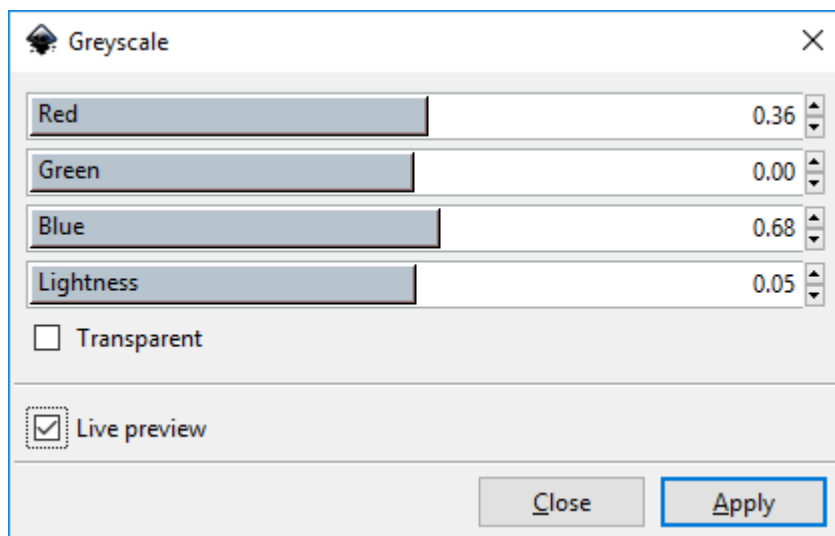


This is just my way of prepping a photo for laser engraving. It's fast, easy, and I like the results. There's many ways of doing it. As long as YOU like YOUR results, that's all that matters!

1. Open the photo in inkscape. Save it as an SVG file with the image embedded. You will be exporting the final results as a PNG file.



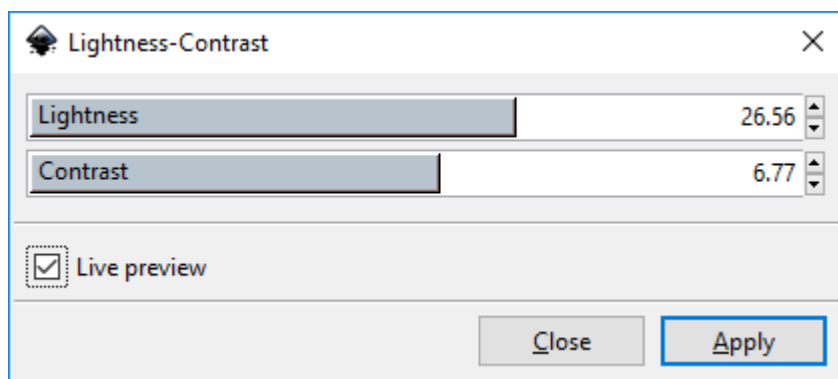
2. Use the grey scale filter. Select the photo (it needs to be selected) and go to Filters->Color->Greyscale...



Make sure “Live preview” is checked. Every photo will be different. You must slide each just a little back and forth to see what detail is being affected by which color. Try to keep the 4 bars close to each other. We’re looking for details captured, NOT necessarily the end light and contrast. That’s next. Hit apply and close. If you hit apply again, it may change it more.



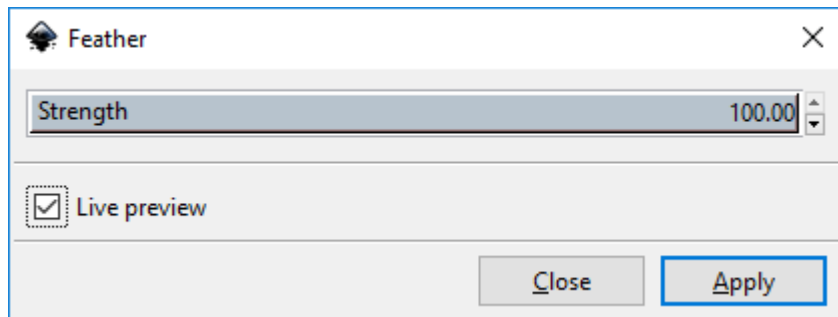
3. Use the Lightness-contrast filter. Select the photo (it needs to be selected) and go to Filters->Color->Lightness-contrast...



