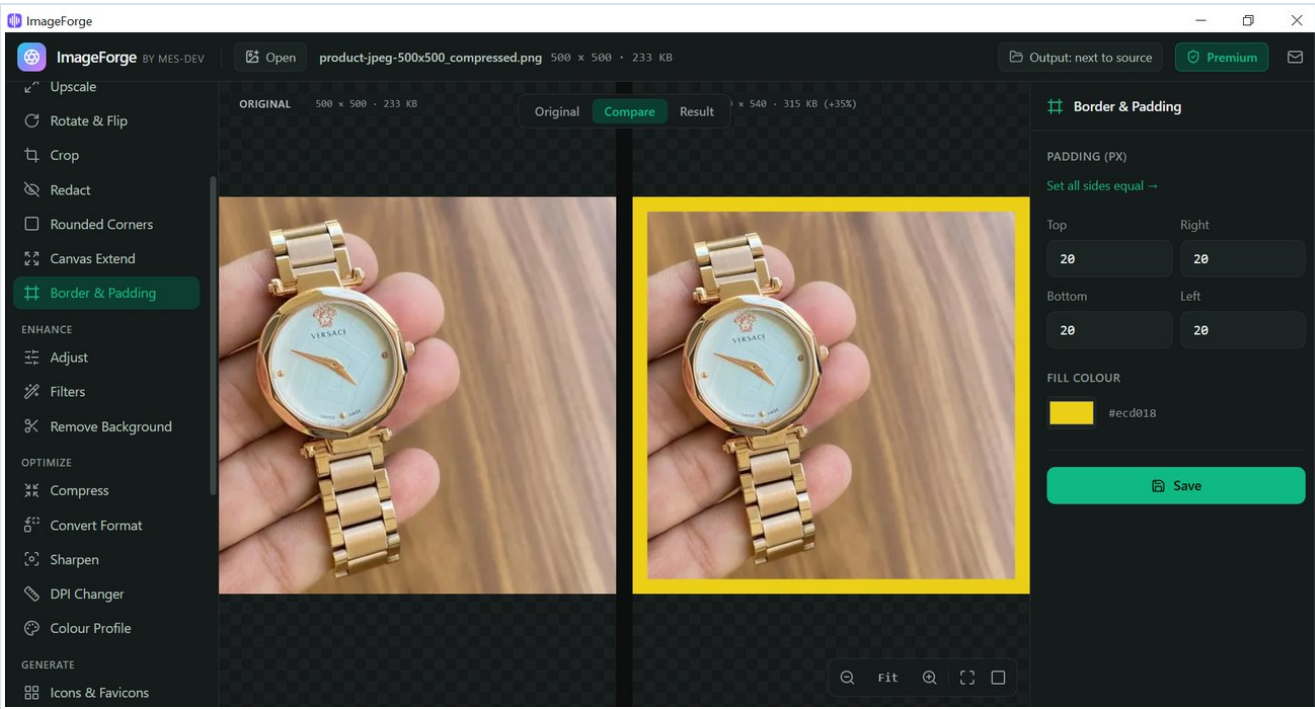
- 1 Open an image and select **Canvas Extend**.
- 2 Set the new canvas **Width** and **Height** (must be at least the image size).
- 3 Choose an **anchor** to position the image within the larger canvas.
- 4 Pick a **fill**: a solid colour, or Mirror to reflect the edges into the new space.
- 5 Preview, then click **Save**.

Settings

|                |                                                                           |
|----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                |                                                                           |
| Width / Height | The new canvas size in pixels.                                            |
| Anchor         | Where the image sits inside the enlarged canvas (centre, corners, edges). |
| Fill           | Solid colour or Mirror.                                                   |

TRANSFORM

Border & Padding



ImageForge — Border & Padding

Adds a solid border or padding around the image. Each side (top, right, bottom, left) can have its own thickness, and you choose the fill colour.

How to use

- 1 Open an image and select **Border & Padding**.
- 2 Set the thickness for each side, in pixels.
- 3 Choose the fill colour.
- 4 Preview, then click **Save**.

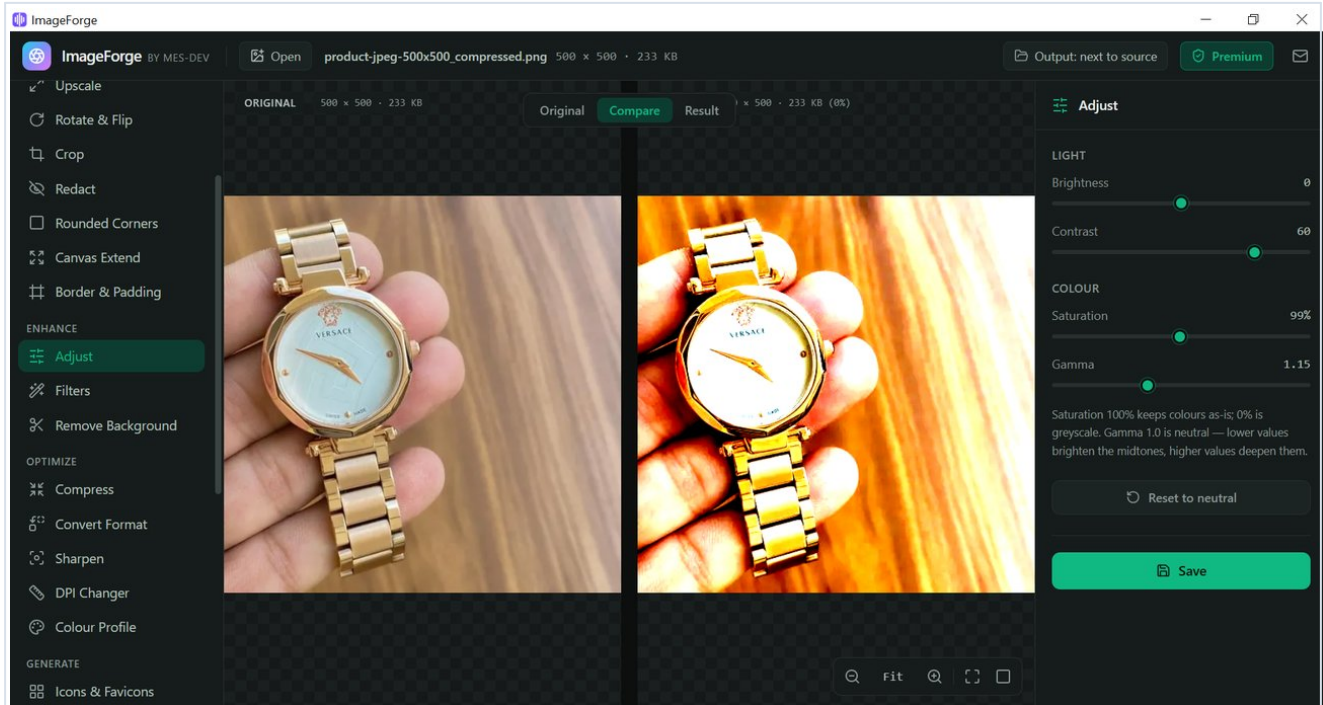
Settings

|                             |                                         |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
|                             |                                         |
| Top / Right / Bottom / Left | Border thickness per side, in pixels.   |
| Fill colour                 | The colour of the added border/padding. |

# 5. Enhance

## ENHANCE

### Adjust



ImageForge — Adjust

Fine-tune the light and colour of an image with four sliders: Brightness, Contrast, Saturation and Gamma. All adjustments preview live.

#### How to use

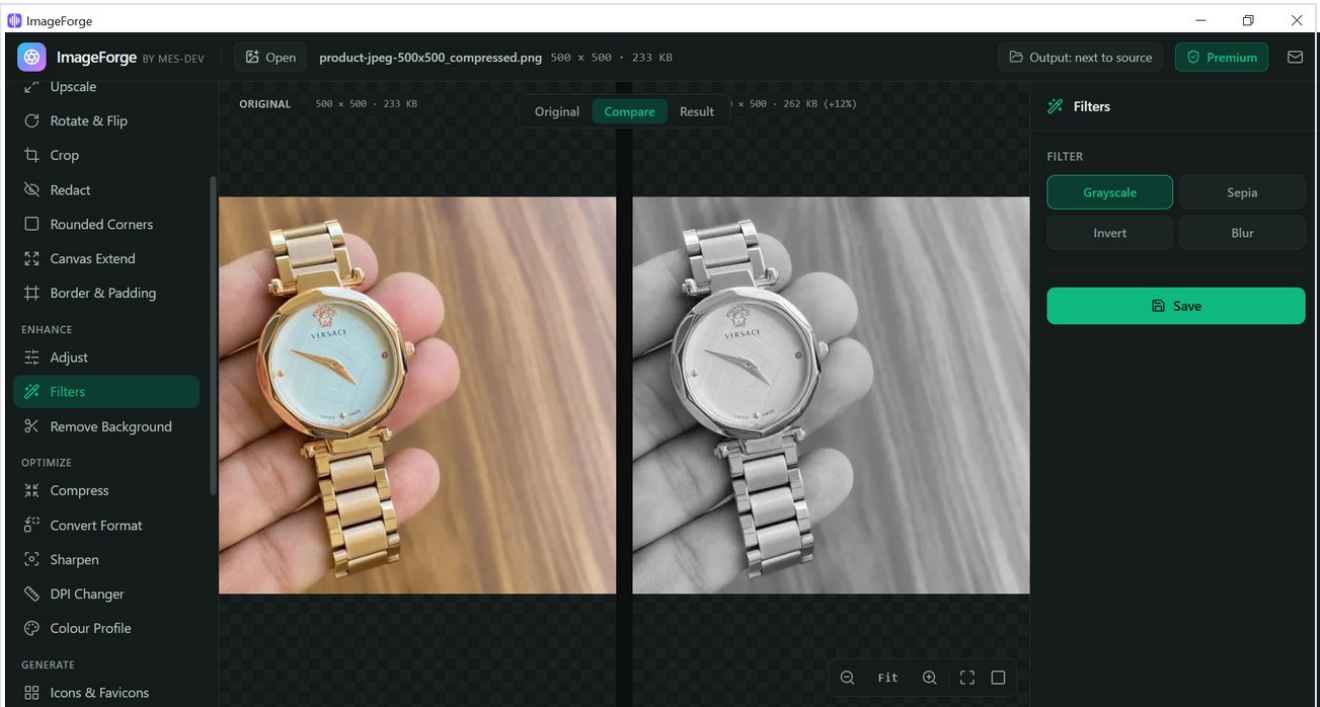
- 1 Open an image and select **Adjust**.
- 2 Move the sliders to taste; the Compare view updates as you go.
- 3 Use **Reset to neutral** to return to the original, then **Save** when happy.

#### Settings

| <b>Brightness / Contrast</b> | Overall lightness and the spread between darks and lights.                         |
|------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Saturation</b>            | Colour intensity. 100% is unchanged; 0% is greyscale; above 100% is more vivid.    |
| <b>Gamma</b>                 | Midtone brightness. 1.0 is neutral; lower brightens midtones, higher deepens them. |

ENHANCE

Filters



ImageForge — Filters

One-click artistic and utility filters: Grayscale, Sepia, Invert and Blur. Blur adds a radius control.

How to use

- 1 Open an image and select **Filters**.
- 2 Choose a filter: **Grayscale**, **Sepia**, **Invert** or **Blur**.
- 3 For Blur, set the **Radius**.
- 4 Preview, then **Save**.

Settings

| Grayscale / Sepia / Invert | Instant colour transformations.                     |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| Blur (Radius)              | A soft gaussian blur; the radius sets the strength. |

ENHANCE

Remove Background

ImageForge focuses on editing, conversion and optimisation. For AI background removal, MES-DEV makes a dedicated companion app called **CutOut** — a one-click, offline AI background remover. This panel introduces CutOut and links straight to it.

How to use

- 1 Open the **Remove Background** tool (no image needed).
- 2 Read what CutOut does — one-click AI removal, clean edges, batch support, fully offline.
- 3 Click **Get on Microsoft Store** to install it, or **View on mes-dev.com** to learn more.

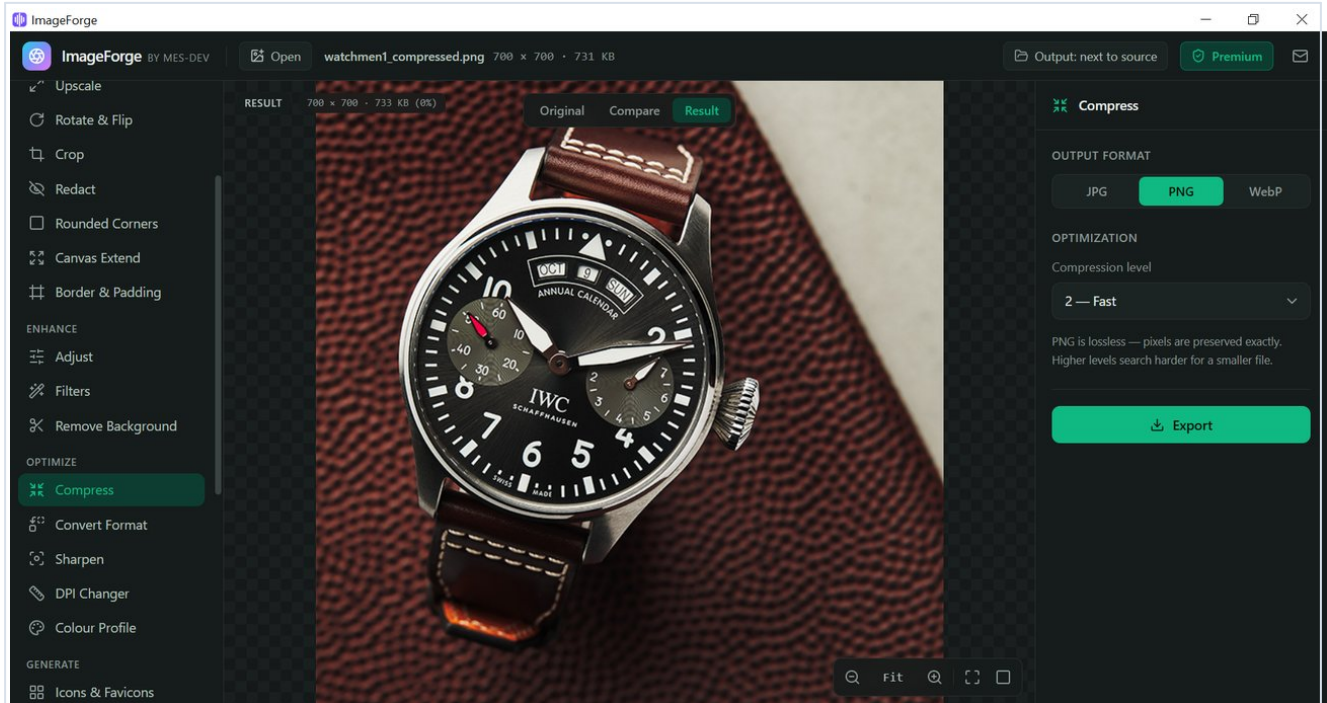
**Companion app**

CutOut is a separate MES-DEV application that works alongside ImageForge.

## 6. Optimize

### OPTIMIZE

## Compress



ImageForge — Compress

Reduces file size while keeping the image looking good. Pick the output format and a quality level, and ImageForge shows the resulting size so you can trade quality against weight.