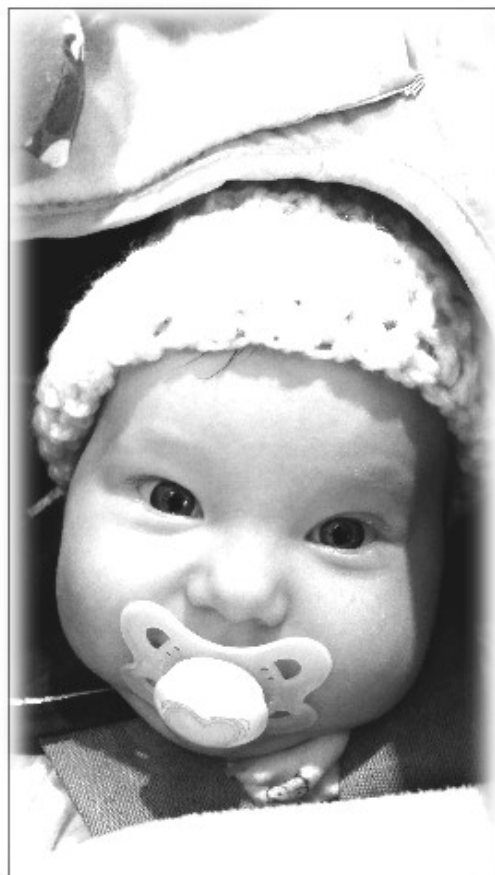
Make sure “Live preview” is checked. Every photo will be different. Slide each one back and forth a little at a time. We’re looking for Sharp edges and crisp details. Subtle shade changes may not show up well. Hit apply and close. If you hit apply again, it may change it more. If there are lines of white objects against white backgrounds, you can draw lines in to fake an edge and use Blur under the stroke controls to make it softer.



4. Use the feather filter. Select the photo (it needs to be selected) and go to Filters->Blurs->Feather...



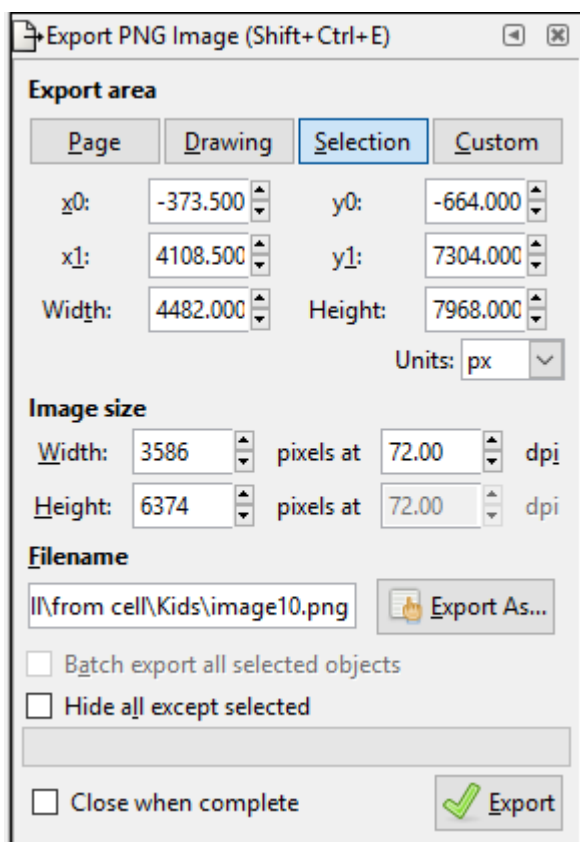
Make sure "Live preview" is checked. Move the slider all the way to 100. Hit apply. This one you can keep hitting to get more and more feathered. Once you are happy, hit close.



Here you can see it getting more feathered.



5. Export the photo. Select the photo and go to File->Export PNG Image...



These are the setting I use. Selection. The Image size is dictated by the selection. You can experiment with the DPI, but detail will gain or loose if you move it too much one way or another.

If the file size is too big, shrink it using the grips in the page view

You must hit the Export As... button and choose a file name and location to save BEFORE you hit Export.

Hit the Export button and go inspect the PNG file. Adjust your DPI if you want, but put the DPI number in the file name so you can compare.



On the Glowforge, I use the Convert to dots image engrave option. The slider for pattern density I set to about 4/5ths of the way over to the right. 600 speed. 100 Precision power (not full). 225 Lines per inch. Single pass.