### How to use

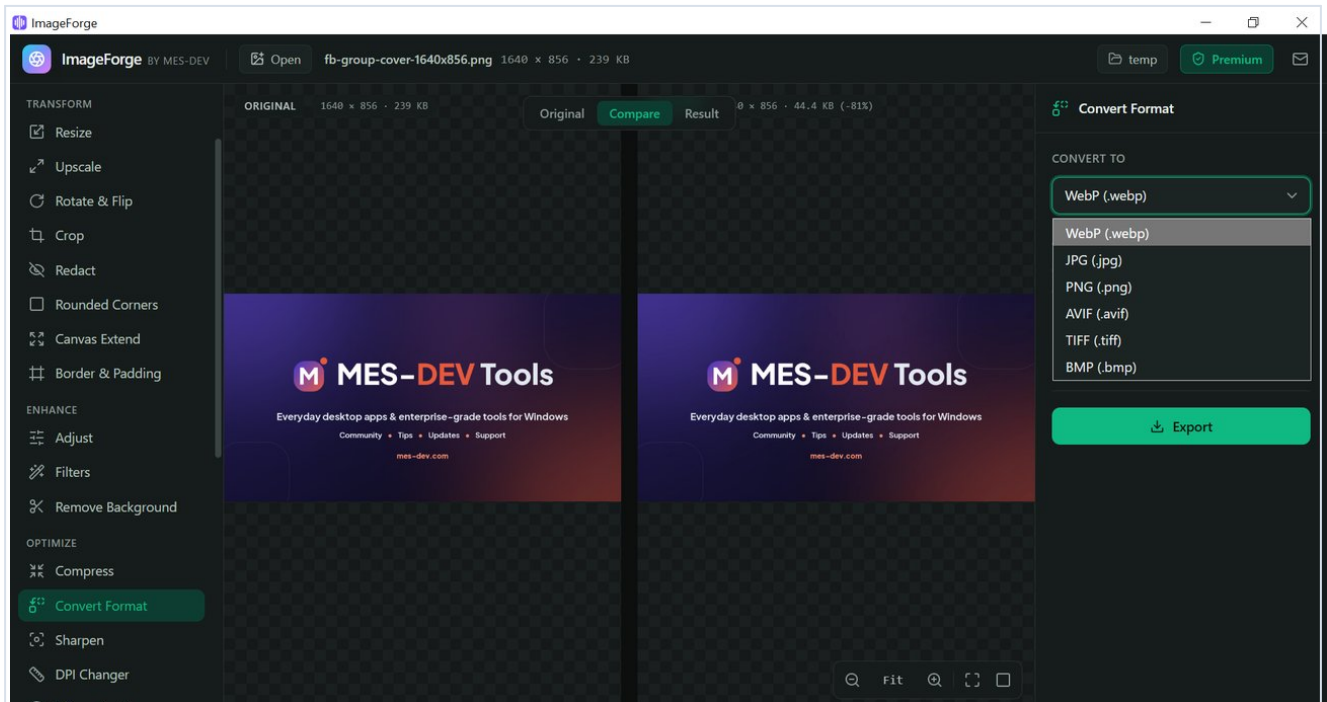
- 1 Open an image and select **Compress**.
- 2 Choose a format (JPEG, PNG or WebP) and set the **quality**.
- 3 Compare the result and file size, then **Export**.

### Settings

| <b>Format</b>          | JPEG and WebP compress with a quality slider; PNG uses a compression level. |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Quality / Level</b> | Lower quality = smaller file. WebP usually gives the best size-to-quality.  |

## OPTIMIZE

## Convert Format

*ImageForge — Convert Format*

Converts an image from one format to another — for example HEIC-era PNGs to WebP, or a screenshot to JPEG. Supports WebP, JPEG, PNG, AVIF, TIFF and BMP.

### How to use

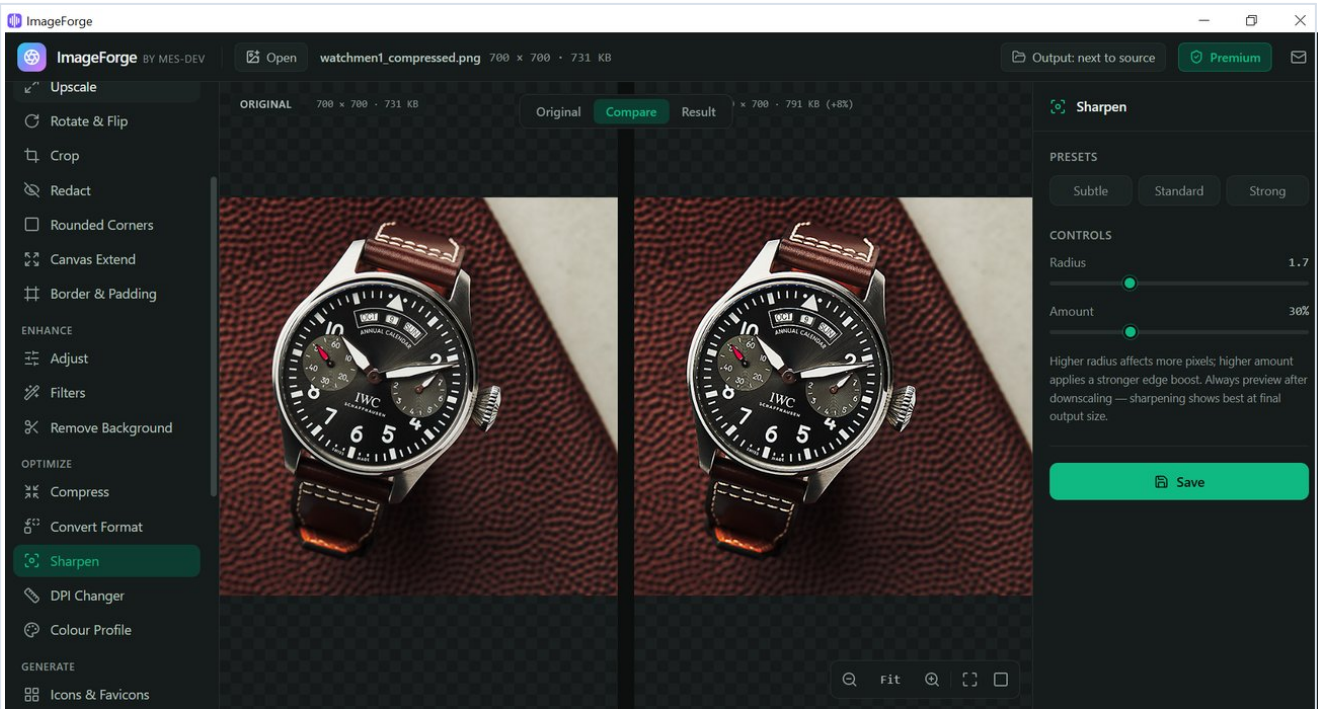
- 1 Open an image and select **Convert Format**.
- 2 Choose the target format.
- 3 For lossy formats, set the quality.
- 4 Click **Export**.

### Settings

| <b>Target format</b> | WebP, JPEG, PNG, AVIF, TIFF or BMP.          |
|----------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| <b>Quality</b>       | Applies to lossy formats (JPEG, WebP, AVIF). |

OPTIMIZE

Sharpen



ImageForge — Sharpen

Sharpens an image using an unsharp mask. Sigma sets the radius of the effect and Amount sets its strength. Great for recovering crispness after resizing.

How to use

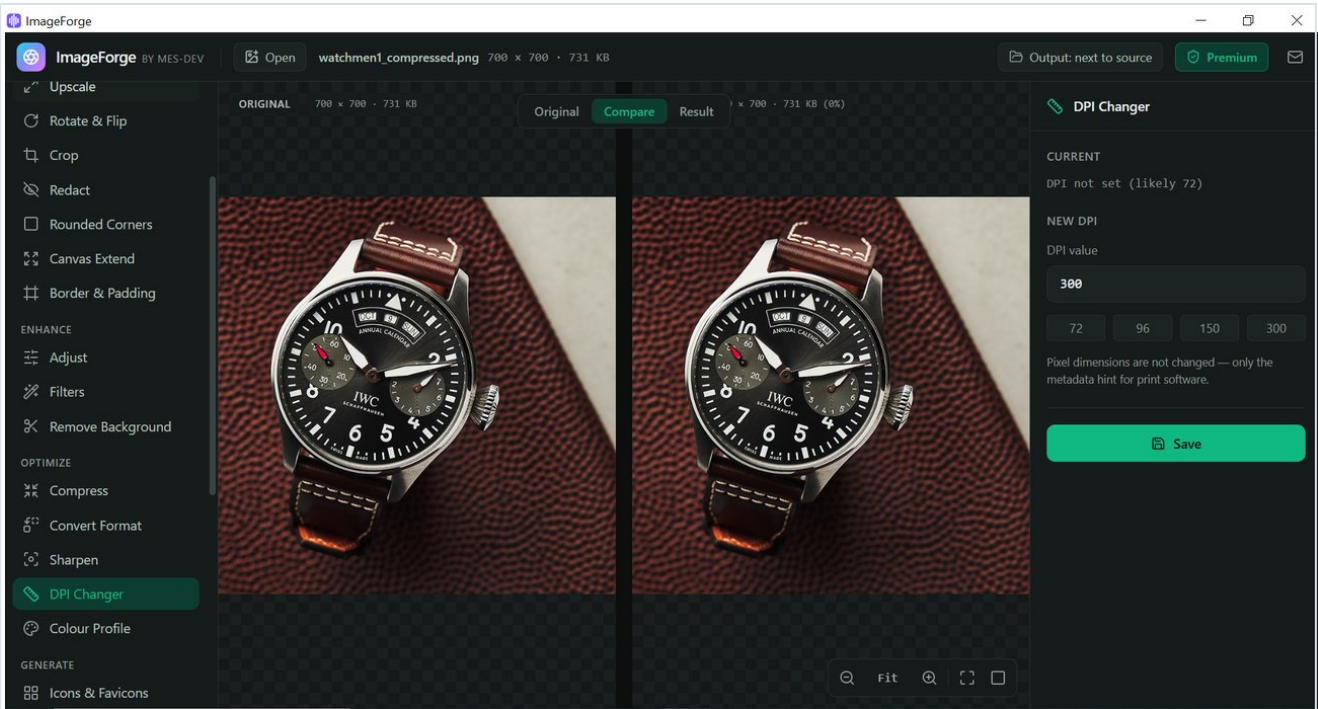
- 1 Open an image and select **Sharpen**.
- 2 Adjust **Sigma** (radius) and **Amount** (strength).
- 3 Preview, then **Save**.

Settings

|               |                                                                 |
|---------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
|               |                                                                 |
| <b>Sigma</b>  | The radius of the sharpening. Small values sharpen fine detail. |
| <b>Amount</b> | How strong the sharpening is.                                   |

OPTIMIZE

# DPI Changer



ImageForge — DPI Changer

Sets the print resolution (DPI) stored in the image's metadata. This controls the physical print size without changing the pixels — for example, tagging an image as 300 DPI for print.

How to use

- 1 Open an image and select **DPI Changer**.
- 2 Enter the target DPI (300 is standard for print).
- 3 Click **Save / Export**.

Settings

|     |                                                                            |
|-----|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|     |                                                                            |
| DPI | The dots-per-inch value written to the file. Does not resample the pixels. |

OPTIMIZE

# Colour Profile

Converts an image between colour profiles, such as sRGB and Adobe RGB. Useful when preparing images for print workflows or specific display targets.

How to use

- 1 Open an image and select **Colour Profile**.
- 2 Choose the **source** and **target** profiles.
- 3 Click **Save / Export**.

Settings

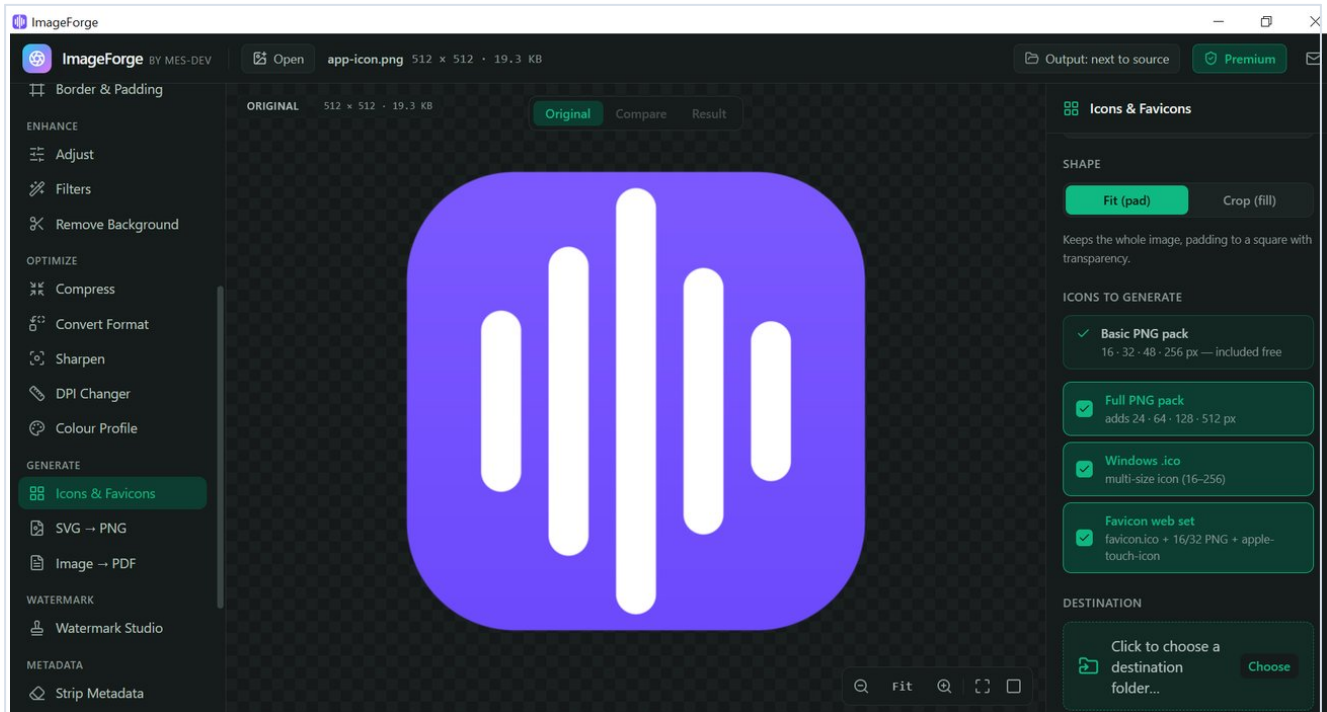
|  |  |
|--|--|
|  |  |
|--|--|

|                       |                                                           |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Source profile</b> | The profile the image is currently in (for example sRGB). |
| <b>Target profile</b> | The profile to convert to (for example Adobe RGB).        |

## 7. Generate

### GENERATE

### Icons & Favicons



ImageForge — Icons & Favicons

Turns any image into a complete set of app icons and favicons. Choose how non-square images are squared, then generate correctly sized files in one click — the standard PNG sizes, a multi-size Windows **.ico**, and a ready-to-use favicon web set.

#### How to use

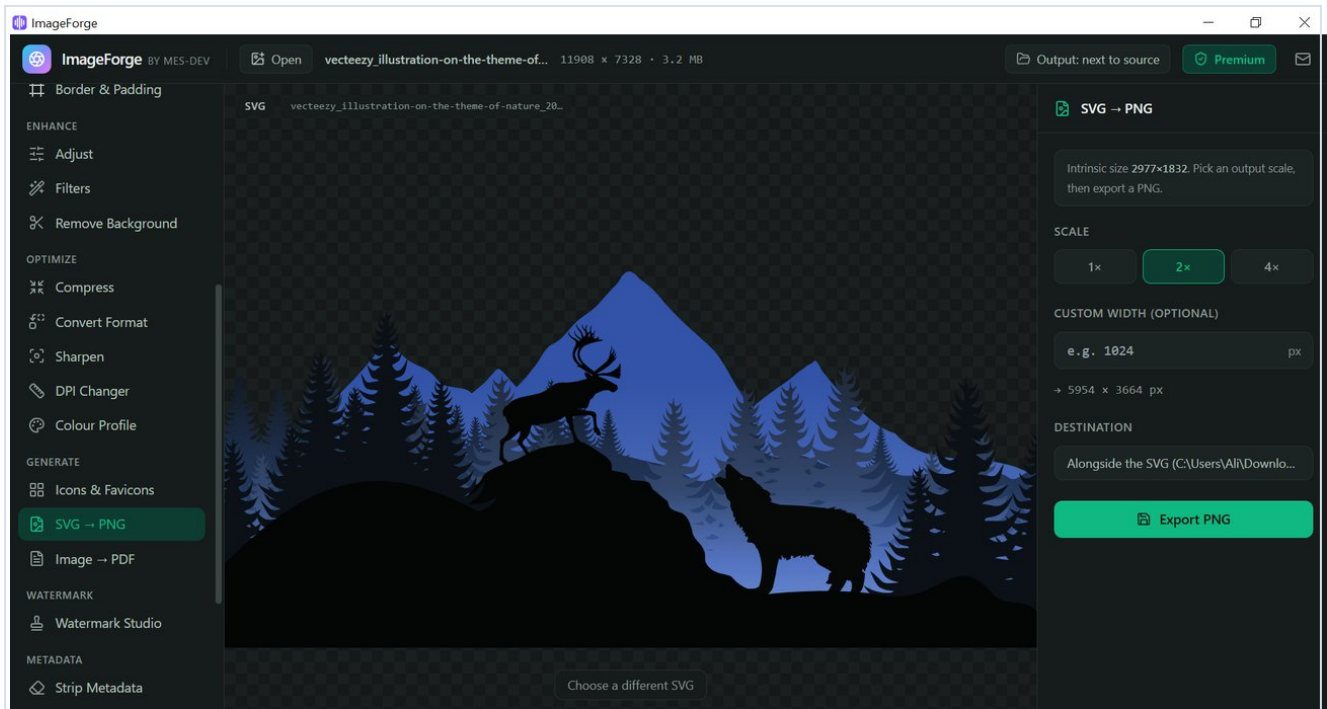
- 1 Open an image and select **Icons & Favicons**.
- 2 Choose the shape mode: **Fit (pad)** keeps the whole image and pads to a square with transparency; **Crop (fill)** centre-crops to a square.
- 3 Tick the outputs you want — PNG pack, Windows **.ico**, favicon web set.
- 4 Choose a destination folder and click **Generate icons**. Files are written to a `<name>-icons` subfolder.

#### Settings

| <b>Shape (Fit / Crop)</b> | How a non-square image becomes square: pad transparent, or centre-crop. |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>PNG pack</b>           | Standard icon sizes such as 16, 32, 48, 64, 128, 256 and 512 px.        |
| <b>Windows .ico</b>       | A single multi-size .ico file for Windows apps and shortcuts.           |
| <b>Favicon web set</b>    | favicon.ico, favicon-16/32 PNGs and an apple-touch-icon for websites.   |

## GENERATE

## SVG → PNG



ImageForge — SVG → PNG

Rasterises a vector SVG into a crisp PNG at any size. Because it is vector, you can render it at 1×, 2×, 4× or a custom width with no loss of sharpness. Gradients and text render correctly (using your system fonts).

**How to use**

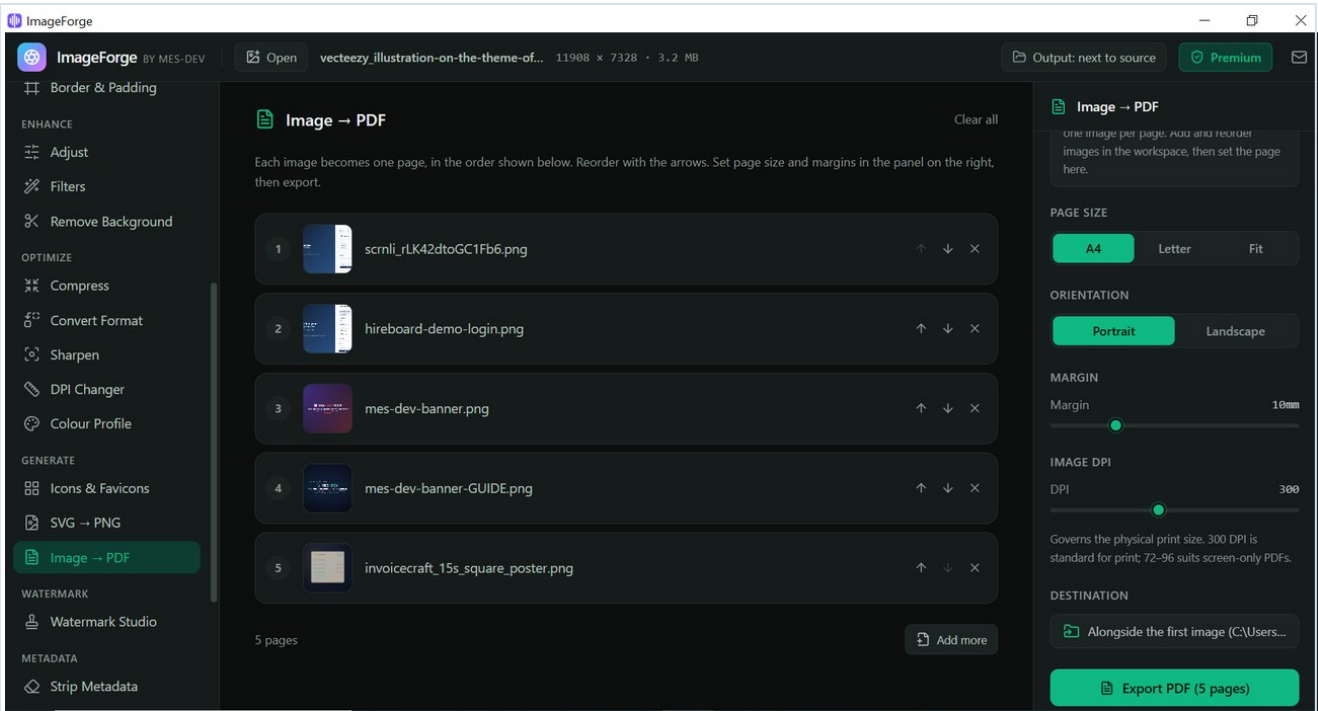
- 1 Open or drag an **.svg** file — ImageForge switches to this tool automatically.
- 2 Pick an output scale (**1×**, **2×**, **4×**) or type a custom width.
- 3 The resulting pixel size is shown.
- 4 Click **Export PNG**.

**Settings**

| Scale (1×/2×/4×) | Multiplies the SVG's natural size.                               |
|------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Custom width     | Render to an exact pixel width; height follows the aspect ratio. |

GENERATE

Image → PDF



ImageForge — Image → PDF

Combines one or more images into a single PDF, one image per page. You can add, reorder and remove images, choose the page size and orientation, set margins, and control the image DPI (which governs the physical print size).

How to use

- 1 Select **Image** → **PDF** and click **Add Images**. Each image becomes a page.
- 2 Reorder pages with the up/down arrows; remove any with the x.
- 3 In the panel, choose **Page size** (A4, Letter or Fit-to-image), **orientation**, **margin** and **image DPI**.
- 4 Pick a destination, then click **Export PDF**.

Settings

| Page size   | A4, Letter, or Fit (each page is sized to its image).                     |
|-------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Orientation | Portrait or Landscape (not used for Fit).                                 |
| Margin      | White space around each image, in millimetres.                            |
| Image DPI   | Governs physical print size. 300 is standard for print; 72-96 for screen. |

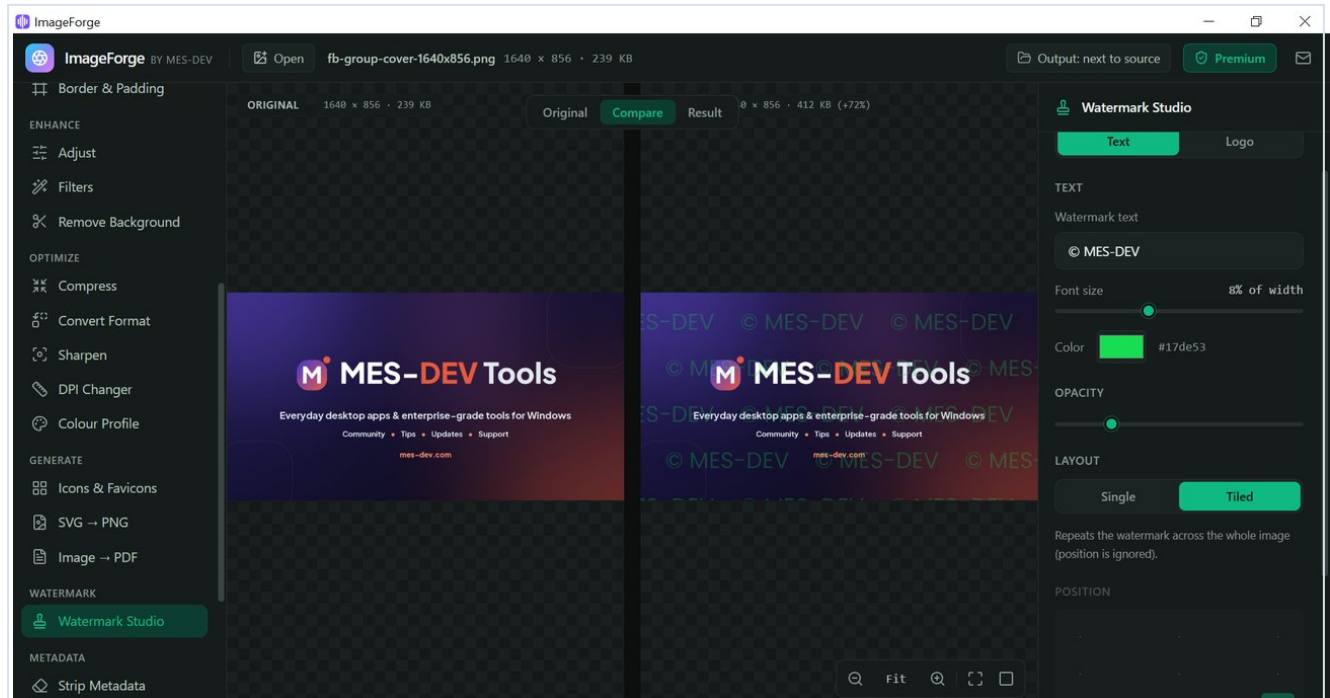
Tip

Use **Fit** page size when you want each page to match its image exactly (no borders or letterboxing); use A4 or Letter when the PDF needs a standard paper size.

## 8. Watermark

### WATERMARK

## Watermark Studio



ImageForge — Watermark Studio

Adds a text or logo watermark to an image. You control the content, size, colour and opacity, and choose between a **single** watermark at a chosen position or a **tiled** pattern that repeats across the whole image.

### How to use

- 1 Open an image and select **Watermark Studio**.
- 2 Choose **Text** mode (type your text, set size and colour) or **Logo** mode (choose an image, set its size).
- 3 Set the **opacity**.
- 4 Choose the layout: **Single** (then pick a position and optional X/Y offsets) or **Tiled** (repeats across the image; position is ignored).
- 5 Preview, then **Save**.

### Settings

| <b>Mode</b>                      | Text or Logo.                                                   |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Text / Font size / Colour</b> | For text watermarks; size is a percentage of image width.       |
| <b>Logo / Logo size</b>          | For logo watermarks; size is a percentage of image width.       |
| <b>Opacity</b>                   | How transparent the watermark is.                               |
| <b>Layout</b>                    | Single (positioned) or Tiled (repeated across the whole image). |
| <b>Position + X/Y offset</b>     | For single mode: where the watermark sits, with fine nudging.   |

## 9. Metadata

### METADATA

### Strip Metadata

Removes embedded metadata from an image — EXIF (camera and GPS data), IPTC and XMP. A good privacy step before publishing photos, since EXIF can contain the location and device a photo was taken with.

#### How to use

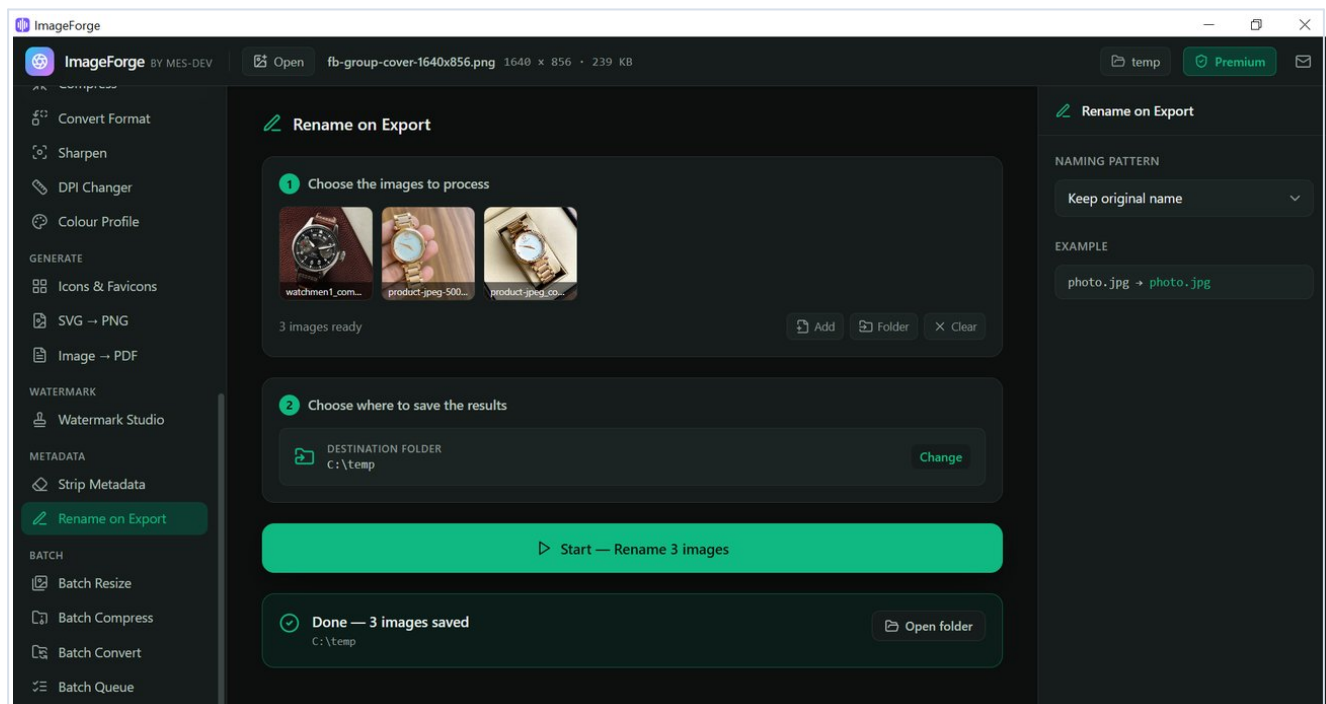
- 1 Open an image and select **Strip Metadata**.
- 2 Choose which metadata to remove: **EXIF**, **IPTC** and/or **XMP**.
- 3 Click **Save / Export** to write a clean copy.

#### Settings

|            |                                                     |
|------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
|            |                                                     |
| EXIF       | Camera settings, timestamps and often GPS location. |
| IPTC / XMP | Captions, keywords, copyright and editing metadata. |

### METADATA

### Rename on Export



ImageForge — Rename on Export

Bulk-renames a set of images while copying them to your output. Choose a naming pattern and preview the new names before writing. Patterns include keep-original, prefix, suffix, sequential numbering and date stamps.

#### How to use

- 1 Select **Rename on Export** and add the images to rename.
- 2 Choose a pattern: **Keep original**, **Prefix**, **Suffix**, **Sequential** numbering or **Date** stamp.
- 3 Enter the prefix/suffix text where relevant and review the preview.
- 4 Run the rename to write the renamed copies.

### Settings

| <b>Pattern</b> | Keep original, Prefix, Suffix, Sequential numbering, or Date stamp. |
|----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Value</b>   | The prefix or suffix text used by the pattern.                      |

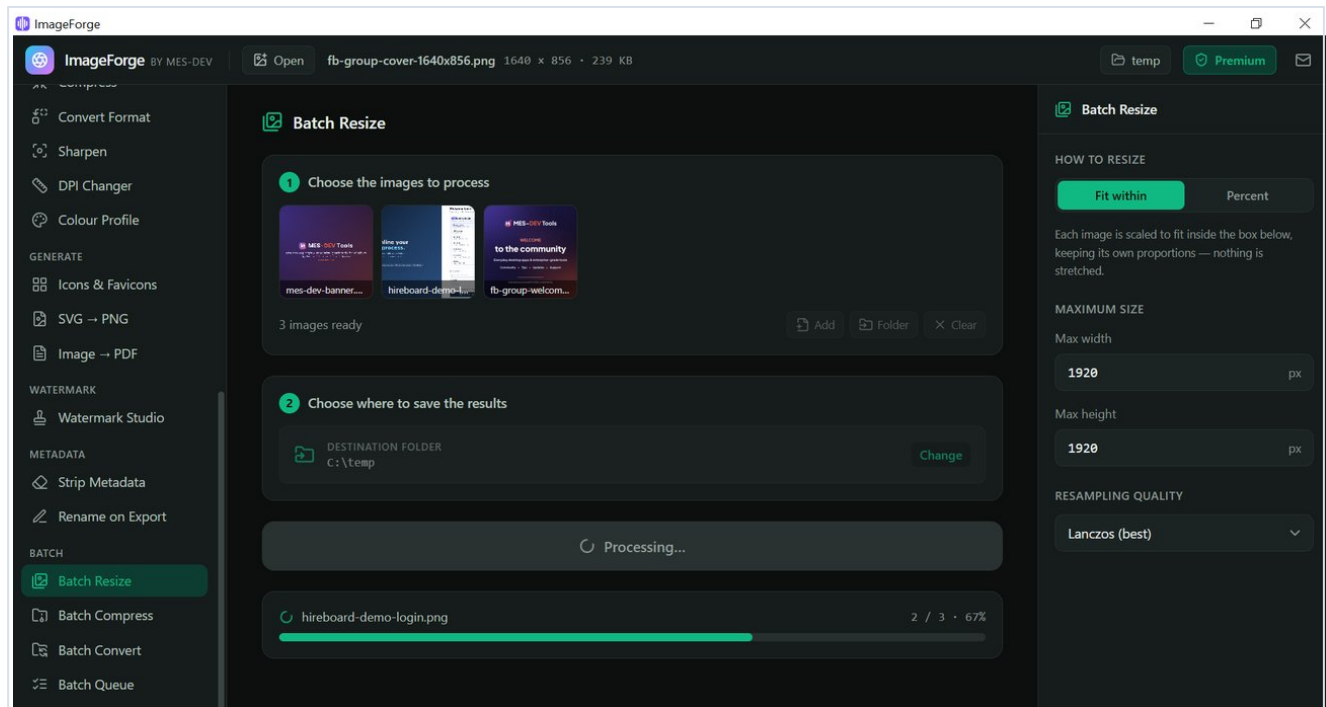
## 10. Batch

The Batch tools apply the same operation to many images at once. They share a simple two-step workspace:

**Step 1** add the images (or a whole folder), **Step 2** choose where to save the results — then set the operation's options in the panel and press Start. A progress bar shows each file as it is processed.

### BATCH

## Batch Resize



ImageForge — Batch Resize

Resizes many images in one run. Choose **Fit within** a maximum width and height (each image keeps its own proportions) or scale everything by **percent**.

### How to use

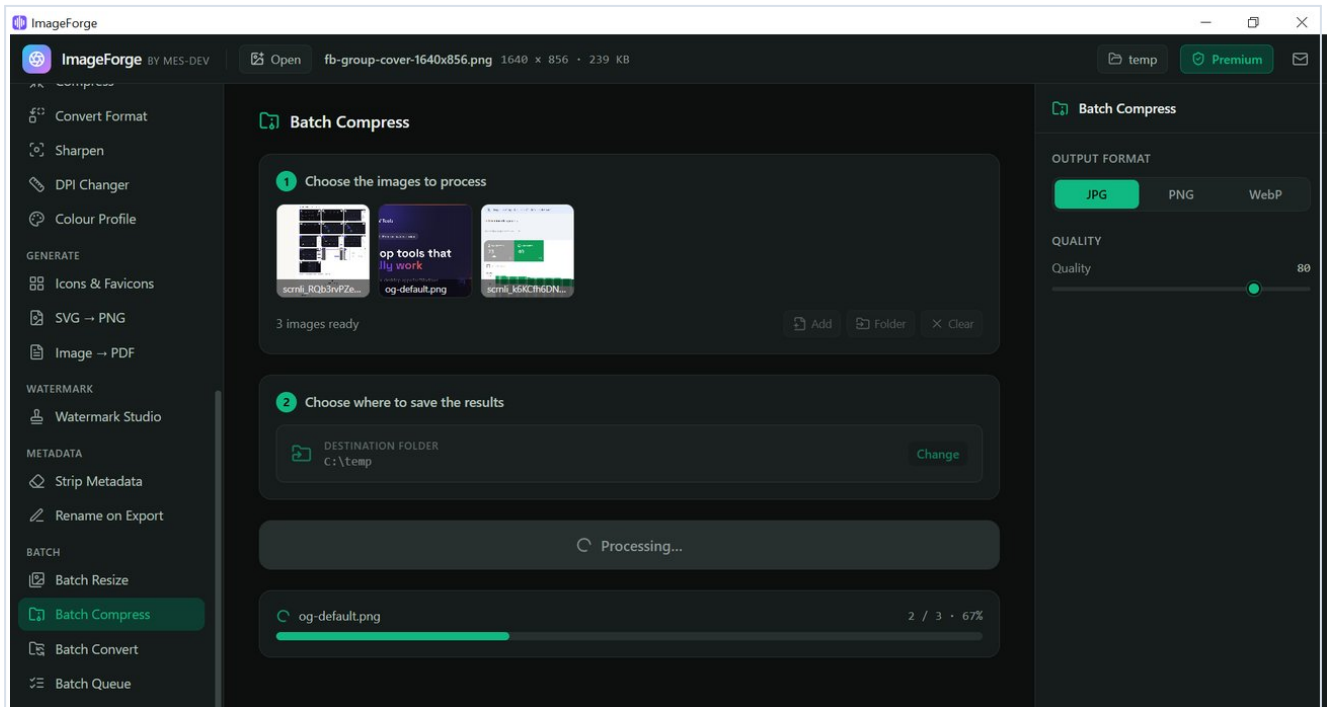
- 1 Add images (or a folder) in Step 1.
- 2 Choose a destination folder in Step 2.
- 3 Set the mode (Fit within / Percent), the target size and the resampling quality.
- 4 Click **Start** and watch the progress.

### Settings

| <b>Mode</b>                           | Fit within a box, or Percent scaling. |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <b>Max width / height, or Percent</b> | The resize target.                    |
| <b>Resampling quality</b>             | Lanczos (best) recommended.           |

## BATCH

# Batch Compress



ImageForge — Batch Compress

Compresses many images to a chosen format and quality in one run — ideal for shrinking a folder of photos for the web.

### How to use

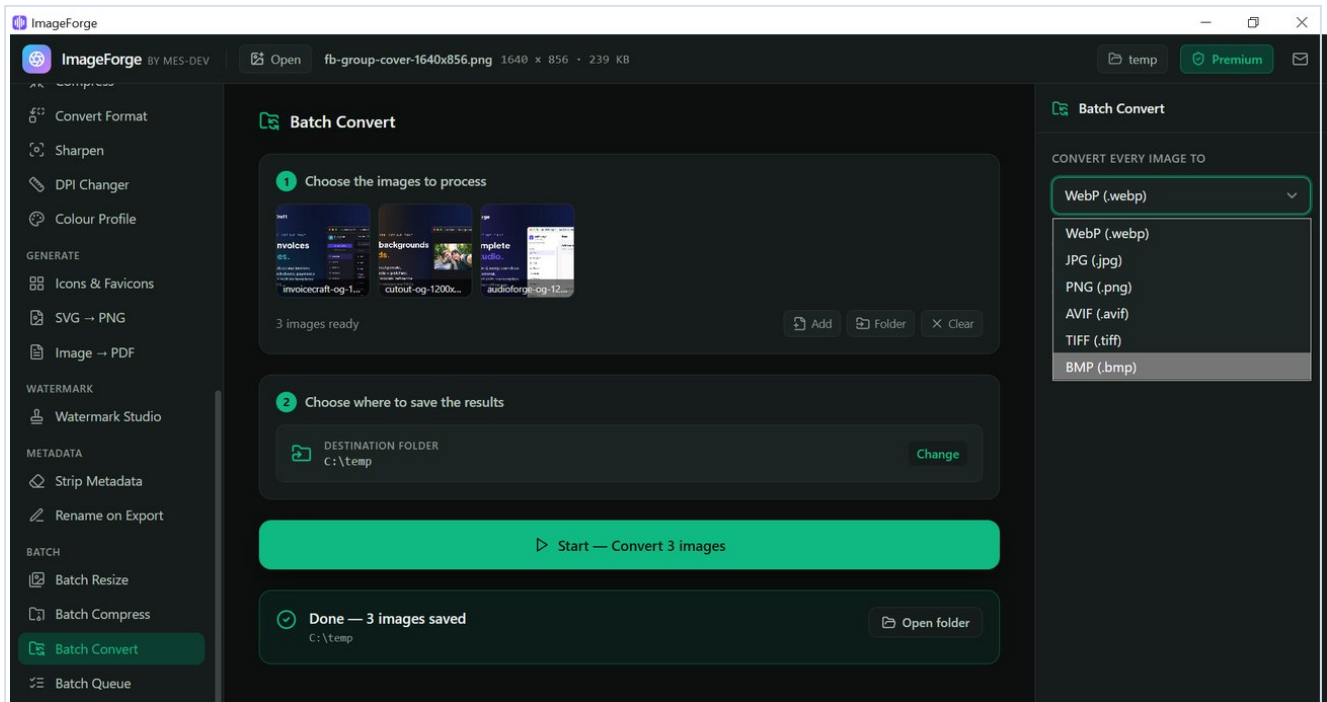
- 1 Add images (or a folder) and choose a destination.
- 2 Pick the format (JPEG / PNG / WebP) and quality.
- 3 Click **Start**.

### Settings

| <b>Format</b>          | JPEG, PNG or WebP.                               |
|------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Quality / Level</b> | The compression trade-off applied to every file. |

## BATCH

# Batch Convert



ImageForge — Batch Convert

Converts many images to a single target format at once — for example a whole folder of PNGs to WebP.

### How to use

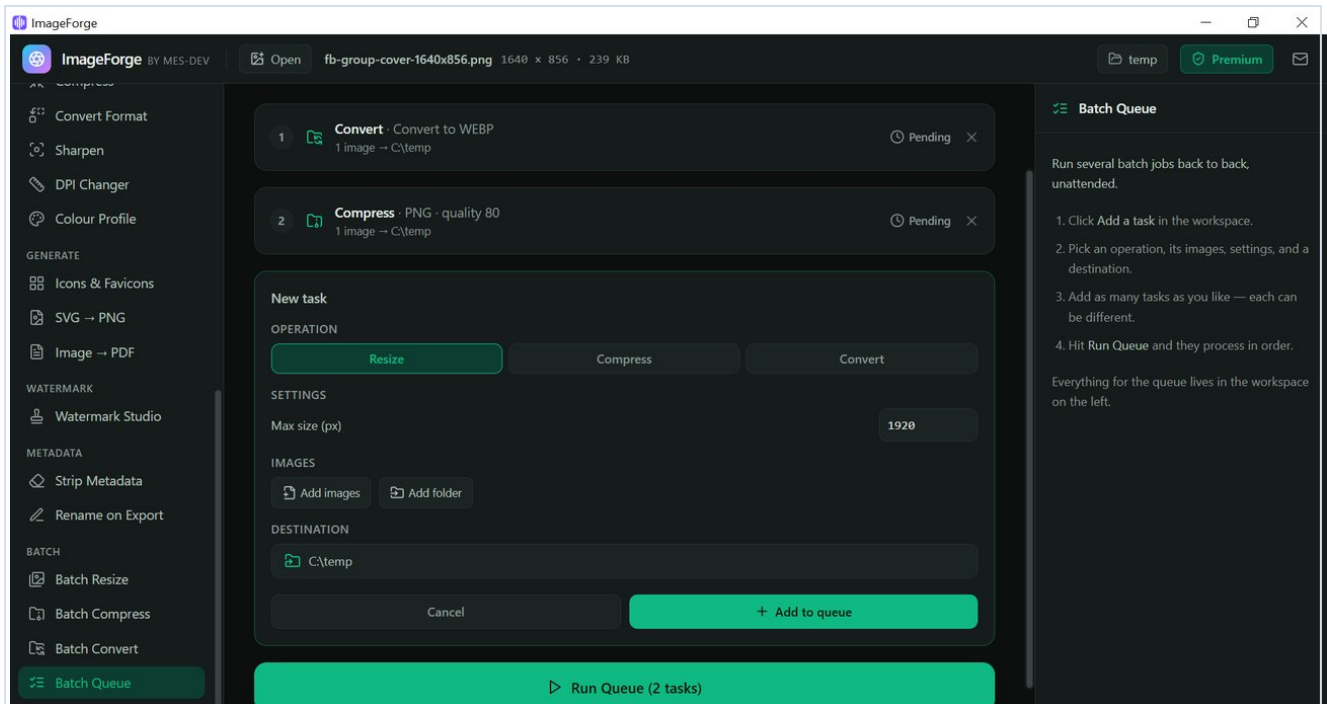
- 1 Add images (or a folder) and choose a destination.
- 2 Pick the target format and quality.
- 3 Click **Start**.

### Settings

| Target format | WebP, JPEG, PNG, AVIF, TIFF or BMP. |
|---------------|-------------------------------------|
| Quality       | For lossy formats.                  |

## BATCH

# Batch Queue



ImageForge — Batch Queue

Chains several batch operations together and runs them one after another. Each task has its own images, settings and destination — so you can, for example, resize one folder and convert another in a single unattended run.

### How to use

- 1 Select **Batch Queue** and click **Add a task**.
- 2 For each task, choose the operation (Resize / Compress / Convert), its settings, its images and its destination, then add it to the queue.
- 3 Add more tasks as needed, reviewing the list.
- 4 Click **Run Queue** — tasks run in order, each showing its own progress.

### Settings

| <b>Task</b>      | One batch operation with its own images, settings and destination. |
|------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Run Queue</b> | Processes every pending task in sequence.                          |

# 11. Tips & FAQ

## ImageForge is free, for life

ImageForge is free to download and use, with no account to create and no time limit. Everything runs offline on your Windows PC.

### Handy tips

- **Use the Compare view.** Before saving, switch between **Original**, **Compare** and **Result** to judge a change with your own eyes, not just the numbers.
- **Set the Output folder once.** The **Output folder** selector at the top applies to every single-image tool, so you only choose it once per session.
- **WebP is usually the best web format.** For photos and graphics destined for the web, **Convert Format** or **Compress** to WebP typically gives the smallest file at the same quality; AVIF can be smaller still.
- **Match DPI to the destination.** Use **300 DPI** for print and **72-96 DPI** for screen-only images (see **DPI Changer** and the **Image → PDF** tool).
- **Sharpen after resizing.** Downscaling can soften an image slightly — a light pass of **Sharpen** restores crispness.
- **Drag and drop anything.** You can drop an image (or an **.svg**) straight onto the window; SVGs open directly in the **SVG → PNG** tool.
- **Copy colours from the Palette tool.** Click any swatch to copy its HEX code for use in your design or code editor.
- **Redaction is permanent.** Pixelated or blurred areas are baked into the exported file — the hidden pixels are genuinely gone, which is exactly what you want before sharing.
- **Use Batch Queue for mixed jobs.** Chain a resize of one folder and a convert of another into a single unattended run.
- **Fit-within is safest for batches.** In **Batch Resize**, **Fit within** scales every image to fit a box while keeping its own proportions — nothing is stretched.

### Frequently asked questions

#### Is ImageForge really free?

Yes. ImageForge is free to download and use, with no time limit and no account required.

#### Does ImageForge work offline? Are my images uploaded anywhere?

It works fully offline and nothing is ever uploaded. All processing happens locally on your Windows PC, so your images never leave your machine.

#### Which formats can I open and save?

You can open JPG, PNG, WebP, TIFF, BMP, GIF, AVIF and SVG. You can save to JPG, PNG, WebP, AVIF, TIFF and BMP (and PDF via the **Image → PDF** tool). SVG is a vector input that the **SVG → PNG** tool rasterises.

#### Will ImageForge overwrite my original files?

No. Tools write a new file (for example *photo\_resized.png*) to your chosen Output folder, leaving the original untouched.

#### Where are my results saved?

In the location shown by the **Output folder** selector at the top — either next to the source image, or any folder you pick. Multi-file tools (**Icons**, **Batch**, **Image → PDF**) let you choose a destination in their own panel.

#### What is the difference between Resize and Upscale?

**Resize** changes an image to any dimensions, up or down. **Upscale** is a focused enlarge-only tool with 2×/4× presets and high-quality Lanczos resampling. Neither invents detail that was not in the original.

#### Does resizing reduce quality?

Making an image smaller is essentially lossless in appearance. Making it larger cannot add detail that was never captured, but ImageForge uses Lanczos resampling to keep the result clean and sharp.

#### Why did my rounded-corner image save as a PNG when the original was a JPG?

Rounded corners need transparency, which the JPEG format cannot store. ImageForge always saves rounded-corner results as PNG so the transparent corners are preserved.

#### How do I make my images smaller for the web?

Use **Compress** (to shrink within the same format) or **Convert Format** to WebP/AVIF. For many files at once, use **Batch Compress** or **Batch Convert**.

#### Can I process a whole folder at once?

Yes. Use the **Batch** tools (Resize, Compress, Convert), or **Batch Queue** to chain several batch jobs together. You can add files individually or point them at a folder.

#### How do I create a favicon or app icon?

Open your image, choose **Icons & Favicons**, pick the shape mode and the outputs you want (PNG sizes, Windows .ico, favicon web set), then generate them into a folder.

#### How do I combine several images into one PDF?

Use **Image** → **PDF**. Add your images, reorder them, choose the page size, orientation, margin and DPI, then export a single multi-page PDF.

#### How do I hide faces, names or licence plates in a screenshot?

Use **Redact**. Draw a box over each area, pick Pixelate or Blur, set the strength, and save.

#### How do I remove the location and camera data from a photo?

Use **Strip Metadata** to remove EXIF (including GPS), IPTC and XMP data before sharing.

#### How do I change an image's print size without changing its pixels?

Use **DPI Changer** — it sets the print resolution stored in the file, which controls the physical size, without resampling the pixels.

#### How do I remove an image's background?

Background removal lives in **CutOut**, MES-DEV's dedicated offline AI background remover. Open the **Remove Background** tool in ImageForge for a direct link to it.

#### Why is a very large image not showing a live preview?

For very large images the live preview may be skipped to keep the app responsive; the tool still works, and you can save the result normally.

#### What operating system does ImageForge run on?

ImageForge is a Windows desktop application.

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**ImageForge** is made by **MES-DEV** and is free to download and use for life. For updates, support and the companion apps, visit [mes-dev.com](https://mes-dev.com).